

Apache Plume

A newsletter for the community of High Desert, Albuquerque, New Mexico

November 2021

Board of Directors Election Approaches; Volunteers Needed



Camille Singaraju

By *Camille Singaraju*,
Nominating Committee Chair, Board Member

High Desert Voting Members will elect three Directors to the Board in April 2022. Current directors whose terms will expire in April 2022 are Ray Berg, Reg Rider and Catherine “Kitty” Smith.

The Board ensures that High Desert sustains its unique beauty, livability, sense of community and home values. It formulates a budget and governs contractors for day-to-day management, landscaping, and security. In short, it oversees all things High Desert, but none of this happens without dedicated volunteers. Now is your chance to help shape the future of our community by volunteering to serve as a member of the Nominating Committee or as a Board Director!

Why Serve on The Nominating Committee?

The quality of life in High Desert depends on the quality of its Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee is responsible for presenting Voting Members with a list of qualified candidates who represent the community and have the skills and personality to manage our community affairs. The Committee solicits candidates as necessary, reviews all applicants’ Statements of Interest (SOI) and conducts in-depth interviews in February and March. The Nominating Committee must choose at least three nominees for Voting Members’ consideration in 2022 but may present as many candidates from the submitted SOIs as it feels are qualified. Nominations will also be taken from the floor. The Committee serves for one year, is chaired by a Board Member who is not up for election, and is composed of at least four High Desert residential owners in good standing with the Association. There is no better way to learn about how our community works and to meet the people who make it happen.

Why Be a Board Director?

Since initial plans for the community were completed in 1991, technological, social, and climate changes continue to challenge High Desert’s sustainability as one of the most desirable places to live in the Albuquerque area. This is a unique time to influence and shape the future of our community as it addresses these changing needs and challenges. Serving on the Board is also a great opportunity to get to know and be known by the many volunteers and neighbors who live in the more than 1,600 homes in 25 villages across our 660 acres.

The seven Board Directors each serve two-year terms, which are staggered with positions opening every year in April. The Board elects its own officers annually. Any residential owner in good standing (see

the website, www.highdesertliving.net, for specific details) is eligible.

A Board of Directors with diverse skills and talents will best serve the needs of High Desert. Some examples of backgrounds that could be helpful include: business or management, legal, accounting/budgeting, contract management, security, community planning, etc. Experience on other boards or High Desert committees is also valuable. Naturally, people skills in working as a team and with teams is especially important.

How Much Time is Involved?

A member of the Nominating Committee can expect to spend about 10 hours from late January 2022 through March, depending on the number of candidates and other variables. A Board Director attends monthly meetings lasting about two hours and may devote significantly more time depending on position and level of involvement.

How do I Volunteer?

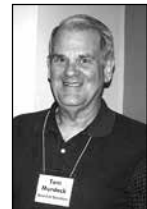
As with all High Desert volunteer opportunities, the process begins with a Statement of Interest (SOI). The form is available on the website at www.highdesertliving.net. Go to Documents & Forms, open Online Forms and scroll to “Statement of Interest Form for Volunteer Opportunities.” Select the Nominating Committee or Board of Directors box and complete the form. You must submit it online or deliver it to the HOAMCO office (10555 Montgomery Boulevard N.E., Building 1, Suite 100, Albuquerque, NM 87111).

Whichever delivery method is chosen, candidates for the Nominating Committee must submit a SOI by January 16, 2022, and candidates for the Board must submit a SOI by February 13, 2022.

Board Agrees to Rename Kiva Park “Tom Murdock Memorial Park”

The High Desert Board of Directors agreed to change the name of High Desert Kiva Park at Spain and Imperata to the “Tom Murdock Memorial Park” in memory of longtime community volunteer Tom Murdock who died in July. For more than 20 years, Tom served as a Board director, treasurer and president. He was also Race Director for several seasons of Run For The Hills, a trail race through High Desert that drew hundreds to the community each year.

“I think it is fitting that this beautiful High Desert park bear Tom’s name so that future homeowners will never forget the man who gave so much to our community,” said Reg Rider, Board President. A formal dedication with a monument will be held next year. Watch the website and February issue of the Apache Plume for announcements of the ceremony.



Tom Murdock

President's Summary

By Reg Rider, HDROA President



Reg Rider

I have been reflecting on what a great place the High Desert community is to live. Not only do we have wonderful vistas, in addition we have an energetic community of great volunteers who tirelessly work to keep this place the absolute best. As I was thinking about this article I started to add up just how many volunteers there are working in the interest of High Desert.

First are Voting Members—there are 44 primary and 44 alternates for a total of 88. Then we have the Board of Directors—another seven. We then have committees of which we currently have seven with an average membership of, let's say, five volunteers for a total of 35, and that is probably on the low side. That means that we have 130 or more residents of High Desert volunteering their time on a daily/weekly basis to make our community a great place to live.

Please, a great big THANK YOU to all these volunteers.

A Sustainable Community

The High Desert Community was designed to be a sustainable master-planned development, something that was unique at its inception, not just in the U.S., but in the world.

Here I am going to quote Peter Strascina, a longtime resident of High Desert.

"Namely, this 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."

Infrastructure such as utilities is all underground and subtle changes to the slope of roads, no curbing, and water settlement areas are built into the community so that runoff from rains is quietly dealt with. When it was built, High Desert was the only community where residents are expected to take the runoff off their neighbors and deal with it. Novel idea, right?

What We Take For Granted

I have had several conversations with new residents to our community over the past few months. These are individuals who I have run across at events around the city. To a person they are absolutely enamored with what we sometimes take for granted. Invariably, the conversation turns to the desert-scape in the yards, not lawns, as many are accustomed to. They admit to missing their lawns, but are learning to love the natural look.

Inflexible or Unique?

At first glance, the Guidelines and Covenants that lay out the rules for living in the High Desert community may seem inflexible and demanding. Looked at from a viewpoint as steps that are necessary to sustain a very unique "high desert" environment they sometimes do not appear to be enough, though. Please keep that in mind when you are contemplating changes to your home's landscape.

Again, a quote from Peter:

"We who are privileged to live here are not just homeowners. We're not just residing in another "nice neighborhood." Rather, we are residents of, and, in my opinion and in the vision of those who designed and developed HD, stewards of the land, the neighborhoods, the trails, the foothills—all of it."

That's all for now, please stay safe and enjoy our community.



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Manager's Message



By *Lynnette Rodriguez,*
Community Association Manager

Lynnette Rodriguez

photos of work in your village.

We are starting concrete work in the gated villages this upcoming month. You can track the progress at <https://www.highdesertmaintenance.com>. Select your village and the pertinent information will be listed. You can also view completed stucco work and see

Work Orders Go Through Your Voting Members

We look forward to continuing to improve our communication with the residents in High Desert. As a reminder, if you have a work order request for a gated village please work through your village Voting Member who will fill out a work order request form. HOAMCO tracks those work orders and communicates directly with your Voting Member.

If you are unsure who your Voting Member is or how to contact him or her, go to the High Desert website at www.highdesertliving.net and click on villages and then either Gated Villages or Non-Gated Villages. Your representative and contact information will be shown.

Gates

Why are the gated village gates sometimes left open? We often hear that question in the office. Gates are held open during high

winds to prevent damage. At HOAMCO we monitor wind speeds and will open or shut the gates as needed. If you feel your village's gates are open for another reason, please call the office or the emergency contact number after hours.

Who Do You Call?

The emergency phone number for High Desert is 505-221-0189 to report gate malfunctions, irrigation leaks or any other Association emergencies. Any life threatening emergency should be handled by calling 911. After you contact 911, then immediately call the G4S officer at 505-485-8949.

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WHERE IS RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE HEADING?

The U.S. and Albuquerque housing market is hot right now. So hot, in fact, that buyers are paying over asking prices a lot of times, and inventory sits at record lows. The merging of factors that have led to this point has many comparing the current market to the previous housing bubble. However, comparing the current housing market to that of the early 2000s is not exactly apples to apples. Before sounding the alarm, consider the economic indicators that paint the truest picture of the current housing market to understand what will probably happen next.

