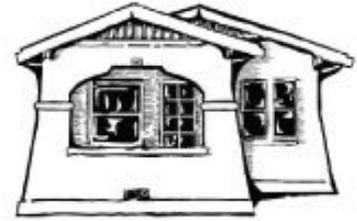


RIDGWAY HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



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Neighborhood Meeting, Feb. 5

Please join us at 432 Denton Way.
Social time at 6:30 p.m.; meeting
7-8 p.m. We'll plan the summer
block party, organize a 2020
garden walk, and visit with a Santa
Rosa police officer.

Ridgway Family Corner

Welcome to the Ridgway Family
Corner! My name is Kathryn
Hodges and I'm a Health Coach
with two young kiddos. We just
moved into the lovely Ridgway
neighborhood in July. "Family
Corner" is a new addition to the
newsletter to create more
connection between families and
kiddos in our neighborhood! We
would like to create a standing
family play date... Yes, even in the
winter! Any thoughts? If you have
any family-friendly events coming
up or ideas of what you would like
to see, please email me:
katievhodges@gmail.com.

Is Your Block Prepared?

by Kathleen Kraemer

Block Captains help residents during emergencies or disasters. These blocks still need captains: Glenn Street between Benton and College, Morgan Street between Ridgway and Benton, and Morgan Street between Benton and College. Please contact Bryan Much if you can help: bryanmuch@gmail.com.

Respect and Community

by Jon Phillips

A community can be a group of people living in the same place or having something in common. It can also mean a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals. As I grow older, I'm constantly reminded how important community is to everyone's well-being. Last year when I asked for neighborhood volunteers in this newsletter, I was touched by the immediate response; community brings people together in support of common goals.

Community also requires respect. During the fire last fall, despite our individual and personal differences, our entire community pulled together in support of one another. Now, more than ever, I see the importance of being able to agree to disagree and acknowledge our differences with respect. Because at the end of the day, despite our differences, it will be our community who will come to our aid in times of need.

Green Pen Dispensary Update

by Bryan Much

Proposed Project at 353 College Ave.: On September 12, 2019, the Planning Commission denied the proposed project. The applicant appealed that decision, but no date has been set. The applicant is currently modifying the proposed plans for parking and on-site circulation. The applicant has not yet submitted final plans to the Planning Department, but it appears that the rear house on the parcel to the west (damaged by fire) is to be removed, but the main house at 349 College Ave. will not be altered. The revisions will need to go back through a traffic analysis, as well as the other referral departments. The City Council may approve or deny the appealed project, or it may send the project back to the Planning Commission for re-review. Questions or comments may be sent to Bryan Much: bryanmuch@gmail.com.

Neighbor Spotlight: Michelle Marques

by Lisl Christie

Did you tune in to KSRO radio during the 2017 and 2019 fires? If so, you've heard the voice of Michelle Marques, who lives on Benton Street. Michelle has been a radio broadcaster at KSRO and its family of stations since 2004.

Michelle started as a DJ and traffic reporter with Froggy, the country music station. Over the past 15 years, she has served as promotions director for Froggy and KSRO, news anchor, traffic reporter, morning show news anchor, afternoon program host, and fill-in host. She covered the historic Petaluma flood on New Year's Eve 2006, and Napa's 6.0 earthquake in 2014. In 2017 and 2019, Michelle and a small team of KSRO broadcasters provided continuous coverage of local fires.

"No one person can do all the work of wall-to-wall coverage in a natural disaster," Michelle explained, recalling the events of October 2017 at KSRO. Within ten minutes of learning about the fire, Michelle arrived at the station, along with Mike DeWald and Pat Kerrigan. This small team began the work of providing coverage of the fast-moving fires, and shared updates with other radio stations, as well.

As the fires spread, many thousands of local residents tuned into KSRO for reliable information. In the first few hours of the fire, local emergency personnel were overwhelmed and didn't have time to talk to the station, so KSRO staff gathered news from wherever they could find it, talking with officials when they were available.

During the 2019 fire, KSRO and public officials drew on the good working relationships that they had developed in 2017. This time, coverage was more organized, with public officials contacting KSRO regularly to share updates. Ironically, since it was October, she was also working at the haunted house she helps to organize. "At the haunted house, my job was to scare people, then I'd go to work at KSRO, doing my best not to scare the public."

