


From: Tim Stanton tkstanton@gmail.com 
Subject: PRE March Update
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To: Tim Stanton tkeelst@aol.com



March 2021 Update

Dear Neighbors,

Happy spring to you all! There is much important information in this longer than usual Update. Apologies for the length, but please read on ...

• **IRA 2021 Defensible Space Chipping Program** – The IRA Board of Directors determined this summer’s chipping program at its March meeting. As in 2020 chipping in PRE will be shared both by the IRA and FIREsafe MARIN. We fund the IRA program with fees determined by debris pile numbers subsidized by IRA member dues. FIREsafe Marin chipping is funded by Marin Wildfire Protection Authority (MWPA), which is supported by the Measure C parcel tax. At this time we have no details on the FIREsafe chipping other than that they have committed one chipping day (not currently scheduled) sometime during the fire season with the possibility of an additional one. In view of this in an effort to provide at least three chipping days over the course of the season IRA has scheduled its first chipping day for June 1st right after Memorial Day weekend. For details please download and save the attached “IRA Chipping Program Flyer – 2021” and follow the steps outlined.

We expect a very dry summer and fall and hope everyone will contribute to community safety by ensuring that their property is fully compliant with defensible space requirements. See the FIREsafe Marin website for further information. Details on the FIREsafe chipping and a possible second IRA chipping day will be provided when we have them.

• **Firesafe Landscaping Webinar, UC Master Gardeners** – On a related note Jim Kasper, a UC Marin Master Gardener, will offer guidance on **planning and maintaining healthy fire-smart landscaping in a one-hour webinar tomorrow, Tuesday, March 23rd at 6 PM.** With photos, videos, and real-world examples of recommended best practices he will explain how to have aesthetically pleasing landscaping that enhances defensible space around your home. Learn how to work toward developing your own fire-smart landscape design to better protect your home while retaining or improving garden health. To register: go at sgverg.org and click EVENTS. Or email: sgvalleyer@gmail.com and type, “Sign me up for Master Gardeners.”

• **DVD Paving** – The Paving Task Force met this past weekend and is very close to completing its plan for distribution to the community. A last step is submitting the plan and petition for a parcel tax election for review by the County Department of Public Works. Once that is completed (anticipated in the next month or two) the Task Force will distribute the plan to all PRE property owners and residents and schedule a community-wide Zoom meeting where it can be explained and discussed. The Task Force has posted clear explanations about both the petition process and election, which are accessible via a banner at the top of the Welcome page on the IRA website (invernessridge.info). We anticipate the election taking place in early or late fall.

• **IRA Fire Task Force** – The IRA Fire Task Force is in conversation with Marin County Fire Department (MCFD) about significant vegetation management work along major evacuation routes in PRE this summer. They hope this effort will be a start on long-term support for such work throughout PRE in coming years, all supported with Measure C funds through the MWPA. This project will be coordinated locally by Tamia Anderson. MCFD is represented by Jordan Reeser. Anderson and Reeser will soon conduct a walking tour of our roads to determine what work can be done this summer. Some of it may require property owners’ permission, which will be requested prior to any work taking place. Details to come soon, we hope.

• **Water Tank 4 Construction** – NMWD reports that the contractor’s work is complete. NMWD crews will clean and sanitize the tank, fill it and check for leaks, clean up the work site and stain the tank exterior. Thanks everyone for your patience with the extra, sometimes heavy truck traffic these past months, and especially to top of the hill neighbors, who dealt with noise and commotion from the worksite.

• **2021 IRA Board officers elected** – At its March meeting the Board re-elected Leah Light, Jennifer Howard and me respectively to Secretary, Vice-President and President and elected Patty Wimpfheimer Treasurer. Many thanks to Jennifer, Leah and Patty for their generous willingness to serve.

• **2021 Membership Dues** – If you have not paid your 2021 membership dues, please do so very soon. You must be a paid-up member to qualify for the \$35/pile discount on chipping fees. If you are not a member, now is the time to join! If you have questions, contact Treasurer Patty Wimpfheimer at 415-722-9355 or at invernessridge37@gmail.com. You may make payments via Venmo or Paypal (see website for details) or the traditional way by sending a check to: IRA, P.O. Box 342, Inverness, CA 94937. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Be safe and keep well,

Tim Stanton

IRA Board President

