

Bald Hill Firewise Group Gazette

August 25, 2019

(New policy at the Gazette: **Critical info will be introduced in red.** Less critical, but still pertinent, lively, controversial and somewhat germane will be in black. Sort of like reading tweets, rather than sentences. Hard for some)

News right off the ticker!

OK. The admonition has been to keep this short and to the point. Tell that to Ayn Rand! Herman Melville! Whoever wrote War and Peace!

- **Lucy and I were the proud recipients (beaming) of an award celebrating our Firewise Certification.** Amazing ceremony. Crowds were bigger than any crowds Obama ever had, huge...and he didn't even get the certification for the White House! Lock Him Up! Talk about collusion!! Smokey was there in spirit for his 50th birthday. We all sang Happy Birthday, (really, we did) sang it with fervor...nary a dry eye.
- **We have 6 signs indicating our status as a Firewise neighborhood that we will set up around Bald Hill.** They are attached to Lucy's fence and mine as well. Stop by to admire. Seriously, the location is being debated and we'll have final locations for you, but they will give us coverage and notification of our accomplishment.

Moving on.....I'm trying to flow in the spirit of Herb Caen...some of you already suspected that, I'll bet.

- **We have PG&E grant to remove some juniper coming up,** since they are a major fire hazard. 2-3 sites have been chosen along both Oak and Redwood. They go up in flames quicker than you can say "FIRE".....so pull them out if you have them. The rest of you, commandeer one of those tractors I was talking about. Or ask Dave, our resident tree expert, what to do. But, no Roundup!

- **Volunteers Needed for the Firewise Booth at the San Anselmo Country Fair Day on September 29th.** C'mon, give us an hour or two. I'll bring beer and talk your ear off. Todd Lando of FireSafe Marin will give you a handshake of gratitude. I will give you a personal tour of the animal farm, the rabbit competition and the squirt gun booth. Seriously...volunteers requested. Seriously, no free tours.
- **Getting back to wildlife, we will have herds of goats working in Laurel Canyon in the Spring 2020, we have a commitment from Firesafe Marin!** Goats love roses, flowers and fruit of all kinds, precious shrubs and even pet cats. But, they probably will be fenced in with genuine shepherds and like minded canines. As the date gets closer, you'll be notified. Tickets will go on sale to watch!
- **August 29, 2019 at 5:30p.m at 450 Redwood Road.** Todd Lando will conduct a Neighborhood Walk on Redwood Road to tour and speak specifically about defensible space, home hardening and vegetation management in our neighborhood. This is a great learning opportunity for anyone. Every time he checks out the property of someone who thinks they have "fireproofed" their property, Todd, will quickly show you why you are not the fire marshal. Great guy and you will really learn valuable info. If you think your fire insurance is all you need, then don't bother. I personally will loot your house before the cinders stop smoking.

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Here are some photos of our last walk:



No, redwoods do not burn well, do not cut down



Remember her?. Lived her 80 years now.

When I read that there are 74,800 fires burning NOW in the Amazon, I was stunned; on so many levels. I read these stories now thoroughly because I have become involved and aware. I don't want to be snide and say "gee, they could use a Firesafe Group in their area", but something should be done about the fires, the corruption and the damage it does to our atmosphere.

Yes, climate change is real. The planet and its inhabitants are at risk more and more.

<http://theconversation.com/amazon-fires-explained-what-are-they-why-are-they-so-damaging-and-how-can-we-stop-them-122340>



And there are many victims of these fires...this is a real photo of real people

Get out the calendars. On your Iphone, I Mac, I pad or even the one on your refrigerator door. Or ask Alexa or Siri to remind you: Remind you what???

- Next cleanup day is September 28th We will be cleaning upper OAK. The question is how many upper OAK residents are part of our group? Notify them if you live up there. And, if they are not members by this time, I will send Smoky up there to guilt them to death.
- Are you wondering how you can personally help just a little more in this effort? That's what all the cities and the fire chief and county officials are mulling. Marin County is the # 1 county in the country for firesafe communities. **Because we are all in danger, there will probably be a proposal for a tax for countywide wildfire preparedness, on the ballot in March, 2020. Vote!**

So, am I close to wrapping this up? Herb Caen would have fallen asleep by now. Willie Brown was just getting warmed up, Muhammad Ali would never shut up. Me?



- I see the blinking light telling me I have 30 seconds left...yikes! Ok, let's give credit where credit is due; these hardy souls showed up for the last meeting, Lucy Dilworth, Kim Starr and Peter Pfau, Kathy Sanders, Bill Abright, Rico Villa, Sharyn Ramorino, and Fred Goldfarb.

We came up with plans and ideas looking to the future. We have the determination to continue this course and make it even stronger.

We've gotten to be a tight group and not just the 6-12 of us. It's all of the Bald Hill Group. You and you and you! No, we don't have to sing Kumbaya, How about "All we are saying is give Bald Hill a Chance." **So the next meeting which will be on Sunday 15th of September (not Sunday the 1st because that's the Labor Day Weekend) at 274 Oak Avenue from 5- 7.**

Yes, it's summertime and most of you, even if you weren't aware of it, were pack-backing in the Pyrenees, standing in line at the summit of Everest, Scuba diving in the Red Sea, doing dishes at McDonalds or pulling junipers out of your backyard. Bring photos to our next meeting. But no bamboo, Sasquatches, moray eels or poison oak. Oh yes, bring food and wine too!

Let's have a fun fall party and catch up on life. Let's keep the neighborhood vibe going. **Before this began, you all were just nameless cars zipping down the hill almost killing me. Now, I know its Marge or Bill or Karen trying to kill me. It's gotten that personal. That's what relationships are all about.**

- And, as a member of the Marin County Bike Coalition; some words of advice: Drive safely, bike safely, walk safely at night or in the daytime.

That's it. Hope you are having a great summer and that Fall will be sublime. See you on the hills, streets and one of many breweries in town. Fred!



Final thoughts from the Chosen - hey! I'm more Jewish than he is!

THIS IS BALD HILL

Here is a short video I put together. Nothing special, but just a reminder of why we all live here. The air, the sounds, the trees, the silence, the friends, the sheer beauty we have all around us. I know, I often take it for granted having lived in Marin for 20 years. But, this is our home. And, it could be taken away in an instant. So, we spend a tiny amount of time each month to help preserve our lifestyle and that of our friends. That is what The Bald Hill Firewise Group is here for and we all thank you for your continued help:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rd8KU6TSIcE&feature=youtu.be>