



## Shanahan Ridge Four Homeowners Association July 2008 Newsletter

### **Fire!**

#### ***Watch those sparks***

The heat is on, the rain is off, and our grassy common areas are getting crisp. Now is the time to be especially careful with anything that might produce a spark or start a fire anywhere near our open areas. That means matches, fireworks, barbecues, oily rags, gasoline, malfunctioning mowers, magnifying glasses...please be *careful*.

#### ***Make a firebreak***

And as always, if you're concerned about fire, please feel free to create a firebreak by mowing, weed whacking, and/or watering several feet on the field side of any split rail fence that separates your property from our grassy common areas. If you do mow or weed whack, please be sure to remove the debris promptly to prevent them from becoming dry tinder.

#### ***Please don't throw it***

When clearing debris from your yard or trimming trees, it can be tempting to toss things into our fields. Please resist! Branches that accumulate in the common areas could really feed a fire.

### **A Note About Trees**

#### ***Trees in yards***

What's nicer than a big tree? On Silver Plume, more often than not, the answer is a view. We have a unique location with precious mountain views, so while planting a large tree in your yard can seem like a great idea, it can ultimately block your neighbors' views.

And not just your immediate neighbors, either. People who live down the street or on the other side of a field can lose views when a tall tree matures. That can be a serious

problem, both for others' quality of life and their property's value.

We can't stress this enough: when considering planting a tree, please look all around and try to determine its long-term impact, then consult with as many neighbors as you can. It's usually possible to choose a species that stays relatively small so you can have your greenery and others can have their views. Everyone will thank you for years to come.

#### ***Trees in the common areas***

Most of the trees, such as the cottonwoods, in our grassy common areas were put there by Mother Nature, and that's great. The people who live on Silver Plume have long agreed to keep those areas as natural as possible, and the cottonwoods native to this mesa are a part of what makes it special.

But when people plant trees in our common areas—or allow their own trees to spread in—it can be a problem. Why? Those trees not only potentially impact views and alter the natural composition of the mesa, they become the financial responsibility of the HOA. That is, they require periodic trimming and removal when they die, and that adds to our tree budget, which increases your assessment.

So please honor the wishes of your neighbors and refrain from planting in the open space, and remove small trees and other garden escapees as they spread beyond the split rail fence line. Many thanks!

### **Upcoming Garage Sale and Block Party**

A reminder: We'll be having a neighborhood garage sale (each family conducting its own sale) on Saturday, August 16, and our great block party a week later, on Sunday, August 24, from 4 to 7 p.m. Save the dates and see you there!