

Voting Members Elect Four Homeowners to High Desert Board Via Zoom During Annual Meeting on April 29, 2021

Voting Members elected four homeowners to the Board of Di-



rectors for two year terms at their Annual Meeting April 29. The virtual meeting was once again held on the Zoom platform because of pandemic meeting restrictions in New Mexico.

Steve Hartig and George Marsh are newly elected members of the board, each for a two-year term. Camille Singaraju was temporarily appointed to the board last year to fill a vacancy due to a resignation and elected

by Voting Members along with Director Neil Wetsch. They serve with current members Reg Rider, Ray Berg and Scott Fletcher, all



George Marsh

elected last year for terms ending in April 2022. The terms of Dave Daniell and David Williams expired this April and they chose not to run for an additional term.

The slate of four nominees for the four open positions was presented to the Voting Members at the Annual Meeting by the High Desert Nominating Committee under the leadership of Ray Berg.

"Voting Members had expressed to us beforehand a desire for a contested election with more than four

homeowners for four positions on the slate," he said. "We started



out with six residents but two dropped out because of the time requirements for board members." He said he hopes the Nominating Committee can find more homeowners next year for the slate.

Voting Members heard from three of the candidates (one was out of town) who spoke about their background and why they wanted to serve

Camille Singaraju

on the board. A "Meet and Greet" meeting with candidates was held on Zoom for all homeowners

a week earlier.

About 55 High Desert Voting Members and Alternates along



with board members attended the Zoom meeting. No nominations were made from the floor this year and a vote was taken to accept the slate as offered. HOAMCO, High Desert's management company, tallied the votes with 97 percent for acceptance of the slate and three percent against. A total of 1,349 properties were represented by the Voting Members. Fol-

Neil Wetsch

lowing the election, the board met virtually to elect new officers. (Continued on Page 7)

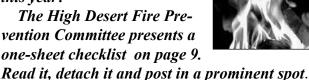
New Survey of High Desert Homeowners To Gather Information on Enhancing Communications

By Reg Rider, HDROA President

We need your input! The High Desert Board is exploring ways of enhancing communications with you, but first we need to know

INSIDE: Fire Checklist

What do you need to do to prepare your house and property in case of wildfire this year?



your preferences. The tools we use now include print mailings like this Apache Plume, postings on our High Desert website, phone calls/emails with HOAMCO management and interactions with village Voting Members.

We would like to broaden the options, but we need to know what is most effective for you. Please complete a brief survey to guide our efforts.

The survey is open now and will be open until June 15. You can get to the survey from a link on the homepage of the High Desert website www.highdesertliving.net, or by typing this link: Scan this QR code with https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ V38KKTR or scanning this QR code to the High Desert survey. with your cell phone camera.



your phone to go directly

President's Summary



Welcome to the new High Desert Board members. Camille Singaraju and Neil Wetsch are returning for another term while Steve Hartig and George Marsh are new to us. I look forward to working with them. At our organizational meeting the following officers were elected for the coming year:

Reg Rider

- President Reg Rider
- Vice President George Marsh
- Treasurer Ray Berg
- Secretary Steve Hartig

The past two months have been busy ones with several significant events taking place. At the top of the list is the change in landscaping contractors, which I will address at length. We have been working to get the Reserve study for the Association and Villages updated, build a budget and other financial items, as well as to address fire and personal safety and security for High Desert residents.

No Increase in Association Fees

One of the new efforts Ray Berg, our treasurer, has undertaken is to standardize the processes in which charges for landscaping and wall maintenance and even liability insurance is charged either to a gated village or to the Association. Each village in High Desert is unique and responsibilities have been assigned/assumed over the years that we have grown. While this is not as concerning for the majority of villages in High Desert, it does concern the gated villages. The Supplemental Guidelines and Declarations currently in place for these villages reflect several approaches. Most were written by the developer who built the village and have not changed much over time. The Board will be undertaking a process to update and clarify these documents in the coming year.

All this work was part of the process in building the 2021-2022 High Desert budget. Ray and the Finance Committee did a great job in building a budget that addresses our needs. There will be no increase in Association fees to residents. A few gated villages will see changes in their Village fees.

I hope that all of you have taken a look at the Caliber portal that was made available last month. This is intended to give residents a quick way to review their accounts with the High Desert Association and payment options. Think of it as signing on to manage your account in the same way you do with PNM, NM Gas, etc.(See Lynnette's column, page 3.)

You will be seeing a number of informational articles on Fire Preparedness in the Apache Plume as well as on our website. These are intended to make residents aware of the fire danger in the community as well as some steps that each of us can take to help prevent and to be prepared for fires.

Okay, let's talk about the landscaping:

Over the past four to five months since this board has been

By Reg Rider, HDROA President

working, we have had several discussions about landscaping, both within the board and with the current contractor Leeco. A number of steps were taken and requests made of Leeco to ensure that landscaping and billing concerns were addressed. It was only after this extensive process that the decision was made to change contractors and to take a different approach to our landscaping process. A new contract with Yellowstone Landscape has been negotiated and will start on June 1st. Kudos to Lynn Claffy and the Contracts Committee for their good work.

Allow me to review some history of High Desert, using some of Peter Strascina's words. The idea for the High Desert Community was born in the early 1980s. The community was designed and planned so that, once all the construction was done, it would appear to anyone possibly visiting from another planet that the structures all just sort of mushroomed out of the mesa and the rocks. One basic southwestern style of architecture was approved and permitted. The footprint of the entire neighborhood was dictated by the four major arroyos that run through here—that's one reason you see the perpetually preserved open spaces. Additional open spaces, dictated by the topography of the land, were added to balance out what was lost to the buildings and special use areas. All native growth was maintained and either replaced or improved upon.

Maintaining and improving this native growth constitutes the bulk of what our landscaping contract provides for. Yes, there are the entrance areas that are made to be visually pleasing, but the maintenance of the natural areas to ensure water runoff and natural growth are balanced is primary. Add to that fire preparedness and prevention and you can see where our concerns are.

Heads Up, the previous landscape contractor, was part of this process from day one. They had ownership in the vision for High Desert and did a great job of working toward that goal while they were employed here. Today, the board feels that we have not stayed with that vision and in addition, with the added concern of fire, that we need to take a fresh look at what our landscaping strategy should be.

Professional Consultant

To do that we will be using the skills and knowledge of a professional consultant who will oversee the landscape contract. This consultant, Dr. Jim Montoya, comes with an extensive background in range, soil science and agronomy as well as 30 years of service with the USDA.

As we work through the Master Plan for High Desert with Jim, fire prevention and erosion will be primary in our thoughts as we develop a plan to manage High Desert's landscape in a way to make it pleasing to the eye but also addressing the needs of our watershed and wildlife habitat responsibilities.

Town Meeting

Be safe, and join us at the next Town Meeting on May 14 and July 16 at 3 p.m. via Zoom. You can register by going to the top of the homepage at *www.highdesertliving.net* and clicking on the info box.

2

New Fiscal Year Begins in June: Statements Going Out

3



Lynnette Rodriguez

By Lynnette Rodriguez, Community Association Manager

With May here, please note that we are about to begin a new fiscal year which starts July 1 2021. This means HOAM-CO will be sending out your homeowner statements next month along the approved 2021-2020 Budgets.

High Desert statements are mailed just prior to the beginning of each calendar quarter, beginning with the new fiscal year in July.

The new Caliber portal went into effect for homeowners in February. To access the portal, go to the High Desert website at www. highdesertliving.net. Under the Documents and Forms dropdown menu at the top, click on Assessments and Payments and then see Caliber Payment. The Caliber page will ask for your user name and password or allow you to create a login. If you click "login" it will ask for your account number which you will see on any previous statement.

Homeowner assessments are due on the first day of the quarter and are considered late if not paid by the 25th day of the quarter. Past due statements are mailed to those who are delinquent. The delinquent assessment will be charged interest at a rate of 12 percent per annum starting with the day the delinquent payment was due. If the assessment is not paid by the next quarterly billing date, a late fee of \$100 will be applied.

Please note that quarterly invoices may include other fees and

charges due to the Association in addition to the current assessments, so the total amount may vary from period to period. Look carefully at your invoice before payment to make sure your total is accurate. Please call us if you have any questions.

Now that it's springtime, more homeowners are watering their property regularly. Please carefully check when you run irrigation in your yard and make certain you are not watering the stucco or brick walls.