Home Prices

Home prices are rising at a pace similar to that of 2006-right before the last housing bubble burst. September saw a 13.2% year over year price increase, the largest jump since December 2005. However, the next month's number actually exceeds August's extraordinary gain, coming in at 14.6% year over year growth in September. With home prices continuing to accelerate, some might think the market is heading toward a drop. However, the reality is the booming housing market at the moment is not necessarily translating to inflationary pressures.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI), a metric used for inflation that is supposed to represent the average change over time in the prices consumers pay for goods and services, including housing, has increased 5.4% over the past 12 months. However, when you look specifically at the Consumer Price Index for shelter (which includes rental payments, mortgages, etc.), you see that number increased only 2.6% in the past year. This means housing is actually acting as a deflationary pressure on the overall CPI at the current moment. In other words, the rapid increase in housing prices is not driving headline inflation.

Inventory And New Construction

A major contributing factor to the last housing bubble and 2008-2009 recession was excess housing supply. At that time, home prices were increasing at the same time that more supply (new construction) was being built on top of an already excess supply of homes. Now, the opposite is happening: the housing market is being driven by a limited supply and heavy demand.

Demand is further pent-up because of the lingering impact of Covid-19. Supply chain issues and restrictions slowed new construction, and this played out during the first half of this year in the price of lumber. Demand for new homes was such that lumber prices rose more than 30% from January through May, before that bubble burst in June. Now that housing starts and new building permits are increasing, even if the Fed bumps up interest rates a bit, it's likely housing demand will remain strong. And with such low housing inventory, the market can likely build above historic averages for some time before offsetting the equilibrium of supply and demand.

A POSITIVE OUTLOOK

Being a "Glass ½ Full" kind of guy, I think the housing market will continue to do well in Albuquerque. I'm not sure about some other markets in the Country (like San Francisco, LA, Denver, and others) because they have gone up too much too fast. But we still lag behind most markets when it comes to appreciation, and I think with all the companies moving in (Netflix, Facebook, Amazon, Intel, etc...), the future looks bright!



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High Desert Patrol Report: July-Sept. 2021

Call Type:	July	August	Sept.	Call Type:	July	August	Sept.
CRIMINAL/				Gate Issues	0	0	0
CRITICAL EVENTS:	—	—	—	Street Lights/Maintenance	0	0	0
Assault/Fight	0	1	0	OTHER:	—	—	—
Breaking/Entering: Home	0	1	0	Animal Control Calls	0	0	0
Breaking/Entering: Vehicle	9	0	0	Abandoned Vehicle Calls	0	1	1
Construction Site Burglary	0	0	0	Snake Calls	1	0	0
Dwelling Fire	0	0	0	Vacation Home Checks	47	30	34
Vehicle Fire	0	0	0	Security Inspection	200	192	178
Grass/Wild Fires	0	0	0				
Medical Emergency	0	0	0				
Alarms	1	0	0				
Suspicious Person/Vehicle	3	4	0				
Vandalism	1	7	0				
TRAFFIC EVENTS:	—	—	—				
Vehicle Crash	0	0	0				
Parking Violations	4	3	1				
PREVENTION & NUISANCE:	—	—	—				
Loud Music/Party Noise	2	1	0				
Salesperson/Solicitor	0	0	0				
Open Door/Window/Garage	4	4	0				
Notices Posted on Residences	0	0	0				
Pool Issues	0	0	0				
QUALITY OF LIFE:	—	—	—				
(Lost) Children	0	0	1				
(Lost) Pets	0	0	0				
(Lost) Property	1	0	0				

Security Contact Numbers:

- In the event of a true emergency (a crime in progress or a life-threatening situation) call **911** 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.



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Jessica Hammond,
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Dr. David Carey would like to introduce you to High Desert Dermatology's newest providers— Jessica Hammond, PA-C and Juanita Feuchter, PA-C. We are very excited to bring two more providers to the team at High Desert Dermatology. Both new providers are currently in training under Dr. Carey, so you can expect the same level of compassionate and skilled care that we pride ourselves in here at High Desert Dermatology. Our new providers will enable us to shorten the wait time for new appointments, and allow us to increase the number of appointments that are available on Saturdays.



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Adopted Section of Tramway Clean & Tidy Thanks to Work of High Desert Volunteers

By Michele Leshner, Tramway Cleanup Project Chair

If you drove on Tramway between Academy and Spain last month, you might have noticed that it seemed like a “trash bomb” went off in the median. Fast forward to today – it is neat as a pin, thanks to the 13 volunteers who turned out for our most recent Adopt-a-Highway event on Saturday, October 16 to clean up miles nine and 10 of Tramway Blvd.

We started at the 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. We accumulated 30 full bags of trash, and a large amount of lumber, cardboard, carpet and other construction materials. My mom used to say “Many hands make light work,” and she had that right. It was amazing how much we got accomplished in just two hours!

Please join me in thanking the following stalwart volunteers for their efforts:

- Barbara and Dan Balik (Highlands)
- Howard Friedman (West Highlands)
- Dan Kropp, Laura Krimksy (Canyons)
- Jim DeBlois (Tierra del Oso)
- Meghan List (Chamisa Trail)
- Susan Camp (Desert Highlands)
- Janet Brierley, Geoff Schuster (Sunset Ridge)
- Julie and Steve Hartig, Shirley Scott (Overlook)



To keep our adoption active, we are committed to holding a formal event twice per year. I am thinking our next cleanup will be sometime in April 2022. If you are interested in volunteering please drop me an email at mlesher222@comcast.net and I will add you to my list!



Chris Ridgway
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13522 Elena Gallegos PL NE \$950,000

13505 Piedra Grande PI NE \$870,000

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1570 Eagle Ridge Ct NE \$785,000

13516 Embudo View CT NE \$775,000

1567 Eagle Ridge CT \$651,000

24 Sandia Heights DR NE \$760,000

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46 Circle DR NE \$550,000

532 Vulcan Vista DR NE \$370,000

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*Have You Ever Wondered...?***Archeological Sites Around High Desert Include Pueblitos, Pottery***By Bomi Parakh, Wilderness Cañon*

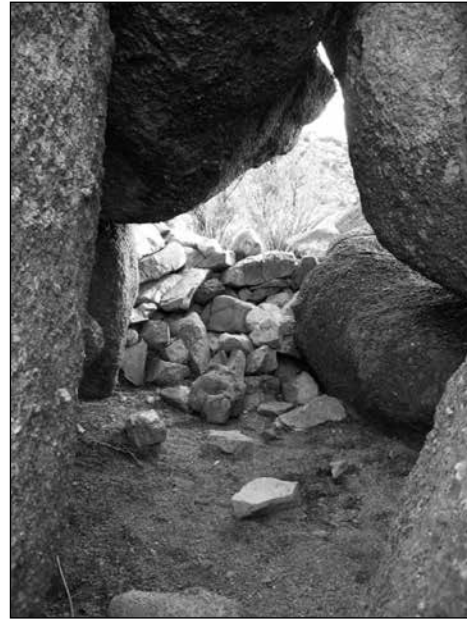
Have you ever wondered if our HDROA area was home to other civilizations and cultures?

Dr. Hayward Franklin, who works with the Maxwell Museum and the Albuquerque Archeological Society, has published research on the fascinating story of our piece of real estate. He says there is evidence of early habitation of this area based on a number of archeological sites in the Sandia Foothills, some of which are within our HDROA area.

“Because the Sandia Foothills were along the margins of large washes or permanent springs, i.e., places with water, they attracted inhabitants over the centuries”, says Dr. Franklin. The Embudito and Pino Canyons, which mark the outer boundaries of High Desert are examples of such water sources and archeological sites.

The Bear Canyon site (located in another wash and in the High Desert vicinity) is one that has been scientifically explored. In the early 1980s, the Albuquerque Academy excavated seven rooms at this site. To date, this site’s report and artifact analysis remains the most thorough scientific examination of a Foothills pueblo. Over 2,024 shards of pottery have been recovered from this site. This Foothills pueblo was occupied until A.D. 1425 and was small (with an estimated 15 rooms) like the other Foothills pueblos. The lack of a permanent water source put a cap on the number of human residents that were supported in these Foothills pueblos.