After the 2019 fire, CHP commended KSRO for keeping people calm, enabling Sonoma County residents to evacuate in time and in an orderly fashion. Explaining KSRO's goal of informing people, not scaring them, she said, "Our information helped people understand how fire behaves, so they understood why the evacuations were happening."

Michelle is grateful to residents who called in to KSRO

during both fires to share information with listeners. She was also moved by the huge number of donations that poured into emergency shelters.

When Michelle is not covering fires, floods, and earthquakes, her regular position at KSRO is as host of the "Ask the Expert" interview program, and host of Sonoma County Focus, a weekly public affairs program. Her other job is in event planning, where her boss understands Michelle's need for a flexible schedule during disasters.

Outside of work, Michelle created a "Sonoma Bento" blog, and she makes locally themed nail polish called Sonoma Nail Art. She is currently illustrating a children's book about feelings, written by her aunt. In addition, Michelle is the communications coordinator for the Ridgway Historic Neighborhood, updating residents on neighborhood events. Look for Michelle zipping by on her navy Vespa scooter!



© PHOTO BY CANDICE CABALLERO

Finding Homes and Connections

by *Lisl Christie*



Have you ever been curious about the TLC Child & Family Services office on the corner of Denton and Mendocino? I have, so I recently sat down with Shelby Means, MSW, Director of TLC’s Transitional Housing Program (THP), to learn how her nonprofit program serves the community.

THP serves youth and young adults aged 16 to 24 years who are current and former foster youth, youth on probation, and youth experiencing homelessness. The resource center on Denton is open to current and former program participants as well as current and former foster youth who may not have been a part of the THP program. Some of the resources that are offered at the center are skill-building workshops, use of computers, art room, basic needs items, an annual college fair, a kitchen for cooking a meal, independent-living skill building, staff support, and a homework club. Youth may use the shower, laundry units and wifi as needed. THP is part of TLC Child and Family Services, a nonprofit that has worked for 30 plus years to change the lives of foster youth and families.

TLC has a dizzying array of programs comprised of foster and adoption, transitional housing, residential-care homes (formerly known as group homes), mental health services, and a non-public school for foster and community students with special learning needs.

Most of the youth served by THP entered the foster system as older children, averaged age 7 to 14. They have experienced repeated trauma, and many have mental-health challenges or barriers. “When you’ve experienced childhood trauma,” Shelby Means explained, “often you are chronologically the age of 18, but developmentally

more like 13 or 14.” THP provides these amazing youth, who never landed in a forever family with secure attachments, lifelong connections and skill building support that a family would normally provide. Shelby stressed, “There’s so much trauma with our youth that it’s really important that we take care of them through a trauma-informed approach.”

THP finds housing for transition-age youth through many different avenues. The organization rents rooms in homes across the community, rents apartments and multi-bedroom homes. TLC has purchased two homes, including a couple in our neighborhood, and works with county agencies when providing services.

A big part of THP’s mission is to connect foster youth to the larger community. Youth visit the state capital, participate in focus groups to inform the work of local organizations, and serve as youth representatives with community coalitions and collaborations.

In addition to providing housing, social supports, comprehensive mobile case management, and lasting connections, THP also actively works to help youth attend college or achieve their educational goals. The organization sponsors a college fair for foster youth, and partners with community colleges, CSUs, and UCs who provide on-campus foster support services.

Want to help foster youth? The best way to do so is to provide donations to meet basic needs as well as help combat the housing market. Also, you can improve the quality of lives by donating gift cards for things like gas, groceries, diapers for the single parents, or clothing. Donors can write a check to TLC (memo: THP program) or give via Facebook. If you want to see some inspiring success stories, join the “THP at TLC” Facebook page, too. And you’re always welcome to stop by THP and say hello!

Website

At ridgwayhistorica.org you’ll find photos from past events, social-media locations, event calendars, and much more!



Got New Neighbors?

Please email Lacinda Moore, our Welcome Wagon representative: lacinda.r.moore@gmail.com. She’ll help new residents feel right at home!



Police Assistance

Sergeant Matthies is in charge of our neighborhood’s beat. You can reach him at 543-3600 x4023 or bmatthies@srcity.org.



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[707-486-2572](tel:707-486-2572)

The purpose of RHNA is to provide information and organized activities to benefit our neighborhood. We work together by consensus as a forum to address community needs, concerns and interests.