



# TIMBERLAKE TIMES

Timberlake Ranch Landowners Association

Spring 2024

Photo: Trish Anderson

## “President’s Ponderings”

by Linda Pedersen

### Communication Potholes

Roads don’t have a monopoly on potholes. Metaphorically speaking “The Road of Communication” can be filled with them. Those pesky holes that we inevitably fall into no matter how hard we try to avoid them, and it can be costly getting from Point A to Point B repairing the damage caused by lack of or incomplete factual communication.

Communication has acquired several definitions over the centuries. I will use the definition of transferring information and sharing knowledge. Knowledge hidden is knowledge denied.

Communication and lack thereof always seem to be the common denominator when problems arise in Timberlake. Finding the root causes (potholes) demands the clairvoyance of a Sherlock Holmes.

Did it start when we all bought property here and didn’t ask the right questions of the realtors or didn’t get the right answers? Did we not really pay attention because we were so in awe of the beauty of Timberlake and we just wanted a piece of it? Did we not get a Welcome Packet from the Board as a new landowner which has the Timberlake’s Code of the West filled with a lot of informative material?

Last November, we launched a survey to try and find out, and the results are in.

continued →

## TRLA 2023 - 2024 Survey Results

The Board will continue to try and resolve communication potholes (some of which are of our own making) and dig through a lot of information from the survey.

Here are the results.

### How long have you been a landowner?

155 responses

- 44% More than 10 years
- 37% Less than 5 years
- 19% 5 to 10 years

### Why did you purchase property in Timberlake?

153 responses

- 43% Future Retirement Home
- 40% Recreational use
- 31% To live and work here permanently
- 3% Strictly for investment

### I currently live in Timberlake:

153 responses

- 39% full time
- 34% recreational
- 12% part time

### When you bought and moved here, did you want:

151 responses

- 44% seclusion**
- 22% to meet and know your neighbors
- 13% to participate in social functions
- 11% to help by being a volunteer
- 40% all of the above**

### Were you given enough information to prepare you for living in our rural location when purchasing property?

148 responses

- 55% yes
- 16% no

### Where do you get Timberlake information?

151 responses

- 70% trnews.info**
- 38% facebook
- 24% from a board member
- 48% from another landowner

### What do you prefer as a source for timely alerts affecting Timberlake?

153 responses

- 92% email**
- 22% phone
- 18% facebook
- 25% trla website

### What Services would you like on a roster posted to the TRLA website?

143 responses

- 39% potable water delivery
- 62% handyman roster**
- 24% cleaning service
- 41% household garbage pickup
- 16% none of the above

### Board priorities in terms of action and budgeting listed from highest priority to lowest:

1. TRLA roads
2. BIA section
3. Mitigation of commons, support landowner mitigation, snow plowing
4. Trespassing issues
5. Ranch house, trails

## TRLA 2023 - 2024 Survey Results

### **Pothole #1: Knowing to ask the right questions**

155 landowners responded to the survey sent out in Nov. 2023. It had been 18 years since the last one. A question was asked “were you given enough information to prepare you for living in our rural location when purchasing property”?

55% said Yes, 16% said No. Where is the other 29%?

**Filling Pothole #1: TRLA Fact Sheet to be given to Realtors for potential buyers and Welcome Packet to new landowners.**

### **Pothole #2: Is the Feedback Factual?**

148 landowners responded to question “Where do you go to get Timberlake Information”.

70% trnews.info, 38% facebook, 24% board member, 48% another landowner. That is 188%. Hard to interpret, but 70% were looking in the right direction.

**Filling Pothole #2. trnews.info should always be the site for factual information and the Board member who specifically deals with expertise in the area you need facts.**

### **Pothole #3: Timeliness**

153 landowners responded to “What do you prefer as a source for timely alerts affecting Timberlake”?

92% email, 22% phone, 18% facebook, and 25% trnews.info. That is 157%. Hard to interpret.

However, email appears to be the clear winner.

**Filling Pothole #3. The Board now has 500 landowner emails. A “Blast” email can now be sent for immediate alerts.**

We wish to thank all of you who participated for your honesty. There are approximately 70 landowners that we do not have emails for and hope to eventually fill that pothole as it is the preferred and less costly avenue of transferring information.