You can check our contractor's website for stucco updates. The website shows photos of completed sections with before and after photos and it announces areas where stucco is undergoing repair. See: https://www.highdesertmaintenance.com/







As Heads Up Landscape Contractors it was our honor to serve High Desert for many years.

Now, as Yellowstone Landscape, we're proud to once again partner with your beautiful community.

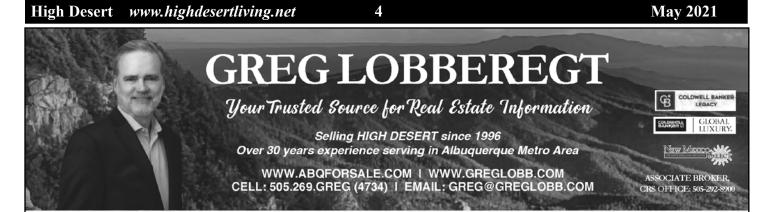
Yellowstone Landscape is a full service, professional landscaping and grounds maintenance provider, serving communities, commercial properties, and homeowners across New Mexico, the Southwest, and the United States.

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL | GROUNDS MANAGEMENT LANDSCAPE DESIGN & INSTALLATION | XERISCAPING WATER MANAGEMENT | PLANT HEALTH CARE



Offices in Albuquerque, Los Lunas, & Santa Fe

May 2021



EVEN WITH LOW INVENTORY, SALES IN HIGH DESERT ARE BOOMING!

When thinking about selling, homeowners often feel they need to get their house ready with some remodeling to make it more appealing to buyers. However, with so many buyers competing for available homes right now, renovations may not be as vital as they would be in a more normal market. Here are two things to keep in mind if you are thinking of selling this season.

1. THERE AREN'T ENOUGH HOMES FOR SALE RIGHT NOW

A normal market has a 6-month supply of houses for sale, but today's housing inventory sits far below that benchmark. According to the Greater Albuquerque Association of Realtors (GAAR), there is only a <u>1 month</u> supply of homes available today. As a result, buyer competition is high and homes are only on the market for about <u>22 days</u>, during which time many receive multiple offers from hopeful buyers.

In a competitive market that's moving so quickly, it makes sense to sell your house when the buyers are scooping homes up as fast as they're being listed. Spending costly time and money on renovations before you sell might just mean you'll miss your key window of opportunity While certain repairs on your house may be important, your best move right now is to wok with me to determine which improvements are truly necessary, and which ones are not likely to be dealbreakers for buyers.

Today, many buyers are more willing to take on home improvement projects themselves in order to get the home they're after, even if it means putting in a little extra work.

2. FOCUS ON GETTING A GOOD RETURN ON YOUR INVESTMENT

Before you renovate, please contact me to see if it's the best course of action. I've saved many sellers money by doing this over the years. You may find out that putting your house on the market as-is will help you sell quickly, and it may result in the best return on your investment. Every home is different, but a conversation with me is critical to make sure you make the right moves when selling this season.

BOTTOM LINE

We're in a strong Seller's market, and that means you have the <u>leverage</u> to sell your house on your terms. Talk with me today to determine if renovating is really the best way to spend your time and money before you sell.

High Desert Sold & Closed 01/01/2021- 04/26/2021 (On Estate Lots)

Listing Count: 22 Averages: Sqft: 4,528 S/Sqft: 254.06 DOM: 34 Price: High: \$2,180,000 Low: \$680,000 Median: \$1,092,500 High Desert Sold & Closed 01/01/2021 - 04/26/2021 (On Smaller Lots)

Listing Count: 26 Averages: Sqft: ,2,509 \$/Sqft: 233.58 DOM: 42 Price: High: \$880,000 Low: \$355,000 Median: \$580,50000



FOR A FREE REAL ESTATE REVIEW, CALL OR EMAIL GREG

High Desert Patrol Report: January-March 2021

5

| Call Type: | Jan. | Feb. | March | |
|------------------------------|------|------|-------|--|
| CRIMINAL/ | | | | |
| CRITICAL EVENTS: | _ | _ | _ | |
| Assault/Fight | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Breaking/Entering: Home | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Breaking/Entering: Vehicle | 0 | 2 | 0 | |
| Construction Site Burglary | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Dwelling Fire | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Vehicle Fire | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Grass/Wild Fires | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Medical Emergency | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Alarms | 0 | 1 | 4 | |
| Suspicious Person/Vehicle | 2 | 4 | 3 | |
| Vandalism | 2 | 0 | 3 | |
| TRAFFIC EVENTS: | _ | _ | _ | |
| Vehicle Crash | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Parking Violations | 3 | 2 | 4 | |
| PREVENTION & NUISANCE: | _ | _ | - | |
| Loud Music/Party Noise | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Salesperson/Solicitor | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Open Door/Window/Garage | 0 | 0 | 5 | |
| Notices Posted on Residences | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Pool Issues | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| OUALITY OF LIFE: | _ | _ | _ | |
| (Lost) Children | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| (Lost) Pets | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| (Lost) Property | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

| Call Type: | Jan. | Feb. | March |
|---------------------------|------|------|-------|
| Gate Issues | 10 | 2 | 5 |
| Street Lights/Maintenance | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| OTHER: | _ | _ | _ |
| Animal Control Calls | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Abandoned Vehicle Calls | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Snake Calls | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Vacation Home Checks | 10 | 5 | 16 |
| Security Inspection | 165 | 128 | 167 |

Security Contact Numbers:

- In the event of a true emergency (a crime in progress or a lifethreatening situation) call <u>911</u> immediately. Residents should then follow up immediately with a call to G4S Security Patrol at (505) 485-5658.
- For urgent, but non-emergency situations (a suspicious person or vehicle, an annoying salesperson, a loud party, an animal complaint, etc.), call the G4S Security Patrol at (505) 485-5658.
- For routine calls (such as notifying G4S of vacation dates, etc.) you should also call the Security Patrol at: (505) 485-5658, or go to *www.highdesertliving.net*, click on *High Desert Living/ Community Safety* and then *Safety Tips* to see contact numbers.



Choosing the right company to install your solar electric system is important -- your system should last you for decades! With Positive Energy Solar's **4500** + **happy customers, \$0-down financing** options, and **industry-leading 30-year warranty**, you can feel confident knowing you made the **easy & right choice** to go solar & save on your electric bills!

Schedule a FREE virtual consultation with your High Desert solar specialist today! High Desert www.highdesertliving.net



6

Congratulations to Dr. Carey for Being Voted Top Doc in 2020 by *Albuquerque The Magazine*!

Medical Dermatology • Surgical Dermatology
 Cosmetic Dermatology • Pediatric Dermatology
 Laser Hair Removal

We Are Accepting New Patients!



12241 Academy Rd. NE • Suite 204 • Albuquerque, NM 87111

505-938-4214 •

ALBUQUERQUE THE MAGAZINE TOP DOC: 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2020

May 2021

Book your appointment by calling or going online to: WWW.HIGHDESERTDERMATOLOGY.COM EMILY BRYL PA-C • DAVID CAREY MD • STEPHANIE GONZALES PA-C •

Community Policing At Its Best!

By Barbara Scharf, The Trillium

A police officer once said, "When we get a call, we aren't encountering people on their best day. We need to be aware, utilize our training and try to resolve the issue peacefully." That is exactly what happened when a Foothills police officer responded to a call near Michael Emery Trail on March 21, 2021, at 5:17 p.m.

The suspect had called the Agora Crisis Line in a cry for help. The person taking the call contacted the Foothills police substation whose officer put a plan in place. They learned that the young man, who was in his vehicle, was suicidal and carrying a handgun.

The responding officer called in several police who met on Imperata and Spain to discuss how to approach the individual. The suspect was soon detained south of the trailhead and handcuffed.

The first responding officer transferred the person into his patrol car and talked to the distraught man. He learned that the man had tried to put his gun into his mouth and pull the trigger but realized he couldn't do it. He added that the gun was still in the man's car, not on his person.

The officer calmed and reassured the young man while explaining that he would be taken to a hospital for an involuntary mental health evaluation. The individual complied, received the help he needed, and his life was saved.

As a resident of High Desert, I applaud the action of these officers. It also reinforced for me the value of community policing.

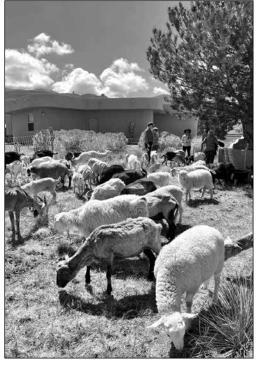


Goats Brought to High Desert Homes For Weed Removal and Study of Effectiveness

These hungry goats spent the day in early May at Judy Pierson's home in the Highlands eating a variety of weeds.

