

## Message from the *Mayor*

Winter is in full swing here in the Village and Mother Nature has sure been keeping us on our toes with these cold temps and snow! I want to thank our amazing staff here at the Village for all their hard work during the winter weather events that we have been experiencing. Our Street Department and Parks & Rec crews don't hesitate to plow, salt, and clear sidewalks through the night, before dawn and all day long to help keep everyone safe. These weather events have demonstrated to me that our emergency management plans are on-point and well thought out. I hope this makes residents and visitors alike feel confident in our ability to handle emergencies.

Winter is in full swing here in the Village and Mother Nature has sure been keeping us on our toes with these cold temps and snow! I want to thank our amazing staff here at the Village for all their hard work during the winter weather events that we have been experiencing. Our Street Department and Parks & Rec crews don't



Mayor Lynn Crawford

This year's legislative session is currently in progress. As always, the Village has some key priorities that we hope are successful including six Capital Outlay requests that include workforce housing, outdoor recreation infrastructure development, Main Road 2 bridge replacement construction, McDaniel Bridge replacement construction, fire and watershed improvements, and street and drainage improvement. These initiatives aim to address critical needs and enhance our infrastructure, housing, and recreational facilities. It is crucial that we have the community's support as we work towards securing the funding for these projects.

If it is not already on your calendar, you should plan to attend Lincoln County Day in Santa Fe on February 7th. It is a great event hosted by the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce that gives businesses and residents the opportunity to talk to lawmakers from around the state.



Melissa Moody

At the recent Village Council meeting, we recognized the Village of Ruidoso Employee of the Quarter and Department of the Quarter. The Employee of the Quarter is Melissa Moody from the Parks & Rec Department. Melissa is the administrative assistant, and she supports the department doing whatever needs to get done. She has served as the Chair of the VOR Employee Committee for the past three years and has done an amazing job. Melissa has a great attitude and always has a smile on her face.

The Department of the Quarter is the Parks & Recreation Department. This group was certainly the rock stars of the quarter as they worked all around the Village to decorate for the holidays. Midtown and Wingfield Park were beautiful and brought Christmas cheer to the locals and visitors. They also went above and beyond by decorating many of our Village offices inside and out to make them festive for visitors and employees. This department demonstrates teamwork every day, and I want to thank each of you for a job well done!



Parks & Recreation Department

Don't forget to tune-in to KRUI 1490 The Mountain for *Mondays with the Mayor* every Monday morning from 8:00 – 10:00 AM. We always like to hear from you if you have any questions or comments, so give us a call!

Until next time, stay warm and be safe!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lynn Crawford'.

# VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS

## »» Recent Actions

At the January 9, 2024, Regular Council meeting of the Governing Body, the following items were acted on:

- » **Adoption of Resolution 2024-05 A Resolution of Administrative Support and Commitment to Funding from New Mexico MainStreet and the Economic Development Department** in the Amount of \$265,000 for a Pedestrian and Parking Lot Improvement Project.
- » **Approval of Purchase of Bathrooms for North Park, School House Park, and the Country Club Property** in Midtown.
- » **Adoption of Resolution 2024-03, A Resolution of the Village of Ruidoso Adopting the Lincoln County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023.**
- » **Adoption of Resolution 2024-04, A Resolution Authorizing the Village of Ruidoso to Submit an Application to the Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division to Participate in the Local DWI Grant and Distribution Program.**
- » **Adoption of Resolution 2024-01, A Resolution Establishing an Annual Schedule of Governing Body Meetings and Determining Reasonable Notice for Public Meetings of the Village of Ruidoso.**

### Ruidoso Village Council Members

- » Rifle Salas - *Mayor Pro Tem*
- » Susan Lutterman
- » Joe Eby
- » Gary Jackson
- » Darren Hooker



Find out everything you need on the go!

Download the App!  
DiscoverRuidoso.com

GET IT ON Google Play

## HUMAN RESOURCES

### »» New Plumbing & Mechanical Inspector in Place

Mark Coker is the new Plumbing and Mechanical Inspector for the Village of Ruidoso. With more than 30 years of experience in the construction field, Mark began his career in the military and later gained experience in the private sector. He is engaged with the local community, including as a teacher at ENMU-Ruidoso, helping to enhance the local workforce in construction fields. The Village of Ruidoso conducts building permit inspections for Ruidoso and Alto.



