

The Ridges Landowners Association Newsletter

Number 50

www.ridgesla.org

Winter 2009

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 Co-Presidents' Desk

Happy New Year to All,

With each new calendar year come new members and new officers for the Board of Directors. This January we welcome the newly-elected Board members Dick Altman and Tim Haggerty. We both believe that The Ridges residents have elected an excellent team and we are looking forward to working together. At the December meeting, the Board agreed to appoint co-presidents for 2009. Eva Kingston agreed to remain in the position of treasurer. Tim Haggerty was elected vice-president. Anne Smith, last year's president, will serve as secretary.

We would especially like to thank Anne for a job well done and all of the personal time and effort she put into this position. In addition we extend the thanks of the entire Ridges community to Tina Lanman and Dick Carlson for their tireless work serving your community. Last, but not least, thanks to Marilyn LaRowe for her hard work in preparing and editing this newsletter, year after year.

There are a number of issues the Board will be focusing on in addition to those that were brought up at the annual meeting. We will continue to work with the Roads committee to address concerns over the condition of the unpaved roads and look at options available to us as a community to maintain the state of all our roads for both vehicles and pedestrians alike.

We will consider the most effective size of the Board of Directors whether it should be reduced from six to five members.

We will be meeting with each of The Ridges committees for their input on increased communications to our community.

The Ridges website is another area we will be reviewing, along with the way we communicate with all of the members of our community. We are both eager to work

with our community and always welcome your thoughts and suggestions.

It is our goal that The Ridges community stay a safe and enjoyable place to live where all of us support each other to this end.

Best Regards,

*Fred Strauss and Ken Ferjancic
Co-Presidents 2009*

Email/snail mail

This newsletter is being sent both by USPS mail and, to those who have indicated the preference so far, a trial email. If you did not respond to the questionnaire, the default will be receiving the publication by USPS.

To date, there have been 26 responses. Twenty-one opted for email and five for USPS. There were also five no responses.

If you signed up for the email version and did not receive it, please notify our administrator:

Carolyn Cochran
The Ridges Landowners Association
P.O. Box 22352
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-2352

After the big snow

After the big snow recently, (one foot at my house) there were requests via email that the snowplow should not pile up snow at mailboxes, making them difficult to access. As if by magic, the next day all mailboxes in The Ridges were plowed out. Several landowners complimented the head of the roads committee (me) on such prompt service. As much as I would like to take credit for this job, I must confess that I had no idea of who the phantom plowman was. A few inquiries were made and we found out that it was Tim Ames who had taken it upon himself to clear out the mailboxes in The Ridges. I immediately asked him if

he was now going to clear out mailboxes on a regular basis after each storm. His reply to this suggestion was that "I see the old phrase of 'no good deed goes unpunished' has struck again". We all thank Tim Ames for his timely efforts, both in plowing and sanding the roads.

*D. R. Kingston,
Chairman, Roads Committee*

Parking on Principe de Paz

Residents are asked not to park on the paved road when it is snowy. These vehicles are more subject to damage and can obstruct snow removal.

The Roads Committee

Neighborhood Watch

In my patrols throughout The Ridges I have not seen any suspicious activity, all seems quiet.

While I make it a point to check peoples' homes more carefully while they are away I have not seen anything that warrants my concern. I have not had any reports of suspicious activity from any of the home owners.

*Victor Hesch,
Neighborhood Watch Coordinator*

At the annual meeting, Victor reminded us all to lock our vehicles when they are parked at home, even if in a locked garage. – Ed.

Internet information security

Everyone should remember that email addresses and messages are not secure, regardless of who sends them. The Ridges has added a bit to this problem by sometimes failing to use the "bcc" feature in mailings to members, so that everyone gets the full membership list. We apologize for any inconvenience, but the usual email system invites this error.

We can avoid this problem by using a "listserver" service available from some vendors. Emails sent out this way will always show only your own address (like the bcc feature). Some systems allow members to subscribe or unsubscribe on their own hook with less administrative oversight. Anybody want to help figure this out?

Our open web site has some personal information in the newsletters, particularly for Board candidates. If you would prefer to keep that information out of circulation, don't write it there. More privacy controls for our email and web services would be burdensome for our little organization.

Olin van Dyck

Annual meeting 2008

We were very fortunate to have Patty Sciarrotta as facilitator for the annual meeting in October. She noted all suggestions, clarifying when necessary, then wrote them down for all to see.

Comments from attendees included "civil," "well run," "everyone was heard and respected," "a facilitator helps—she was neutral," "when people are interested, discussion takes time".

