

Bald Hill Fire Safe Group

Newsletter # 4

March 2019

What a Month! What a Day! The Bald Hill Clean up Day last Saturday. If you weren't there, see what you missed!

Saturday March 23rd 9 AM



Saturday March 23rd 10:30 AM



You say, "Huh, Is that possible?" Every picture tells a story and while people are known to exaggerate, here is evidence # 2.

Saturday March 23rd 11 AM



You guessed it, Saturday March 23 Noon



Amazing when a group of neighbors put their heart and soul - and backs - into a worthwhile and important project. Miracles happen.

It was September 2018 when our new neighbors Lucy and Charles Dilworth took residence at their new home on Oak Avenue. While we were sad to see our friends Rick and Brenda leave, we had no idea what a force of nature had taken their place.

Within 30 days, the call went out to gather together local friends and try to put together a Fire Safe Group for our beautiful and richly vegetated Bald Hill neighborhood. Little did we know that we were about to start breathing in ashes, wearing masks and getting accustomed to a perpetual grey sky, so her call was timely. Soon stories of Paradise descended upon us and the urgency of pulling this idea together became strong.

I personally want to thank them - and the core group - for pushing this idea forward, relentlessly. There were nay-sayers of course, ("why, we've been fine for 30 years. You are a newcomer. Who put you in charge? My house hasn't burned down yet, so why should I worry now?"), yet five months later, we are on the verge of becoming a certified FireWise Neighborhood. In addition, I don't want to omit the tremendous effort that Bill Albright, Dave Anderson, Sharyn Ramorino, Carol Fabric - and fearless Shiela - put forth to get this project going. We had anonymous financial backers as well. What can be accomplished without venture capital??

A **Huge Thank You** to all other volunteers who were on the streets from dawn to dusk (well, 9-3). The party went to dusk. Young and old (mainly old) were out in force. Tools that had 10 years of rust were put to use. Contraptions that were impossible to figure out what they were, well, were used to hold branches and weeds down. Hands, with nary a callous, tore at the Scotch Broom and anything else that dared to be in sight. Trees, saplings and dead wood accumulated in larger piles. The fire department, which sent out a wood chipper two days later, and were expecting 5-6 piles of brush, worked on Monday until 6 PM, swearing quietly in the rain.

I feel like this is an Academy Awards night, because I want to thank even more people, but not my parents this time. All of you who spent time clearing your property at street level and elsewhere - you did us a great service and it was noticed and appreciated very much. Block captains, hats off to you as well for getting the word out. How many flyers did we distribute?

It really was an amazing display of unity. It was fun. We met people we had never seen before. We saw women climb hills that Sir Edmund Hillary wouldn't touch and we left the streets denuded of flammable plant matter, as you have all seen as you drive through our streets. A bit like Ireland!

I want to stress, it really was fun. Sure there were scratches, cuts, sore backs and more but we attacked the hills with a vengeance, almost daring for a fire to try getting down our roads. Thank you! Now, it made me think of Dutch Amish Communities that would gather for a barn building; so next Saturday, I'm trying to build an 8,000 sq. foot cabana. Can we all meet at.....

Next Order of Business: turn the page..



Since I knew there would be a lot of organizational matters to attend to prior to the clean-up, I volunteered to take the time to pull it all together. At my own expense, I took a work sabbatical, and while maintaining close contact with Lucy, drew up an action plan...in the Florida Keys. Working on deadline, we pulled it together, just in time.

You're Welcome.

Agenda: Next meeting is May 4th. Please, everyone, come and let's pull together as we close in on our goal. We have several hundred addresses, names, but we need them all to have a fire alert network that works. Just because we have made tremendous progress, we cannot stop...Lucy brandishes her bullwhip from time to time. You'll hear a "cracking" sound as you walk past her house, as she hones her skills.

We will discuss the next dates for a cleanup, early summer perhaps and review everything necessary to complete our application. We are meeting with the Marin Parks and Open Space to discuss with them their plans to rectify the 10 foot clearance requirement along Redwood Road. Their property comes down right into the neighborhood

We have a website that we are putting more time and effort into. It will be the "clearinghouse" for all future information, including this newsletter. So, if you don't want to miss the next chapter in this thrilling tale of life on the edge of Bald Hill, please put this into your saved website directory; www.baldhillfiresafegroup.com. Please forward to me (fred.goldfarb@gmail.com) or Lucy (Lucy.Dilworth@gmail.com) any questions, any email addresses and names of people who have not signed up.

As I said, it was only six months ago this project began, there's lots more ahead, but I sleep better knowing our investments, pets and our lives are that much safer.

I created a slide show to let you see everything that went on Saturday. The changes, obstacles, rare animals and serpents we encountered. Security we provided. Photos of neighbors you've never seen and so much more. It's on Youtube. Please go here for the real story and what some of you missed last weekend.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AyNmoYsYy60&feature=youtu.be>

And, that's all she wrote!

