

The Ridges Landowners' Association Newsletter

**Number 19
Summer 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.

WATER CONSERVATION UPDATE

Throughout the summer, residents will note the presence of one of three possible signs at the entrance to The Ridges. These signs indicate the water level in the reservoir and remind residents of water conservation measures. A green drop signifies that the water level in the reservoir is being maintained. Yellow is a cautionary sign, informing residents that the water level is gradually dropping. Red indicates that the water level has been below 65% of capacity for several days and continues to drop.

One-third of all water is used to maintain gardens and landscaping. Residents are encouraged to consider a water catchment system to supplement outdoor watering. Indoor conservation can be achieved by installing low flow toilets and water conserving shower heads. The good news is that all of the areas served by the Eldorado supply have the lowest water use per household of any area throughout New Mexico, averaging 4,000 gallons of water usage per household per month.

The Eldorado Utilities has refiled for a 54.5% rate increase. The Eldorado Water and Sanitation District will intervene and oppose the proposed increase. This opposition necessitates a hearing on the proposal and will postpone any increase for nine months.

Thanks to Don Dayton, President of the Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District for the above information.

285 LANDSCAPING AND LIGHTING

Members of the 285 coalition continue to meet with the State Highway Department to discuss the number and intensity of lights between Old Las Vegas Highway and Avenida Vista Grande. The coalition supports a maximum of eighteen 250 watt lights on thirty foot poles. The Highway Department is standing firm in its plan to install thirty-two lights; the argument being one

of safety and liability. It appears that this will be the final word.

Seeding of the meridians and shoulders is scheduled to begin in July. Planting will begin in the fall and continue over the next three years.

FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY

Eldorado Fire and Rescue has provided the enclosed brochure on how to protect your home and property from landfires. The recent Los Alamos and Pecos fires have reminded us that we are susceptible to wildfires; therefore, it is recommended that all residents and landowners read this brochure and develop an evacuation plan. This plan should include the evacuation of all pets and animals. It is suggested that important documents and papers be kept in a box in a convenient location in the event you need to rapidly leave your home.

APPRECIATING OUR NATIVE PLANTS—CHAMISA

(*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*) is the gray-green plant, often growing as tall as a person, that contributes color to the roadside and fields of The Ridges. Also called "rabbitbrush", in the fall the yellow-green shades of the dense clusters of the flowers atop this shrub gives way to a rich golden color, contributing golden blossoms along roadways and arroyos. Its young twigs and leaves are covered with a fine white wool, which gives the plant its gray-green appearance. Early Spanish settlers recorded that Pueblos up and down the Rio Grande wore cotton and wool garments decorated in many colors, the yellow obtained from the chamisa blossom. The mature plants also were used at Acoma, Laguna, and Isleta pueblos for making arrows and arrowheads. At Zuni, yellow-dyed Chamisa stems were sometimes worked into baskets. Some early residents ate the flower buds. Medicinal teas were prepared by steeping the leaves for use as a gargle for colds at Jemez and as a bath for the fevered at Isleta. A strong survivor, the chamisa is able to send roots deep into the

soil for water. We can enjoy the rich texture that this plant adds in many ways to our landscape. Adapted by Ray Olson from "Wild Plants of the Pueblo Province" by William W. Dunmire and Gail D. Tierney

ROAD UPDATE

The paved portion of Principe de Paz recently was sealed to fill in cracks and prevent potholes. This was the first sealing since the original paving and will be repeated in three to five years, depending on necessity. The recent rains have allowed us to have the dirt roads graded. Some of the dirt roads have been in need of grading for months; however, grading can effectively and efficiently be done only after we have a significant rainfall.

A REMINDER ABOUT NOISE

Now that summer is here, many of us are leaving our windows open throughout the day and night. We often forget how noise carries across the stillness of the land. Please be aware that loud stereos, radios and barking dogs might be creating a nuisance for your neighbors.

KUDOS TO GOOD NEIGHBORS

Appreciation to Eva and Dave Kingston who were spotted picking up garbage that had accumulated along

the roadside. Those of us who enjoy walking along our roads might want to follow in their footsteps by occasionally taking along a garbage bag to collect trash. If you enjoy walking your dog, please think about taking along a shovel to remove the numerous dog offerings along our roads. This service will make our roads more attractive and our walks more enjoyable.

RIDGES COMMUNIFY CONTACTS

President: Ray Olson 466-1202 [Nanravols~aol.com](mailto:Nanravols@aol.com)

285 Coalition: Deborah Hayden 466-9026

[Havwal\(Waol.com\)](http://Havwal(Waol.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, NM 87502

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

Architectural Review Committee: Steve Cary 466-6360

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

***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