There were at least eight Foothills pueblos. These pueblos did not exist on their own; they were closely allied to larger ones down



A boulder shelter in Embudito Canyon

ing game in the Foothills.

Intermittent Spanish military incursions began in 1540, and the Foothills then served as a refuge from European colonization and religious persecution. There are historic accounts by Spanish authorities of “fleeing Indians” who had left for their home up in the Foothills.

Most pueblo occupation and use of the Sandia Foothills ceased with the Pueblo Revolt of A.D. 1680. After the Pueblo revolt, the returning Spanish government gave large portions of land to Spanish families as a reward for assistance during the revolt. One of them was the Elena Gallegos Grant. There is another partly destroyed pueblo site with room-blocks near the duck-pond in the Elena Gallegos Open Space (also in the HDROA area vicinity).

Foothill settlements were always at the whim of climactic fluctuations. When climactic conditions were good (as in A.D. 1300-1450), human populations flourished. But when streams ran dry (as in the middle 1500s), there was reduced human inhabitation of the Foothills.

In the mid-1800s, Euromericans began entering the Foothills for farming and ranching. A wetter period in the early 1900s encouraged grazing in the Foothills especially of sheep. Evidence of corals, pens and fences are present in many places. A shepherd’s cabin stands at the mouth of Domingo Baca Canyon. Grazing ceased with the drought of early 1950s.

Researchers aren’t surprised by the absence of archeological sites in the Foothills dating from the time people first entered the Americas through 1000 B.C.; any usage during those times is difficult to document because of the unstable geological setting of the Sandia Foothills and resulting soil erosion.

Dr. Franklin thoughtfully adds, “although the Sandia Foothills area may not be Chaco Canyon or Mesa Verde in grandeur, these simple upland camps do have a compelling story to tell.”

Reference: Ancient Pueblitos of the Sandia Foothills by Hayward H. Franklin, Maxwell Museum, UNM.

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Treasurer's Report: Fiscal Year-to-Date Sept. 30, 2021 — By Ray Berg, Treasurer



Ray Berg

The status of the Association finances continues to be good. In addition to the normal activities for the various funds of the Association, there are a few noteworthy items that I would like to call to your attention.

- For one of the Gated Villages (GV), we had the Master Reserve Account make a cash loan to the village's Reserve Fund. This allowed the GV Fund to pay for a necessary expense without cashing in the Reserve account's CD before it's maturity. The money will be paid back when the CD matures. This is one way we can take care of expenses and save a little money in the Reserve Account.
- The Gated Village CC&R Supplement Amendments have been completed, so the charges for all GVs are now more consistent. This was done so all of the Gated Villages would be treated the same with respect to some of the charges that were made to their operating and reserve accounts, a requirement of the CC&Rs.
- The Master Landscape expenses are still a little high as we try to create a better organized maintenance process. At this point the landscape company is still catching up with the required workload and organizing the workload to be more efficient. This process is being organized and coordinated by the new Landscape Consultant, Jim Montoya.
- All of the Reserve Accounts are now being transferred to Alliance Bank, where we have all of our other money, as the CDs mature. This will make our operations more efficient when we need to move money around among our various accounts.

The status of the Reserve Funds for the Association continues to reflect the investments we are making in our community. One of the largest of these is our continued work on rehabilitating our walls so they will last into the future. The status of all of the wall

maintenance projects can be viewed on the contractor's wall project website, available from Erin at the High Desert office.

Over the past several weeks, we have held several informational sessions with Michael Franciosi, the HOAMCO Vice President of Operations. Michael's discussions centered around several key issues with our financial reports. First of all, he pointed out that we use accrual accounting, which means that "estimates" of charges that are expected or not yet paid are entered in the system instead of actual expenses. In successive months, when actual bills are received and paid, credits and debits are made to the accounts to reflect the actual value. The accrual system is used to arrive at more accurate estimates of the financial state of the Association. These estimates are also used in the financial reports that are presented to the Board and to the Voting Members. This also means that the numbers in a line item don't necessarily reflect the actual cash in the account at any moment since an unpaid bill may use an estimate of the amount. • See more Treasurer's Reports on page 11 •

Reserve Account Balances	
Q1 FY2021-22	
MASTER	513,770.24
ARROYO	107,700.47
CANYONS	199,172.75
CHACO CMPD	63,997.65
DESERT MTN	251,419.92
ENCLAVE	109,108.56
TRILLIUM	235,137.00
WILDERNESS CMPD	104,721.60
LEGENDS	123,139.15
WILDERNESS CANON	15,571.43
CASH TOTALS	\$1,723,738.77

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High Desert Treasurer's Reports

HDROA Income/Expense Report YTD as of 30 September 2021

Accounts	Actual	Budget
Income		
<u>INCOME</u>		
4100 - HOMEOWNER ASSESSMENTS	\$292,140.00	\$292,140.00
4200 - COST SHARING - ALTEZZA	\$21,702.98	\$21,289.53
4310 - ASSESSMENT INTEREST	\$0.10	\$500.01
4330 - ASSESSMENT LATE FEES	\$0.00	\$750.00
4350 - LEGAL/COLLECTION FEES	\$90.00	\$2,499.99
4600 - INTEREST INCOME	\$21.70	\$500.00
INCOME	\$313,954.78	\$317,679.53
8900 - TRANSFER TO RESERVES	(\$20,000.00)	(\$20,000.00)
Total Income	\$293,954.78	\$297,679.53
Expense		
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u>		
5150 - ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PR	\$18,082.85	\$19,737.00
5250 - BANK CHARGES	\$0.00	\$37.50
5400 - INSURANCE	\$6,109.27	\$4,173.00
5530 - LIEN/COLLECTION COSTS	\$30.00	\$262.50
5625 - OPERATIONAL SUPPORT	\$676.37	\$525.00
5650 - BOARD/VOTING MEMBER MEETINGS	\$1,595.26	\$1,050.00
5800 - OFFICE EXPENSE	(\$294.27)	\$375.00
5820 - PRINTING	(\$219.21)	\$1,875.00
5840 - MAILINGS	\$2,930.80	\$1,875.00
5850 - BILLING STATEMENTS	\$1,110.23	\$2,625.00
8600 - RESERVE STUDY	\$0.00	\$0.00
<u>LANDSCAPE</u>		
6300 - LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE	\$81,152.89	\$90,750.00
6305 - LANDSCAPE CONSULTANT	\$25,868.83	\$16,250.01
6310 - LANDSCAPE REPLACEMENT	\$0.00	\$2,499.99
6330 - LANDSCAPE OTHER	\$0.00	\$2,499.99
6340 - ARROYO & POND MAINTENANCE	\$0.00	\$5,000.01
6350 - EROSION CONTROL	\$0.00	\$2,625.00
6360 - IRRIGATION REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	\$1,648.44	\$6,249.99
6370 - PET CLEANUP	\$2,250.00	\$2,250.00
6380 - TRAIL MAINTENANCE	\$636.82	\$2,499.99
6395 - LANDSCAPE PROJECTS - MASTER PLAN	\$3,408.85	\$5,000.01
<u>MAINTENANCE</u>		
6100 - GATE & GUARDHOUSE MAINTENANCE	\$1,227.50	\$999.99
6575 - SIGN/ENTRY MAINTENANCE	\$21.97	\$1,250.01
6600 - SNOW REMOVAL	\$0.00	\$0.00
6850 - LOCKS & KEYS	\$0.00	\$125.01
<u>PROFESSIONAL FEES</u>		
5100 - ACCOUNTING/TAX PREP FEES	\$6,364.63	\$0.00
5270 - CONSULTING	\$11,018.09	\$12,500.01
5500 - LEGAL FEES-COLLECTION/SMALL CLAIMS	\$2,079.77	\$5,000.01
5501 - LEGAL-GENERAL SERVICES	\$3,855.85	\$7,500.00
5600 - ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT	\$36,699.09	\$36,750.00
8200 - SECURITY SERVICES	\$55,038.95	\$56,250.00
8201 - SECURITY-APD & BCSD	\$715.00	\$5,499.99
<u>TAXES/OTHER EXPENSES</u>		
5200 - ALLOWANCE FOR DOUBTFUL ACCOUNTS	\$0.00	\$1,250.01
5860 - COMMUNITY EVENTS	\$767.10	\$2,499.99
5870 - WELCOME COMMITTEE	\$0.00	\$300.00
5900 - WEBSITE	\$1,269.69	\$2,499.99
8250 - MISCELLANEOUS	\$1,019.41	\$500.01
8400 - HDROA OFFICE	\$2,333.10	\$2,499.99
8800 - TAXES - CORPORATE	\$0.00	\$6,187.00
<u>UTILITIES</u>		
7100 - ELECTRICITY	\$811.48	\$875.01
7500 - TELEPHONE	\$255.00	\$275.01
7900 - WATER/SEWER	\$28,457.41	\$30,000.00
Total Expense	\$296,921.17	\$340,922.02
Operating Net Income	(\$2,966.39)	(\$43,242.49)

