

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

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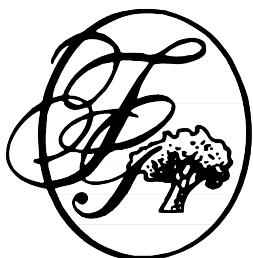
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NEWSLETTER TEAM

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CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Visitors to RTG comment on our lovely views, open land, and attractive streets. The Rancho Tierra Grande Association (RTGA) works hard to maintain our neighborhood in order to enhance the value of our homes, which are typically our most valuable assets. Back in 2021, we were the first neighborhood in Monterey County to receive FireWise certification. The Board continues to support efforts to maintain this certification, not only to improve fire safety, but to retain and obtain reasonable rates for our home insurance.

— David Wisherd and Jeff Hawkins

SHORT TERM RENTALS

Monterey County has decided that Short-Term Rental (STR) permits will not be allowed in RTG. They are also prohibited by our property restrictions (CC&Rs). Any STR operating within RTG is illegal and subject to County imposed fines. For details go to <https://rtghoa.org/ccrs/>.

RTG REPAVING PROJECT

Major Street Repaving will begin in May of 2025. Thanks to Mike Raydo for his many years of effort lobbying Monterey County to achieve this.

MORE INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE

Our website has much more information than contained in this newsletter. This includes forms you may need, such as chipping documents; historical documents; color versions of past newsletters; board meeting minutes; upcoming events; selected portions of our CC&Rs; safety information; and much more.

Our website address is <https://rtghoa.org> or you can use the nearby QR code to get there without typing.



ENTRY GETS NEW LOOK

The RTG entry has a new look thanks to Mary Cushing and Jeff Hawkins.

Hard to maintain, overgrown and woody plants that blocked the view of cars turning off the Carmel Valley Road and into RTG were removed. Flowering plants were added to brighten the entrance.

Jeff and Mary chose new plants and oversaw the planting and installation of a new drip system. As it matures, the new landscaping should help screen the utility boxes, while still maintaining visibility for drivers.

On the other side of the street, the plants along the cyclone fence have been attacked by moles and suffered from lack of water. Old vines on the fence were removed and will be replaced. Replacement plants will be added during the rainy season. With the new drip system, water should now reach all the plants.

Monterey County Public Works has plans to remove the leaning pine tree near the bus stop. In the meantime, please avoid walking near it. Crews will continue to remove dead pines from RTG streets growing in the County right of way, but they must be completely dead. Please alert the board if you spot a dead tree.

— Jeff Hawkins

TACO TIME PARTY

Our annual Fiesta street party on September 28 attracted more than sixty neighbors and was a great success. Taco Pacheco Catering provided the food for RTG members who gathered on Loma Robles Drive.

The get together gives new neighbors the opportunity to become acquainted, and long-term residents the chance to visit with friends.

A special “thank you” to Dave and Shari Wisherd who provided access to their house. We hope to see you again this year! — Rob Robinson

PLEASE SLOW DOWN

Too many residents continue to drive too fast for our steep roads, many curves and blind driveways. When combined with more young families, kids and pets, dire consequences can result. PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

PREPARE FOR FIRE

RTGA Fire Captain Anthony (“Andoni”) Kastros, a retired battalion chief from Sacramento Metro Fire District, has lived in Tierra Grande with his family since 2008, commuting to work in Sacramento for many years. With the Palisades fire fresh in our minds, he advises that you can reduce your anxiety about a wildland fire destroying your property by taking certain preventative steps.

A massive fire like Los Angeles experienced could hit Tierra Grande. “It is not as likely here but certainly possible,” noted Kastros, who worked in Carmel and Mid-Valley Fire Departments at the beginning of his fire service career. This area lacks the Santa Ana winds, normally has higher humidity, and has plants with higher moisture content compared to Los Angeles urban/wildland. However, occasionally hot dry weather, along with the canyons and brush bordering both sides of RTG, does create high fire risk.

He urges neighbors to comply with fuel management regulations (see facing page) and keep a “go bag” ready. “Steps taken prior to an event can make a big difference in the outcome,” Andoni advises.

