

The Wildwood Highlander

Issue No. 2

PO Box 87 Datil, New Mexico 87821

September-October-November 1998

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Socorro Electric Cooperative is the local power provider for this area. Poles have already been placed and lines have been strung along Agua Fria. The phone number to call for arranging for electrical service is 505-835-0560 or 1-800-351-7575.

First a service account needs to be set up. That will include billing information and the individual line extension agreement that discusses property easements and equipment. The engineer for our area (Ricky Williams) will evaluate and survey the property in order to prepare the cost estimate. He works out of the Quemado office. His number is 505-773-4822 if you need to talk to him directly. If you leave a message before 8 am, he can call you back before he starts his daily work schedule.

The cost of establishing service and bringing power to your site can be paid over a five year period. The installments are added to your regular service bill.

SEC provides service up to the meter pole. A licensed electrician is required for installing the service pole, the main disconnect and meter boxes, and the wiring to your trailer or building. He must submit the paperwork for a permit to the inspector, who will then send it on to SEC. The power company will not put in the meter till they have the permit.

WILDWOOD HIGHLANDS LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION Board Of Directors Meeting

September 27, 1998

The meeting started at 11:16 at the home of Vice-President John Laude. Officers in attendance were President Lisa Manguso, VP John Laude, Secretary Gail Stubbs, Treasurer Kathy Kanely and Member-at-large Kathie Carrillo. Association members attending were Rudy and Aleta Saucedo, Alma Manthey, and Beverly Laude.

Kathy Kanely reports that we have a balance of \$4051.20. The only expenses occurring since the general

meeting in May were postage costs and the Socorro Electric bill for the community well. Only two members are still in arrears with their membership dues.

Quit claim deeds for the roads and out parcels were received from Henry (Dick) Wellborn.

Western New Mexico Telephone will hopefully be running lines in WHLA in the next several months. Good Earth Realty and John Laude both have some application forms available.

There have been some trash bags tossed along Agua Fria. Members are responsible for waste disposal. Please be considerate and take your garbage with you.



Bunnies Beware Threat of possible alien abduction keeps local rabbits from ravaging Yucca Circle garden.

BOD MINUTES CONTINUED:

Concern has been expressed over dogs running loose. Domestic animals and livestock need to remain on their owner's property. Pack behavior is a danger to all. ARTICLE III section 2

WHLA is required by law to allow access to member lists. The exception is a written request on record for privacy. If you do not want your name and address to be available to others please send your request to WHLA at Box 87 Datil NM 87821 or to the BOD secretary via e-mail at:

Gail_Stubbs@prodigy.com

Lot 86 requested a variance to allow a shed to remain less than 65 feet from the street line. Since they were unable to be at the meeting they asked Beverly Laude to present a letter for them. The BOD voted unanimously after discussion to deny the request. Members have bought property in WH because of the rural character of the area. That will try to be maintained as much as possible. The owners of the shed requested that members' opinion be solicited also. Each person observing the BOD meeting was asked to give their opinion and an informal poll was taken. 4 out of 4 members present would deny the variance request. It was suggested that a work party assist the shed owners in moving their structure. Gail Stubbs has offered to host a barbecue afterwards.

For clarification the "Street Line" is the property line that fronts a road. Distance is measured from surveyor peg lines, not the edge of the road. Corner lots have two street lines. There is a 20 foot utility easement on side and back property

lines. That is important to remember with power and phone lines coming into the area. Setbacks for structures, including tents, sheds and recreation vehicles are 65 feet from street lines and 25 feet from side and back property lines. ARTICLE III section 3.

There has been one complaint of someone feeling ill after drinking from the community well. A water sample will be taken this week for coliform testing. Our sister association will be notified and we will deal with any issues jointly if needed.

John Laude presented a road plan for this year. He has identified problem areas that need graveling for safety, the curve on Agua Fria west of West Rock Springs Loop being the most critical. He will solicit bids from three road contractors for cost, time and equipment. It was agreed that a long term master plan for road maintenance be established. There was some discussion about graveling Agua Fria for one mile west from the well and continuing that on a yearly basis. On a 4 to 1 vote it was decided to table that idea till issues with the entry culvert were discussed with Wildwood Landowners Association. John also has been working on a list of questions to help property owners present their requests to implement changes in grading, bar ditches, culverts etc, on community roads in front of their property.