HDROA Gated Villages Income/Expense Report YTD as of 30 September 2021

Canyons	
INCOME	\$ 6,437.51
TRANSFER TO RESERVES	(1,750.00)
EXPENSES	2,562.37
OPERATING NET INCOME (LOSS)	2,125.14
Chaco Compound	
INCOME	\$ 3,036.82
TRANSFER TO RESERVES	(1,875.00)
EXPENSES	929.60
OPERATING NET INCOME (LOSS)	232.22
Desert Mountain	
INCOME	\$ 29,702.78
TRANSFER TO RESERVES	(11,250.00)
EXPENSES	26,866.30
OPERATING NET INCOME (LOSS)	(8,413.52)
The Enclave	
INCOME	\$ 7,326.89
TRANSFER TO RESERVES	(2,000.00)
EXPENSES	2,590.82
OPERATING NET INCOME (LOSS)	2,736.07
Trillium	
INCOME	\$ 12,747.89
TRANSFER TO RESERVES	(3,750.00)
EXPENSES	5,895.99
OPERATING NET INCOME (LOSS)	3,101.90
Wilderness Compound	
INCOME	\$ 3,901.64
TRANSFER TO RESERVES	(750.00)
EXPENSES	1,572.63
OPERATING NET INCOME (LOSS)	1,579.01
The Legends	
INCOME	\$ 8,496.88
TRANSFER TO RESERVES	(1,750.00)
EXPENSES	5,743.16
OPERATING NET INCOME (LOSS)	1,003.72
Wilderness Canon	
INCOME	\$ 2,412.84
TRANSFER TO RESERVES	(1,250.00)
EXPENSES	804.36
OPERATING NET INCOME (LOSS)	358.48
Total Gated Villages Income	\$ 74,063.25
Total Transfer to Reserves	(24,375.00)
Total Gated Villages Expenses	46,965.23
Total Operating Net Income	\$ 2,723.02

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Wildfires In and Around High Desert... Looking Back at Lessons Learned

Three and a half years ago a fast-moving fire in High Desert burned seven acres and damaged 10 houses. In June 2019 another wildfire burned 56 Open Space acres just east of High Desert near the Michial Emery Trailhead. On June 25, 2020 a fire in Glenwood Hills burned fire acres and forced evacuation of four houses.

The first two fires prompted the formation of the High Desert Fire Prevention Working Group by Camille Singaraju which soon became the Fire Preparedness Committee now under the leadership of homeowner Judy Pierson.

The group focuses on educating residents on steps they can take to protect their home and reduce fire risk. The Committee started a pilot project last summer using goat herds to reduce weeds instead of using mechanized tools, machinery or chemicals. Twenty households have participated in the pilot project and results will be released next spring.

The Committee is working with the Board of Directors to promote “fire-safe” landscaping around High Desert houses. But Judy says there is no set of rules and regulations that will prevent all fires. “It’s not a question of *if* we will get another fire,” she says, “but *when* we will get one.”

Russ Rhoades was in his house on Pino Canyon Place in Desert Highlands the afternoon of May 15, 2018 when he looked out his window and noticed “a small fire” in an empty field about 100 yards away to the south west behind Elena Gallegos Place. Some work activity was going on nearby and Russ said it looked like the fire was being attended to. But the wind began to increase and the



This aerial shot above Elena Gallegos Place clearly highlights the scorched earth around High Desert houses after the May 2018 fire. Seven acres were burned and 10 houses had exterior damage to walls, windows and landscaping. One home had to be entirely vacated and repaired for more than six months due to extensive smoke damage, cracked windows and burned walls.

fire began to move. “The wind was pushing toward Pino Canyon Place and the fire was spreading very rapidly,” Russ said. He went outside where his neighbors were beginning to gather their hoses in an attempt to link them together to head off the flames. Russ headed down to the fire to look more closely but the wind grew stronger, quickly changing direction, spreading the fire to the east up the open space and arroyo between Pino Canyon and Elena Gallegos. He began to run back toward his house. “But I couldn’t

Continued on page 13

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Wildfire *From Page 12*

outrun it," he said. "The fire was beating me up the street along the open space feeding on all the high grass and shrubs."

Passing delivery trucks stopped and two men jumped out with fire extinguishers to help. Since fire trucks were not yet visible Russ' initial instinct was to help put out the fire. Whether evacuating by car was an option was questionable as traffic congestion was occurring at the street entry. A fire department official arrived and ordered Russ and his neighbors to evacuate their homes and not to endanger themselves fighting the fire. "So I just stood outside with my pets and extended hoses and watched," Russ recalled. The fire never jumped across Pino Canyon Place, "but it was pretty scary watching it."

Russ's neighbor on Pinon Canyon Place is Bob Murphy. His wife was home that day, smelled smoke, called 911 and her husband. Bob arrived home shortly afterwards. He gathered hoses with his neighbors and watched as the fire spread quickly and was finally brought under control. "I think it was an eye-opener for all of us watching," he said. "First, it started so easily. And secondly, it moved fast and got so quickly out of control." The natural landscaping throughout High Desert is beautiful, he said, "but it can be the perfect fuel for fires. Now we make sure all our grass and shrubs are trimmed every year. And I got rid of the pile of firewood stacked against the house."

On Elena Gallegos Place one homeowner couple who asked not to be identified sustained extensive damage from the fire. That day, a smoke alarm went off in their house and they were notified. Neither of the two were at home but the husband left work right away. When he turned onto Academy East he said he saw a "huge pillar of black smoke" in the vicinity of his home. Trucks blocked him from

the street so he drove to another nearby street and ran to his house through backyards. When he opened his door a wall of smoke met him along with his frantic dog. "I let the dog out into the yard and left the house," he said. "A fireman was on the roof checking for damage and others were in the arroyo fighting the fire."

Afterwards, he and his wife assessed the damage. Windows had melted from the heat, the stucco privacy walls were scorched and one house wall had burned. All carpets, curtains, clothing, mattresses and furniture sustained extensive smoke damage and needed to be replaced. "We had to rent an apartment in Uptown for six months while repairs were made," he said. All of his landscaping was destroyed as well. Some of his neighbors' homes on Elena Gallegos were also damaged by the fire. "Two nearby houses had cracked windows from the heat and damaged outside walls," he said.

He and his wife have advice for High Desert homeowners. "Invest in a good smoke alarm," he said. "Look over your homeowners' insurance carefully and see what it covers in the event of fire." And they had a professional, high grade sprinkler system installed in their yard beyond their privacy walls.

Russ said although his neighbor to the east, beyond the end of the street, did experience some wall and landscape damage, he knows how fortunate he and his neighbors on Pino Canyon Place were that day when the fire failed to jump the road to their homes. "I'm definitely more aware of fire now," he said. "It can move fast and you have to be prepared."

High Desert homeowners interested in fire preparedness can go to the High Desert website at www.highdesertliving.net. Click on High Desert Living at the top and then go to Fire Safety.



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Compliance Officer Report



**Stefan
Nicholishen**

By Stefan Nicholishen, Compliance Officer
Hello and welcome to another copy of the Apache Plume. As the new compliance officer for High Desert, I will be writing a column on pertinent topics for homeowners in each issue.

