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A Newsletter for the Community of High Desert, Albuquerque, New Mexico

May 2023

Voting Members Elect Four New Board Directors Via Zoom at Annual Meeting Thursday, April 27

The High Desert Board of Directors has four newly elected members. The new directors were elected by Voting Members at their Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 27, 2023. The vote was held via Zoom and tallied and confirmed by HOAMCO management over the following weekend. Newly elected board members are:

- George Marsh (re-elected for another two-year term)
- Camille Singaraju (re-elected for a two-year term)
- Steve Hartig (re-elected for another two-year term)
- Harrison Jones (newly elected for a two-term)

They join directors Ray Berg, Bill Pederson and Bob Howell whose terms all expire in 2024. Board members are always elected on a staggered two-year term with three or four positions up for election each April. The board elected new officers: George Marsh, President; Bill Pederson, Vice President; Bob Howell, Secretary; Steve Hartig, Treasurer.

This year, as usual, the Nominating Committee solicited homeowners interested in running for the board. Each homeowner interested in running for the board was required to submit a Statement of Interest and complete a questionnaire about their skills, qualifications, priorities in High Desert and how they see the role of the board in the community. The Nominating Committee held informational meetings with candidates and a "Meet & Greet" session where Voting Members and homeowners heard nominees introduce themselves and were able to ask questions of the nominees. This year's Meet & Greet was held on April 25 as a hybrid in-

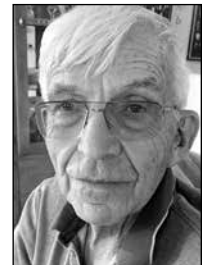
person meeting with 30 attendees and a Zoom attendance of eight.

At their Annual Meeting April 27, Voting Members received a slate of six nominees from the Nominating Committee. Nominations are always accepted from the floor as well. This year, no homeowners submitted any nominations from the floor. Voting was done by Zoom and the numbers were officially counted by HOAMCO the following day with the winners announced.

The following information from the nominee questionnaires highlights each of the newly elected directors.

Harrison Jones

Harrison (Harry) was born and raised in Denver, received his undergraduate degree from the University of Rochester, NY, and graduate degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Most of his career was spent as a solar physicist with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in the Southwest, specifically Al-



Harrison Jones

• City Drops Plans For Elena Gallegos Education Center Citing "Community Input"

- See article on page 7

We *Must* Turn the Tide on Volunteering in High Desert

By Nominating Committee members Ray Berg, Mark Soo Hoo, and Millie Yamada; Russell Rhoades, Natural Resources Chair, and Harry Jones, Voting Members Chair

With this recent call for volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors, it is important that we remind ourselves that the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws for the High Desert Residential Owners Association place the legal responsibility and policy direction authority for its management and future solely in the hands of its residents.

Accordingly, the organizational structure provides that homeowners elect resident Voting Members representing all residents in the Association's 25 respective Villages, who in turn select, and can terminate, members to the Board of Directors, who also are all resident volunteers. The Board of Directors can, and do, employ private contractors and charter, here again, homeowner committees to carry out various responsibilities in the Association's man-

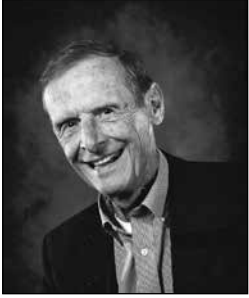
agement. For a structure so heavily dependent upon homeowner involvement, resident participation is not only encouraged but is critical for the proper governance of the Association.

Without adequate volunteer participation, the association is jeopardized and prone to ineffectiveness, which can significantly impact aesthetics, property values, homeowner fees, etc. Furthermore, there is no backup plan or alternate management option.

Unfortunately, in recent years the Association has been experiencing a significant decline in the number of residents seeking to volunteer. With proposed legislation at both the city and state levels, High Desert living could change drastically without a strong community voice. The tide must change. High Desert has dozens of volunteer opportunities. Check out the website under High Desert Living/Volunteer Opportunities and fill out a Statement of Interest. Get involved. Don't put it off. High Desert needs you!