The meeting was adjourned at 1 PM. It was time to party.

Irreverently submitted,
Gail Stubbs, Secretary

POTLUCK MAKES FOR POT BELLIES

An incredible array of food filled tummies at the community potluck held after the BOD Meeting. The Laudes did a wonderful job setting up their garage for the occasion. John, a retired meat inspector, gave an impromptu lesson on cooking pork. In the background, while the talk was going on, Dick Wellborn could be heard chanting his holy mantra, "Beef... Beef... Beef"

OUR PREZ SEZ

Greetings, Neighbors.

It was nice to meet those folks who made it to the BOD meeting and the potluck dinner. The food was great, the conversations interesting and John and Beverly Laude have sure put a lot of work into prettying up their place, haven't they?

Three issues came up at the board meeting (see the minutes elsewhere in this newsletter) that I would like to discuss more fully. Of these issues the closest to my heart concerns our beloved dogs and their explorations of the area. I think almost everyone has one or two (or more.) I know when I look at my Newfie-cross I see a teddy bear and when I see Murphy I know she's only Rottweiler on the outside, pussycat on the inside. However, I have been told by other people who don't know my pups so well that they're a scary, aggressive-looking pair. If I step back and look at them with a stranger's eye I can see how they might frighten someone who doesn't know them and encounters them in a place they don't belong. Wandering dogs, while usually totally harmless, can present problems to both neighbors and the dogs themselves.

Some of the other subdivisions are already having problems with dogs running in packs. We all should know that this is a real setup for disaster. Our domestic pooches get to thinking they're a pack of wolves and act accordingly. Neighboring dogs aren't always as friendly with each other as we hope their people will be. Cats, ducks, chickens, geese and other fowl and even livestock can be an irresistible lure for some dogs. Coyotes see domestic canines as the lackeys of humans and frequently attack with intent to kill. On the other hand, our dogs have a tendency to disturb native wildlife in ways our neighbors may not appreciate.

I can't promise that my pups will never wander off our place; I can, and do, make a concerted effort to keep them home by supervising them and chaining them, chaining them, fencing them, or otherwise restraining them from roaming. I hope everyone will try to do the same so we can all enjoy our dogs and prevent some of the problems wanderers can cause.

General covenant issues and property boundary lines were also discussed. Note that the distances stated within the covenants are from the property line, not the edge of the road. In some cases this is as much as a 20 foot difference so, please, be sure you know where your property line is before you plan your projects.

One more issue that I think needs special mention concerns privacy. Apparently the BOD cannot withhold your names and addresses from other members of the association unless you ask us to do so. In other words, if one of our

members asks for a mailing list of all the WHLA we are more or less obligated to give that information. Unfortunately, we cannot even insure that this information would only be used for Highlands-specific uses. If you don't want that information available so easily please let us know through mail or email so we have a hard copy of your request in our files

Thanks, Lisa Manguso

Executive Session

On October 4th an executive BOD tryst was held in the wind tunnel commonly known as Gail and Frank Stubbs's place. It was a single-issue session to discuss how to better utilize meeting time. Exuberantly passionate about different issues, the conversations and discussions back and forth were wasting time. The first suggestion was a big, honking bat to boink members on the head who talk out of turn. A speaking stick and peace pipe were also suggested. The final idea was sedately accepted by all: a timer.

Local Wildlife Rejects Bread Offering

The inaugural attempt at bread baking in a new West Rock Springs Loop outdoor wood oven was a disaster. The petrified lump of dough, after being soundly rejected by humans, was thrown over the hill for wildlife to enjoy.

The next weekend when the baker returned, the scorned loaf was found next to the front steps! There were small teeth marks on the burnt offering proving that local critters evaluated the bread and found it not to their taste.