Mark Coker

# WATER DEPARTMENT

## »» Do You Have Eye on Water?

Monitor water usage online or with a smart phone with Eye on Water. Go to EyeOnWater.com to create an account or scan the QR code below. Links for iPhone or Android apps are on the homepage. To create an account, the service or billing zip code is needed (88345 or 88355.) Enter the account number with all numbers and dashes, and then select “next.” If there is an existing account, just sign in.



Scan to Download the Eye on Water App

### Steps to Create an EyeOnWater Account

1. Enter your service or billing address ZIP/Postal Code.
2. Enter your account number as it appears on your water bill. Don't have a copy of your water bill? Contact your utility.  

SAMPLE WATER BILL		
CUSTOMER NAME	SERVICE LOCATION	ACCOUNT NUMBER
JOHN SMITH	123 MAIN STREET	88888888
DUE DATE		CURRENT CHARGES
01/15/2017		\$45.50
3. Enter and confirm your email address.
4. Create and confirm your password.
5. Read and accept the **Terms of Use**.
6. Verify your email address in the confirmation email.
7. Enjoy using EyeOnWater!

Service or Billing ZIP/Postal Code:

Account Number:

Some utilities use a customer number, others omit hyphens, trailing zeros and non-numeric characters. When in doubt, consult your utility to learn which number to use when creating an EyeOnWater account.

Already have an account? Sign in here.

Once logged in VOR utility customers will be able to see a leak alert, water usage at-a-glance, information on the water meter, and the total gallons of water usage for the meter. Other accounts may be added to this same profile, so there is no need to have to multiple log-ins. The total gallons used may be displayed by day, last week, last month, or even over the last several years, simply select the period to review.

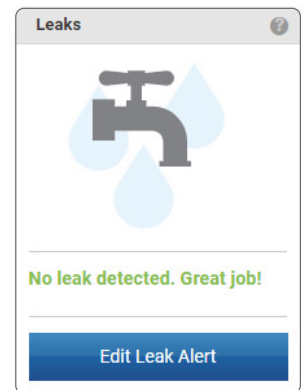
The leak alert function can be customized based on known usage, making it easier to identify possible leaks or if just filling a hot tub. If this home is used as a short-term rental, an alert can be used if water is left on or a commode is running after guests leave. To set this up, follow these steps:

- » Click on “Edit Leak Alert”
- » Set the expected flow type for the meter.
- » Set alert for when hourly flow exceeds \_\_\_ gallons/hour for 24 consecutive hours (this setting can be as low as one gallon).
- » Set up email notifications for your account, or if you know @ text ending for your carrier you may add that. Verizon customers may use their # 5759991234@vtext.com to receive alerts from Eye on Water. Check with other carriers for the extension to receive simple emails by text. Multiple emails and cell numbers can be added in this section.

Once this is done, a preview will be available and you can even send a test message.

Please be aware that the VOR Water Department is having to change out meters because of the 5G upgrade. If the meter is not reporting at this time, utility personnel will be stopping by to read the meter until the change-out is completed.

If you need further assistance, call the Utility Billing Department with any questions at 575-258-4343.



# ELECTION INFORMATION

## »» Municipal Election to be Held March 5, 2024

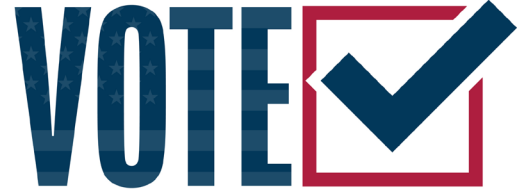
The Village of Ruidoso 2024 Municipal Officers Election will take place on March 5, 2024.

At the election, voters will elect:

- » Three (3) Council members to serve a four (4) year term;
- » One (1) Council member to serve a two (2) year term; and
- » A Municipal Judge to serve a four (4) year term.

Terms of office begin on April 1, 2024

MUNICIPAL ELECTION MARCH 5, 2024



### There will be one question on the Ballot:

Shall the Village of Ruidoso issue up to \$3,000,000.00 of General Obligation Bonds to be repaid from property taxes for the purpose of enlarging, improving, and/or extending the production and distribution components of the Village's water system.

### Important dates to remember:

**Tuesday, February 6, 2024:** Early Voting begins at the Clerk's Office located at 313 Cree Meadows Drive between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM during business hours. This is also the first day for Absentee Ballots.

**Saturday, March 2, 2024:** Last day of early voting at the Clerk's Office from 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

**Tuesday, March 5, 2024: ELECTION DAY!** Voting will be held at the Ruidoso Convention Center located at 111 Sierra Blanca Drive from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Last day to register to vote is on Election Day, March 5, 2024, from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM at the Ruidoso Convention Center.

