

The Ridges Landowners' Association Newsletter

Number 17
Winter 1999-2000

In an effort to keep all landowners in The Ridges informed of the status of the development of the community and issues that may affect you, we are distributing this quarterly newsletter. We hope that you enjoy this periodic update and find it useful.

1999-2000 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The annual meeting of landowners was held on October 20th and members for this years Board were elected. They are:

Ray Olson, President	466-1202
Karen Embertson, Vice President	466-2486
Barry Weinstein, Secretary	466-6223
Steve Cary, Treasurer	466-6360
Jim Shanaberger, Roads	466-6909

The board would like to thank Nigel Walsh for his work and effort as last year's president of the homeowners association and Dave Kingston, who has done an excellent job serving our community as a member of the board for the past three years.

UTILITY RATE INCREASE PROPOSED

El Dorado Utilities, Inc has asked the Public Regulatory Commission to grant another rate increase. If approved our monthly water and sanitation bills will be raised 55.4%. Our \$9 base monthly fee will increase to between \$13 and \$14 and the \$5.13 charge per 1,000 gallon water-use fee will increase to \$7.98. This translates to a monthly increase of approximately \$20 to \$25 per month. Last year the utility company was granted a 28% increase.

A protest against the proposed rate hike has been filed by the board of the El Dorado Water and Sanitation District. A public hearing must be held and all residents will be receiving a notice indicating time, date and place of the hearing with an upcoming monthly bill.

WHAT GREW HERE BEFORE WE CAME?

The following is for all landowners who are interested in what The Ridges might have been Like centuries ago. It is an excerpt from Dunmire and Tierneys's *Wild Plants of the Pueblo Province*, Museum of New Mexico Press, Santa Fe, 1995.

The earliest evidence of people inhabiting the land surrounding the northern and central Rio Grande Valley comes from radiocarbon remains collected at ancient campsites dating to about 8000 BCIE. We don't know much about the individual and social lives of these earliest recorded people, but we do know their subsistence depended largely on wild animals. Below the Sangre de Cristo, Jemez and Sandia mountains the land leading up from the Rio Grande would have been covered with pine and deciduous woodlands interspersed with savannas of tallgrass prairie and sagebrush. These conditions prevailed in sharp contrast to the piñon, juniper and desert-like shrubby vegetation that have characterized this area for the past four thousand years or more.

Mountainsides abounded with edible acorns and wild cherry. Grapes and plums lined narrow watercourses and meadows and plains of grasses were so abundant with edible seeds that people could be and were sustained by them. The gathering of wild plant food had always had been a part of the lives of ancestral American Indians, even during the heyday of the giant mammals that dominated this land. Plant carbohydrates are known to have provided a valuable, if not essential, nutritional supplement in the diet of virtually every culture that has subsisted primarily on meat.

Today, many archeologists argue that corn, and other cultivated plants did not enter the American Southwest until! roughly 1000 to 1500 BCE. Ancient corncocks and fragments of a cultivated pumpkin-like squash have been found in the Jemez region. At the time of the Spanish entry from the south, Indians or the Pueblos Province subsisted on varieties of maize, squash, beans, and gathered wild plants.

Welcoming Newcomers

Ridges' president, Ray Olson, would appreciate a prompt phone call (406-1202) if you have new neighbors move in. Ray would like to personally extend a welcome to newcomers in an effort to help them get settled in to our community.

ACCIDENT IN THE RIDGES

In the morning of Sunday, December 12, a driver went off the road on Principe de Paz between lots 18 and 19. The car landed on its roof and required a tow truck's assistance to right it and pull it back onto the road. Fortunately no one was seriously injured. At that particular juncture in the road there is an approximate twelve foot drop off of the shoulder. This is a reminder to all residents to heed the 25 mile an hour speed limit and to be particularly careful when negotiating that curve on Principe de Paz.

To Know The Dark

By Wendell Barry

*To go in the dark with a light is to know hr light.
To know the dark, go dark. Go without sight,
And find that the dark too blooms and sings,
And is traveled by dark feet and dark wings.*

One of the riches of life In the Ridges is the dark sky, often shimmering with the lights of stars arid planets. Who has not stepped out into the night and exclaimed at the beauty overhead. To protect this treasure, we may remember the courtesy of keeping our property lights as dim as prudence and safety permit.

MASTER GARDENERS COURSE

On Thursday, February 17, 2000, training will begin for master gardeners classes. This course focuses on gardening in Santa Fe and high desert climates. For more ;information contact the Santa Fe County Cooperative Extension Office at 471-4711.

If you have an item or an announcement for the spring newsletter, please fax it to 466-1257 or trail it to 72 Buen Pastor by March 15th.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
AND A
HAPPY AND HEALTHY
2000
TO ALL**