



Winter 2020

Palomar Park Perspectives

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE PALOMAR PROPERTY OWNERS

PG&E AND LIVING WITH PSPS

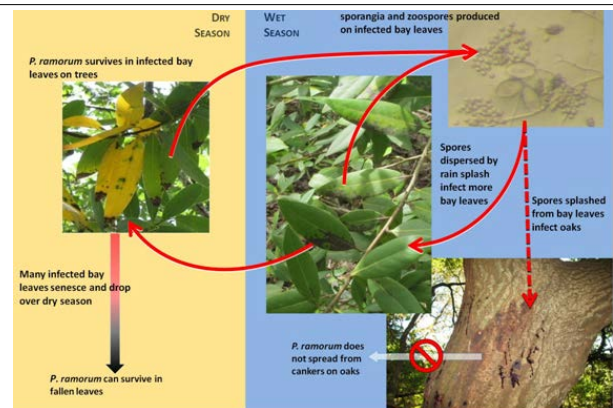
Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) are here to stay. With changing climate cycles, CA is experiencing lower relative humidity, more intense offshore winds and warmer days. These three weather characteristics, coupled with an overgrown landscape of vegetation and homes built with combustible construction (i.e. wood shake roofs and wood siding) and placed in high fire severity areas, has no doubt become a recipe for disaster for some communities. PG&E has taken the brunt of the blame for causing many of the largest wildfires in CA history. Now in bankruptcy, their last resort has been to shut down the power to hundreds of thousands during inclement fire weather. Palomar Park was among those communities that experienced the total black out. Prepare your family for the likelihood of more PSPS this summer. Only have licensed electricians wire emergency generators and place them away from windows and never inside your garage or home. Battery operated candles are a safe lighting option and LED flashlights are very bright and last a long time. Sign up for PG&E alerts as well as SMC ALERT to receive imminent power shutdowns and other emergency or wildfire alerts.

SUDDEN OAK DEATH (SOD)

The disease that kills coast oaks, tan oaks, and black oaks has taken many victims here in Palomar Park. *P. ramorum* is the pathogen that attacks the oak and cuts off its ability to absorb water to its upper limbs. The lack of water is why the trees suddenly die and have full canopies of dead leaves. The pathogen lives in the bay laurel trees, often found near oaks. The bays are considered a host and can contaminate nearby oaks (just like spreading the flu).

Our beautiful oak trees contribute to the magical essence of Palomar Park. These majestic trees, some over 200 years old, are naturally fire resistant, increase our property values and provide wonderful erosion control for our hillsides.

A visual sign that a bay is infected can be identified by a partial brown spot near the point of the bay leaf. There are preventive measures that can be taken. Annual winter spraying of Agri-fos with the surfactant Pentra-Bark can assist your oaks from contracting SOD.



Annual spraying with Agri-fos helps immunize oaks from SOD. Contract a tree spraying company to spray your most beloved oak trees during the cold winter months. Removing or trimming bay laurels that are near or under your oaks is also a defense.



Phytophthora ramorum canker at the base of a coast live oak.

Have a story for the newsletter? You are encouraged to submit your articles and photos to PalomarNews@Gmail.com or put them in the 419 Palomar Drive mailbox.

COURTESY ON THE ROAD

Speeding on our narrow Palomar Park roads can become a dangerous endeavor for pedestrians, wildlife and of course other drivers. The blind winding curves make it difficult to know when another car is coming. When an oncoming car, speeding around a turn, is partially in your lane it can be almost impossible to get out of the way. Please also remind contractors, gardeners and your other residential vendors that speeding is not ok in Palomar Park. Tickets and accidents are costly and the safety of everyone in Palomar Park is paramount.



SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING

Burglaries are on the rise all over the Bay Area. Many CA laws have changed and some crimes, like residential or auto thefts, are no longer punishable with prison or extended jail time under many circumstances. Career criminals are working many nearby neighborhoods, i.e. Crestview and Emerald Hills. If you see someone or maybe a car that seems out of place or lingering do not hesitate to contact the Sheriff's Office.

- > Lock all doors even if you are home.
- > Lock cars and don't leave valuables inside them.
- > If you are out of town, have your neighbor bring in your newspaper or your mail.
- > Keep a light and/or radio on when you are going out at night to give the appearance that someone is home.
- > Ask for identification if someone comes to your door and wants to look around your property.
- > Invest in a home security system.
- > Get to know your neighbor and let them know if you are going out of town.
- > Do not announce to vendors that you are going on vacation and your house is going to be empty.

