



# Kent Woodlands Journal

Newsletter #325

December 2022

The monthly newsletter of the Kent Woodlands Property Owners Association

## President's Note

### Building Community by Getting to Know Our Neighbors: Woodland Sponsors

One of the best ways for women of Kent Woodlands to build community and get to know their neighbors is through Woodland Sponsors. Woodland Sponsors is a social-educational-charitable organization made up of Kent Woodlands women who meet monthly to learn and socialize, and who donate a portion their dues to nonprofit organizations serving children and youth in Marin County.

#### HISTORY

The origins of Woodland Sponsors go back to 1951 to the "Orchard Branch" of the "Friends of Arequipa." Arequipa was a tuberculosis sanatorium in Fairfax founded in 1911 to offer care to hundreds of working-class women suffering from tuberculosis in early-twentieth-century California. Arequipa gave female doctors a place to practice, female nurses and social workers a place to train, and white "society women" a noble philanthropic mission, according to Lynn Downey, author of the book [Arequipa Sanatorium: Life in California's Lung Resort for Women](#).

Friends of Arequipa was formed in 1951 to raise money for Arequipa. Members of its Orchard Branch came from the entire Ross Valley area including Kent Woodlands. All meetings were held at the home of the organization's President. The meetings focused on projects such as making placemats and table decorations for sanatorium patients.

Arequipa Sanatorium closed in 1957 with the containment of tuberculosis. The fundraising organization, Friends of Arequipa, became The Marin Foundation of Friends of Arequipa. At that time, the Orchard Branch, whose members were then all from Kent Woodlands, voted to dissolve and re-form as a new social and fundraising group because members wanted to directly choose the recipients of their fundraising efforts. Thus, Woodland Sponsors was born.

The first Woodland Sponsors projects were "camperships" for the summer program at Adaline E. Kent School. Children were selected for camperships by the Kent School Psychologist from among children whose families needed financial help. Woodland Sponsors later began sponsoring Tutorial Service



scholarships at the College of Marin Child Center, specifically earmarking the donations to provide financial assistance to children with what we now call learning differences. Woodland Sponsors also donated to the College of Marin Center for the Handicapped.

Back in those days, fundraising parties were the principal means of raising funds to be donated. The annual Winter Gala was the most lavish of these parties and meetings leading up to it were focused on its preparation, including making centerpieces.

In those days, prospective members had to be sponsored by two members-in-good standing. Attendance was mandatory: a small fine was charged if one missed a meeting. The mandatory attendance rule made membership impractical for many women, such as women who were employed. And the number of members was capped because these mandatory meetings were held in members' living rooms.

In 2014, when I was co-President, a number of us saw the potential of Woodland Sponsors as a unifying force connecting and involving all the women in our neighborhood. But the rules about mandatory attendance got in the way of recruiting working women and younger women. We formed a task force to propose

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## President's Note (continued)

revisions to the ByLaws, which was chaired by Carole Gray, and which included a very long-term member (the late Mary Cole), a brand-new member (Bitsa Freeman), and two other members (Daly Schreck and Dori Crawford). The new ByLaws were adopted in early 2015. From that point on, Woodland Sponsors has evolved into the much larger, vibrant group of women of all ages which it is today.

### PRESENT DAY

The current co-Presidents are Michelle McKechnie and Kirsten Goff. The current Board consists of Allison Carbone, Bitsa Freeman, Daly Schreck, Julie Reischman, and Vanessa McKinley, plus the co-Presidents.

Many varied programs are being planned for 2023, including hikes and a members-only docent-led tour of the Ramses exhibit at the de Young Museum. This is in addition to the Annual Fall Cocktail Party for members and their significant others, the much-enjoyed "Annual Book Talk" by Elaine Petrocelli at The Book Passage bookstore, and the annual New Members Luncheon.

For all these years, even though the group has grown to 78 members and the composition of the group has changed, Woodland Sponsors has continued its most meaningful work: we still donate to charities serving Marin County children and youth. And in recent years, additional activities have been organized for members to help the needy in other ways – by creating gift bags for women in shelters or by working in the warehouse at MakeltHome-BayArea which furnishes the homes of those in need with household goods donated by others.

