

March Update

Dear Neighbors,

It's been several weeks since I last wrote to you all, as I was away in South Africa half of January and all of last month. I hope everyone survived the storms in good shape. Big thanks to Christian Winslow for covering February for us. This month I have only a few items, but they all need your attention.

- **Reminder on the 2024 IRA Annual General Meeting:** For this year only the IRA Board has moved its 2024 Annual General Meeting from January to Saturday, May 4th. We will meet at 10:30 AM at the home of Barbara Jay, 100 Douglas Drive. Coffee and socializing to start with the business meeting beginning at 11 AM. Potluck lunch is at 12 noon. Please bring a dish to pass. The IRA Board will provide drinks, plates, utensils, etc.

The business meeting will include brief reports from our Board committees and a final wrap-up on the DVD paving project. In addition, Mark Brown, Executive Officer of the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA), has agreed to join us to discuss practical aspects of Defensible Space and Home Hardening, and how they relate to home insurance. Mark will speak for about ten minutes, then take questions from attendees. This will be a great opportunity to learn from the area's principal expert on these topics, including the sometimes confusing defensible space reports some have received in their summer inspections.

The Annual Meeting is the time when residents wishing to serve on the IRA Board may stand for election. The Board encourages residents who may wish to join to inform us as soon as they can. Interested individuals may contact Tim Stanton or any Board Member for information and to register their interest. We always need new blood and ideas!

- **PRE Road Advisory Board (PRERAB):** This is the first of what will be an ongoing series of reports from the Paradise Ranch Estates Road Advisory Board (the Road Board) on current and pending road maintenance projects in PRE.

Current Road Work: On March 13th, the Board asked the Marin County Department of Public Works to authorize work by North Cal Restoration and Construction to reduce the high drop offs at the edge of the new paving at six locations along Drakes View Drive and to extend a culvert at the intersection of Buck Point and Drakes View. The extension will protect the road from damage caused by large trucks turning onto Buck Point. The work on Drakes View will be at the following addresses: 1 – 9, 90, 175A, 245, 325, 371 – 375. We expect this work to be authorized in the next few days and the work to start soon after.

Pending Road Work: The recent, often heavy, rains caused our roads to develop potholes and ruts, which need to be addressed. The rain also forced a delay in dealing with these issues. The areas affected include Sunnyside Drive near No. 32, the flat portion of Dover, a section of East Robert, and between 379 Drakes View to Elizabeth Place, among several areas. With drier

weather expected in the coming weeks, the Board will arrange for these issues to be addressed soon.

Road Board Membership: Since Mike Ongerth stepped down in December after about two decades of service, the Board is reorganizing and seeking new members. If you are interested in our work and might like to join, contact Randy Merk (merkrandy@gmail.com) or Ken Drexler (ken@drexler.co).

Road Board Guidelines: In 1982 when the Road Board was established by the Board of Supervisors, they named several PRE residents to serve on the new Board. From then until 2006, the Supervisors filled vacancies on the Board as they occurred. Since 2006 the Board has governed itself without written procedures. To remedy this, the Board is now working to adopt guidelines for its operations and leadership, which will be shared with the community.

- **IRA Firewise Committee:** PRE residents will remember that last year's roadside vegetation management project inadvertently failed to include the Robert Drives and nearby spur roads. Gavin Albertoli with Marin Fire wants to fix the problem, but says the Coastal Commission review may take till year end. He apologizes for the delay.

MWPA has announced their chipper days for 2024. To have a collection you must pre-register at <https://firesafemarin.org/programs/chipper-day/#gsc.tab=0>. Collections are first-come, first-served.

- **Emergency Preparedness Committee** – New Committee chair Jim Wagner reports that the February windstorm called our Neighborhood Leads (NLs) into action, with many checking on neighbors and communicating the status of downed power lines and trees, and blocked roads. We are grateful to those who served their community in this way. We are still looking for additional volunteers to help with testing the siren and covering parts of our neighborhood that don't yet have an NL, or don't have a back-up NL, should their NL be unavailable. Those interested in volunteering should contact Jim Wagner at celiaandjim@gmail.com. We can adjust responsibilities to the time one is able to give.

- **Reminder on 2024 Membership Dues** – January began a new fiscal and membership year for the IRA. If you have not done so, please go to the website [invernessridge.info] for details on paying dues or send a check (\$50/year) to: IRA, P.O. Box 342, Inverness, CA 94937, or bring your check to the May 4th AGM. Questions? Contact Treasurer Patty Wimpfheimer at 415-722-9355 or at invernessridge37@gmail.com. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Thank you for reading. I wish you safe and joyful spring.

Tim Stanton
IRA President