President's Summary

By George Marsh, HDROA President



George Marsh

Let me begin this column by thanking the Voting Members for re-electing me to the Board of Directors for a two-year term. I personally believe we are making progress in dealing with many of the issues we face here in High Desert. We will continue our effort to confront these issues, especially in the areas of infrastructure such as irrigation, arroyo maintenance and fire mitigation. Our challenge going forward is prioritizing

funding based on need to support these various programs.

Estate Sales Policy

This is a new policy we put in place based on some issues that occurred during an estate sale last summer. We do feel that allowing estate sales makes sense for our community, but they must be done in a way that does not excessively burden the residents surrounding the estate sale home. The main purpose of the policy is defining the rules under which an estate sale can be held and making sure that the homeowner holding the sale is aware of and agrees to follow them. The key features of this new policy are the following:

- Estate sales are permitted for two consecutive days from 9 a.m. and closure at 4 p.m. each day
- The necessary approval for the sale must be arranged with the management company office at least two weeks prior to the date of the sale
- The community manager will go over all the details and the documentation required to conduct a sale. We have kept it very simple and hopefully this will meet the needs that you, the homeowner, have requested.

One final note is that garage sales are not allowed in High Desert.

Delegation Of Authority Policy Revision

This policy defines the authorities of the board, key members of the board and the community manager for committing funds and signing contracts. It became apparent that the recent stucco repair program had some deficiencies in the overall internal controls that require correction. This revised policy is the result of our examination and recommendations from the Board of Directors. The major changes are:

- Reducing the dollar limit that the board president and vice president have to authorize reserve purchases.
- Clarifying the authorities that the manager along with the president and vice president have in case of emergencies.
- Limiting the single expenditure limit of the community manager on the High Desert credit card.
- Defining that all expenditures with a single vendor over \$20,000 either in one payment or multiple payments must have an agreement or contract that is approved by the Contract Committee.

The Board of Directors believes the above changes provide

better financial control over the expenditure of monies that was not available in the past.

Landscape Committee

This committee provides landscaping guidance to the High Desert community whether it be for a new home, modifications to existing homes or just answers to basic questions regarding trees and plants. The Board of Directors felt this committee charter needed some updates to reflect the ever-changing nature of the community.

This committee is there to provide you landscaping information and advice relating to any plans and modifications that you, the resident, might be considering for your home. For any assistance, please feel free to contact the committee through the management office.

Communication

With the advice of our Communications Committee, we have made several changes to the board format to make it easier for you to attend meetings as you feel necessary. We have restructured the format of our board meetings so that the committee reports are the first item on the agenda allowing the committee chair persons to complete their report and depart from the meeting, if they so desire.

Also, we changed the starting time for board meetings to begin at 5 p.m. and Town Hall meetings to start at 6:30 p.m. . Hopefully, this time change allows more homeowners to attend meetings.

Management

None of the activities that we do on a daily basis in the homeowners association would be remotely possible without the assistance of our new community manager, Brandy Hetherington, who has been on the job for four months. She has certainly been a breath of fresh air and enthusiasm as she interacts with the homeowners, answering questions and solving problems, which is what it's all about here. Brandy and her staff are on top of the issues and are to be commended for their hard work.

Other Items

The Michial Emery Trailhead has become increasingly popular with hikers and bikers over the past several years. With that popularity comes parking issues in the very small parking lot that we own and maintain. It has reached the point on some spring and summer days that cars are parking on the street creating a safety hazard for residents and visitors alike. We contacted the city and they provided additional "no parking" signs up and down High Desert Road in front of the trail head parking lot. While this is not a perfect solution it might help discourage street parking.

Just a reminder that our next Town Hall meeting will be on May 18 at 6:30 p.m. and I hope to see you then. My intent is to have one or two interesting speakers that can talk on issues of concern to the community.

I would like to leave you with a quote that I saw recently in a book that I am reading: "Everything in leadership is simple, it's just that the simplest things are difficult."

Manager's Message

By Brandy Hetherington
Community Association Manager



Brandy Hetherington

The High Desert office would like to welcome Salena Allison to our team! Salena comes to us with HOA knowledge from her recent work experience with a local title company. She is learning High Desert's processes and procedures quickly and is a great help with our High Desert owners. Salena will be in the office Monday through Friday from 10 to 2 p.m.