If you're a woman living in Kent Woodlands who would like to join Woodland Sponsors, please contact any of the members mentioned above, including me (Abecker@kwpoa.com), and we'll notify Daly Schreck, Membership Chair. New members will be proposed at the Annual Meeting in January and will be welcomed at the Annual New Members Luncheon, which is in February each year.

— Ann Becker, President

The "President's Note" is intended to build community by spotlighting local residents. It is not an endorsement by the Association of any commercial product or service.

If you know of a Kent Woodlands resident who would be a good subject of a "President's Note," let me know by sending an email to [info@kwpoa.com](mailto:info@kwpoa.com) with "Possible Subject of President's Note" in the subject line.

## FIRE SAFETY NEWS

Recently, Board Member Jeff Leh and I had the opportunity to meet with the vegetation specialists from PG&E. We were aware that there was some community concern involving cutting down healthy trees, especially redwoods, past the mandated pole clearance.

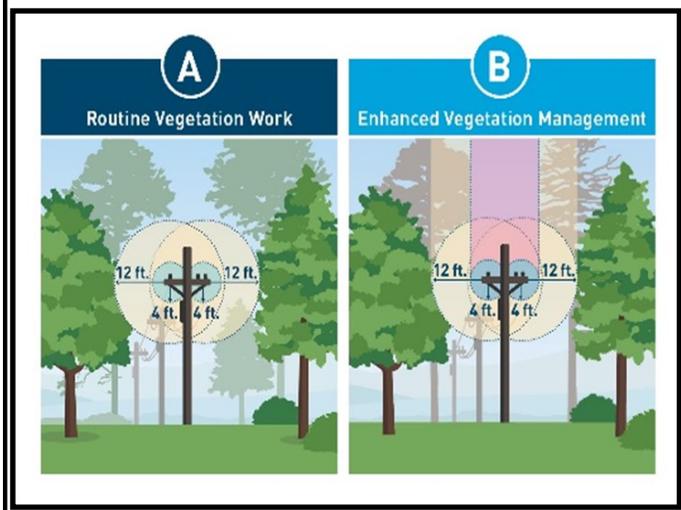
I was already aware of the importance of keeping tree limbs clear of high voltage lines, which is why PG&E has been actively cutting limbs and trees that are posing a risk to powerline and causing wildfires. But it is particularly interesting that PG&E is looking at the lower secondary lines to determine if they are pressing against the trunk of the tree.

As trees continue to grow and expand, the lines press against tree trunks which could increase the likelihood of lines failing. If this were to occur, we would have live wires down and a significantly increased threat of a fire.

We asked PG&E if they could consult with their maintenance team to see if coiling (wrapping) the line might be an option. In cases where redwoods or other important species are present, they will review other options upon the request of the homeowner or me. Overall, we found this to be a very informative meeting.

If you have tree concerns involving the powerlines feel free to reach out to PG&E at [treesafety@pge.com](mailto:treesafety@pge.com) or 800-564-5080. If issues are not resolved to your satisfaction, I'm happy to reach out to them directly as well.

— Heather Hill, Hazard Mitigation Specialist



## Architectural Applications: December 2022

**Please note:** This newsletter is your **official notice** from the KWPOA regarding property improvements submitted for approval by the Architectural Committee. Please review this section very carefully as some planned development may affect you. Note that Architectural Committee actions are not final until ratified by the Board of Directors.

### ***THIS MONTH'S ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW MEETING IS 12/13/2022***

**Important Notice:** Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, AC meetings will be held via video- or teleconference until further notice. Please email [mbarber@kwpoa.com](mailto:mbarber@kwpoa.com) for participation instructions. As this situation continues, it may be necessary to reschedule or change the format of AC meetings.