For questions regarding the Municipal Officer Election, contact:

Jini S. Turri  
Village Clerk  
313 Cree Meadows Dr.  
Ruidoso, NM 88345  
(575) 258-4343 Ext. 1007  
jiniturri@ruidoso-nm.gov

### BALLOT ORDER

#### Village Council

- » Joshua Lance Richardson
- » Susan Marie Lutterman
- » William John Hall
- » Joseph W. Eby
- » Stephen Lee Carter
- » Greg Lee Cory
- » Rafael "Rifle" Salas
- » George S. Fitzgibbon

#### Municipal Judge

- » Frank Potter



# WORLD SPAY DAY

» February 27, 2024 »

- The Humane Society is offering free spay and neuter by pre-registering at the Shelter.
- Must register in person, live in Lincoln County.
- 1 pet per household.
- Registration begins February 6 at 10:00 am at the Shelter.
- Surgery performed on February 27 at the Shelter.
- All vaccines are available for purchase.



Call Humane Society of Lincoln County at 575-257-9841 or visit [hslcnm.org](http://hslcnm.org) for more information.

# 2024 NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## »» VOR Capital Outlay Priorities

The 2024 Legislative Session began on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, and will end at noon, on Saturday, February 15, 2024. The 2024 Legislative Session is a 30-day session.

Legislative Capital Outlay Requests: As approved by the Council in the ICIP, the Village has submitted a total of six Capital Outlay request forms for project funding consideration. The list of projects includes:

- Workforce Housing (\$1,000,000)
- Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Development (\$1,500,000)
- Main Road 2 Bridge Replacement Construction (\$2,000,000)
- McDaniel Bridge Replacement Construction (\$2,000,000)
- Fire & Watershed Improvements (\$500,000)
- Street & Drainage Improvement (\$750,000)



### New Mexico Municipal League 2024 Legislative Session Overview

NMML members and staff began preparing for the legislative session over the summer, identifying key legislative priorities through the League's policy process and meeting with legislators and other stakeholders to share municipalities' concerns. The NMML Board of Directors approved the League's 2024 legislative priorities at its regular meeting on October 6, 2023, and directed NMML staff to focus on several key items relating to local public safety, infrastructure, and taxation. Legislation during the 2024 session, like all 30-day sessions, will be limited to bills with budgetary impacts, as well as those on the Governor's "call" or legislative agenda. The list of legislative priorities is not exhaustive, and NMML assesses bills throughout the session for support or opposition. NMML staff sends out a weekly legislative bulletin during the session to update members on how priority bills are faring, identify new bills with potential municipal impacts, and request member assistance to support or oppose bills.



### 2024 NMML Legislative Priorities:

1. Support for Statewide Emergency Medical Services
2. Funding for Water Infrastructure Projects through the Water Project Fund
3. Expansion of Workers' Compensation Coverage for First Responders
4. Coverage of Public Safety Radio Network Fees for Local Public Safety Agencies
5. Elimination of Improper Tax Administration Fee on Local Governments



### KEEP WILDLIFE WILD!

- »» Feeding wildlife is banned in the Village (*bird feeders excluded*)
- »» Citations will be issued
- »» \$500 fine will be imposed