Of course, our landowners have never been shy about voicing the negatives, either! "Too long," "too much minutiae," "room too small" were noted by Patty.

Thank you, Patty, for so very ably conducting the meeting.

Walkabout

Both at the annual meeting and since, I have heard several comments about autos versus pedestrians on our roads here in The Ridges ranging from "roads are for cars" to a plan approximating use of RPGs or Claymore Mines to take out speeders.

This has not really been a problem over the 11 years I have been here but it really could be. And, there have been some near misses. The first person vs. vehicle contact we have and it will suddenly be serious.

So, some comments and advice based on my observations here:

1. Since our roads are "private," there is no hope of law enforcement ever enforcing our 25 MPH speed limit so screaming at your neighbors and visitors is your only out. Good luck with that. This does NOT mean that we should not all try to keep it reasonable and careful.
2. Private roads or not, if you are over the center (even in the absence of a center line), you are at fault in the event of a collision, vehicle or pedestrian. All of you should be able to see the road and keep your car on your own side (many of you often are in the oncoming lane, cutting the curves short). **Don't.**
3. Beyond that, per New Mexico law:

66-7-337. Drivers to exercise due care.

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of [Sections 66-7-333](#) through [66-7-340](#) NMSA 1978 every driver of a vehicle shall exercise due care to avoid colliding with any pedestrian upon any roadway and shall give warning by sounding the horn when necessary and shall exercise proper precaution upon observing any child or any confused or incapacitated person upon a roadway.

I believe this to mean that as a driver you will pretty much always be responsible if you hit a pedestrian.

(Of course NM law also says you really have to actually stop at stop signs and not to turn right on red until you have stopped and we all know how well that works.)

Having said that, as a pedestrian, you can do a lot to avoid the pain of a collision:

1. While New Mexico strongly recommends that in the absence of a sidewalk (apparently it is NOT actually required) you walk on the left, facing traffic. However, where necessary, it is probably a good defensive move to go to the outside of curves where a driver's view may be obscured (at LEAST two places on Principe de Paz, for instance).
2. It is probably NEVER a good idea to stand in a traffic lane and converse. Take it well off the road because you are not paying attention when conversing.
3. Please remind any workers you have that the posted and expected speed limit in The Ridges is 25 MPH.
4. **Pay attention!**

Bottom line on all this is that we all need to do our part to both drive and walk safely.

Jack LaRowe

Gas and electricity

For those of you not paying attention to the news or your PNM inserts, PNM has sold their natural gas operations to New Mexico Gas Company. This is still in progress so all is likely to be confused.

What this means:

If you only get electricity from PNM, zero change.

If you get only natural gas from PNM, your bills will come from New Mexico Gas Company and there is a new gas service and emergency number.

If you get both electricity and gas, soon you will be receiving two separate bills each month. And, you will have to remember that there are two service and emergency numbers.

Meanwhile, the two separate telephone numbers to call for outages and emergencies are already in effect, according to

the latest PNM billing insert. These are now shown in the last page contact table of this newsletter.

On line, they can be seen at PNM.com and nmgco.com.

Jack LaRowe

Commentary and Opinion

In the aftermath of the Annual Meeting controversies, and discussion by the Board, we are now providing for a "Commentary and Opinion" section in the newsletter.

The guidelines for this column are in the Winter 2007 issue.

⇒ Feedback ⇐

There are sometimes issues, concerns, votes, etc., that invite comment, or things said of interest. You are invited to submit—in writing—items of concern, or, goodness, we'll even take praise! A couple of caveats, however: we may edit to a pithy line or two and no attribution will be given.

Our neighbors

This column is about and for the residents of The Ridges. Input is welcomed from anyone who has news to include. Items may be e-mailed to the editor at any time, titled "newsletter article" and will be included in the subsequent newsletter. We also welcome timely articles.

—Ed.

It is with sympathy that we note the passing on December 24th of Rasjida, Stephane Ligtelyn's wife of 53 years, due to a recently diagnosed illness. Our sincere condolences for his loss.

Welcome to new neighbors Kris and Tiphini Axtell, 5 Estrella de la Mañana, 466-4632.

Small Dog with Big Heart

Would like to find a home for my sister's dog, Pippin—a Jack Russell/Cairn terrier mix. About 10 years old, active, loving, aims to please. A home of her own would be nice, as she has always been smallest among larger dogs. She likes to walk, is good on a leash...a perky walking companion for daily exercise. Call Karen Embertson for more details: 466-2486.

