



High Desert Bulletin

March 2023

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Board Meeting – The High Desert Board will meet on Tuesday, March 21 at 5 pm via Zoom. **Please note the later start time.** If you would like to attend, please contact HOAMCO at 505-314-5862 or highdesertmanager@hoamco.com.

Announcements from the Board and Management:

The Association is aware that we may not have current leases on file for renters living in the community. The governing documents require that all owners provide current lease information for their tenants. If you have not recently provided a lease agreement for your tenant, please send a lease to highdesertmanager@hoamco.com or call the High Desert office with any questions, 505-314-5862.

The Board has approved a sprinkler system upgrade to install “smart” flow sensors and new pressure regulating heads. The cost is about \$92,000 and will be spread over 12 months through Yellowstone Landscape. High Desert will expect about a 15% decrease in water consumption and lower maintenance costs. High Desert will also receive rebates from the water authority to cover about 35% of the costs. There is a four-to-five-year payback, and this project supports neighborhood sustainability.

Canyons, Trillium, and Desert Mountain all have security cameras for either their entry gates or common areas. The Association will be seeking new vendors to install up-to-date camera technology. The bid process is underway now and the Board anticipates having multiple bids for review at their March 2023 board meeting. Once bids are approved, the management team will work closely with the chosen vendor for quick installation dates to minimize interruptions in cameras services.

General Announcements:

Bird Attracting Plants – Thinking ahead to Spring planting? Here are some tips from Margo Murdock. The best bird-attracting plants include native fruit-bearing shrubs and trees and native perennial plants that provide seeds for food. Ornamental grasses are important to a bird-friendly garden, as they provide shelter and nesting material. Native plants are best for birds because they will host caterpillars and other insects to feed their young.

Be Careful at Tramway Intersections – There have been multiple serious accidents at the intersections of Tramway at Academy and at Spain. Please be extra careful when exiting High Desert through these intersections.

More Crime Data – Camille Singaraju has been collecting and reporting crime data (from crimemapping.com) for High Desert and is expanding that to collecting crime data along Tramway and Simms Park Road. That data will not be included in her High Desert summary but is available upon request to bsingaraju@msn.com.

Landscape Committee Returns – After piloting alternative approaches to the Landscape Committee over the last couple of years, the Board voted in February to return to using a Landscape Committee. A revised charter has been approved to clarify the expectations of the committee. The committee is chaired by Camille Singaraju. Please submit a Statement of Interest on the High Desert website if you would like to join the committee.

Grant for Fire Preparedness Pilot – The Fire Preparedness Committee is pleased to announce that we have been awarded a \$2000 grant from the Fire Adapted Communities of New Mexico organization to conduct a pilot fuel reduction project in one of the HOA owned arroyos to compare the result of using goatscaping versus manual removal of overgrown brush. We will make it a community event with fire preparedness experts there to guide us and answer questions from homeowners. Please contact Judy Pierson (judy@judypierson.com) if you can help plan this event. Judy was also appointed a Leader in the organizations so will have access to others leading fire preparedness in communities across the State. Stay tuned.

Estate Sales in High Desert – An Estate Sale Policy was proposed to the Board at the February Board meeting, but it failed to receive majority approval. A revised Estate Sale Policy has been developed and it will be proposed at the March Board Meeting. The revised proposal is posted on the High Desert website.

Check Out Our High Desert Website – Please remember that the High Desert website is the primary means of communication within our association. If you're looking for information about High Desert, you're likely to find it at highdesertliving.net. If you think something should be added to the website, please let us know at hdwebcom21@gmail.com.

Monthly Village Spotlight:

The Highlands – The Highlands Village brought a new kind of development to Albuquerque. The 128 lots were laid out to follow the natural arroyos, with the homes placed along the ridges so the natural flow of the arroyos would not be disrupted. The lots are typically about an acre and homes must be built within prescribed building envelopes. Land outside these building envelopes is preserved in a natural state. Besides protecting the arroyos, this natural philosophy has benefitted wildlife. Residents see wildlife moving through the arroyos often, especially deer, coyotes, and bobcats. Less frequently, bears have been known to climb over the perimeter walls into backyards. The homes are also known for having spectacular views of the Sandias and Albuquerque. Although The Highlands was one of the earliest villages to be platted in High Desert, there are still a handful of lots that remain vacant.

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](#).