The humiliated cook searched the internet for assistance with high altitude scratch bread baking and found the *Robin Hood Flour* website. Following these tips, the next foray into outdoor baking was successful.

- ♦ **Oven temperature:**
Increase by 75 F to compensate for faster rising and slower heating in the oven.
- ♦ **Liquids:** For each cup *increase* liquids by the indicated amount. 5,000 ft 2-3 tbsp. 8,000 ft 3-4 tbsp
- ♦ **Sugar:** for each cup *decrease* by the indicated amount. 5,000 ft 2-3 tbsp. 7,000-8,000 ft 3-4 tbsp
- ♦ **Flour:** for each cup *increase* by the indicated amount. 5,000 ft 2 tbs. 6,500 ft 3 tbsp.
- ♦ **Fermentation:** to avoid over-rising, *reduce* yeast by 1/4-1/2 tsp for every tablespoon the recipe calls for. After shaping the dough, do not let it rise as much as the first time.

Phone Service Starting

Western New Mexico Telephone will be starting service to the area in the next several months. They are headquartered in Cliff, NM. The toll-free number to request service is 1-800-535-2330. The required paperwork will include a letter of credit from your current phone company, a notarized easement and equipment agreement, your choice of interstate and intrastate long distance carriers, and the type of services needed. An engineer from the phone company has been seen surveying our area recently.

"The Window"

This story is passed on from Lady Hawke's "Joke du Jour" on the internet

Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour a day to drain the fluids from his lungs. His bed was next to the room's only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back.

The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in the military service, where they had been on vacation. And every afternoon when the man in the bed next to the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing to his roommate all the things he could see outside the window.

The man in the other bed would live for those one-hour periods where his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and color of the outside world.

The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake, the man had said. Ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their model boats. Lovers walked arm in arm amid flowers of every color of the rainbow. Grand old trees graced the landscape, and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance.

As the man by the window described all this in exquisite detail, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine the picturesque scene.

One warm afternoon the man by the window described a parade passing by. Although the other man could not hear the band, he could see it in his mind's eye as the gentleman by the window portrayed it with descriptive words.

Unexpectedly, an alien thought entered his head: Why should he have all the pleasure of seeing everything while I never get to see anything? It didn't seem fair. As the thought fermented, the man felt ashamed at first. But as the days passed and he missed seeing more sights, his envy eroded into resentment and soon turned him sour. He began to brood and found himself unable to sleep. He should be by that window --- and that thought now controlled his life.

Late one night, as he lay staring at the ceiling, the man by the window began to cough. He was choking on the fluid in his lungs. The other man watched in the dimly lit room as the struggling man by the window groped for the button to call for help. Listening from across the room, he never moved, never pushed his own button which would have brought the nurse running. In less than five minutes, the coughing and choking stopped, along with the sound of breathing. Now, there was only silence-deathly silence.

The following morning the day nurse arrived to bring water for their baths. When she found the lifeless body of the man by the window, she was saddened and called the hospital attendant to take it away, no words, no fuss.

As soon as it seemed appropriate, the man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was happy to make the switch and after making sure he was comfortable, she left him alone. Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look. Finally, he would have the joy of seeing it all himself.

He strained to slowly turn to look out the window beside the bed..... It faced a blank wall.

WANT ADS

LOG HOME KITS AND STRAW BALE HOUSE PLANS FOR SALE: *HIGH DESERT DESIGN*. PO Box 27 Datil, NM 87821 or visit Lot 27 in Wildwood Highlands.

LOT FOR SALE: Would like to sell my lot, 10+ acres. Backs State land. Fantastic views. Lot 6 Wildwood Highlands. \$15,995. Need to sell so I can go back to school. Alex Wade 505-352-9458

CHAIR WITH OTTOMAN FOR SALE: Blue crushed velvet. Good clean condition. \$65. See at Lot 9 Wildwood Highlands. John Laude

DOWSING: Experienced water-witch willing to help. No obligations, no cost. Cyndi Lee 505-772-2755 or 835-8027

FREE WEEDS You dig. Lot 25 Wildwood Highlands