The goat herd was provided by Horned Locust Goatscaping in a pilot plan among four homeowners along Academy Arroyo in High Desert.

The goal is to see if goats can reduce excessive vegetation economically and help lower the risk of wildfire.



The cost was paid by the homeowners. Watch for the full article and photos in the August newsletter.

Voting Members Elect Directors — Continued From Page 1

The officers are:

- President Reg Rider
- Vice President George Marsh
- Treasurer Ray Berg
- Secretary Steve Hartig

Voting Members were also asked to accept or reject the new budget for 2021-2022, voting to accept. Voting Members had received the budget earlier by email in an expanded format. "The Association is in excellent condition," Ray told Voting Members. He noted no increase in Association fees although some gated villages may see changes.

New Board Members

Newly elected board member Steve Hartig moved to High Desert's Overlook last July. He is a retired chemical engineer who lived in Europe and most recently Chicago, where he was president of his homeowner association of 140 households. He said he has "no agenda" for serving on the board but hopes to focus on safety and security while making High Desert an enjoyable place to live.

George Marsh moved to Albuquerque in 1978 where after serving in the U.S. Air Force. He was general manager of Hyatt and Hilton hotels and served on the board of a large credit union. Before moving to High Desert last summer, he was treasurer for six years of the Desert Ridge Trails homeowner association.

May 2021

Photo by Judy Pierson

High Desert www.highdesertliving.net

What a Wonderful World

8

You know we all want about the same thing. Yeah, to be happy. Well, what does that mean? Let me paint a picture and see if you agree. How about walk-



Steve Lynch Certified Financial Planner

ing around having all your bills paid and your finances taken care of? Your only job is to have fun. Sounds too good to be true? Whether you believe it or not, many of your neighbors have all these things, and it's not hard to tell who they are. This experience is our mission for our clients: a full concierge financial planning service. Pretty cool, "eh?"

Now, here is the sad part. Most people are unwilling to ask for help with their finances, and I get it. It can be scary, but it shouldn't be! In my 35 years in the business, I have spoken with many great people who do great things for the world. However, when it came to their finances, they were missing the mark! It not only caused them stress but also took unneeded time out of their life!

I don't do my own dentistry work, just like you shouldn't handle your own finances. It's not always big changes that cause people to fail. Minor changes make a huge difference, and you owe it to yourself to make sure you're doing the right things before it's too late! Whether it's taxes, retirement planning, estate planning, etc., making minor adjustments will have a significant impact on yourself and your family.

Only do what brings you joy! Life is too short!

Call today for a complimentary consultation!

Trusted and Licensed since 1986 $\underline{STEVE \ LYNOH}$

CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER

WWW.STEVELYNCHWEALTH.COM FREE Confidential Consultation 881-PLAN

Advisory services offered through Steve Lynch Wealth Management. Securities offered through United Planners' Financial Services, Member FINRA, SIPC. Steve Lynch Wealth Management and United Planners' are not affiliated.

Are You Prepared For Wildfire This Season? High Desert Fire Prevention Committee Presents Vital Checklist

By Judy Pierson, Chair of the High Desert Fire Prevention Committee, Lt. J. Kandel, Albuquerque Fire Rescue Wildland Fire Coordinator and Professor Doug Cram, NMSU Extension

The fire season is upon us once again and based on modeling by the National Weather Service, the outlook is "above normal" for significant fire potential in May and June. The explosive fire behavior seen on the Three Rivers Fire near Ruidoso (before it snowed and rained) is an indication of that build-up potential just waiting to be released. For our High Desert community, situated in a fire-prone environment, it is not a matter of if, but rather *when* fire will return to our neighborhood – recall May 2018 and 2019. As such, it would behoove us to be prepared for wildfire.

GET READY:

The first step is to *get ready*. In the last issue, we addressed managing your landscape to mitigate fire damage. You may have seen some of the fuel reduction measures that have been implemented this year. Brush was cleared five feet from village walls, for example. Dead wood from bushes has been removed in many areas and trees trimmed up two feet from the ground. Goatscaping has begun in some of the arroyos owned by residents. Many homeowners have also taken these basic steps:

• Removing flammables from within 10 feet of the home.

- Trimming trees and bushes.
- Thinning out bushes and trees to provide separation, and removing dry or dead plants, leaves, pine needles and pine cones.



GET SET!

The American Red Cross recommends that every family have a "To Go Bag" that is ready and kept by the door or in the trunk of the car to include:

- Fire extinguisher, battery-powered radio, whistle, flashlight with batteries, paper and pencil, maps.
- 3-day supply of non-perishable foods and bottles of water (1 gallon per person per day plus pets) and sanitation supplies. Chlorine with medicine dropper to sanitize water. Matches or lighter, can opener, paper plates, paper towels, plastic utensils.
- First aid kit, blanket or sleeping bag, flares.
- Change of clothes: long pants, long sleeve shirt, jacket, hat, handkerchief, shoes.
- Take photos or a short video of your home (each room) for insurance purposes. Alternatively, seek out an app on your phone that will help you inventory your belongings.

AND GO!

• Get out early in the event of a fire. It's now too late to get out the rake, chainsaw or even the garden hose! Leave that to the fire department.

Follow the checklist of 10 P's as follows:

• **People** – Always load the family first. Then you can judge

what else you can take. Consider checking on your homebound neighbor if time allows. Call for help if you need assistance.

- **Prescriptions** Grab medications that are needed on a daily basis (e.g., insulin, inhaler, EpiPen, heart medication, etc.) that cannot be easily or quickly replaced.
- **Pets** plus supplies: food, water bowl, carrier, leashes, blanket, vaccination records if you plan to drop them off at the doggie day care.
- **Phone** mobile phones can be vital communication tools in emergencies. Don't forget the charger!
- **Photos** grab a few photos off the wall, and/or photo albums.
- Pocketbook purse and wallet.
- **Personal Computer** laptop and easy to grab external hard drives.
- **Personal items** for example, protective clothing, toiletries, water bottle. You won't need much as stores are accessible.
- **Paperwork** most documents can actually be replaced if necessary. Grab trust, last will, and other personal paperwork that you have developed with your lawyer. Keeping these items in a bank lockbox is safest, however.
- **Priceless items** have a list already made so you can quickly collect the items you absolutely want if there is room (heirlooms, collections, sentimental value, etc.).

Leave as soon as you can to avoid bottleneck traffic in the evacuation area. The Fire Rescue and Albuquerque Police will be there to direct residents out of the area.

<u>In The Event You Have Hours (Not Minutes)</u> <u>To Evacuate:</u>

Inside Checklist:

- Close all the windows and doors, leaving them unlocked.
- Remove flammable window coverings and shades (put in middle of room away from windows.
- Move furniture to the center of the room away from windows and doors.
- Turn off natural gas or propane. It's OK to leave the electricity on.

Outside Checklist:

- Bring combustible items from exterior of the house inside (cloth patio cushions, toys, mats) or move into the yard away from the house.
- Unlock exterior doors and gates.

We can't prevent fires, but we can be prepared to protect our families and property.

Wildfire evacuation kits or "to go" bags are available for purchase online. For further questions on preparation, contact Judy Pierson, Fire Prevention Chair, at High Desert at *judy@judypierson.com*.

by Ray Berg, Treasurer

Rather than go over things you can see for yourself in the data tables for March, I would like to go over a few of the attributes of our financials. As members of the Association you have the right to see any and all of the financial files. This is so important that if you wish to do so, state law requires that we make them available to you.

Ray Berg VP/Treasurer

Over the years, regardless of how your Board has approached its job, our financial condition has remained and still remains excellent. There has never been a situation where we were looking at a potential special assessment. So you can be confident that we will be positioned to take care of our obligations without causing undue concern for our members.

We hold a set of accounts that have become known as Extraordinary Cash Accounts. These accounts are basically a collection site for money left over at the end of previous years. We have traditionally used these accounts as a kind of "rainy day" fund. They pay off most Reserve Account shortfalls, shortages in Operating Accounts where costs were larger than expected, and similar things. These accounts can be tracked in the Cash Account register. We are looking at just how large we should try to maintain these accounts, especially since we hold significant amounts of money in our Reserve Accounts for large, phwysical assets, such as our private roads, walls, and other items.