Kastros founded a private company which provides online and in-person firefighter classes, has written books, and has traveled extensively throughout the US to teach about fire mitigation and preparedness.

— Carolyn Rice

2025 RTGA ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

March — Dues payment

April — RTGA Annual General Meeting

April — Firewise captains 2025 kickoff meeting

May — Spring Chipper

May — Street repave starts

September — Firewise Packet turn-in

September — Annual RTG Fiesta

October — Fall Chipper

Exact dates will be posted on the rtghoa.org website as they become available.

HARDSCAPE YOUR PROPERTY

As of January 1, 2025, California state law requires a five-foot hardscape surface surrounding all wildland/urban homes. A list of allowed plants for the five to thirty-foot area around homes will soon be available from the state. Insurance companies may have their own requirements for homeowners.



Compliant home.

FIREWISE PROGRAM

FireWise Certification has increased in importance with the increase in wildland fires. Neighborhoods are working together to improve the survivability of individual homes and communities. RTGA has twenty-six volunteers who collected data in 2024 from 144 homes which showed our homeowners spent an average of \$13,687 and sixty-three hours of labor to protect their homes. The spring and fall chipper crews removed a record 120 cubic yards of chipped fuel.

CALAM WATER SAMPLE STATIONS

Those green pedestals installed last year at three locations along Tierra Grande are CalAm water sample stations. CalAm tests water at their main plant and at their tanks, but they need to know if contamination is introduced between their tanks and your house. As you can see from this photo of the station on Venado, there is nothing more than a water faucet inside. The technician lets the water run for 2-3 minutes and then takes a sample.



Consider removing large succulents in your yard that may look lush and green on top but harbor dry undergrowth underneath. This material can be a fire hazard, especially if the plant is located near your home.



The RTGA chipper program last year removed a record amount of material from the streets. Members can participate in it again this year.

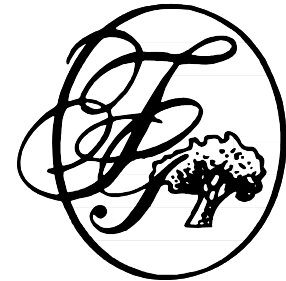


PROPERTY TAX ALLOCATION

RTGA is making an effort to change our fifty-year-old County property tax allocation, so that existing taxes will include road maintenance expenses. New roads are coming, so we need to make sure County funds are available to maintain them in the future.

RANCHO TIERRA GRANDE

P.O. BOX 22244
Carmel, CA 93922



Dues Envelope Enclosed!

TREASURER'S REPORT

At our most recent Board meeting in early December, we increased our annual dues to \$200. This increase was needed because our dues contributions have dropped over the last four years while our expenses have increased. We had a deficit of \$3,347 for 2024, and \$1,127 for 2023. Most of the reason for this has been the very dramatic rise in the cost of our chipping service: last year it was \$13,700!

The Board has been diligent in containing some other expenses, especially water usage and website costs, but we want to continue to render benefits to you, the Community even when faced with these increased costs. We greatly appreciate your understanding and hope you will commit to give support to our neighborhood.

Remember, your dues are tax-deductible.

Please use the enclosed envelope, or you can use Zelle at rtgacv@gmail.com.

— Mary Cushing, RTGA Treasurer

RTGA BOARD & COMMITTEES

Co-Presidents	
Jeff Hawkins	831-277-3224
Dave Wisherd	408-838-0077
Vice President, Robbie Robinson	831-620-5569
Secretary, Bob Rice	831-277-5740
Treasurer, Mary Cushing	831-238-1829
Beautification, Jeff Hawkins	831-277-3224
Architectural Review	
Peggy Warren	831-595-1660
Fire Safety, Website Dave Wisherd	408-838-0077
Safety/Neighborhood Watch	
Jeff Hawkins	831-277-3224
Welcome/Membership	Vacant
Member-At-Large, Peter Stern	408-888-8059

RTG Website: www.rtghoa.org
Community website: www.nextdoor.com

Please consider a board position. Many officers have served for years and would welcome a replacement. Contact any board member to volunteer.