# STATE OF THE VILLAGE

## STATE OF THE VILLAGE

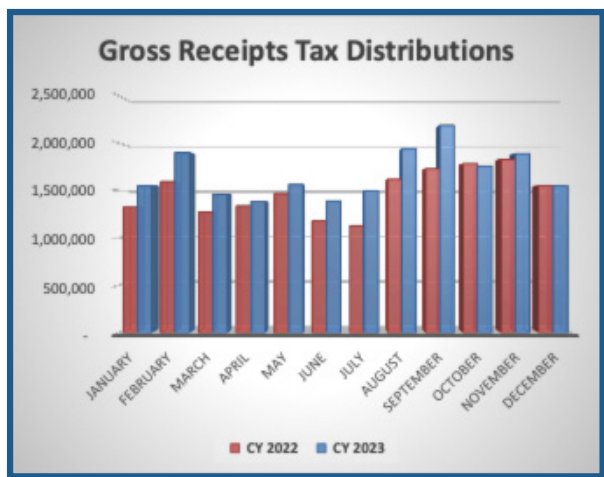
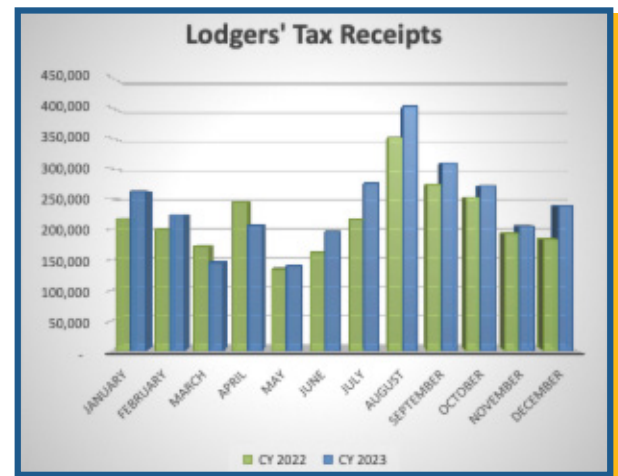
The annual State of the Village serves as a comprehensive overview of the current state of our community, highlighting achievements, challenges, and the path forward. It reflects on the collective progress we have made, the resilience that our community continues to show in the face of challenges, and the unity that makes this such a great community to be a part of. The State of the Village report is not just a compilation of facts and figures but a testament to our shared efforts and aspirations that define us.

### Financial Stability

- » The Village began FY 2024 with a cash balance of \$63.8M and is currently projecting revenues at \$74.0M, which amounts to \$137.8M of available cash to spend.
- » Personnel was increased to bring hiring rates closer to competitive levels.
- » Several capital projects were rolled over from FY 2023 and the Village has been very successful in securing grants for these projects.
- » Grant funded capital projects include the Airport’s Runway 12/30 and Taxiway B Rehabilitation, FEMA Sewer Line, and several legislative appropriations.
- » As of December 2023, the Village’s operating budget for personnel, operations, and capital outlay totaled \$112M.
- » Anticipated ending cash balance for FY 2024 is projected at \$25.8M.
- » All other revenue categories, especially Gross Receipts Taxes, are performing better than budget.

### Lodgers' Tax

- » Lodgers' Tax receipts began to exceed prior year amounts in January (December) and continued growing at a rate of 10.68% over CY 2022.
- » Added events and programming helped the VOR to spin off an events fund which will be used to increase activities for tourists and residents alike.
- » The outlook for 2024 is a continued upward trend.



### Gross Receipts Tax

- » The Village has been able to maintain a growth rate in GRT.
- » The Village has hosted events and attractions which have dramatically increased GRT.
- » According to the chart, distributions in August and September (sales months of June and July) increased over 20% from the prior year.
- » The overall growth rate from CY 2022 to CY 2023 was 12.79%.
- » Currently, projections are indicating that the Village will be up approximately \$3M over budget.
- » The outlook for 2024 is a continued upward trend.

## Capital Projects

- » Despite serving a resident population of around 8,062, the Village of Ruidoso is currently engaged in Capital Projects on a scale equivalent to a municipality four times its size.
- » Leveraging engineered projects and strategic fund allocation, we've secured grants to fuel construction across various sectors, including infrastructure, buildings, and equipment, ensuring the continuity of our service standards.
- » About one-third of these endeavors are funded by grants obtained from Federal and State Agencies.
- » 2023 saw the completion of the Mechem Meadows Workforce Housing Project and the Magistrate Court.
- » The closeout of the Close Road Bridge FEMA project was also completed.
- » The following priorities have been set for 2024:
  - » Finalization of Phase III (Hazard Mitigation) for the Sewer Line Rehabilitation Project.
  - » Completion of Phases 1 and 1A of the Horton Complex.
  - » Redesign of Main Road 2 Bridge and initiation of replacement for remaining bridges.
  - » Project Management oversight for the Solar Replacement Project at the RWWTP and the Fine Screen Project installation.

## Community Development

- » The Mechem Meadows housing development stands as a significant achievement, providing homes for families displaced by the McBride Fire. These homes, purchased through donations, grants, and local funds, meet the income threshold of 140% low-to-moderate guidelines for Lincoln County. Located at 1114 Mechem Drive, these units are held in the Village of Ruidoso Housing Trust Fund as long-term rentals.
- » Ongoing collaboration with Mesa Apartments, LLC for reapplication of 9% tax credits from the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority. If granted, this initiative aims to develop up to 72 apartment units at 1104 Mechem Drive.
- » Community Development's top priority for 2024 is addressing the ongoing crisis of incorrect physical addresses throughout the Village. US Highway 70 has been corrected, and Sudderth Drive, though presenting challenges, is under consideration for improvement.
- » Community Development will also work in the coming year to obtain a grant to update the Comprehensive Plan that was adopted in 2019.



