

Thankfully we received a decent amount of rain from our first big storm of the year. For the first time the newly remodeled Sleepy Hollow Community Center was opened during the power outage caused by the storm. The emergency generator provided power to the entire building. Families arrived to get the latest storm related information, charge their devices, get something warm to drink and the kids got to watch a little TV. An email was sent to residents notifying them that the building was open. Please be sure to provide your updated contact information to the Sleepy Hollow Homes Association so that you can receive future notices.

It looks like the risk of wildfire has been greatly reduced, but there is still a lot you can do to make your home safer during the winter months.. Marin Fire Departments advocate a house out approach to wildfire preparedness. Most homes are destroyed during wildfires due to embers entering vulnerable parts of the home. Start to prepare by looking at the house itself, especially the first five feet around it. Do you have the proper size screens on your attic and foundation vents? Many homes in Sleepy Hollow were built before modern building codes and have quarter inch screens covering vents. Screens should be no more than one eighth inch. See more information on fire resistant vents here <https://firesafemarin.org/harden-your-home/fire-resistant-vents/>

Are your gutters properly screened to keep leaves out? Is there flammable material under your deck? Do you have flammable plants growing right next to your home? Are there flammable items like jute door mats, wicker lawn furniture and flammable cushions close to the home?. Now is a good time to address these issues. Take advantage of the Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District's Hazardous Vegetation Removal Grant that provides up to \$3000 to remove targeted hazardous species around your property. Grant guidelines and the application are available here <http://www.shfpd.org/grants>.

We still need some help for the block captain program. It requires only a small time commitment, but it is of great importance for your street. You will not be expected to perform any type of emergency action during a disaster. The program is primarily focused on education and preparation for disasters. Three streets we would really like to get covered are The Alameda, Oak Knoll and West Oak Knoll. If you are interested in finding out more about the program, please contact me or email: Sharon Adams 454-0420 or [sadams131@comcast.net](mailto:sadams131@comcast.net).

Now that winter is here, we will be setting up the sanbag station on Butterfield Road just down from the community center. We provide the sand and bags, but you will need to fill them though there are often neighbors on site just before a big rain that will help.

Finally, join us at the Community Center on November 11 @ 6pm for the next episode of Fire Safe Marin's Wildfire Watch TV show. Last month we had competition for viewers due to a conflict with the baseball playoffs, but all those who attended had a good time and a spirited discussion about the topics covered on the show.