The High Desert HOAMCO team is in full swing for spring. It's getting busy out there in the community, with homeowners starting home projects and the villages starting their own community projects.

If you're an owner who is making changes to the exterior of your home or yard, please make sure you submit a modification request. Visit the High Desert website to review information like Modification Do's and Don'ts and to fill out an online (or printable) modification request form. Requests must be submitted before the first Friday of each month to be considered in that month. Please remember that the committee has up to 45 days to review requests, unless the request is considered fast-track. If you have questions about submitting a request, please reach out to the office and we can help guide you.

The Association will be working on several projects in the coming weeks. Canyons, Desert Mountain and Trillium will have new security cameras installed in their villages. The Desert Mountain village is looking at some simple upgrades to its pool bathrooms and will also be considering pool furniture replacements soon as well. If you see a need for an improvement or repair in your village,

please reach out to your village Voting Members to share your idea.

Budgets have been finalized for the upcoming 2023 fiscal year. High Desert's fiscal year begins on July 1. An assessment increase for High Desert was approved by the Board. Beginning on July 1st, the assessment will be increasing to \$204 per quarter. This is an increase of \$9 every 3 months. While no one likes to see their costs go up, the Association did a remarkable job minimizing this increase, which was mostly due to inflation. Owners within the Desert Mountain village will also see their assessments increase for this coming fiscal year to \$201 per quarter. Increases in pool maintenance and natural gas costs are the main drivers for the increase. All other gated villages will remain at the same assessment rate as this current fiscal year. Assessments notices for the new fiscal year will be sent out in mid-June.

If you haven't done it already, remember to sign up for E-Statements, and enjoy the convenience of not having to check your mail for that assessment invoice. Visit <https://hoamco.opt-e-mail.com/signup> to sign up. If you need any assistance signing up, please reach out to the High Desert HOAMCO office at 505-314-5862.

As the weather warms up, people start spending more time outdoors, and who wouldn't want to get out and enjoy the beauty of High Desert? If you are out walking with a family pet, please remember that all dogs must always be leashed and under the control of the owner at all times. Please also remember to clean up after your pet. The Association provides pet stations, and pet waste bags, strategically and conveniently throughout the community. Pet waste can carry disease and it's also smelly and unsightly, so let's keep High Desert beautiful and please curb your pet.

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ABQ MARKET IS DOING BETTER THAN OUR NEIGHBORS

There's a lot of misinformation out there, these days. Our market is terrible, our neighboring cities are doing well, etc. The fact is that good ole ABQ is still moving in a positive direction. The inventory of homes for sale here (especially in High Desert) is still low (down about 76%), as are other cities, so we're still seeing multiple offers and some homes still selling for more than list price (again, especially in High Desert). Here's a breakdown of us vs our neighboring markets:

YEAR OVER YEAR

	Median Price	Appreciation	Sales
ABQ -	\$317,000	↑ 3%	↓ 16%
PHX -	\$425,000	↓ 9.6%	↓ 45%
DENVER -	\$560,000	↓ 7%	↓ 41%
COLO SPGS -	\$465,000	↑ 4%	↓ 23%
TUSCON -	\$339,000	↓ 1%	↓ 43%
DALLAS -	\$405,000	↓ 3.6%	↓ 31%



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Albuquerque Police Dept. Crime Statistics for High Desert