Our Reserve Accounts, as the previous paragraph states, are for large (great than \$5,000) assets that generally have fairly long lifetimes. Two years ago the Board changed the way the Reserve balance and payments were calculated. Previously, the value of a Reserve fund was determined by a table in the Reserve Study, and the payments were determined by another table. The Board found that significantly larger balances were accumulating in the Reserve funds than were necessary, and so it looked for a better basis for calculating the balance and payments. What the Board

came up with was a 10-year average expenditure for the balance (amended with a 10 percent inflation factor), and a payment of 10 percent of this amount. This resulted in a significantly smoother balance (which is reflected in a smoother dues payment) and a balance level that better reflects the actual expenditures. It is notable that we still must keep a close watch on the Reserve Account balances for several other factors that can upset the process.

The Gated Villages have issues with their budgets because many of them are so small and they have assets that are so expensive. As a result, they require more attention to be sure their accounts remain in order. Our Gated Villages, as a result of the new method of computing the Reserve Accounts, are mostly over-funded. And the few that are not are being brought closer to 100 percent funding by making small but important corrections.

I will address other questions about the association financials at one of our upcoming Town Hall Zoom meetings.

| HDROA Reserve Account Balar | nces |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Year to Date as of 3/31/2021 | |
| MASTER | \$725,990.41 |
| ARROYO | \$107,676.86 |
| CANYONS | \$202,345.67 |
| CHACO COMPOUND | \$61,029.55 |
| DESERT MOUNTAIN | \$274,586.60 |
| ENCLAVE | \$124,045.06 |
| TRILLIUM | \$254,935.14 |
| WILDERNESS COMPOUND | \$103,526.19 |
| LEGENDS | \$121,098.45 |
| WILDERNESS CANON | \$13,386.47 |
| ΤΟΤΑΙ | \$1,988,620,40 |

• See more Treasurer's Reports on page 11 •



Pre-K through 5th grade
Nonprofit
Core Values
Child-Centered Education
Bus Service
Extended Day Childcare
Outdoor Environmental Education



May 2021

Book an in-person or virtual tour, today! Call 505-243-6659 to schedule.

10

Treasurer's Report: Year-to-Date March 31, 2021 for Fiscal Year 2021

11

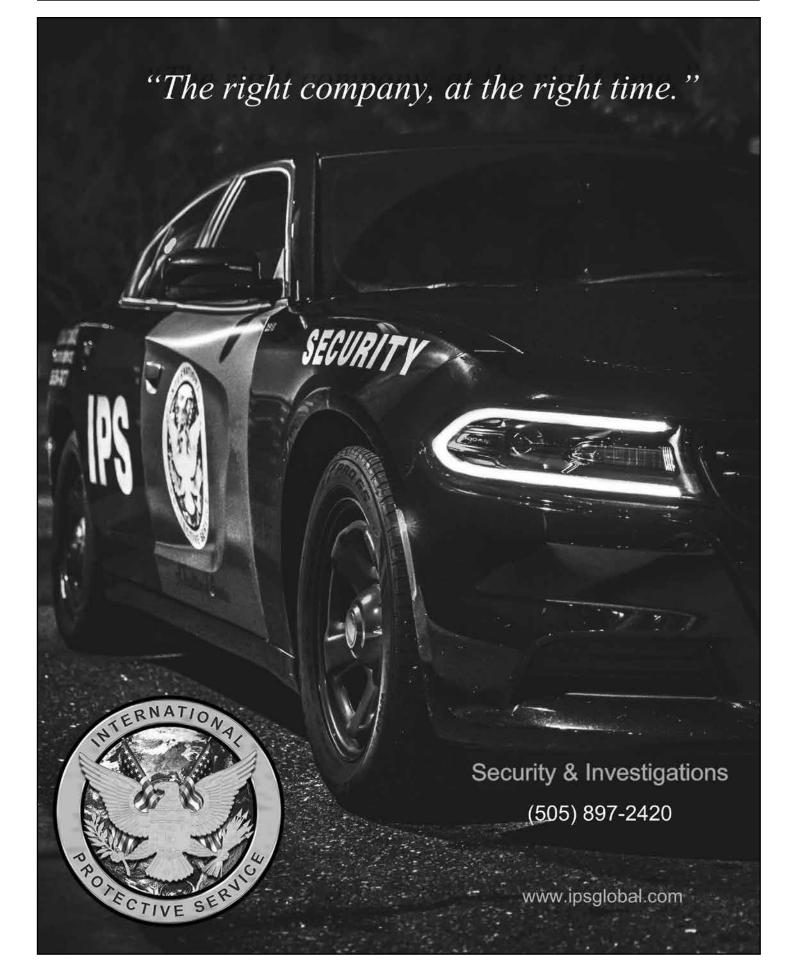
HDROA Income and Expense Report Year to Date as of 3/31/2021

| 4200 - COST SHARING - ALTEZZA 4310 - ASSESSMENT INTEREST 4330 - ASSESSMENT LATE FEES 4350 - LEGAL/COLLECTION FEES 4600 - INTEREST INCOME 4615 - UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS) 4800 - PENALTIES/FINES Total INCOME | \$876,420 \$62,009 (\$2) \$0 \$457 \$2,829 (\$2,482) | \$1,168,560 \$81,103 \$3,000 \$2,500 |
|--|--|---|
| 4200 - COST SHARING - ALTEZZA 4310 - ASSESSMENT INTEREST 4330 - ASSESSMENT LATE FEES 4350 - LEGAL/COLLECTION FEES 4600 - INTEREST INCOME 4615 - UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS) 4800 - PENALTIES/FINES Total INCOME | \$62,009 (\$2) \$0 \$457 \$2,829 | \$81,103 \$3,000 \$2,500 |
| 4310 - ASSESSMENT INTEREST 4330 - ASSESSMENT LATE FEES 4350 - LEGAL/COLLECTION FEES 4600 - INTEREST INCOME 4615 - UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS) 4800 - PENALTIES/FINES Total INCOME | (\$2) \$0 \$457 \$2,829 | \$3,000 \$2,500 |
| 4330 - ASSESSMENT LATE FEES 4350 - LEGAL/COLLECTION FEES 4600 - INTEREST INCOME 4615 - UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS) 4800 - PENALTIES/FINES Total INCOME | \$0 \$457 \$2,829 | \$2,500 |
| 4600 - INTEREST INCOME 4615 - UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS) 4800 - PENALTIES/FINES Total INCOME | \$457 \$2,829 | |
| 4615 - UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS) 4800 - PENALTIES/FINES Total INCOME | | \$10,000 |
| 4800 - PENALTIES/FINES Total INCOME | (\$2,482) | \$2,000 |
| Total INCOME | | \$0 |
| | (\$700) | \$0 |
| 8900 - TRANSFER TO RESERVES | \$938,530 | \$1,267,163 |
| | (\$57,458) | (\$76,610) |
| Total Income Strength | \$881,073 | \$1,190,553 |
| ADMINISTRATIVE | | |
| 5150 - ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PR | \$59,185 | \$77,400 |
| 5250 - BANK CHARGES | \$80 | \$150 |
| 5400 - INSURANCE | \$13,577 | \$17,570 |
| 5530 - LIEN/COLLECTION COSTS | \$290 | \$1,000 |
| 5625 - OPERATIONAL SUPPORT | \$2,783 | \$2,500 |
| 5650 - BOARD/VOTING MEMBER MEETINGS | \$3,272 | \$4,000 |
| 5800 - OFFICE EXPENSE | \$751 | \$2,500 |
| 5820 - PRINTING 5840 - MAILINGS | \$1,571 | \$10,000 |
| 5840 - MAILINGS 5850 - BILLING STATEMENTS | \$3,462 \$6,867 | \$11,000 \$10,000 |
| | \$91,839 | \$136,120 |
| LANDSCAPE | •••,••• | ••••• |
| 6300 - LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE | \$116,191 | \$275,000 |
| 6310 - LANDSCAPE REPLACEMENT | \$4,482 | \$15,000 |
| 6330 - LANDSCAPE OTHER | \$16,731 | \$10,000 |
| 6340 - ARROYO & POND MAINTENANCE | \$23,349 | \$15,000 |
| 6350 - EROSION CONTROL | \$9,357 | \$12,000 |
| 6360 - IRRIGATION REPAIR & MAINTENANCE | \$15,331 | \$25,000 |
| 6370 - PET CLEANUP | \$19,798 | \$15,000 |
| 6380 - TRAIL MAINTENANCE 6390 - TREE SPRAYING | \$11,298 \$0 | \$4,000 \$5,000 |
| 6395 - LANDSCAPE PROJECTS - MASTER PLAN | \$185 | \$20,000 |
| | \$216,723 | \$396,000 |
| PROFESSIONAL FEES | | |
| 5100 - ACCOUNTING/TAX PREP FEES | \$6,365 | \$7,000 |
| 5270 - CONSULTING | \$58,660 | \$50,000 |
| 5500 - LEGAL FEES-COLLECTION/SMALL CLAIMS | \$8,834 | \$20,000 |
| 5501 - LEGAL-GENERAL SERVICES | \$24,928 | \$30,000 |
| | \$107,942 \$166,792 | \$144,086 \$216,000 |
| 8201 - SECURITY-APD & BCSO | \$17,573 | \$9,500 |
| | \$391,093 | \$476,586 |
| TAXES/OTHER EXPENSES | | •••• |
| 5200 - ALLOWANCE FOR DOUBTFUL ACCOUNTS | \$0 | \$7,000 |
| 5860 - COMMUNITY EVENTS | \$497 | \$15,000 |
| 5870 - WELCOME COMMITTEE | \$0 | \$1,200 |
| 5900 - WEBSITE | \$6,632 | \$10,000 |
| 6100 - GATE & GUARDHOUSE MAINTENANCE | \$3,495 | \$4,000 |
| 6575 - SIGN/ENTRY MAINTENANCE | \$7,626 | \$2,500 |
| 6590 - WALL REPAIR & MAINTENANCE | \$139,458 | \$75,000 |
| 6600 - SNOW REMOVAL | \$8,488 | \$10,000 |
| 6850 - LOCKS & KEYS | \$45 | \$500 |
| 8250 - MISCELLANEOUS | \$269 | \$500 |
| 8400 - HDROA OFFICE | \$6,999 | \$9,336 |
| 8800 - TAXES - CORPORATE | (\$5,768) | \$8,000 |
| Total TAXES/OTHER EXPENSES | \$167,741 | \$143,036 |
| 7100 - ELECTRICITY | \$2,386 | \$3,000 |
| 7500 - TELEPHONE | \$765 | \$1,100 |
| 7900 - WATER/SEWER | \$47,016 | \$60,000 |
| Total UTILITIES | \$50,168 | \$64,100 |
| | | \$1 31E 040 |
| Total Expense | \$917,563 | \$1,215,842 |
| | \$917,563 (\$36,490) | \$1,215,842 (\$25,289) |

