

## **Rancho Tierra Grande (RTG) Neighborhood Association Update: 8-23-2022**

### **Safety:**

Two criminal activity events have broken the relative quiet within RTG.

- 1) A large scale theft of mail from mailboxes throughout our neighborhood and surrounding areas occurred between Sat afternoon (Aug. 6) and Sunday morning (Aug 7). Many residents had mail returned by sheriff deputies who recovered typically less sensitive mail that was discarded. Mail was also stolen from nearby subdivisions. Please check any cameras (or trail cameras) that may have a clear view of any mailboxes during that timeframe for suspicious activity and call Jeff Hawkins (652-0015).
- 2) A BMW vehicle was stolen, stripped, and then abandoned in Seaside while parked outside a house on Tierra Grande Dr. above Carol Place. Please note that many vehicles are relatively easy to steal, even late model ones as noted in this link:

<https://news.yahoo.com/thieves-target-kia-hyundai-models-235519463.html>

Please ensure all vehicles are locked and the alarms are activated and consider implementing other measures as noted here (this is not an all-inclusive list):

<https://autoquarterly.com/best-car-anti-theft-devices/>

### **Fire Safety:**

Peter Stern and our Fire Safety Committee are mapping our needs to reduce the fuel load within RTG and the two adjoining canyons. Peter's team has secured more than \$100,000 via two grants from the Monterey Fire Safe Council over the past 10 years that reduced fuel by using the Gabilan teams in the canyons and funding chipping programs. They are now focused on securing funds to make a huge dent in canyon fuel reduction and creating RTG fire breaks. These funds may also help remove trees that create fire tunnels (trees/branches that extend over our streets and thus may prevent safe evacuation and/or limit emergency vehicle access). This funding is part of a large grant for Carmel Valley.

The RTGA Board has used dues to fund a chipping program in late Spring or early Summer over the past few years. Due to the overwhelmingly positive response, we are making plans to implement a twice yearly chipping program, with a heavy emphasis on a late Fall and early Winter date. This timeframe is best to trim oak trees and mitigate damage to nesting birds.

The county continues to remove dead trees in both the county right-of-way along our streets (Public Works) and within the County Service Area (CSA-17). This is the common area between Tierra Grande Dr. and Carmel Valley Rd and along a portion of both canyons.

**Street Maintenance:**

Our streets have NOT been repaved since created more than 50 years ago. They have been chip and slurry sealed several times, but these temporary fixes cause many issues with vehicle damage and need to be redone repeatedly. It appears the planets are finally aligning, and Public Works indicates we are slated for total repavement (current surface chewed up and brand new asphalt put down) in early 2023. Special thanks to Mike Raydo for his perseverance on this issue that affects each resident, directly impacts our property values, and presents a safety risk to motorists and walkers alike.