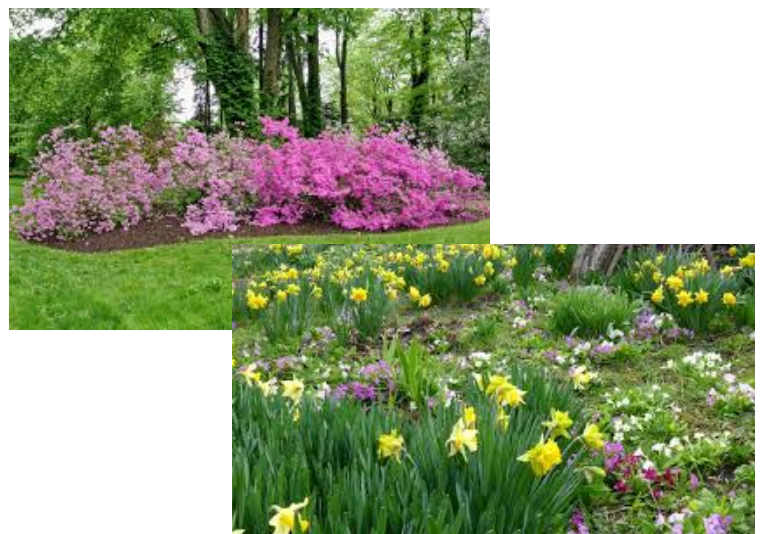
WINTER GARDEN TIPS

It's that time of year when all the plants in your yard are conserving energy and not in their growth mode. Providing a little care and nutrient rich resources now to many of your garden plants will ensure bountiful blooms and healthy new growth during the spring.

Some tips to ensure your garden will be ready for spring:

- * **Prune away dead and damaged branches on trees and woody shrubs.**
- * **Clean up rotting debris and finished plants. For perennials - if it is brown cut it to the ground.**
- * **Remove weeds that have taken over during the fall.**
- * **Prune appropriate plants such as roses.**
- * **Fertilize bulbs, azaleas and rhododendrons with bloom food.**
- * **Think about a load of organic mulch for ornamental trees, perennials and bushes to feed and maintain root moisture.**
- * **Plant bare root fruit trees in January or early February.**
- * **Make sure standing water is not accumulating at the base of any trees or plants.**
- * **Winter is a good time to plant larger specimens, i.e. small trees and bushes. Think about CA natives and check out the comprehensive list of fire resistant plants on the Fire Safe SMC website.**

www.firesafesanmarco.org/resources



THE BIRDS AND THE BEES



Birds only nest during spring and summer. During the rest of the year, cavity-nesting birds often use these same boxes for shelter during winter nights. Sometimes more than a

dozen birds will pile into a single box to conserve heat. But nest boxes are far from ideal for overnight roosting. They are usually too small for a group. Plus most birds need to perch or cling while roosting, but nest boxes have no perching surfaces inside.

You can help your backyard birds keep warm overnight with a specially designed roost box. Bluebirds, chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, and small woodpeckers may seek refuge in it.

Roosting boxes differ from nest boxes in several ways. A good roost box is designed to prevent the birds' body heat from escaping, unlike a nest box, it has fewer ventilation holes. Also, its entrance hole is near the bottom of the box so the rising warmth doesn't escape. Inside a roost box there may be several perches made from small wooden dowels at different levels. The inside front and rear walls may be roughened, scored, or covered with wire so that woodpeckers can cling to them.

An entrance hole of about 2 inches in diameter will admit most small birds, but to exclude aggressive starlings reduce openings to about 1 1/2 inches. Larger woodland birds, such as screech-owls, need a 3-inch entrance hole. Place the box in a sheltered spot, out of prevailing winds. South facing boxes receive the most warmth from winter sun. Roost boxes can be purchased from various manufacturers. Look for them anywhere nest boxes or feeders are sold.

Bees swarm in the spring, for several different reasons, e.g., to acquire more space for their hive.

Swarming bees are not usually aggressive because they have no young or food to protect. If you have a swarm here are the do's and don't's.

Bees are on the decline so let's do our part to help them pollinate the planet.



