

The Ridges Landowners' Association Newsletter

Number 18
Spring 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.

285 UPDATE

On March [5th, the 285 Coalition held its latest meeting, and several issues pertaining to the 285 corridor were addressed. The issue that residents have been most concerned about is that of lighting. Originally the State Highway Department planned to place fifty two lights along 285 from Old Las Vegas Highway to Avenida Vista Grande. The 285 Coalition proposed that the number of lights be decreased to eighteen; however, the highway department only has been willing to decrease the number of lights to thirty two. Most recently Senator Roman Maes has attempted to convey the sentiments of those of us living along the corridor to the highway department. The latest development is that the department stated they would either install thirty two lights or zero. At the this time, those appear to be our options.

In addition to the lighting issue, it was announced that \$200,000 seed money is available for open space preservation along the corridor and a presentation was made for the development of a six screen movie theater.

NERVOUS ABOUT WATER?

Are you anxious about the possibility of another year of threatened dribble? I Do you dream about turning on your faucet and getting a little rusty sludge? Are you concerned about the continuing uncertainty about our water supply endangering the value of your property? Take comfort in the leadership of Don Dayton, our Water and Sanitation District president, whose recently published statements are reassuring:

- 1) A computer study of water available in the aquifers used by EDU will be completed and published in May 2000. We'll know more then.
- 2) The present supply (including new wells and storage tanks) will help ease us through dry spells but probably will not permit new subdivisions opening.

3) Long-term plans must include eventual access to imported water from the Rio Grande.

4) Meanwhile, let's continue efforts to limit our own water use and be creative in collecting rainwater for gardening use.

REQUESTS TO ALL RESIDENTS

In an effort to maintain upkeep in our development all residents are being asked to adhere to the following:

1) Please do not drive vehicles off to the side of the speed bumps. This practice is tearing up the pavement and the vegetation alongside of the road. If you are building or remodeling, please instruct your work people to respect the speed limit and to keep all four wheels of their vehicles on the road when going ova the speed bumps.

2) After garbage pickup, please take your garbage containers off of the roadside. Some residents are leaving their containers alongside of the road for days on end. In addition, your neighbor would appreciate your picking up any garbage that blew out of your container or was left behind by the collectors.

SNAKEWEED—An Ornament to Our Ridges Landscape

Broom snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*) is widespread throughout southwestern U.S. rangelands. It appears to be successful despite several characteristics that could work against their survival in arid plant communities. These weaknesses include a poorly developed root system, which is susceptible to both bugs and drought. On the other hand, it has a tremendous reproductive capacity, is a hardy competitor with perennial grass species, and has a high capacity to augment leaf photosynthesis through green stems.

Snakeweeds were conspicuous components of range vegetation in these pans in the late 1800s. While they

exhibit a short lifespan, each plant may produce as many as 35,000 flowers and 21,000 seeds. Seeds remain dormant but viable in the soil for many years. Outbreaks of snakeweed populations seem to follow such destructive disturbances as drought, grasshopper invasion, or heavy livestock grazing.

Once snakeweed plants germinate and emerge in the field, they do not appear to develop an extensive root system quickly enough to exploit soil water and nutrient resources. On the other hand, they are hardy competitors of grasses and exert a considerable negative impact on grass production until all snakeweed plants are removed.

These “half shrubs” constitute a minor (10%) part of the diet of herbivores, including cattle, sheep, goats, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and blacktailed jackrabbits. They are believed to have a toxic effect on reproduction and performance of domestic livestock, not a great problem in The Ridges. On the other hand, their waxy greenery in summer and yellow flowers in fall add interesting, changing texture to our landscape.

[Taken from Huddlestone EW and Pieper RD “Snakeweed: Problems and Perspectives”, NMSU Ag-

ricultural Experiment Station, Las Cruces, 1989] Contributed by Ray Olson.

WELCOME TO NEWCOMERS

A hearty welcome is extended to Alan Downs and Kevin Sloan who recently moved into 34 Principe de Paz. 466-2164.

RIDGES COMMUNITY CONTACTS

President: Ray Olson 466-1202

Nanravols@aol.com To report community problems, issues or concerns, or newcomers to The Ridges.

285 Coalition: Deborah Hayden 466-9026

Havwaltli~aol.com

Ridges Association Secretary: Carolyn Cochran 982-4374. To inquire about assessment accounts or request covenant copies.

The Ridges Landowners Association Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 22352, Santa Fe, MM 87502

The Ridges Newsletter: Abby Weinstein 466-6223
maladetete6taol.com

Eldorado Water & Sanitation District President:
Don Dayton 466-4348

Architectural Review Committee: Steve Cary 4666360

***The board of directors and the association officers are listed for your information.
Please feel free to call for assistance or information.***

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