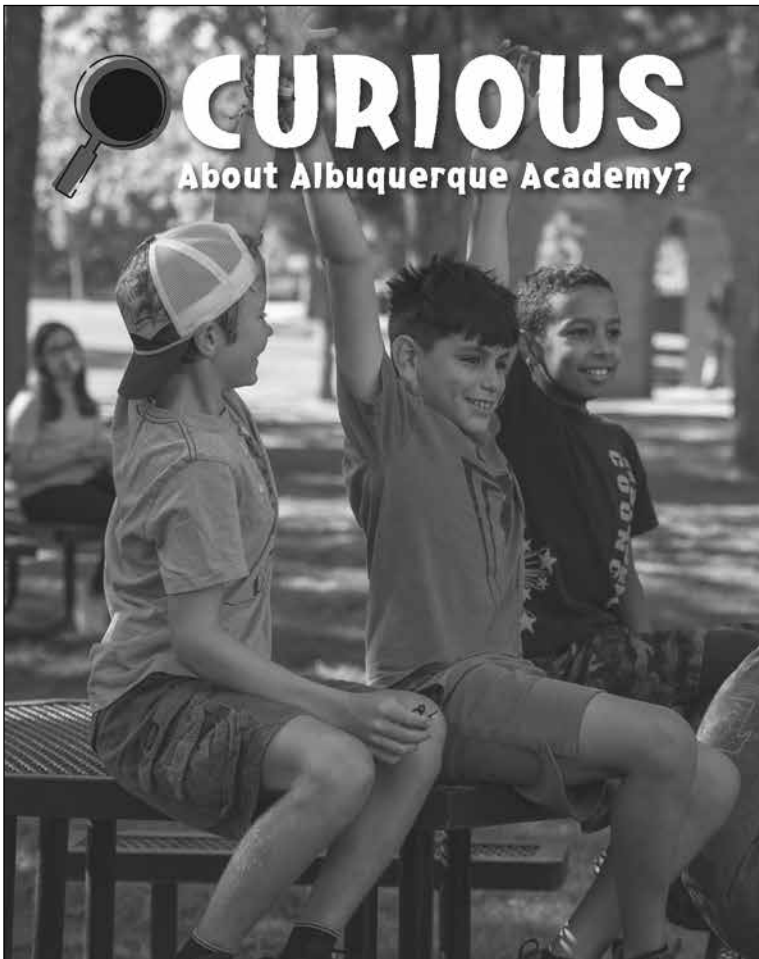
High Desert Crime Statistics: Crimemapping.com			QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3		
Level	Crime Categories	Per Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
1	Animal Call		0	0	0	0					
1	Rescue Call		0	0	0	1					
1	Missing Person		0	0	0	0					
1	Stolen Vehicle Found		0	0	0	1					
2	Neighbor Trouble		0	0	0	0					
2	Direct Traffic		0	0	0	0					
2	Traffic Stop		0	2	0	9					
2	Traffic Accident no injury		0	0	1	2					
2	Auto Accident with injury		0	0	0	0					
2	Drunk Driver		0	0	0	0					
3	Disturbance		5	3	3	7					
3	Vandalism		0	0	0	0					
3	Suspicious Person/Vehicle		5	0	2	5					
3	Burglary Auto		0	0	0	0					
3	Vehicle Theft		0	0	0	0					
4	Theft/ Larceny		2	0	0	0					
4	Theft/Fraud/Embezzlement		0	0	0	2					
4	Burglary Residence		0	0	0	3					
4	Family Dispute		2	1	3	3					
4	Aggravated Assault/Battery		0	1	0	0					
4	Shots Fired		2	0	0	1					
	Total		16	7	9	34	0	0	0	0	0

These statistics come from Albuquerque Police Department's reports for calls involving High Desert for the year 2023. Board Director Camille Singaraju, Sunset Ridge, obtains these statistics from APD each month.

Contact Numbers:

- In the event of an emergency, call APD at 911.

- Follow up immediately with a call to High Desert Security at 505-485-5658



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City Drops Plans to Build Education Center at Elena Gallegos Open Space In Response To “Community Input,” Parks & Rec Officials Say

Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department (PRD) issued a press release (see full release below) in late April, announcing it would no longer be moving forward with plans to build an Education Center on Elena Gallegos Open Space (EGOS) adjacent to High Desert. The press release cites “community input” as the reason it is pursuing other options elsewhere.

However, Parks and Recreation officials stated it will still repair basic amenities at EGOS and improve bicycle safety on Simms Park Road, provide better signage and replace worn out amenities (e.g. benches, picnic tables).

The grassroots group “Save Our Elena Gallegos” filed a lawsuit against the city recently to stop the project. Katrina Sanchez, a spokesperson for the group, said, “The City’s announcement, while welcome, is legally meaningless and in no way binding. ‘Save Our Elena Gallegos’ will continue to seek a permanent injunction in order to preserve the Elena Gallegos as open space for generations to come.”