## Timberlake Ranch Volunteers

### Teresa Springer steps up to lead the Timberlake Ranch volunteers

For those of you who haven't heard, I have stepped up to take the lead for the Timberlake volunteer group. My name is Teresa Springer and I live on Fox Road with my husband Marvin. We have owned our home here for about five years and LOVE Timberlake!

When I heard our community activities could possibly end, I decided I needed to do something! I'm excited about this opportunity and to see what we can accomplish! In addition to our usual activities, the Annual Meeting, Ice Cream Social, Fly-In and the Labor Day BBQ/Silent Auction, I have several other great events in mind but am also hoping to get other suggestions and ideas from all of you.

However, I can't do this alone! I'm looking for some awesome people to help. I understand you can't always be available but any help I can get would be welcomed and appreciated! If you want to have some fun, contribute to our wonderful community and meet some great people, then come join me!

You can email me at [t\\_butts08@yahoo.com](mailto:t_butts08@yahoo.com) or call/text **602.614.0695**.

I look forward to working with all of you.

Thank you!

Teresa Springer



*Teresa and Marvin at last year's Labor Day silent auction*

# Timberlake Volunteer Fire Department: Station 55



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Timberlake volunteer fire department is looking for volunteers. You don't have to run into burning buildings or have emergency medical training, just be willing to help.

**All help is appreciated, from station and vehicle maintenance to assisting on calls.** For more information, please contact Julie Farrell at [Julie.farrell923@gmail.com](mailto:Julie.farrell923@gmail.com)

### Station 55 Open House

### Coming Soon!

- Volunteer opportunities
- Fire Safety
- First Aid
- Hydration awareness

- Apparatus & equipment demonstrations
- Code Red information
- Fire permit and burn ban info
- Emergency and evacuation procedures



January 5, last year's burn pile going up in flames...

## THE BRUSH PILE IS NOW OPEN!

**BRUSH ONLY PLEASE.** Place stumps to the west of the main pile to be burned separately. No tree trunks, no construction materials, and no trash.

The brush pile is safe and FREE, and you don't need a burn permit.



When calling 9-1-1, remember to tell the dispatcher you are five minutes away from **STATION 55**

Otherwise, first responders could be dispatched all the way from Grants.

### Have a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order?

If you or a family member has a DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) order, be sure to put the SIGNED form on your refrigerator. If EMTs are called to your home, that's where they'll look for your personal instructions. The form MUST be a New Mexico form and it MUST be signed by a doctor.

To obtain a form, please click here: <https://www.nmhealth.org/publication/view/form/1917/>



# *The Value of Our Dark Skies*

*This is the 2nd in a series on Navigating our Wildland-Urban Interface Zone  
by Johanna Cooper & Charlie Kirsch*

For thousands of years the night sky has inspired people around the world to write poetry, make art, explore outer space, and wonder about our place in the vast universe. Although very few places on Earth look the same as they did thousands of years ago, when we look at the night sky now, we see the same stars and planets as our ancestors did.

However, the invention of electric lighting has changed the night-sky experience for many of Earth's creatures. Light pollution is considered to be one of the fastest-growing and most pervasive forms of environmental pollution. Due to light pollution, the night sky most of us see now is a lot less dark than it was in even the recent past. Rapidly increasing human-caused light pollution has made the night sky nearly 10% brighter each year, according to research published last year (Science, Jan 2023). Today, it is estimated that 90% of Americans have never seen the Milky Way, and up to 80% of people in the US cannot even see stars in the night sky.

Polluting lights impact humans in many ways; they can obscure astronomical observations, bother neighbors with unwanted light trespass, and waste energy. They also deprive us of the experience of seeing the night sky in its most dazzling splendor. Light pollution can also harm wildlife. For example, it can disrupt bird migration, which relies on seeing the position of stars and the moon. It also reduces the nighttime vision of moths and other wildlife. Research on insects, turtles, birds, fish, reptiles and other wildlife species shows that light pollution can negatively affect many of their behaviors, such as foraging and breeding cycles, often decreasing their biological fitness. These changes happen not just in urban areas, but in rural areas as well.