# Winter **EVENTS**

Check out our line-up of great events for winter!

Please visit [DiscoverRuidoso.com](http://DiscoverRuidoso.com) for additional events and details.

## THURSDAYS:

- Veteran's Coffee and Company, 615 Sudderth Drive, Suite 1

## FEBRUARY 2-3:

- Benny Bassett, Downshift Riverside

## FEBRUARY 3:

- Kimmi Bitter, Downshift Riverside

## FEBRUARY 6:

- Ruidoso Writer's Group, Ruidoso Public Library

## FEBRUARY 7:

- Lincoln County Day Reception, Drury Plaza Hotel, Santa Fe



Lincoln County Day 2024  
February 7 • Drury Plaza Hotel

## FEBRUARY 9:

- Adam Lopez, Downshift Riverside

## FEBRUARY 10:

- Explore Your Root Chakra and Couple's Massage Workshop, Blue Lotus Day Spa

## FEBRUARY 17:

- 3rd Annual Big Ben Sanchez Youth Foundation Adult Basketball Tournament, Ruidoso High School

## FEBRUARY 17-18:

- Vines in the Pines, Ruidoso Convention Center

## FEBRUARY 20:

- Ruidoso Writer's Group, Ruidoso Public Library

## FEBRUARY 23:

- Ginuwine, Inn of the Mountain Gods

## FEBRUARY 24:

- Sound Therapy Workshop, Blue Lotus Day Spa
- Chris Baker, Downshift Hidden Tap

## FEBRUARY 27:

- World Spay Day, Humane Society of Lincoln County (preregistration required)

## EVENTS FOR *kids*

### WEDNESDAYS:

- Storytime (10:30AM), Ruidoso Public Library

### FEBRUARY 15:

- Valentine Craft (K-5), 3:00 PM, Ruidoso Public Library

### FEBRUARY 21:

- Competitive Teamwork Games (teen), 3:00 PM, Ruidoso Public Library



### MARCH 1:

- Zame Lamprey, Downshift Riverside

### MARCH 9:

- Satisfaction Rolling Stones Tribute, Spencer Theater

### MARCH 13:

- Forrest McCurren, Downshift Riverside

### MARCH 16:

- Dinosaur World Live, Spencer Theater
- C.W. Ayon Duo, Lost Hiker Brewing Company

### MARCH 21:

- Forever Young, Spencer Theater

### MARCH 23:

- Lincoln County Classic 4 Disc Golf Tournament
- SPiVEY, Downshift Riverside
- Randy Houser, Inn of the Mountain Gods

Submit Your Event

[www.discoverruidoso.com/event-submission-form](http://www.discoverruidoso.com/event-submission-form)





The Village of Ruidoso is looking for qualified people to join our team! We currently have openings in several departments, and we offer opportunities for competitive salaries, excellent benefits, and NM Public Employees Retirement Association plans!

- **Earn more with the Village's pay-for-performance plan**
- **Progressive pay and step plans are available**
- **Continuing education courses and specialized training are available**
- **Excellent opportunities for advancement in all departments**

**APPLY TODAY!**

## MIDTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

### »» From the Desk of Executive Director Stephanie Garcia

2024 is upon us and already proving to be an exciting year for Ruidoso Midtown Association (RMA). RMA gained New Mexico MainStreet Accreditation again, so we can continue to be eligible for Capital Outlay funds. These funds go towards bettering the district and the Village. We have access to wonderful resources from the State and are happy to use them to identify needs in the district.

We are pleased to announce that our digital billboard was erected at the corner of Country Club Drive and Sudderth! This wonderful advertising opportunity extends to the district and beyond. Not only did RMA see this as another way for the district to get their businesses visibility, but also as RMA's way of creating a memorable monument for the space. Thank you to Stand Free Co. Welding and Fab for seeing our design to fruition and getting the sign up. RMA is thankful for the help in obtaining Junior Bill Grant funds for this project and look forward to sharing this asset with the Village.

We are also happy to share that we have been awarded a Capital Outlay grant that the Village helped us obtain in 2023. With these funds, we will put a pre-fabricated restroom at the Country Club lot. We are excited for these projects on the east end of Midtown, and hope to continue identifying upgrades that can happen throughout the area.

