



High Desert Bulletin

January 2023

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Board Meeting – The High Desert Board will meet on Tuesday, January 17 at 2 pm via Zoom. If you would like to attend, please contact HOAMCO at 505-314-5862 or highdesertmanager@hoamco.com.

Voting Member Quarterly Meeting – The Voting Members will have a Quarterly Information Meeting on Thursday, January 26 at 6:30 pm via Zoom. A registration link will be emailed to all Voting Members and Alternates. Others who would like to attend should contact HOAMCO at 505-314-5862 or highdesertmanager@hoamco.com to request the registration link.

General Announcements:

New Community Manager – Please welcome Brandy Hetherington as our new Community Manager, following Lynnette Rodriguez’s resignation in December. Brandy has over 15 years of community management experience and her first day for High Desert was January 3. The Board of Directors interviewed Brandy and was unanimous in approving her selection as our new Community Manager. They believe she will do a tremendous job for all the residents in High Desert. Please refer to the accompanying announcement on page 3 for more information. Brandy’s email address is bhetherington@hoamco.com.

New High Desert Security Patrol – The contract for patrolling High Desert has been awarded to Vet-Sec. G4S will continue to patrol High Desert in January, and Vet-Sec will take over duties on February 1. Look for more details in the February bulletin.

HOAMCO High Desert Office Security – A Ring Camera system has been installed at HOAMCO’s High Desert office. The door will remain locked for safety, so when you arrive, ring the doorbell. HOAMCO staff will then look at the camera and possibly talk to you before letting you in. Please be patient because it might take them a little time to get to a location where they can respond.

Board Nominating Committee Needs Committee Volunteers and Board Candidates

The 2023 Nominating Committee is looking for volunteers to help with Committee work as well as volunteers for the four open Board of Director positions.

We will be focusing on assisting the Voting Members in learning about the Board candidates. If you are willing to help with this vital task, please submit a Statement of Interest form and check the “Nominating” committee box. The online form can be found on the High Desert website at https://highdesertliving.net/Documents_Forms/Online_Forms/index.html as the “Sol Form for Volunteer Opportunities.” Alternatively, a PDF form can be completed and submitted to the HOAMCO office.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Board of Directors, please submit the same Statement of Interest form and check the Board of Directors box. In April of 2023 we will have four open Board positions. Please consider how your skills can help High Desert.

From your Fire Preparedness Committee:

Fuel Reduction – On trash day, I saw a huge truck from the City loaded with bags of green waste that residents in High Desert collected. Congratulations! In driving around, it seemed to me that about one in five homes in the more fire prone villages has had significant fuel reduction clearing done per our last Email Bulletin. The beautifully manicured properties were often adjacent to neighbors who haven't yet had a chance to tackle the brush clearance. While there is still work to do, it is great to see the progress. Our Fire Preparedness Committee is always anxious to provide advice to anyone ready to help reduce the fire risk for themselves and their neighbors (judy@judypierson.com).

Wildfire Preparedness is Year-Round -RESOLVE TO BE READY – Recognizing that longer, more extreme fire seasons are likely to continue, all Fire Agencies in NM are promoting the theme of “resolve to be ready” for January. The fire risk is low now so it is a good time to get ready as the fire season could begin as early as late March. A few key actions you might take are:

- The To Go Bag – Check it for completeness and easy accessibility if you have just minutes to leave. There are inexpensive To Go Bags available online to get you started. Have one for your pets too. Put valuables and important papers in a fireproof box that you can grab and carry to your car.
- Alarms and Emergency Equipment – Check or change batteries in your fire alarms and smoke detectors. Replace fire extinguishers with expired dates. Have flashlights and extra power sources in case of a power outage ready.
- Check your insurance coverage – National companies are now rating areas such as ours to assess higher rates. Check with your agent to make sure you have fire coverage, that your home's value has been updated to current inflationary changes and to document what you have done to be prepared for fire to negotiate a rate reduction.

Website Information – Our HighDesertliving.net website has updated information about fire preparedness. [Check it out.](#)

Welcome Committee Returning – The Welcome Committee was paused when Covid hit in 2020. Sharon Littrell-Marsh has volunteered to revive that committee, and events will resume later this year.

Year-end Account Statements – Some homeowners need a statement of the assessments they have paid to High Desert for the year. While you can always contact HOAMCO (505-314-5862) to obtain a copy of your statement, you can also get it online if you have a Caliber account. Simply [log in](#) to Caliber, then click on Accounting. You can then print the history that is displayed, or if you select “save as pdf” for the print destination, then you can save an electronic copy. If you don't already have a Caliber log in, see the directions [here](#) or contact HOAMCO for assistance (505-314-5862).

Approved Plant List – The Approved Plant List for High Desert is being updated. A draft will be posted on the High Desert website next week and will be discussed at the January Board meeting.

Monthly Village Spotlight:

The Trailhead Village - Back in 1993, the Trailhead Village became the first village to be platted in High Desert. The area was divided into large lots that were sold individually rather than as blocks of lots to builders. The area began to fill with custom homes with natural landscaping, setting the standard for the other Estate and Premier Villages yet to come. Trailhead is located just west of the Embudito Trail Head, giving easy access to foothills trails, as well as forest service trails going deep into the Sandias. Trailhead Village is the only High Desert village that is not accessed from Academy or Spain. Instead, it is accessed through the streets of Glenwood Hills. Breaking Bad fans also know that it was the filming location for Hank's house.



**BRANDY
HETHERINGTON**
Community Manager

“ I am really looking forward to joining the High Desert Team and getting to know all the residents. ”



INTRODUCING BRANDY HETHERINGTON

Please Join us in Welcoming Brandy Hetherington as Your New Community Manager

While we have accepted Lynnette Rodriguez's resignation, we are pleased to announce that we are starting the New Year at High Desert with a new, highly-qualified Community Association Manager.

Brandy is a self-starter with over 15 years of community management experience, including contract management, oversight of financial operations, onsite review and enforcement of community documents, landscape vendor oversight, as well as employee development and supervision. She has a keen ability to manage multiple projects while providing exceptional customer service and generating trust.

Brandy's first day will be January 3, 2023. She would be delighted to meet you if you have a chance to stop by and say "hi" the next time you're in the office.



Brandy's email is bhetherington@hoamco.com

HOAMCO.

This bulletin was prepared by the High Desert Communications Committee. Please email any suggestions to communicationscommittee@hoamco.com.

If you know anyone who is not receiving the High Desert Bulletin, please ask them to contact the High Desert office at 505-314-5862 or highdesertmanager@hoamco.com. Also, you can provide or update your email address through HOAMCO's [Caliber Portal](#).