The High Desert Board of Directors agreed to remain neutral on the issue last year after initial meetings with officials from Park s

and Recreation.

During Town Halls and Voting Member meetings in 2022 and this year many High Desert homeowners spoke out against, and occasionally for, the project. A number of homeowners wanted the Board to take an official position for or against the project. In response, the Voting Member group sent out a single question survey in April asking Voting Members what position they thought the board should take regarding major Elena Gallegos development, choosing “Oppose,” “Support,” or “Neutral.” The response rate was very high with a majority favoring the Board oppose the project, none recommending the board support the development, and a minority saying the board should remain neutral. Comments were allowed and were more evenly distributed. Before the Board could discuss the survey, the Parks and Recreation press release (below) was issued.

The proposed 2023 General Obligation bond package will give the city up to \$2 million to renovate an existing building to serve as the Tijeras Arroyo BioZone nature center.

Press Release From City Parks & Recreation

City Not Pursuing Elena Gallegos Education Center Parks and Recreation brings closure to project, advances other Open Space priorities

ALBUQUERQUE – The Parks and Recreation Department (PRD) announced that they are not moving forward on the Elena Gallegos Open Space (EGOS) education center. Although studies concluded a facility would have minimal impact on the surrounding habitat, PRD chose to not pursue the project in response to community input. The City of Albuquerque will redirect its focus to fixing basic amenities at EGOS, improving safety on Simms Park Road, and upgrading a nature center at the Tijeras Arroyo Biozone.

The proposed 2023 General Obligation bond package would give PRD up to \$2 million to renovate an existing building to serve as the Tijeras Arroyo BioZone nature center. Trail work, better signage, and replacing worn out amenities (e.g. benches, picnic tables) will still move forward at EGOS.

“Improving environmental education and equitable access to our Open Space remains an important community need,” said PRD Director Dave Simon. “The significant new resources proposed for the Tijeras Arroyo project would help advance our efforts and provide more ways for people to enjoy nature in Albuquerque.”

“While the education center concept will not move forward, we remain committed to improving our City’s open spaces and providing opportunities for our community to engage with nature,” said Chief Operations Officer Kevin Sourisseau. “We will continue to identify and prioritize projects that enhance our natural environment and promote outdoor recreation for all.”

PRD had been exploring the concept of a small facility to orient and educate visitors at the EGOS, which now receives over 200,000 visitors per year. PRD completed a feasibility study, habitat impact study, safety analysis of Simms Park Road, demographic survey of EGOS users, and took public input on the education center concept. The habitat impact study of the education facility concept by the environmental consulting firm Tetra Tech concluded: “The facility will likely have little impact on the wildlife present within Elena Gallegos Open Space and the Sandia Mountains foothills.”

PRD still plans to explore measures to improve bicycle safety on Simms Park Road, which provides access to EGOS. An analysis of Simms Park Road completed by the engineering firm Parametrix identified relatively simple, low-cost measures, such as signage and speed control features, that could improve safety.

The road study and habitat impact study are available on the City’s website at: www.cabq.gov/elenagallegos

About CABQ Parks & Recreation: The City of Albuquerque’s Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for maintaining nearly 300 parks, 143 miles of multi-use trails, more than 29,000 acres of Major Public Open Space, four municipal golf courses, and numerous aquatics and recreation facilities throughout Albuquerque. Hundreds of employees across six divisions within the Department take pride in ensuring Albuquerque residents have great facilities to foster a vibrant and healthy community.

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Board Considers Response to ‘Housing Forward’ Program

By Camille Singaraju, High Desert Board of Directors

In response to the current crisis in housing supply for Albuquerque residents, the City recently launched an emergency initiative to spur conversion and construction of, and access to new housing for all segments of the housing market.

The City is allowing homeowners to expand their homes by adding casitas, duplexes, two additional stories, etc., to enable increased housing availability.

The City Council plans to vote on these new integrated Development Ordinance (IDO) zoning requirements in meetings this spring.

The High Desert Board has been following the meetings and requirements. A review is underway of the High Desert’s Governing Documents and building codes along with discussions in partnership with other HOAs to be a stronger political force.

Updates will be posted on the website and the monthly High Desert Bulletin. Volunteers are welcome to assist in the process.