| Accounts | Actual | Annual Budget |
|------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Canyons | | |
| INCOME | \$22,240 | \$29,640 |
| TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS | (\$5,625) | (\$7,500) |
| EXPENSE | \$10,492 | \$15,710 |
| Net Income (Loss) | \$6,123 | \$6,430 |
| | | |
| Chaco Compound | | |
| INCOME | \$15,985 | \$12,144 |
| TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS | (\$5,250) | (\$7,000) |
| EXPENSE | \$5,715 | \$4,617 |
| Net Income (Loss) | \$5,020 | \$527 |
| | | |
| Desert Mountain | | |
| INCOME | \$89,201 | \$118,800 |
| TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS | (\$31,025) | (\$41,367) |
| EXPENSE | \$59,711 | \$75,614 |
| Net Income (Loss) | (\$1,535) | \$1,819 |
| | | |
| The Enclave | | |
| INCOME | \$21,983 | \$29,304 |
| TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS | (\$7,650) | (\$10,200) |
| EXPENSE | \$12,775 | \$15,058 |
| Net Income (Loss) | \$1,558 | \$4,046 |
| | | |
| Trillium | | |
| INCOME | \$38,247 | \$50,976 |
| TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS | (\$11,466) | (\$15,288) |
| EXPENSE | \$31,360 | \$30,080 |
| Net Income (Loss) | (\$4,579) | \$5,608 |
| | | |
| Wilderness Compound | | |
| INCOME | \$12,407 | \$16,536 |
| TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS | (\$2,775) | (\$3,700) |
| EXPENSE | \$13,318 | \$8,605 |
| Net Income (Loss) | (\$3,686) | \$4,231 |
| | | |
| The Legends | | |
| | \$26,785 | \$35,712 |
| TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS | (\$6,554) | (\$8,739) |
| EXPENSE | \$18,017 | \$23,230 |
| Net Income (Loss) | \$2,214 | \$3,743 |
| W/// | | |
| Wilderness Canon | | |
| | \$11,458 | \$15,276 |
| TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS | (\$4,095) | (\$5,460) |
| EXPENSE | \$7,054 | \$8,220 |
| Net Income (Loss) | \$310 | \$1,596 |
| | | |

Gated Village Income and Expense Year to Date as of 3/31/2021





12

High Desert Crime Prevention

Strategies to Prevent Road Rage from Following You Home



Doug Weigle

By Doug Weigle,

Crime Prevention Committee Chair Ever been a victim of road rage? Maybe you were driving in the passing lane and were slow to pull over into the right hand lane and the driver behind you honked and pulled up dangerously close to your rear bumper. Maybe you were driving home on Tramway and the driver behind you became furious when you failed to go faster than he

thought you should and when he passed began swerving toward your car. Maybe you've even stopped your car and gotten in a shouting match with the other driver. All of these scenarios can and sometimes do end in disaster It's a simple fact-road rage can and does happen frequently.

A recent article in the Foothills Community Policing Newsletter addressed this subject. "Experts say it is largely preventable; our action can make our day go more smoothly and pay many dividends... Rage imperils both the object of the anger, the person who is out of control, and those who are in the vicinity."

This could even happen on the streets of High Desert but may more likely happen on Tramway, Montgomery or another major thoroughfare in the area. Ask yourself what you can do to avoid this happening.

Steps to being prepared:

1. Recognize that some people are quick to anger. We have no control over them, but remaining calm and responding sympathetically by giving the other driver space will help.

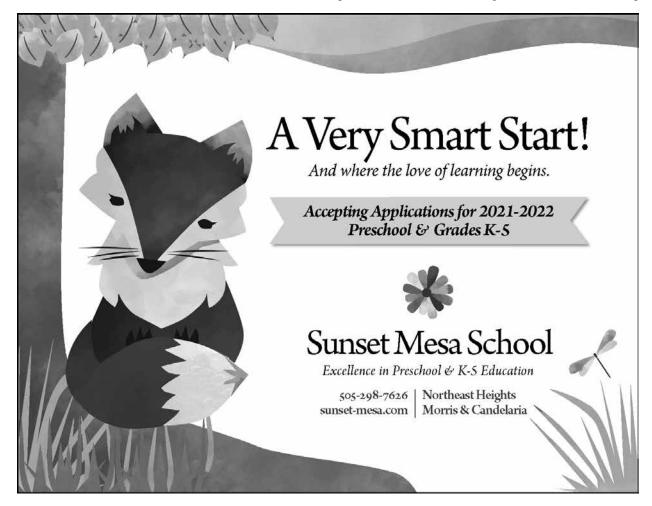
2. Responding with anger will not make the incident better for us, or others in the area.

3. If the incident escalates, pulling over into a grocery parking lot, convenience store or other commercial location should help de-escalate the situation.

4. Remember—those few minutes you pull over will not ruin your day, but a confrontation will. Be safe on the road!

Arroyos Inspection Update

The Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA) did its annual arroyo review in November 2020. High Desert Landscape Committee members walked through every arroyo to evaluate the repairs AMAFCA requested and documented homes that might need assistance in arroyo management. The requested repairs are ongoing. A discussion on how to best assist homeowners in arroyo management is under review. The plan for erosion and fire mitigation is also under development.





Considering Tree Changes in High Desert

15

By Sharon Littrell-Marsh, Member of the Landscape Committee,

Chances are that once you have lived in your High Desert home for some time, your trees are no longer what the developer had in mind and you look toward making changes. When builders erected our homes and landscaped them, they placed trees that looked inviting to the prospective homeowner. Over years, the trees were watered and grew. Now, many of those "ornamental" trees are very tall, block neighbors' views, have root system problems and are generally not the tree the developer/landscaper envisioned in our 25-year-old community.

During this pandemic year, change of scenery seems not only necessary but critical. Many of us have upgraded our homes and now with spring on the horizon, we look outside and envision what refreshed landscape would do for our home's value. But wait! Before you pull out any vegetation and replace it with new there are guidelines about landscape upgrades to consider.