1. **Don't** spray with water, pesticide or hit with a stick.
2. **Do** call a bee keeper ASAP who will relocate them.

www.sanmateobeeguild.org

NEW NEIGHBORS



We have new neighbors in Palomar Park. We officially welcome the following residents to the hill:

140 Brecon Ct.
Emily/Lain Becker

10 Belle Roche
Buss McCormick Trust

15 Hermosa - Laura
Roberts/Eric Termuehlen

105 Scenic Dr.- John Allington

1438 Edgewood Rd.
Jayna Whit Trust

133 Cervantes Rd.
Sarah Lorber and Korgan Feliks

1226 Edgewood Rd.
Lynn Conners/David Fork

1400 Edgewood Rd.
Navjot Brar/Navdeep Hayer

185 Cervantes Rd.
Johathan Armstrong/
Samiye Mahmoudia



CONSTRUCTION REGS

Just a friendly reminder that the hours of construction in Unincorporated San Mateo County are Mon.- Fri 7:00am - 6:00pm and Sat 9:00am - 5:00pm. No contractor construction is allowed on Sundays or holidays.

If you have a questions for the Planning or Building department, you can call 650 599-7311.



FINDING PALOMAR PARK

by Zoya Petelin

My husband George and I lived in San Francisco and for years we wanted to live in the country. Often on weekends we drove down to the Peninsula and looked at hillside homes in Belmont, San Carlos, Woodside and Redwood City. Quite by accident, in the spring of 1940, we were driving on Edgewood Rd. and turned on Scenic towards Palomar Park. We drove around the hill, where there were only about 25 homes and we noticed one home for sale, but I really liked the brick home at 347 Palomar Dr. Unfortunately, there was no "For Sale" sign on it. However, a few months later I contacted a realtor and asked if any homes were for sale in Palomar Park. By coincidence, he mentioned a house was just listed today and it was 347 Palomar Drive. It was a miracle, the home I wished for a few weeks ago was now for sale. The realtor arranged for us to meet the owners, Mr. and Mrs. North, who invited us for lunch. Another coincidence, Mrs.



North was of Russian descent, just like my husband, George and I. We became instant friends and Mrs. North wanted us to have the house. In a few weeks, I would have my dream home. We paid \$7,000.00 for the house and in the summer of 1940 we moved in. Mrs. North left some furniture, kitchen dishes and utensils and the refrigerator was full of goodies, including a bottle of French champagne on the table and dinner ready for our first night in Palomar Park. The next day, Mrs. Virginia Wellhausen and Mrs. Theo Sherwood (our immediate neighbors) brought dinner over to us. Mrs. Irene England and Mrs. Margaret Muth became my new best neighbors. Mr. Muth, Mr. England and my husband commuted together on the train, for the long trip to work in San Francisco. All of the husbands worked on the water system and the roads. There was definitely a sense of community on the Hill. Fifty-eight (58) years on the hill, such a wonderful area, great neighbors and I wouldn't live anywhere else.

Told to her son, Daniel Petelin, on April 17, 1998. Zoya passed away the summer of 2001. She was a founding member of the Garden Club. Her son inherited the home and has the distinction of being the second longest living resident of 70 years on the hill.

PPO ANNUAL MEMBER DUES

Now is the time to renew your annual 2020 membership with the Palomar Park Property Owners. We depend on member dues to repair our community mailboxes, host the picnic, fund the annual chipper program and other beneficial projects and functions for Palomar Park residents. Your \$50 donation goes a long way. You can pay online at www.palomarpark.org or mail a check to:

PPO
419 Palomar Dr.
Palomar Park,
CA 94062



SUGGESTIONS WELCOME

The PPO Board is always looking for suggestions from its' residents. If you have an idea or suggestion you think the Board can help with to make Palomar Park even a better place, please drop us a line.

PalomarNews@gmail.com



WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

PPO would like to have all of our resident's email addresses so that we may deliver important emergency notifications, meeting dates and agendas as well as a digital copy of our newsletter. You can be assured that you email address will be kept confidential. Email us at: PalomarNews@gmail.com

PPO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT - MIKE KUBIAK

CO-VICE PRESIDENT - JEFF GARRATT

CO-VICE PRESIDENT - DENISE ENEA-CHARLEBOIS

SECRETARY- LEXI BAILEY

TREASURER - CAROL BENNETT

BOARD MEMBER/HISTORIAN - DAN PETELIN

BOARD MEMBER - HUGO LOURO

BOARD MEMBER - JOE HOWARD

BOARD MEMBER - VACANT

CONTACT US AT: PalomarNews@gmail.com if you are interested in serving on the Board.