



High Desert Bulletin

April 2023

Top Ten Reasons for Being a Board Member

10. You want the Board to take a more active role (either oppose or support) in the Elena Gallegos Open Space proposal to make significant changes to the recreational space to the north and east of our community.
9. You want to oppose state legislation (such as NM HR 425) that would drastically alter limited use restrictions that are at the very core of our governing covenants and the very reason many of us have chosen to live in High Desert.
8. You want to define the priorities and costs associated with the common walls and arroyos that are badly in need of maintenance. These repairs constitute the largest expenditure, have a direct bearing on rising association fees and the value of your property.
7. You want to determine the course for High Desert enduring and sustainable landscaping.
6. You want to minimize water utilities, which are one of the larger High Desert expenses.
5. You want to make your community even better or preserve its legacy.
4. You have the desire, skills, and experience to support this wonderful community.
3. You want to know your neighbors and neighborhood better.
2. You are concerned about the increasing safety and security concerns in our community.
1. If you have kept reading through these reasons for being a Board Member, then you definitely should be a Board Member!!

Read [this](#) to find out more about being a being a Board Member or the election process, better yet, submit a [Statement of Interest](#).

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Board Meeting – The High Desert Board will meet on Tuesday, April 18 at 5 pm via Zoom. If you would like to attend, please contact HOAMCO at 505-314-5862 or highdesertmanager@hoamco.com.

Tramway Cleanup – The next Tramway Cleanup project will be on Saturday, April 22. Volunteers willing to clean up the trash from the Tramway shoulders and median should meet at the Albertsons parking lot at 10 am. Please remember sunscreen and gloves. Let Michelle Leshner know if you can participate at mlesher222@comcast.net so she can have enough materials.

Board Candidate Meet & Greet – A Meet & Greet with Board Candidates will be held simultaneously by Zoom and in person on Saturday, April 22 at 6 pm. We encourage you to participate in person at the Church of the Good Shepard (7834 Tennyson NE). Refreshments served at 5 pm. A registration link will be emailed to everyone who receives this bulletin, and others who would like to attend should contact HOAMCO at highdesertmanager@hoamco.com or 505-314-5862 to request the registration link.

Annual Meeting and Voting Member Information Meeting – The Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday, April 27 at 6:30 pm. The Quarterly Voting Member Information Meeting will follow immediately thereafter. These meetings are open to all High Desert members. A registration link will be emailed to everyone who receives this bulletin, and others who would like to attend should contact HOAMCO at highdesertmanager@hoamco.com or 505-314-5862 to request the registration link.

General Announcements:

Stop for School Buses – Some of the bus stops in High Desert can be difficult to see, so please be extra vigilant for school buses. Cars approaching from either direction must stop completely and stay stopped while the bus has a stop sign displayed and is letting children on or off the bus.

From Fire Preparedness Committee:

After an incident of illegal fireworks being set off at the Emery Trailhead, we are asking the Board for permission to have the No Fireworks in High Desert signs put up at the trailheads. Please alert Security at 505-485-5658 if you see or suspect any illegal activity there.

Winter to Spring is time for Pruning Up trees and shrubs to harden your home and landscape prior to fire season. If you hire a professional, the Water Utility Authority may be able to help through their Tree-Bate program which offers rebates for professional tree care up to \$100 per residential customer. Call 505-842-9287 or check the website: www.abcwua.org/conservation-rebates-outdoor/.

Reminder to 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.

High Desert funds safe – The High Desert ROA wants to assure its membership that the banking institutions used by High Desert for community funds are not at risk of failure, and that all High Desert funds are kept in accounts with amounts under \$250,000 that are FDIC insured.

Reminder about 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.

Assessment of common walls and fences – High Desert will be working with Ortiz Construction over the next few months to analyze and catalogue the Association’s common walls and fences. The goal of this project is to create a robust inventory of all stucco walls, block walls, wrought iron and other fences and gates which will assist the Board in long-term financial planning for repair and maintenance of these major community assets. You will likely see Ortiz Construction employees walking in and around the community with their yellow safety vests. If you have any concerns about the work they’re performing, please contact the High Desert office at 505-314-5862.

Monthly Village Spotlight:

A preliminary version of The Highlands Village Spotlight was inadvertently printed in March. Please read the final version below, which should have been printed in March. I apologize for my error.

The Highlands – The Highlands Village brought a new kind of development to Albuquerque and the High Desert development that we call an Estate Village. The 128 lots were laid out as all of our Estate Villages are to follow the land’s contour and natural arroyos, with the homes individually designed for each lot to minimize the disruption of water flows and views. The lots are generally a half-acre to 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 wander into backyards, and once about 15 years ago a mother mountain lion and her cub were photographed in a driveway! 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 the 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.