Thank you all for keeping your yards clean and High Desert a beautiful place. Many of you have either reached out to me or taken it upon yourselves to correct any violations and for that I thank you. Please continue to reach

out within the first 14 days if you receive a courtesy notice so we can work on a plan to correct the issue.

This quarter's compliance report will talk about the holiday seasons coming up, the cooler months ahead and HVAC units.

In response to the holidays coming up, I look forward to seeing all the beautiful holiday decorations. However, please remember these should be put up and taken down within a reasonable time.

In addition, please make sure to keep your neighbors in mind when you are choosing items and where you put them.

As the weather begins to cool, we will begin to see snow soon. Salt is a great option for getting rid of ice on your drive way, just remember that salt can also be bad for concrete. We recommend removing the salt as soon as possible to avoid rapid deterioration. Recently I have been looking at roofs and I have seen a lot of HVAC units that can be seen from the road. A reminder to all residents is that all AC units need to be visually screened from the road or painted to match the color of the home.

The beautiful colors of the leaves changing are a wonderful sight

in High Desert, however it does also mean more clean up because they will be falling. Thank you for your continued help in keeping High Desert a wonderful place. Please email me at Stefan@hoamco.com if you have any questions.

Contracts Committee Report



Lynn Claffy

By Lynn Claffy, Contracts Committee Chair

All three of High Desert's major contracts (HOA Management, Landscape Maintenance and Security Patrol) are up for renewal next spring. All three have one-year extensions that can be exercised at High Desert's discretion. The Request for Proposal (RFP) process for these contracts is roughly nine months long.

The process starts in November/December by creating or updating the RFP. It is then sent to the vendors in January with formal, written responses due back in February. The Contracts Committee then evaluates the abilities and pricing of the vendors. After a vendor is selected, the contract is negotiated in May/June and is effective at the start of High Desert's fiscal year, July 1. The Contracts Committee attempts to put out for bid one contract per year; but with all three contracts expiring at the same time, the Contracts Committee asked the Board of Directors at its October meeting which of the three should be bid first. The Board voted to extend all three contracts by one year. The Contracts Committee will then ask the Board to decide which to bid in 2023, with the goal of staggering the end dates so that they do not expire at the same time. The reality is that the number of vendors who are large enough and willing to handle the needs of an association like High Desert is shrinking.



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High Desert Facing Issue of Night Sky Light Pollution

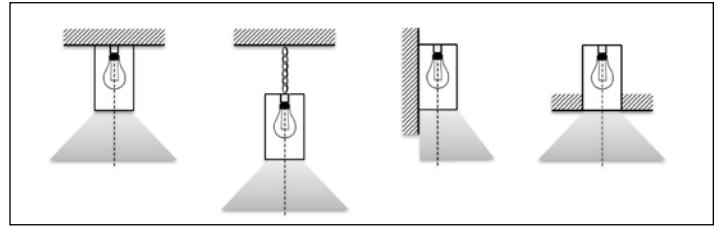
By Doug Weigle, Sunset Ridge Voting Member

The High Desert community is a beautiful place to live! We, as residents continue to benefit and enjoy the natural setting as our 25 subdivisions blend seamlessly into the desert terrain. We have the original developers and designers to thank for their careful planning of homes nestled into the foothills surrounded by natural beauty.

The High Desert governing documents strive to set forth guidelines to preserve the original design concept of beautiful homes complementing the natural desert environment. In keeping with that overall goal, the community has exterior night lighting standards which were created to preserve our beautiful night skies and views all of us enjoy. Exterior "Up Lighting" of our home, or trees, or even security floodlights can be a major problem for our neighbors, impacting their ability to enjoy the night skies. It warrants each of us to take a second look at how the exterior lighting we've added over the years may be in violation of our rules. None of us wants to be "that neighbor" who is a night sky light polluter.

Some of those rules are summarized as follows:

- All exterior lighting should be shielded from view to minimize the potential glare toward other lots, streets or public. Special care must be taken when lighting homes that are visible from land at lower elevations.
- An excessive number of fixtures, or excess light levels, or glare will not be allowed.
- Exposed or visible bare light bulbs are not permitted under any



The High Desert Guidelines for Sustainability require exterior fixtures to be located and oriented to focus light downward to minimize light spillage. Exterior lights must be fully shielded (as shown above), partially shielded or filtered through a frosted or semi-opaque lens.

circumstances.

- Accent lighting must be directed onto vegetation or prominent site features, such as boulders and not upon the building.
- No lighting will be permitted in natural areas, except as described in the Guidelines for Sustainability
- Living space lighting must be confined to areas enclosed by walls, unless screened by landscaping
- Lighting of plant materials shall be achieved with hidden light sources.
- Up-lighting of residence or vegetation including trees, or landscape features, is not allowed.
- Exterior fixtures shall be located and oriented to focus light downward to minimize light encroachment onto our neighboring residences.
- Building mounted lighting must be directed downward away from adjacent lots, streets and open spaces and may not be used to light walls or building elements for decorative purposes.
- Exterior fixtures mounted on buildings shall be no higher than the line of the first story eave or, where no eave exists, no higher than 12 feet above finished grade and shall be fully shielded, or partially shielded or filtered. This requirement also applies to lighting of decks, porch, and portico areas.

Converting From Incandescent to LEDs

Many of us are converting from older incandescent bulbs to energy-efficient LED bulbs. There are many choices with LED bulbs, so please remember that both the "color" of the bulbs you choose and their brightness are important. The manufacturer will list a temperature for LED bulbs, and High Desert requires that "color temperature" to be in the range of 2700 - 3000 Kelvin. Instead of measuring brightness by watts, LED bulbs now list lumens. For High Desert, the total lumens per light fixture must be less than 1200 lumens, which is about the same amount of light as a 120 watt incandescent bulb.

Let's All Do Our Part

If we all do our part in limiting night sky light pollution as neighbors helping neighbors, our views will be even more incredible than ever! I want to thank everyone in advance for their cooperation to improve our night views of the sky and city.

The specific guidelines and requirements can be found on pages 21 thru 24 of the Builders Guidelines documents on our website at www.highdesertliving.net. Click on Official Documents from the homepage and then on Governing Documents, See Builders Guidelines at the top right side of the page.



Happy Holidays
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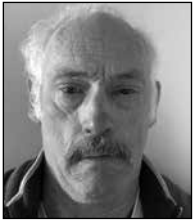
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*High Desert Crime Prevention***Where Is My Mail? What You Can Do To Prevent Mail Theft**

By Geoff Shuster,
Crime Prevention Committee



Geoff Shuster

“Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds” book 8, paragraph 98, of *The Persian Wars* by Herodotus, and adopted as the unofficial motto of the U.S. Post Office. However, sometimes the theft of mail from your mailbox can be a problem. What can be done to prevent or reduce the consequences of mail theft?

A Few Things You Can Do

There are several things we can all do. Some are simple such as picking up your mail every day rather than waiting until the next morning. Also, if you know when mail is delivered to your neighborhood you can post letters for pickup before your mail is delivered. You can also reduce or eliminate sending checks in the mail by using direct deposits and automatic payments for bills linked to your checking account. Don't send cash through the mail because its theft can't be tracked. Gift cards, money orders and personal checks can be traced when cashed.

Thieves Are Looking For Checks

Police say thieves are looking for checks they can alter along with personal information that can be used to create fake credit cards or charge accounts. Identity theft is the greatest mail theft-

related risk. Reduce any of your mail with that type of information by signing up with specific businesses or government agencies in order to communicate online.

Know What's Going On In Your Neighborhood

Being aware of what is happening in your neighborhood is another important step. Nextdoor (<https://nextdoor.com>) is the free and private social network where you can register as the resident of a specific High Desert neighborhood and read what your neighbors post. It's available on Web, iOS, and Android. By staying in touch with your neighbors you can find out if others are having similar problems and what solutions may work.



Sign Up For "Informed Delivery"

"Informed Delivery®" is a free and optional notification feature from the U. S. Post office that gives homeowners the ability to digitally preview their letter-sized mail each day in their email and manage any packages scheduled for delivery. You will need to create an online account with the post office and then you can check impending mail deliveries by digital preview. If you fail to receive a letter or package that you saw was scheduled to arrive that day, you'll have the information you need to begin tracking it down or

Continued on Page 19

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Where Is My Mail?

