

# The Ridges Landowners Association Newsletter

Number 28

Spring 2003

*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.*

## From the President

Update on piñon tree removal: This past winter lot owners cut their own bug-infected trees. In addition there were four tree-cutting crews who volunteered to cut for their neighbors. Thanks to the Lanmans, Karen Embertson, Rolls and Hesches for their thoughtful assistance to the community.

The cut piñon tree refuse removal was contracted by The Ridges and was completed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March and hauled away to the transfer station. The Board would like to thank Bill Farmer (Lot 41) and Dave Kingston (Lot 43) for contributing their residential trash permit cards for eight loads taken to the transfer station.

At their spring board meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup> the board of The Ridges voted to contribute \$200.00 in 2003 and ensuing years to the Eldorado Library. This sum should be sent to the library each January as a budgeted item.

Also at the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting the Board voted to accept the proposal from AFJ Custom Paving to pave the extension of Principe de Paz up to Buen Pastor; to put hot asphalt in all old cracks, including the Alma Drive portion; to repave alligatored surfaces and apply a sealant coat on Alma Drive; also one speed bump will be added and other minor repairs will occur. The work should begin as soon as practicable this spring.

*Contributed by Dave Kingston*

## Roads

The contract for extending the asphalt on Principe de Paz was signed with AFJ Custom Paving. Board member and Roads Chair Olin Van Dyck has informed us that the job is scheduled to begin Monday, the 5<sup>th</sup> of May. There will be some

patching work on Alma Drive, as well as extending the asphalt on Principe de Paz up to Buen Pastor. Please drive carefully while this construction is in progress. Any questions should be directed to Olin Van Dyck, 466-2492.

*Contributed by Dave Kingston*

## Springtime is cleanup time

During this past winter the roads in The Ridges have accumulated a certain amount of junk: beer cans, bottles, paper and plastic, etc. Now is the time for our annual spring cleanup. We ask that all residents take a few minutes to pick up along the roadway in front of their property. "Many hands make work light." Thanks to all — let's keep The Ridges looking good.

*Contributed by Dave Kingston*

## Fireworks reminder

Last summer there were several instances of people setting off fireworks in The Ridges, despite bans against several types. The discharge of guns or fireworks is strictly prohibited in Covenants 7.08 (Hunting, Discharge of Firearms), 7.13 (Nuisances), and 7.14 (Other Uses).

A few years ago we had a wildfire in The Ridges caused by the discharge of fireworks in the area of lots 62, 63, and 64. The wind was from the east and without the timely arrival of the El Dorado Fire and Rescue Service who put out the fire, our subdivision and Los Vaqueros could have had a serious "burnout". Residents and their guests in The Ridges are cautioned not to use fireworks in the subdivision. If you see someone else using fireworks, 1) tell them to stop, 2) call a board member, or 3) call the Santa Fe County Sheriff (986-2400; emergency: 911; non-emergency: 986-2460).

It should be noted that the Santa Fe and El Dorado fire departments will come down very strongly on those who use or set off the illegal fireworks, i.e., those which move and explode: a fine and/or a jail sentence.

– Ed.

## County Commissioners enact emergency ordinance

According to The Santa Fe New Mexican in an article on March 26<sup>th</sup>, the County Commissioners passed an emergency ordinance that will ban the lighting of fireworks, starting campfires and smoking in public parks (except in buildings or vehicles) when conditions become bad enough due to lack of moisture. The ordinance banning these activities is not yet in effect but, according to the article, it can come at any time.

If a person is found guilty of disregarding the ordinance, it is a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail or a fine of up to \$300.00 or both.

-Ed.

## More on bark beetles

*Thanks to Deobrah Hayden (Lot 63) for this further information on the bark beetles that have attacked piñons in the Southwest.*

Several years of drought have intensified bark beetle outbreaks throughout New Mexico, causing fatal infestations of thousands of acres of evergreen trees.

Throughout New Mexico, several species of the *Ips* beetle have been invading and leading to the death of piñons, ponderosa pines, spruce, and Douglas and white fir trees.

According to Bob Cain of NMSU's Cooperative Extension Service, bark beetles feed on the phloem tissue, the substance just beneath the bark that moves the sugar from the foliage to the roots. The beetles, which are slightly larger than a pinhead, also introduce a fungus that blocks water movement from the roots to the top of the tree.

Healthy, vigorously growing trees are best equipped to withstand beetle attacks because of their active resin systems that deter beetle colonization. When the beetle bores into a healthy tree, resin exudes through the wound and may prevent the beetles' entry.

As a result, the beetles prey on water-stressed trees, taking advantage of drought conditions that severely weaken natural defenses. Many trees are weakened

by rocky soils, excessively sandy soils or mechanical injuries to roots or trunks caused by construction. Drought exacerbates the problem, attracting more beetles and causing more intense infestations.

Once bark beetles have successfully colonized a tree, it cannot be saved.

Homeowners should check green firewood because bark beetles emerging from infested firewood account for many tree losses near homes and in urban settings. If firewood has been stored for at least one season, the beetles won't be present, but homeowners should take precautions with green firewood collected or purchased in summer when temperatures are high

Tree thinning in overcrowded wooded areas is also a good precaution against bark beetles, because it reduces the need for trees to compete for scarce water.