The Landscape Advisory Committee oversees the landscape in High Desert using the High Desert Landscape Master Plan and the Guidelines to Sustainability for guidance. The committee coordinates with the Modifications Committee and Fire Prevention providing guidance about landscape issues and concerns. This includes making sure new plants will thrive in our desert climate and conform to general landscape aesthetics regarding tree sustainability in our existing landscape (including projected height of new trees).



framers@highdesertartandframe.com www.highdesertartandframe.com



The Western Rosebud, shown at left, blooms a lovely purple shade in the spring, grows to 20 x 20 feet and is on the Approved Plants List for High Desert.

This article addresses the trees in our yards and those we want to bring in that we feel enhance our environment. The best trees are adaptable to our altitude, climate and heat. According to Down to Earth, A Gardeners Guide to the Albuquerque Area (2010), selected trees "made the list because they have good structure, are moderate to slow growers, low to medium water users and don't produce large amounts of pollen," (p. 200). With care and pruning these trees will enhance our community for many years.

As a general rule, newly planted trees should grow no taller than 30 feet — certainly no taller than our homes. They must be planted so that when full-grown the tops of the trees are 10 feet apart. To reduce fire risk their branches should not touch walls or hang over roofs. Identifying the trees here that grow best and those that are most harmful would be onerous and surely would contain trees that should be added/deleted. Rather, I identify a few trees that we see around our community. —

A few trees suitable for Albuquerque as well as for High Desert include:

- Dwarf Weeping Blue Atlas Cedar 10x20 feet (burns hot in fire)
- Desert Willow

20x25 feet (re-sprouts after a wildlife)

- Big Tooth Maple 25x25 feet
- New Mexico Olive 15x15 feet
 - Lilac Tree
 - 20x20 feet
 - Western Rosebud
 - 20x20 feet Smoke Tree
 - 15x15 feet

When selecting your new or replacement trees, select them for their:

- High moisture content
- Low growing habit
- Lack of flammable chemicals

Reminder: Before removing a nonconforming tree, replanting a new tree, or changing your landscape, contact the High Desert Modification Committee for approval. Remember you must pick trees on the High Deserts "Approved and Prohibited Plants List."

You can find the list on the High Desert website at *highdesertliv-ing.net*: High Desert Living/Plants & Gardening/Approved & Prohibited Plants List.

Moving is not fun. Let us do it for you!

16

ProRelo Bekins Cares About You, Your Health & Your Move During These Challenging Times

We are offering the following extra assurances to our clients to protect & honor your health & wellbeing:

• Exclusive Video Estimates – no need to visit your home!

• Exclusive "No Contact Moves" also using video tech so you can watch your move from a safe location as our employees do the work

 Sanitizing our facility & trucks every 2 hours to keep customers & crew safe

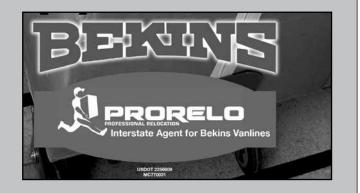
 Movers are designated as an essential service by the government. No interruptions or forced closures are anticipated

ProRelo Bekins & You - We Will Get Through This Together! Since 1891, moving you with the quality and care you deserve!

Any size move to anywhere on the planet, call us today for a free quote: (505) 888-1007 or (800) 203-7654

1600 1st St. NW Albuquerque, NM 87102

> 505.888.1007 www.myabqmover.com



High Desert www.highdesertliving.net

May 2021

Volunteers Gather 25 Bags of Trash During Tramway Cleanup

By Michele Lesher, Tramway Cleanup Project

What do a fuzzy Chistmas reindeer antler, a Sunset Mesa second grader's report card, and an endless number of Albertson's receipts have in common?

They are all items found during our most recent Adopt-a-Highway event, where a record breaking



number of High Desert residents volunteered on Saturday, April 24, to clean up miles 9 and 10 of Tramway Blvd. We started at Albertsons, with half of the volunteers working south from Academy to the bridge at Bear Canyon, and

the other half working north to the bridge at Simms Park Road (the Wolinskis even opted for extra credit, going all the way to San Rafael!). We accumulated 25 full bags of trash, as well as some large pieces of lumber and other construction materials. Please join me in thanking the following

volunteers for their efforts:

- Dan Kropp (Canyons)
- Bob and Kitty Lind (Chaco Compound)
- Meghan List (Chamisa Trail)
- Curt Jacobson (Desert Song)



- Susan Camp (Desert Highlands)
- Charlotte, Donnie, and Jadyn Trone (Desert Mountain)
- Ed Arata, Ashley Harvey (Legends)
- Janet Brierley, Theodore Arriington, Geoff Schuster (Sunset Ridge)
- Sandy and Ralph Jacoby, Julie and Steve Hartig, Shirley Scott, Jackie and Mike Thompson, Tom and Sofia Wolinski, Jake Lesher (Overlook)

To keep our Tramway adoption active, we are committed to holding a formal event twice per year. I am thinking our next cleanup will be sometime in October 2021. If you are interested in volunteering please drop me an email at *mlesher222@comcast. net* and I will add you to my list!

HELPING YOU BUY AND SELL SMA

Gary Shaw is a pleasure to work with and is knowledgeable at a deeper level about the mechanics of houses than most other agents! He is also tolerant of our explorations of neighborhoods, plus the type of house we wanted, all with a great sense of humor and utmost expertise and professionality. Thanks Gary!!

Gary has a proven track record of helping people Buy and Sell Smart. For more about his background, how it influences his approach to Real Estate, and why he is Albuquerque's High Desert Expert, call today! GARY SHAW Associate Broker :: REALTOR® :: BSME MOBILE :: 505.506.9941 Gary@GaryShaw505.com



17

High Desert Snakes: The Good, The Bad & The Ugly

By Bomi Parakh, Wilderness Cañon

Few words strike more fear in our hearts than "Snake!" Google 'phobia' and ophidiophobia (fear of snakes) emerges as one of the most common and most ancient of human fears.

Primal Reaction

The hair rises on the neck of one-third of all humans when they see a snake or even a picture of a snake. A paper of the National Academy of Sciences found circuits in monkey brains that responded to images of snakes; humans appear to have the same, genetically coded, snake-sensitive neural circuits. Humans, apes and monkeys all appear to have evolved with 'snakes on their minds.'

As a species, we've made peace with other predators (wolves, coyotes, foxes, bears, mountain lions and eagles) but not snakes. The American Society of Herpetologists says it's hard to imagine any other vertebrate being subject to such thoughtless and inhumane treatment.

Snake Encounters

The Sandia Foothills harbor a variety of snake species. Snakes that garner interest are the rattlesnake (Western Diamondback and Prairie Rattlesnake) and the bull snake. Unlike the bull snake, the rattlesnake is venomous. Both snakes have somewhat similar markings, but one way to distinguish the two types is by the presence of a rattle and the spade-shaped head of the rattler.

Encounters between High Desert residents and these snakes often end badly... for the snake. In warm weather, the HDROA



Since 1977 Remodel Specialists • Kitchens • Baths • Additions Building Beautiful Homes in High Desert since 1996



Creative design for all your needs 505-797-1112

www.altairhomes.com



Smoky meets Slithers. This curious cat encountered a local bull snake on the other side of a window. Photo courtesy of Kate Fry.

may receive a snake call every month. These calls do not include instances when the resident sees no choice but to take matters into his/her own hands; shovels, baseball bats, guns and pickup trucks have been used to bludgeon snakes. Volunteers at the Herpetological Society and Animal Control Unit are more elegant in their handling and removal. Unfortunately, these organizations may not dispatch someone immediately. An HDROA resident who is trained in the efficient and humane removal of snakes would be a boon to our High Desert community.

Most snake encounters with HDROA residents are likely the result of the snake's two basic urges... to forage for food or find a suitable mate, both of which can end in death for the snake. Herpetologists wonder how humans would cope if every trip to a bar to mingle with the opposite sex or to a supermarket for groceries could result in death or dismemberment.

Highly Evolved Creatures

Experts say snakes are highly evolved creatures. A human with a rattlesnake's eyesight would be declared legally blind, but it has evolved a sophisticated system of infrared imaging to provide 'sight.' With a bifurcated tongue, it can receive stereoscopic input that is analyzed in the roof of its mouth to turn into a 3D image. At close range, a rattlesnake is capable of detecting temperature differences as small as 0.002 degrees Fahrenheit. A single flick of the tongue can alert a snake to the size, sex and species of another snake, whether it has recently eaten, shed or mated, and if it is healthy or not.