—From Page 18

requesting another copy. The website to register is:
https://reg.usps.com/entreg/RegistrationPortalAction_input

Vacation Holds

Don't let your mail pile up in your mailbox. Request a vacation hold from the Post Office even if you will be gone for just a few days. This can be done at a post office or online. If you have an informed delivery account, you can check whether the mail has been stopped. Of course, having a trusted neighbor collect your mail while you are away is another option. Finally, report suspected mail losses to Postal Inspectors by calling 877-876-2455 or at www.uspis.gov.

Cluster Box Break-ins

Cluster boxes throughout Albuquerque have been the target of thieves who attempt to pry open the doors, bust them open with bats or even remove them altogether from their pads. Some High Desert cluster boxes were also targeted.

"Interfering with a cluster box is a federal crime," Reg Rider told homeowners at a recent Town Hall meeting. "If you are the first to see damage, call the police and then call the Postal Inspection Service." High Desert association and HOAMCO are not authorized to respond to any mailbox or cluster box crimes.

Mail theft and destruction of a mail receptacle are both felony federal offenses, the former being punishable by five years in prison and fines of up to \$250,000.

Reg noted that the Post Office has replaced damaged cluster boxes in High Desert with new, high security boxes with reinforced steel doors and central pillars.

Are You Painting Your House? Check to See If Color Is Approved

As our houses age, we face the task of touching up paint in places like trim and doors. Please consider whether you need High Desert approval before starting to paint.

If you are using the same paint color as previously approved, then no approval is needed. If you are making a change, or are unsure that the color was previously approved, then please file a modification request.

The general guidance is for accent colors on features like front doors and window sashes to be chosen so they don't overwhelm the building's basic color or create a visual distraction. Remember that some villages have supplemental guidelines that are more restrictive so check your village supplemental guidelines, which are available at www.highdesertliving.net.

If you have questions, please contact HOAMCO at 505-314-5862.

Walk Against Traffic On HD Streets

When sidewalks are not available, all walkers and runners must face oncoming traffic when they take to High Desert streets. It's the law. New Mexico statute requires that anyone walking in the road should always walk on the side against approaching cars.

Too many High Desert homeowners walk on the right-hand side of the road, with cars approaching in the same lane behind them. Drivers aren't sure if you see them and with more and more electric cars out there, you may not hear them. If you walk against the traffic you can step even further from the road as the car passes, reducing your chances of becoming a statistic.



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Take A Hike!

By Mary Martin and Bill Freer, High Desert Website Liaisons

Hopefully by now most of you have had time to wander through our new website at *HighDesertLiving.net*. If not, go for it.

For 15 years the old website served very well. But hey, things change and the site had to as well.

During months of design, writing and programming, High Desert residents worked with StudioX in Santa Fe to develop a totally new web experience for our community. Tom Murdock, our late friend and neighbor, was invaluable in providing historical information. Susan Camp was amazing at organization, guidance and proofing, and various resident-photographers applied their talents to the site. Janet St. John keeps it current.

One important aspect of the new site is that it showcases the beauty of this place we call home. We are incredibly lucky to live here and to enjoy the nature that surrounds us. So please share some of your best pictures of glorious sunsets or baby deer. After all, this is YOUR newsletter. Email pictures to hdwebcom21@gmail.com

Part of the challenge was to put an enormous amount of important information in a relatively simple navigation system. So there are five main navigation buttons, each with its own drop-down menus for more detail.

You Can Get There From Here. One new thing is that there's an entire section about HIGH DESERT LIVING. Included are important information for new residents, about volunteer opportunities, fire safety and lots more.

Take a look at the VILLAGES section. You'll find what makes your own gated or non-gated village special. And please use the sign-up form to represent your village. You'll help maintain prop-

erty values, elect Board members and more. C'mon, we need your voice!

The huge chunk of knowledge, guidance and data is under DOCUMENTS & FORMS. There's everything from HD governing documents and policies to Modifications & New Construction Committee requirements. There are also links to key forms you might need, including Vacation Watch, Change of Address, HOA dues payment forms. They make communicating easy!

The NEWS section opens up to brand new and archived copies of the Apache Plume (your favorite newsletter!), all recent website postings and a calendar. You should know you are encouraged to attend Townhall and other meetings, and the schedule is right there.

Be sure to use the CONTACT button to get things like phone and email addresses for emergencies and the G4S Security patrol, not to mention contact information for your own village's Voting Members & Alternates.

The Infobox. On the homepage you'll see a white box that changes when important new information is added to the site. It often has a link to the particular subject, whether it's new election notifications, fire hazard recommendations or best planting practices.

One-Step Access. Try this: Scroll all the way down to the bottom of any page to the darker band. In this "footer" you'll find shortcuts to basic information, emergency contacts and the most-used online forms.

So please go poke around the website, get the information you need about new stucco or roof colors, landscaping, approved plants and more. It's all there waiting for you.

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- Pat & Rob D., Los Alamos/Sandia Labs Scientists

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September 11, 2001: *A Personal Account*

By Lynnette Rodriguez, Community Manager, HOAMCO

Where were you when the world stopped turning? I hear this being asked and answered with stories by almost everyone I speak to about 9/11. I would like to share with you where I was that day and the devastation my family endured the day my dad never came home again....

It was the first week of my senior year of high school in Staten Island, New York. I remember sitting in class and the front office staff announced over the loud speaker that a plane crashed into the World Trade Center. I remember thinking to myself that it was odd, but I assumed it was an accidental tragedy for those on the plane and went about my school work. Soon thereafter a voice came over the loud speaker again and announced that a second plane went into the other tower. At this point, panic took over my school. I was told that first responders were heading to the site to help save the people in the towers who couldn't get out. I didn't think my dad would be part of this since he hadn't even graduated from the fire academy and was still considered a "proby." I was told by my

My father was 36 years old when he was killed. As I sit here and write this, a somber reality sets in that I have officially outlived my father. I am, to the month, the age he was on the day he was murdered by terrorists.

teachers to go into the auditorium and wait. At this point, no one knew what to do with a school full of kids. I tried to call home to my step-mom to see if she was okay (she was nine months pregnant). When I spoke to her I could hear fear in her voice. She told me that my dad had called her and told her he was on his way home since he had just worked a 12-hour shift. He then called her back after the towers were hit and told her he couldn't come home because we may be under a terrorist attack. You see, my dad wasn't the kind of person who could just go home and wait for someone to ask him to help; he was the kind of person who jumps on the firetruck and faces threats for the sake of others.

As soon as I got off the phone with my step-mom, I had this awful feeling that something wasn't right. I left school and walked the few blocks home to be with my step-mom. Before I could get there I ran into my cousin and as I was telling her what was happening, I suddenly collapsed toward her. I told her, "I think I just felt my dad die." It's a feeling I could never fully explain, but it felt like his spirit was leaving and he passed through me so that I could feel him.

Once I got home a few members of my family were already at my house. As the hours passed, my home was filled with family. My grandparents, uncle, aunt, cousins, friends, and neighbors all gathered together. All we could do was watch the TV and wait. I remember sitting there feeling like time was at a complete standstill. I remember each time the phone rang or the door would open we all would hold our breath in hopes he had somehow made it out and was back home to us. None of us could move, we could only



This is the last photo I have of my father and me together. It was taken in 2000 when I was 16 and he was 36.

wait and hope. We waited all night....

The next morning we were told that we could go to what they were now calling, "ground zero." We were told they hadn't found my dad yet, but that there is great hope that they would. We were told to have faith that they would find him. I of course wanted to go to ground zero in hopes that maybe my dad would be there and everything would be ok. Once I was there, I realized the devastation that lay before me where the World Trade Center once stood. I saw part of the buildings still erected and a smell that I can't even begin to describe. They allowed only family members of missing people to go as close as we were able to safely go at that point. I was told my dad's last known location was running up the South Tower as the men pointed to what that looked like now. I remember looking at the rubble and thinking to myself, "My dad is right there, thirty feet away....but I can't get to him." I felt helpless and wanted so badly to run over and just start searching.