One 2020 study (Ecography, October 2020), provided strong evidence that exposure to light pollution can also alter the predator-prey dynamics between mule deer and mountain lions across the intermountain west. The study found that mule deer are drawn to artificial nighttime lighting, since they have learned to associate lighted areas with the gardens and landscaping around homes, which they like to eat. Mountain lions are able to successfully hunt mule deer within light-polluted areas - particularly in the wildland-urban interface zone - by following them to these areas and exploiting the elevated deer densities. Therefore, your lights might unintentionally attract both deer and mountain lions to your home.

## The Value of Our Dark Skies (continued)

Here in New Mexico, we are fortunate to still have dark skies throughout much of our state. In an effort to preserve these dark skies, New Mexico enacted the Night Sky Protection Act in 1999. This Act is designed to regulate outdoor lighting fixtures in order to protect and enhance the state's dark sky, while promoting safety, conserving energy and preserving the environment for astronomy. One of the first such Acts of its kind in the US, the Night Sky Protection Act makes dark skies a priority in New Mexico for the health of its people, wildlife and economy. The Act requires that outdoor lighting be fitted with shielding that directs light downward, and not upward or laterally, and is enforceable at the county level. This legislative effort is an important step to stop the continued increase in light pollution, since bright stars are among the things that make New Mexico the "Land of Enchantment."

While McKinley and Cibola Counties have not yet chosen to enforce this legislation, the Timberlake HOA rules do require us to follow the New Mexico Night Sky Protection Act. Article IV, section 10 of the CC&Rs addresses outdoor lighting as follows: "Our dark skies are an important asset to life in Timberlake Ranch, and we therefore encourage a minimum of exterior lighting and the use wherever possible of exterior fixtures designed to minimize light pollution. All exterior lighting must meet the requirements of the New Mexico Night Sky Protection Act and any other applicable requirements under federal, state, or county law."

Consider your own outdoor lighting. Could you use a motion-detector light instead of a light that stays on all night? What about using driveway reflectors instead of solar lights? Can you decrease your light pollution footprint? Do your existing lights comply with the New Mexico Night Sky Protection Act? The chart below discusses additional principles for responsible outdoor lighting.

In parts of Timberlake we see the glow of Grants and Ramah, and in some cases, neighbors' lights. Still, our local skies are dark enough that in 2019, El Morro National Monument was certified as an International Dark Sky Park. Let's do our part to preserve that local honor, enhance our nighttime experience, and be good stewards of our environment for our human and non-human neighbors.



INTERNATIONAL  
DARK SKY WEEK

### Discover the Night

April 2-8, 2024

Celebrate and take action to protect the night! Six actions to choose from.

[Learn more](#)

# Five Lighting Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting



Responsible outdoor lighting is

## 1 Useful

### Use light only if it is needed

All light should have a clear purpose. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and their habitats.



## 2 Targeted

### Direct light so it falls only where it is needed

Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed.



## 3 Low Level

### Light should be no brighter than necessary

Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions, as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended.



## 4 Controlled

### Use light only when it is needed

Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed.



## 5 Warm-colored

### Use warmer color lights where possible

Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed.



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There is another New Mexico

It can only be experienced after the sun goes down and unnecessary lights are extinguished.

It is a place of meteor showers and ghost stories.

Of campfire sparks floating upward to join billions of stars.

Of a whisker-thin crescent moon and a sudden chorus of coyotes.

Of great horned owls and grey foxes and other creatures who need the night.

Of distant galaxies and mysterious nebulas and jeweled star clusters, right above our backyards.

It is a place where the Milky Way looks close enough to touch, arching over people who aren't afraid of the dark.

This New Mexico is worth celebrating.

This New Mexico is worth preserving.



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BULLETIN BOARD



# Don't forget...

**Correct mailing address is critical for property taxes!**

After three years of nonpayment of property taxes, the NM Delinquent Property Tax Bureau takes possession of the property and auctions are scheduled by county. **There is no recourse for the landowner.**

Both McKinley County and Cibola County auctions have resumed after a long hiatus due to COVID. To view the list of properties scheduled for auction, use this link: <https://www.tax.newmexico.gov/businesses/property-tax-overview/delinquent-property-tax-auctions>

**Cibola County**  
Treasurer's Office:  
**CLICK HERE**

**McKinley County**  
Treasurer's Office:  
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