And snakes can strike with lightning speed. If you blink you may not see it. Even when separated from its body, the head of a rattlesnake can be dangerous for 20 minutes and sometimes longer (amateur snake hunters take note). In the unlikely event that you are bitten during an encounter, the advice is not to panic (a higher heart rate encourages the poison to spread). Calling 911 and getting to the nearest hospital quickly is recommended, along with a good description or a picture of the snake to determine the best treatment.

Snake Bite

Despite our fear of a snake bite, only about one in three rat-

Continued on page 19

tlesnake bites inject venom. The majority of rattlesnake bites are 'dry.' Without venom, a rattlesnake cannot kill or eat mice, squirrels or other rodents which can run much faster and further than the snake. Only secondarily is venom used as a line of defense; in other words, the venomous snake would rather not bite a human. Even when a bite injects venom, the snake often meters its release, preserving the venom for a more important mission ...food.

In the U.S., out of some seven to nine thousand folks treated for venomous snake bites only about five die in any given year. The Western Diamondback is responsible for most fatalities. When deaths have occurred, it's often because no treatment was administered or treatment was delayed. The Centers for Disease Control suggests that in any given year, you are more likely to die from the sting of a bee or wasp, a dog mauling, or a lightning strike.

Keeping Homes Safe

Experts maintain that most home remedies, chemicals and other poisons for snake deterrence are, pardon the pun, 'snake oil.' The best way to keep snakes away from your home is to have an uncluttered, clean and open yard, unattractive to mice and other pests (i.e., without firewood, excessive gardens/flowerbeds, overgrown vegetation, and places to hide). Seed from bird feeders will attract rodents and in turn, snakes.

Role in Biodiversity

Snakes eat rodents and as such play a role in keeping rodent populations under control. A Norway rat can produce as many as ten litters each year. Mice can reproduce throughout winter and expand their populations. To breed, an adult female snake must build an adequate reservoir of fat and protein, so she must invest energy in catching many rodents to sustain pregnancy. Similarly, an adult male snake must eat rodents and grow large to have the chance to mate. Rodent-borne diseases like the hantavirus and plague are present in New Mexico. Snake populations play a role in controlling outbreaks.

Tick borne bacterial infections like Lyme disease have increased in the U.S. Research shows that Lyme disease prevails because mice and shrews are a reservoir host for Lyme. Wildlife biologists think rattlesnakes reduce the transmission of Lyme.

Thoughtful developments like High Desert faithfully try to keep our habitat undisturbed; that courtesy could be extended to snakes that are part of that habitat. Richard Reams, the Herpetology Curator at the Albuquerque Zoo has a simple recommendation for residents who see a snake...."Just leave it alone, and it'll do the same."

Reference: America's Snake by Ted Levin

Herpetology Humor

On a field trip, a boy scout asks his scout leader, "Sir, is that snake poisonous?" The scout leader says, "No, that snake's not poisonous." The boy picks up the snake, which



19

proceed to bite him; the boy starts to spasm and foam at the mouth, as the other kids look on in horror. The scout leader says, "*but...* that snake <u>is</u> venomous. Poison is ingested, while venom is injected. Let's get it right the next time, boys."



The High Desert Gardener Cheatgrass and Fire

Margo Murdock

Over the last few years one weed, cheatgrass, has become the dominant species in the intermountain West.

Cheatgrass typically prefers wetter years, but our April snow may have provided moisture at the perfect time this year.

Along Tramway it has taken over the medians, road edges, and along the walking trail edges.

The bad news: it is highly flammable, can

act as a ladder fuel, increases fire intensity, and is one of the first species to survive and return after a fire. The interval between fires becomes too short for native plant species to recover. Note: for fire control you need to clear cheatgrass 30 feet around your home. More bad news: it loves disturbed areas e.g., like mowed native grasses (mechanically with mowers or weed whacking).

The good news: because it is an annual weed and spreads only by seed, we "just" need to keep it from going to seed. Since it likes disturbed soil, one option for effective treatment is to reduce soil disturbance and quickly revegetate with desired plants.

Cheatgrass is native to Europe and Asia, and has a nodding grass head with sharp florets and straight awns. It is a winter annual weed, typically germinating in the fall, growing roots over winter, and putting on leaves in the spring. It may also germinate in early spring. This lifecycle gives cheatgrass a head start over native grasses and broadleaved plants by establishing root systems and actively growing at a time when growth is slowed for native plants, thus out-competing them for resources and space.

In the early spring, immature cheatgrass seeds are bright green and hairy before becoming tinged by red or purple (bloom time), turning reddish-brown as they dry out, and finally becoming a straw color with very sharp awns as summer progresses.

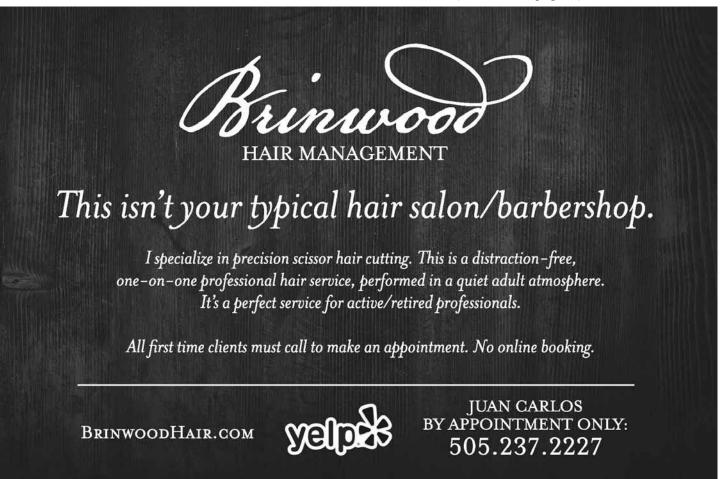
The best time to control cheatgrass is before it goes to seed, early to mid-spring, which is a very short window of opportunity since seeds can appear one week after flowering. Some seed survives in the soil up to five years, so once you start treatment you need to continue it consistently for several years to remove the bar

Cheatgrass. From USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database/Hitchcock, A.S. (rev. A. Chase). 1950. Manual of the grasses of the United States. USDA Misc. Publ. No. 200. Washington DC.

for several years to remove the bank of seed from prior years.

Cheatgrass was first identified as an issue in High Desert in 2016 and was treated in the common areas by hand pulling. I think it was hand-pulled again in 2018, but I do not believe it has been treated since.

(Continued on page 21)



By Margo Murdock High Desert Resident 🧹



Cheatgrass —from page 20

For homeowners, hand-pulling before it goes to seed is still the best method of management. Another recommended treatment is prescribed fire via a hand-held torch or controlled burn of a designated area (once you have a fire permit), but with the current drought, the risk of burning down more than the cheatgrass is very high so it may not be a feasible option for this year.

Mowing is suggested to remove seed heads, but you must continue mowing over several weeks or the cheatgrass will recover and put out seed again on a shorter plant. Cheatgrass lacks biological predators in North America.

Herbicides may also be an effective form of management when applications are made according to label directions; however, modes of action should be rotated from season to season to prevent the development of herbicide resistant cheatgrass. Note that some herbicides require a licensed applicator in order to make an application. After treatment, experts recommend replanting with desired plants (or reseeding with native grasses). Keeping your vegetation healthy to out-compete cheatgrass (or other weeds) is your first line of defense.

Due to the sharpness of the dried-out awns, cheatgrass seeds can catch on clothing, fur, and especially in the ears of dogs, helping spread the plant. Once it takes over an area it alters native plant communities, degrades wildlife diversity and habitat, and decreases land values. Hopefully, responsible homeowners will help manage cheatgrass in High Desert, keeping our land values up.

Reference: Field Guide for Managing Cheatgrass in the Southwest from the U.S. Forest Service plus NMSU and CSU bulletins.

Modifications Committee Actions

Below are some of the actions taken by the Modifications Committee in March. For full reports, go to *www.highdesertliving.net*

- **The Legends**, 6328 Ghost Flower. Request: re-stucco home and wall. *Approved*.
- **Desert Mountain**, 13319 Slateridge Pl. Request: install new landscaping. Additional information requested by MC. *Approved.*
- **Pinon Point**, 13316 Twilight Trail Pl. Request: install new windows/new stucco. *Approved*.
- **Highlands**, 13526 Elena Gallegos Pl. Request: landscaping. MC requested more information. *Approved*.
- **Pinon Point**, 13248 Twilight Tr Pl. Request: stucco inside of wall. *Approved*.
- Solterra,5600 Valerian Pl. Request: roofing. MC requested the SRI or LRV number. Owner wants to explore more options.
- **Mountain Highlands,** 13209 Russian Sage Ct. Request: landscaping. Part 1 was approved, Part 2 needs different plants. *Approved.*
- Chaco Ridge, 13208 Morning Mist. Request: new roof. *Approved*.
- **The Enclave**, 6319 Calla Lily Circle. Request: re-stucco inside of interior back wall. *Approved*.