We were told to give them some more time to find him and that we would be notified as soon as they did. That next day wasn't any better than the first and again my family waited at our house for the phone to ring or the door to open. All we could do was wait.... and hope.

On the third day after 9/11 my step-mom was past her due date and was told she had to have the baby for the sake of her health. She was adamant about waiting for my dad to come home so he wouldn't miss my little sister's birth. Unfortunately, this was not in her control and my little sister, Morgan, was born on September 14, 2001. The news dubbed her "baby hope" in hopes we would find my dad. My step-mom named her Morgan since that was the last name my dad said he liked.

Two days later (still waiting and unable to leave the living room) I walked outside to sit on my porch. As I was sitting there, I saw firemen coming out of cars surrounding my home. As soon as I saw them all approaching, I knew immediately that they were there to tell us he was gone. All I could do was sit on my front porch shaking, watching sad eyes staring at me.

The firemen explained that after this many days had passed,

Continued on page 23

September 11, 2001

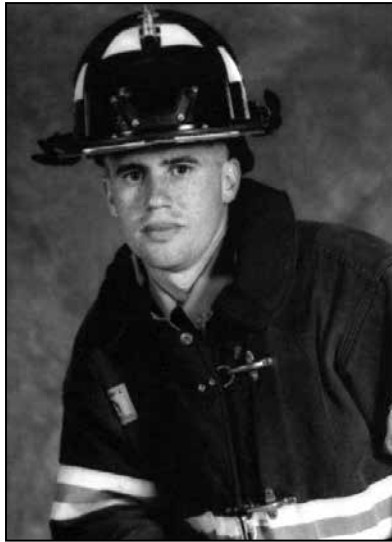
—From Page 22

they must presume he was dead. Their best guess at that time, which we later confirmed to be accurate, is that he was at the very top of the South Tower trying to save the jumpers when the building went down. The fire was so strong that it disintegrated their bodies. My father was on the second fire truck to arrive at the scene. His fire house was in Brooklyn (Redhook) and they had a direct path to the towers from the tunnel.

I was 17 the day my father was killed by terrorists with his youngest daughter being born three days afterwards, never getting to meet our father.

I am the oldest of my father's six children.

Each year on the anniversary of 9/11 I tried to avoid the news, radio and people in general. I don't think you can understand how



This photo of my father Anthony Rodriguez was taken just a few days before he died in the collapse of the South Tower on Sept. 11, 2001.

difficult it has been for those of us who lost someone that day to have to relive it each year. Each time I see those towers go down, I have to watch my father being killed right before my eyes. For the first five years it felt like there wasn't a day that went by that I wouldn't hear something about 9/11, bringing me right back to my experience and the loss of my dad.

I decided in 2016 I would no longer hide. I decided it was my responsibility to share my story with others. I realized that anyone younger than 18 would have no direct memory of 9/11 and that I needed to make sure they can understand that the pain of that day still lives with many of us. I have four young boys and I owe it to them to never let their grandfather's memory and heroic action become forgotten as time passes. Their grandfather died a hero. He not only sacrificed his life on 9/11, but he was in the Navy and served as a police officer prior to becoming a fireman. He truly lived a life of service and would have given his shirt off his back to anyone who needed it.

My father was 36 years old when he was killed. As I sit here and write this, a somber reality sets in that I have officially outlived my father. I am, to the month, the age he was on the day he was murdered by terrorists. I often wonder what kind of grandfather my dad would have been. How proud he would be of me and his four grandchildren. How much he would have wanted to teach them and show them. Living through a terrorist attack that deeply impacted my family that day, as well as every day that has passed since, is something you can never be prepared for and possibly never move forward from.

High Desert Modification Committee Actions

The following actions were taken by the High Desert Modifications Committee in September and October. See the website for full monthly reports: [Home > Documents & Forms > Modifications Committee \(MC\)](#).

- **Desert Song:** Landscaping. Additional information needed. Approved.
- **Desert Mountain:** Re-roofing. Request in process.
- **Wilderness Canon:** gutter and down spouts: Approved
- **Overlook:** Repaint door and trim. Approved.
- **Desert Highlands:** Re-roofing. Approved.
- **Desert Sky:** Solar. Request in process.
- **Highlands:** Solar. Additional info needed. Approved.
- **The Legends:** HVAC. Request in process.
- **Highlands:** Backyard Landscaping. Additional information needed. Approved.
- **Sunset Ridge:** Re-roofing. Approved.
- **The Canyons:** Tree removal: Approved.
- **Chamisa Trail:** Vegetation redone. Additional information needed. Approved.
- **The Enclave:** Windows. Approved.
- **Highlands:** Landscaping/walkways. Approved.
- **Overlook:** Radon pump. Approved.
- **Overlook:** Solar. Approved.
- **Wilderness Canon:** Landscaping. Request in process.
- **Highlands:** New windows. Request in process.
- **Desert Mountain:** Pool deck replacement: Approved.
- **Desert Mountain:** Driveway. Approved.

- **Desert Mountain:** Garage floor coating. Approved.
- **Enclave:** Roof. Approved.
- **Aerie:** Tree removal. Approved.
- **Sunset Ridge:** Raise walls: Additional information needed.
- **West Highlands:** Roof: Additional information needed. Approved.
- **The Enclave:** Bathroom remodel, add window. Request in process.
- **Mountain Highlands:** Solar. Request in process.
- **Chamisa Trail:** Landscaping. Request in process.
- **The Enclave:** Hot tub. Approved.
- **Sunset Ridge:** New door/gate. Approved.
- **The Enclave:** Convert two single-car garage doors to one two-door garage. Approved.
- **Highlands:** Backyard landscaping. Approved.

Making Changes to Your Exterior?

Contact the Modifications Committee First!

Before making any changes to the exterior of your home, check with the Modifications Committee first. The Modifications Committee will make sure that your plans conform to High Desert standards. The goal is to make sure all modifications preserve aesthetics and property values. This is done by following the High Desert Guidelines for Sustainability developed for each of the villages. If you have questions about modifying your current home or landscaping, mail highdesertmc@HOAMCO.com. See the website for more information about the Committee.

The High Desert Gardener

Why Are We Losing Insects and Pollinators?

By Margo Murdock
High Desert Resident



Margo Murdock

You may already be aware of the loss of pollinators, but did you know we are losing other insects besides bees, butterflies, and moths. Why do we care about insect loss? If you think about the food chain you'll realize that insects are pretty low on the pole, but play a key role. They are the food source for many other insects, amphibians, fish and birds. They help decompose matter—without them, this earth would be piled

high with rot.

Predators and parasites may also disappear. If you said “yea!” remember that some of these are beneficial insects that help control pest populations.

When you take away a group of insects, the remaining insects are more homogeneous, providing fewer eco-services like pollination or pest predation. We not only lose their services, but also the diversity. Future medicines may not be developed because we are missing key traits. For every missing insect we lose biotic interactions and unique ecological functions. Co-dependent insects and plants may also decline in numbers. And this affects all of those further up the food chain because they have no food now.

Destroyed Habitat

Why are they declining? The primary reason is that humans are destroying habitat, not just here but all over the world. We do this



This beautiful High Desert habitat is hospitable for insects and pollinators.

with buildings, roads, concrete and asphalt surfaces instead of vegetation. We are also degrading the existing habitat (lawns instead of vegetation, pet waste and oil spills) and fragmenting it so good habitat is harder to locate. Migrating birds and insects discover it's harder to find water, food, shelter, and nesting places because of changes in our environment. And they are weaker because they can't find the plants they need. Even the pollen on plants they do find may be less nutritious.

Another reason for loss is climate change. With climate change plants have to adapt to more volatile weather events, an overall average hotter temperature, and different timing for blooming as well

Continued on page 25

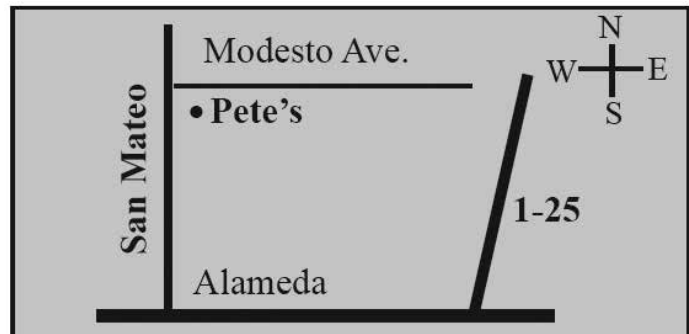
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Insects and Pollinators — From Page 24

as other parts of their growing cycle. That affects insects because they need to adapt their life stages to the new plant life cycles. It affects the specialists more than the generalists which may be able to adapt more easily. If the moth for pollinating yucca disappears because it can't find a yucca bloom, then there's no more yucca and no more moth.