Applicant	Property Address	Category/Project Description
<b>New Applications for December</b>		
Fowler/Thomas	55 Kent	C-3 Preliminary
Schow	1 Orchard	C-6 Teardown
Braun	310 Goodhill	C-4 Significant Change in Appearance
<b>Applications Approved in November</b>		
Alread	160 Upland	C-4 Significant Changes in Appearance
Summers	45 Evergreen	C-4 Significant Changes in Appearance
Fowler/Thomas	55 Kent	C-2 Minor Addition
<b>Open Enforcements</b>		
14 Madrone		
111 Idlewood (enforcement on hold)		
70 Ridgecrest		
421 Crown		
<b>Exempt and Administratively Approved Applications</b>		
Hagey	670 Goodhill	Solar
Merchant	30 N Ridgewood	Driveway Improvements

**ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Julie Johnson (Chair), Ann Peckenpaugh Becker (Board Representative), Bruce Raabe, Cori Snyder Schuman, Tom Nicholson

**AC COORDINATOR:** Michael Barber ([mbarber@kwpoa.com](mailto:mbarber@kwpoa.com))

**MEETINGS:** Held on the 2nd and/or 4th Tuesday of each month. To be noticed in the newsletter and placed on the agenda, COMPLETE applications must be received by the 21<sup>st</sup> of the preceding month (or the Friday prior if the 21<sup>st</sup> falls on a weekend or holiday). All inquiries regarding Architectural Committee matters should be directed to Michael Barber at the KWPOA office at 415-721-7429 or via email at [mbarber@kwpoa.com](mailto:mbarber@kwpoa.com). Materials and applications may be mailed to P.O. Box 404, Kentfield 94914, or delivered to the office by appointment only.



Kent Woodlands Property Owners Association  
PO Box 404  
Kentfield, CA 94914

## Next Board Meeting Agenda

**Monday, December 5, 2022 - 6:00PM (NOTE: NEW DAY!)**  
**IN PERSON at 1010 Sir Francis Drake, Suite 200**  
**AND via Zoom (Contact [jwilliams@kwpoa.com](mailto:jwilliams@kwpoa.com) for log-in)**

- Call to Order
- Public Comment
- Approval of October 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- AC Report and Ratifications
- Fire Safety & Hazard Mitigation Report
- PG&E Clearing & Heritage Trees Preservation
- Appointment of Open Board Director Seat
- Dog Poop Stations
- Revised Architectural Rules
- Solar and Generator Procedures
- Close-out Site Visits
- Roundabout at Woodland and College
- Carbon Neutrality Presentation & Task Force Consideration
- Election and Annual Meeting Update
- Officer Reports
- County Update
- Social Events Update
- Administrator's Report
- Next Regular Board Meeting Agenda
- Adjourn and Reconvene in Executive Session

### Executive Session Agenda:

- Call to Order
- Approval of October, 2022 Executive Minutes
- Enforcements and Legal Matters
- Personnel
- Adjournment

*(Final agenda posted at KWPOA office window 4 days prior to meeting.)*

## KWPOA Contact Information

**Mailing address:** PO Box 404, Kentfield 94914  
**Office address:** 1010 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. #200  
Kentfield, CA 94904  
**Office Hours:** By Appointment  
**Phone:** 415-721-7429  
**Web Site:** [www.kwpoa.com](http://www.kwpoa.com)  
**Email:** [info@kwpoa.com](mailto:info@kwpoa.com)

## Board Members and Staff

Ann Becker, President/AC Rep	<a href="mailto:abecker@kwpoa.com">abecker@kwpoa.com</a>
Bitsa Freeman, Vice President	<a href="mailto:bfreeman@kwpoa.com">bfreeman@kwpoa.com</a>
Sara Wardell-Smith, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:swardellsmith@kwpoa.com">swardellsmith@kwpoa.com</a>
Noah Hagey, Secretary	<a href="mailto:nhagey@kwpoa.com">nhagey@kwpoa.com</a>
Jeff Leh, Director	<a href="mailto:jleh@kwpoa.com">jleh@kwpoa.com</a>
Natasha Altman, Director	<a href="mailto:naltman@kwpoa.com">naltman@kwpoa.com</a>
Jeanne Williams, Administrator	<a href="mailto:jwilliams@kwpoa.com">jwilliams@kwpoa.com</a>
Michael Barber, AC Coordinator	<a href="mailto:mbarber@kwpoa.com">mbarber@kwpoa.com</a>
Heather Hill, Hazard Mitigation	<a href="mailto:hhill@kwpoa.com">hhill@kwpoa.com</a>