Before making any changes to the exterior of your home, check with the Modifications Committee first to make sure your plans conform to High Desert standards. See the website for more information about the Committee and submitting requests. Contact *highdesertmc@HOAMCO.com* with any questions.



High Desert Committee & Project Contact Information

If you have a question about High Desert, who should you ask? The answer to many questions is easily found on the High Desert website at *www.highdesertliving.net*. A calendar of events, all our governing documents, easy access to the request form for modifications, and a great deal more is found on the site. When it comes to High Desert, the website is the place to start. For other questions:

• Owners should contact HOAMCO at (505) 314-5862 for any inquiry about High Desert development, questions about the CC&Rs, or concerns with the operation of the association.

• See the names and telephone numbers on the opposite page for board members, patrols, website and newsletter information.

• High Desert residents can contact their elected Voting Members for specific answers to questions concerning their villages. Village Voting Member contact information can be found online at: *www. highdesertliving.net.* At the top, click on "Villages" and choose the village from the dropdown menu. Residents can also call the office at 505-314-5862 to learn their village representative. High Desert Committee chairperson contacts are below.

• Crime Prevention Liaison:

Douglas Weigle: 281-682-0255: hdcrimeprevtn@googlegroups.com

- Welcome Committee: (temporarily suspended due to COVID): Amy & Bill Stein: (404) 987-5254: *alsypula@gmail.com* Robin Troy; 505-967-5119; *TRY_RBN@YAHOO.COM*
- Voting Member Chairperson: Harrison Jones:505-440-8198 (cell): hjonesaz@gmail.com

- Gated Village Committee: Kitty Smith: 505-821-1790; kitty.h.smith@gmail.com
- Tramway Cleanup Project: Michelle Lesher: 505-844-2854: mlesher222@comcast.net
- Landscape Advisory Committee Chair: Camille Singaraju: 505-821-6887: bsingaraju@msn.com
- Fire Prevention Committee Judy Pierson: 505-220-9193: Judy@judypierson.com
- Communications Committee: Co-Chairs: Reg Rider & Susan Camp: CommunicationsCommittee@HOAMCO.com

G4S Provides Vacation Watches for HD Homes

Are you leaving on vacation or business and would like G4S to keep an eye on your home? You can call the patrol service directly or fill out a form and submit it electronically.

Go to the High Desert website at *www.highdesertliving. net.* On the homepage, go to the bottom under Important Forms and click on Vacation Watch Form. Residents can fill the form out online and submit it directly. Or, call G4S directly at **(505) 485-5658**.

Everything She Touches Turns to

Get Moving with the help of your High Desert Real Estate Specialist

କ୍ଷ

ELL BANKER



If you're selling or buying a High Desert home, team up with someone who can make the process easier, faster and successful. Rachael Flance has the experience to help you price your property, navigate negotiations and real estate contracts, take advantage of fast-changing markets and make your home sparkle in the eyes of a buyer. Plus her out-going personality creates as much fun throughout the process as you'll have placing the SOLD sign in your yard. **Now Let's Get YOU Moving!**

RACHAEL FLANCE COLDWELL BANKER LEGACY Associate Broker, CDPE, CRS, CLHMS

Cell: 505-977-6569 Ofc: 505-828-1000 Rachael.Flance@cblegacy.com **RachaelFlanceSellsHomes.com**





High Desert www.highdesertliving.net

• 2021-2022 • High Desert Residential Owners Association Board of Directors

| | | Term: |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| President: | • Reg Rider | 2020-4/2022 |
| Vice President | • George Marsh | 4/2021-4/2023 |
| Treasurer | • Ray Berg | 2020-4/2022 |
| Secretary: | Steve Hartig | 4/2021-4/2023 |
| Director: | • Scott Fletcher | 2020-4/2022 |
| Director: | • Neil Wetsch | 4/2021-4/2023 |
| Director: | • Camille Singaraju | 4/2021-4/2023 |

Contact Board Members by emailing: *highdesertboard@HOAMCO.com*

Board & Committee Meetings

<u>Modifications Committee Meetings:</u>

All requests processed by email. MC meetings suspended during pandemic. See recorded actions on website.

<u>Board of Directors Meetings:</u>

May 18, June 15, July 20, 2021 at 2 p.m. *Location: virtual Zoom meeting*

<u>Voting Members Quarterly Informational Meeting:</u>

Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. *Location: virtual Zoom meeting*

<u>Town Meetings:</u>

May 14, July 16, 2021: 3 p.m. *Location: Zoom meeting. Contact HOAMCO to register.*

Note: For a complete list of all upcoming events and meetings, see the website calendar at: www.highdesertliving.net.

The High Desert Apache Plume newsletter (including all publishing and postal delivery costs) is entirely paid for by advertising. Please support our advertisers!

Management:

• HOAMCO:

23

8700-A Education Pl. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114 PO Box 67590, Albuquerque, NM 87193-6590 (505) 888-4479 Fax: (505) 888-4483

For Accounting and Billing Questions: Website: www.HOAMCO.com Email: HOAMCO@HOAMCO.com

<u>High Desert Office (Northeast Heights):</u>

10555 Montgomery Boulevard NE Building 1, Suite 100 87111
(505) 314-5862 Fax,: (928)-776-0050
(Located on the north side of Montgomery, west of Juan Tabo between Savoy and El Patron restaurants.)

After-hours emergency maintenance phone contact: Call (505) 221-0189 (an on-call staff member will answer or return your call shortly.)

• Northeast Heights Office Hours:

Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Due to COVID-19 staff is operating by appointment only. Please call the office to schedule an appointment.

Management Staff:

- Community Manager: Lynnette Rodriguez, *lrodriguez@HOAMCO.com highdesertmanager@HOAMCO.com*
- Assistant Manager: Erin Brizuela ebrizuela@HOAMCO.com
- Violations Coordinator and Administrative Support: Melachi (Mel) McCoin mmccoin@HOAMCO.com

• <u>G4S:</u>

Security Patrol: <u>505)</u> 485-5658 (See page 5 for details on calls.)

• High Desert Apache Plume Newsletter:

Rebecca Murphy: Editor, (505) 377-7227; *EEnews@outlook.com* Newsletter Liaison: Doug Weigle *CommunicationsCommittee@HOAMCO.com*

• High Desert Website:

Website Liaison: Bill Freer & Mary Martin: hdwebcom21@gmail.com

The next issue of the Apache Plume will be mailed to all High Desert homeowners in mid-August. Contact Rebecca Murphy (505-377-7227) to place an ad.

- Ad deadline for the August issue: July 19, 2021
- Copy deadline for the August issue: July 26, 2021

The Apache Plume is published quarterly by the High Desert Residential Owners Association. The Apache Plume is endorsed by the Board of Directors and is the official publication of the Association: © 2021 High Desert website: www.highdesertliving.net; Management Company: HOAMCO: (505) 888-4479 Community Association Manager, Lynnette Rodriguez: highdesertmanager@HOAMCO.com: (505) 314-5862 The Apache Plume is edited by Editorial Enterprises, Rebecca Murphy: *EEnews@outlook.com*: (505) 377-7227 Communications Committee, Co-Chairs Reg Rider, Susan Camp: *CommunicationsCommittee@HOAMCO.com*



10555 Montgomery Blvd. NE, Building 1, Suite 100 Albuquerque, NM 87111 Pre-sort Std. US POSTAGE **PAID** Permit #1888 ALBUQUERQUE, NM

RE/MAX



GREAT INTEREST RATES! Conventional 30-year rates are hovering around 3.125%. & 2.875% 30-year VA! Now is the time to buy with such great rates.

Associated with REMAX • The World's Largest Real Estate Company! Estate Properties • Worldwide Reach

25 Years of Superior Service in Albuquerque Real Estate

RE/MAX Select • 8300 Carmel Avenue NE, Ste 202 Albuquerque, NM 87122 • 505 269 6217 (505) 798-1000