Overuse of Pesticides

Overuse of pesticides by both homeowners and agriculture is another significant reason for loss. We either kill the insects outright, weaken them, or we change their reproductive ability.

At the same time we are spreading invasive species (pathogens, parasites, and predators) that destroy or replace the existing species. All of the above are new stressors on the insect population.

How Can We Slow Down the Loss?

These are the problems but how can we help prevent or at least slow down the loss? A good place to start would be to provide what insects or any wildlife needs - habitat. Habitat is a combination of food, water, shelter, and space that meets their needs.

- **Food** – we can provide food by our choice of plants. For native insects that means native plants, at least the ones they are familiar with. The plants should be diverse, not just one species as you find in most American agriculture.
- **Water** – we can provide year-round water sources such as ponds, fountains, bird baths, and misters. Even a small dish, if kept filled, can help.
- **Shelter/cover** – this varies by species and there are often levels to this: ground feeders need plants and grass that's low to the ground, snakes, some insects, and lizards need rocks, most birds need shrubs of different heights, and some birds need trees where they create or use cavities. We can plant or transplant what is needed. Then we can change our practices: reduce 1) mowing the cover until spring, 2) pruning the shrubs, and 3) limbing up trees. (See Guidelines for Sustainability) What do quail and roadrunners use when the grasses that feed and shelter them are mowed down and replaced with bare ground? Note that depending on how dense your vegetation is, how flammable your specific plants are, and how concerned you are about fire in your neighborhood, you may want to visit: <https://www.cabq.gov/fire/safety-information/wildfire-safety> for information.
- **Space** – many pollinators and insects need space, areas to search for food or cover, areas to train their young. Think of hawks and how much air space they need to search for prey. But it could also be space needed to find food and raise their young, or even practice flying.

Besides creating habitat we can reduce our use of toxic pesticides whether chemical or organic. We need to learn patience and how to let nature take its course. Beneficial insects do not arrive until their food source is present in enough numbers to feed them. So wait before using pesticides or do not use pesticides.

You can help. One way is by certifying your landscape with the National Wildlife Federation as a backyard habitat. If enough of us do this, we can create a carpet of safe places for birds, insects, amphibians and humans. Visit this website: www.nwf.org/certify. Print out the Certification Checklist first to see what is needed. Currently the cost to certify is \$20.

New Streetlights for Desert Mountain



New street lights were installed in Desert Mountain in August by American Power. Neil Wetsch, Director on the Board, provided this photo.

Voting Member Elections Complete

By Harrison Jones, Voting Members Chair

Congratulations to all the newly elected Voting Members and Alternates in the 11 High Desert villages which held regular Voting Member elections in August and September. They will serve two-year terms, and the other 14 villages will hold elections next summer. Use the "Villages" or "Contact" tab on www.highdesertliving.net to see a current list of Voting Members and Alternates. Many Voting Member actions require full representation, so please consider submitting a Statement of Interest (SOI) at any time to fill a vacant position by Board appointment or special election.

The Bylaws and Board policies specify how Voting Members and Alternates are to be elected in considerable detail. Letters soliciting Statements of Interest (SOIs) are mailed to all owners in the relevant Villages. Village ballots are created listing candidates who returned SOIs along with brief biographical information. Write-in candidates are also allowed. The ballots are mailed to owners, returned ballots are tallied, and Voting Members and Alternates are determined in order of the number of votes received.

The Bylaws and policies are less clear about who is to perform the various tasks, and, as a result, many past elections have been rushed and prone to clerical errors. An advisory group consisting of Reg Rider, Susan Camp, Russ Rhoades, and Harrison Jones worked with HOAMCO staff to clarify the election process for this summer's election by assigning responsibilities to a detailed task list and schedule. Apart from delays in getting mail to the USPS, the procedure seems to have worked well, and the group will use lessons learned to suggest appropriate policy revisions to the Board.

Thanks to all candidates and residents who voted. Comments and suggestions on this year's elections are welcome and should be addressed to hvmchair@gmail.com.

High Desert Offers Native Seeds to Residents

High Desert will be offering a five-pound bag mix of native grass and flower seeds this spring. The type of seeds will depend on what is available. The price is to be determined. One pound of seed will cover 1000 square feet. Each purchase will have a detailed planting instruction sheet and list of seeds. You may contact HOAMCO or Camille Singaraju (bsingaraju@msn.com) if you wish to purchase seeds.

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:**

Amy & Bill Stein: (404) 987-5254: alsypula@gmail.com
Robin Troy; 505-967-5119; TRY_RBN@YAHOO.COM

- **Voting Members Chairperson:**

Harrison Jones: 505-440-8198 (cell): hsvmchair@gmail.com

- **Gated Village Committee:**

Position open. Contact HOAMCO if you are interested.

- **Tramway Cleanup Project:**

Michelle Leshner: 505-844-2854: mlesher222@comcast.net

- **Fire Preparedness 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.

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		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:	• Kitty Smith	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

Management:

• HOAMCO:

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

• High Desert Office (Northeast Heights):

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.

Management Staff:

- Community Manager: Lynnette Rodriguez,

lrodriguez@HOAMCO.com

highdesertmanager@HOAMCO.com

- Assistant Manager: Erin Brizuela

ebrizuela@HOAMCO.com

- Violations Coordinator and Administrative Support:

Stefan Nicholishen,

stefan@hoamco.com

• G4S:

Security Patrol: **505-485-5658**

(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-February 2022.

Contact Rebecca Murphy (505-377-7227) to place an ad.

- Ad deadline for the Feb. issue: Jan. 24, 2022

- Copy deadline for the Feb. issue: Jan. 31, 2022

Board & Committee Meetings

• Modifications Committee Meetings:

All requests processed by email. Write HOAMCO at
highdesertmanager@HOAMCO.com. For information on
 submissions, see website at www.highdesertliving.net.

• Board of Directors Meetings:

Nov. 16, 2021; No Dec. meeting; Jan. 18, 2022; Feb. 15,
 2022 at 2 p.m.

Location: HOAMCO office conference room

• Voting Members Quarterly Informational Meeting:

Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Location: virtual Zoom meeting

• Town Meetings:

Jan. 14, 2022; March 11, 2022: 3 p.m.

Location: virtual Zoom meeting. Get link on website.

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
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 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



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Good news for High Desert Home Owners. High Desert Home Sales Will Continue To Be Brisk In 2022. The Albuquerque and High Desert real estate market activity continues to be great with increases in home values . Low inventory. Low interest rates, strong demand and a vibrant real estate market are great trends for High Desert Home Owners. Large and small homes are selling, open and traditional floorplans are selling, home office or extra bedrooms are in strong demand. Now is the time to sell your home while the market is hot and interest rates are low . Sharon McCollum offers you a full service, comprehensive and aggressive Marketing Plan to get your home SOLD fast with the best terms for you! Sharon's marketing plan includes intense investing in internet & social media marketing and up to date prospecting and marketing technology systems promoting your home to all buyers for High Desert Homes.

HIGH DESERT MARKET ACTIVITY - PAST YEAR 1/2021 TO 11/2021

HIGH DESERT HOME SALES ACTIVITY

1 home for sale average asking price \$699,000 asking price per \$238.89 per sf
13 PENDING average asking price \$579,300 at \$250.37 per sf
67 SOLD this past year (12 mo) average sold price \$516,510 at 237.25 per sf

HIGH DESERT ESTATE PROPERTIES SALES ACTIVITY

1 home for sale average asking price \$1,085,000 at \$245 per sf
8 PENDING average asking price \$1,263,625 at \$297.37 per sf
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