Cain also noted a lot of beetle outbreaks occur because the forests are dense. Thinning forests will make the trees less susceptible to beetle outbreaks during future droughts.

Included with this newsletter is a very recent publication by the Santa Fe Master Gardener Association concerning these beetles.

In addition, the following web sites may be contacted for more information. Do keep in mind that these web sites are speaking to other states, but are nonetheless worthy of accessing for the detailed information contained.

<http://ag.arizona.edu/extension/fh/>

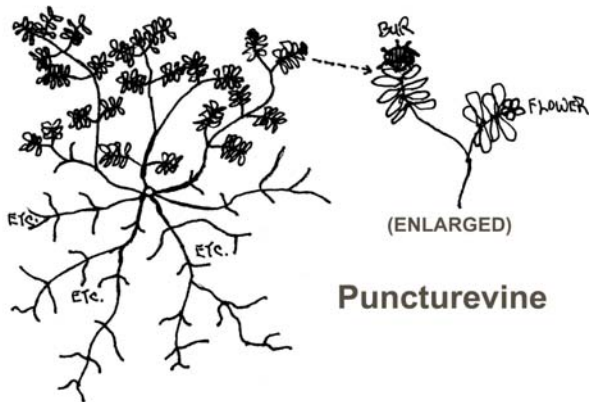
<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7421.html>

## What's growing in the Ridges

**Puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*)** is a common weed in The Ridges. It's an annual weed that's prostrate, or lies flat on the ground. It often appears along the edges of gravel walks or driveways. It tends to form mats with its trailing stems, each ½ to 5 feet long. The oval leaves are tiny, measuring ¼ to ½ inch in length, and occur opposite each other on the stem, in pairs of 4 to 8 per stem.

The pale yellow flowers, which appear from July to October, are likewise tiny and grow out from the axils, or the junction of the leaves with the stem. The flowers turn into tiny fruit, each consisting of 5 sections, which break apart at maturity into sharp tack-like structures, about 1/8 inch in diameter. These little, tan "goatheads" each contain 2 to 4 seeds and

are guaranteed to puncture your socks. They may be dragged in on your clothes or in the paws or fur of your pet. Once on your floor or carpet they await your tread to provoke a real “ouch.”



Puncturevine (aka goathead or sandbur) was introduced from southern Europe and is now widely scattered throughout the U.S. It grows in pastures, cultivated fields, waste areas, and along highways and roads. The hard, spiny burs can puncture a bicycle tire. Seeds can remain dormant in the soil for 4 to 5 years, making eradication very difficult.

**Text prepared by Ray Olson from  
Weeds of the West, Edited by Tom D. Whitson,  
University of Wyoming Press, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. 1996.**

## Things to know living in The Ridges and Santa Fe County

### Rural address markers

Those reflective, red Rural Address markers the county places at the entrance to your driveway come with a County mandated maintenance requirement. The following are from the county’s web site or the Fire chief:

“Once your rural address has been assigned and the first set of numbers placed near the entrance to your property, it is your responsibility to maintain those numbers and replace them when they fade or become damaged. New numbers must be at least 4" high, red

on white background, and reflective if possible.” Of course it is *possible*.

Ordinance number 1996-14, under paragraph 9 B, Penalties, states; ‘Any person who fails to properly place and maintain assigned address numbers on property owned or occupied by person as required by this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed fifty dollars. (\$50.00)’”

### Gas meters

Upon inquiry to PNM, I received the following from their Customer Care regarding painting your gas meter:

“Hello J. R.

Thank you for your correspondence. You may paint the meter any color you wish as long as you leave the glass clear and do not cover the metal meter tag. Thank you again and have a nice day.

Linda”

(Tan or green is preferred. Garish colors are specifically prohibited in the Restrictive Covenants Article 9 ARCHITECTURAL APPROVAL, item 9:02 b: Standards.)

*Contributed by Jack LaRowe*

### A word or two about birds

A good neighbor has made the suggestion that we each put up at least one bluebird house to attract these insect-eating and beautiful avians. Jane Burns (Winter 2003) detailed her experience with bluebirds and the success she had in providing a house last summer. Also, if you have never bothered to feed the hummingbirds and are interested in them, now is the time to put out the special feeders for them. They too give lots of pleasure in watching their antics. They also eat many insects, although one does wonder just how such a tiny bird can do so!

*-Ed.*

***The Board of Directors and the Association officers are listed for your information.  
Please feel free to call for assistance or information.***

<b>NAME</b>	<b>OFFICE</b>	<b>TELEPHONE</b>	<b>COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN</b>
Dave Kingston	President	505-466-4078	
Michel Marx	Vice President	505-466-9038	Architectural Control Committee
Steve Cary	Treasurer	505-466-6360	
Carlos Trucco	Secretary	505-466-4306	
Olin Van Dyck	Member	505-466-2492	Roads

*Newsletter by: Marilyn LaRowe 466-1864,  
e-mail: [jrlarowe@aol.com](mailto:jrlarowe@aol.com)*