I want to personally thank everyone who helped out with the Christmas Mixer at Downshift Riverside. The staff was amazing and made us feel at home. Thank you to all who donated items and participated in the raffle. We had many local businesses contribute wonderful items for people to win. We are lucky to be a part of a community that is always willing to donate and help other organizations.

As we move towards Spring Break, our board will continue to be dedicated to maintaining a beautiful district that attracts locals and tourist alike. We always welcome any input you have - please email me directly at: [RuidosoMidtownAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:RuidosoMidtownAssociation@gmail.com)



**Airport 575-336-8111**

**Convention Center 575-258-5445**

**Judicial 575-257-9055**

**Library 575-258-3704**

**Parks & Recreation 575-257-5030**

**Police 575-258-7365**

**Fire 575-257-3473**

**Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant (RWWTP) 575-378-8417**

**Senior/Community Center 575-257-4565**

**Solid Waste 575-257-1502**

**Street Works 575-257-6023**

**Water Distribution and Sewer Collections 575-257-2386**

**Water Production 575-257-5525**

**Water Rights/Watershed (RJU) 575-258-6913**

**VILLAGE HALL:  
 575-258-4343**

- Capital Projects & Purchasing
- Executive
- Finance
- Forestry
- Human Resources
- Planning and Zoning
- Utility Billing



[www.Ruidoso-NM.gov](http://www.Ruidoso-NM.gov)



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### »» 9% Housing Application

On January 22, 2024, the Village of Ruidoso and their private partner EC RUIDOSO, LP submitted a 9% application to the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program through the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority. If awarded funding, the goal is to construct 72 units of apartments located at 1104 Mechem Drive.

#### THE PROGRAM

Tax credits provide direct federal income tax savings to individuals or corporations that invest funds in rental housing developments with apartments set aside for low-income households. To use this tax incentive, developers typically form limited partnerships with investors who contribute equity capital in exchange for tax savings. Once an allocation is made and construction is complete, tax credits are claimed annually for a 10-year period. (<https://housingnm.org/developers/lihtc>)



# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## »» Fire Safety

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), more and more people are living where wildfires are a significant risk. Nearly 45 million homes abut or intermingle with wildlands, and more than 72,000 U.S. communities are now at risk. By working together, residents can make their property and their neighborhoods much safer from wildfire. As we enter the spring months, it is important to stay mindful of wildfire dangers, and to make sure you are keeping your home fire safe.

Follow some of the tips listed below to prepare for the upcoming wildfire season:

1. Defensible space is considered the buffer between a home and wildland vegetation. This space is often the difference between a house surviving a wildfire event or not.
2. Homes should be clear for 30 feet of all dead vegetation, including pine needles, leaves, and piles of firewood.
3. Thin trees within the 30-foot zone to minimal numbers, trim up high, and remove dead trees.
4. Mow grass and other ground vegetation regularly.
5. Remove railroad ties that butt up against a house, as fires traveling up them are difficult to extinguish.
6. Clear leaves and other debris from gutters, eaves, porches, and decks. This prevents embers from igniting a home.
7. Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
8. Remove flammable materials (firewood stacks, propane tanks) within 30 feet of a home's foundation and outbuildings, including garages and sheds. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch the house, deck, or porch!
9. Keep lawns hydrated and maintained. If it's brown, cut it down! Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire.
10. Don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. Dispose of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fires.
11. Inspect shingles or roof tiles. Replace or repair any that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration.
12. Cover exterior attic vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks from entering the home.
13. Enclose under-eave and soffit vents or screens with metal mesh to prevent ember entry.



McBride Fire

For more information on how you can create a defensible space, follow the links provided below:

**Ruidoso Fire Department:** <https://www.ruidoso-nm.gov/ruidoso-fire-department>

**Ruidoso Wildfire Safety:** <https://www.ruidoso-nm.gov/wildfire-safety-tips>

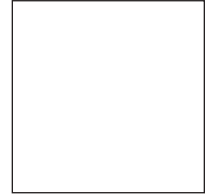
**NFPA:**

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Preparing-homes-for-wildfire>

**Ready for Wildfire and Firewise Communities:**

<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/firewise-communities/>

**Ready, Set, Go:** <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/fire-prevention-programs/ready-set-go-new-mexico/>



# VINES in the PINES



## Presidents' Day Weekend

### At the Ruidoso Convention Center

### Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce



Take your time and enjoy wine by the glass while you shop through over 30 of our local vendors who feature handmade goodies such as gourmet chocolate and candies, handmade crafts, and specialty items showcased by each vendor.

Tickets include entry, complimentary wine glass, AND tastings at each winery!