Information about the City’s Housing Forward program can be found online at: <https://www.cabq.gov/housing-forward-abq/about-housing-forward-abq>

The website lists 2021 statistics for Albuquerque housing:

- Total Housing Units : 247,926
- Rental Homes: 39.7%
- Owned Homes: 60.3%
- Median Home Value: \$204,1001
- Median Monthly Rent: \$889
- New Market Rate Apartments Needed: 13,223
- New Market Rate Single Family Homes Needed: 26,839

Board of Directors Approves New Estate Policy At March Meeting

By Steve Hartig, High Desert Board of Directors

Estate sales have long term been permitted within High Desert while garage sales are not. However, there has not been a clear policy in place for estate sales, which has caused some issues around confusion and traffic when they occur.

In the March Board meeting, the Board approved a policy for estate sales based on significant input from the community.

This policy can be found on the High Desert Living website under Official Documents and Policies. Key elements of it are:

- The individual holding the sale needs to send in an authorization form to the High Desert Manager at least two weeks prior to the sale giving indication on the dates and acknowledging they understand and will follow the relevant rules around items such as parking, signage, sale timing and gate access.

- High Desert Management will inform the members of the relevant Village in advance of the estate sale.

- Estate sales can take place over two days

The overall goal of the policy is to allow estate sales while minimizing the impact on the neighborhood.

Any questions regarding the policy can be forwarded to the High Desert Manager at: BHetherington@HOAMCO.com

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Treasurer's Report: As Of March 31, 2023

By Steve Hartig, Treasurer



Steve Hartig

Master Account

We are presently three quarters through our fiscal year which ends in June 2023. For the Master Account, year to date, we are about \$55,000 below budget at \$850,980.

Year-to-date the main deviations include:

- Landscaping is about \$19,000 below budget largely due to seasonality
- Maintenance is about \$6,000 below budget
- Utilities are about \$10,000 below budget mainly due to lower water expenses.
- Legal is about \$13,000 above budget due a number of different issues that have required legal support.

Overall, we should expect to be about at budget for the full year with added landscaping as we move into spring, likely piñon pine spraying and follow-up to the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA) audit on our arroyos the main expected spending areas.

All the gated villages are at or under budget on spending, with the exception of the Legends which is slightly over budget due to a number of plantings done earlier this year, and Desert Mountain, which has had higher pool maintenance and gas

costs than expected. Neither of these overruns are a major issue in the overall finances.

Reserve Account Funds Investments


In March, we further invested funds from the reserve accounts in CDs. For several villages, which had significant cash in the operating accounts we did move some money to the reserves while leaving a sufficient balance to take care of any emergencies. We can expect this to bring an overall income across the Master and Gated Villages of over \$30,000 depending on how interest rates progress.

Reserve Account Balances

	6/30/2022	9/30/2022	12/31/2022	3/31/2023
MASTER	\$ 189,464	\$ 154,171	\$ 194,318	\$ 230,498
CANYONS	\$ 198,757	\$ 210,613	\$ 148,607	\$ 174,750
CHACO CMP	\$ 69,211	\$ 71,120	\$ 57,264	\$ 58,675
DESERT MOUNTAIN	\$ 245,337	\$ 257,925	\$ 272,177	\$ 282,821
ENCLAVE	\$ 54,850	\$ 49,257	\$ 53,294	\$ 47,064
TRILLIUM	\$ 192,838	\$ 199,189	\$ 196,902	\$ 253,635
WILDERNESS CANON	\$ 17,823	\$ 19,078	\$ 20,336	\$ 21,594
WILDERNESS COMPOUND	\$ 106,146	\$ 116,954	\$ 117,952	\$ 134,082
LEGENDS	\$ 124,833	\$ 126,649	\$ 115,711	\$ 117,825
TOTAL	\$ 1,199,259	\$ 1,204,956	\$ 1,176,561	\$ 1,320,944

• See more Treasurer's Reports on page 11 •

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

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High Desert Treasurer's Reports

HDROA Income/Expense Statement YTD as of March 31, 2023

Accounts	Actual	Budget
Income		
INCOME		
4100 - HOMEOWNER ASSESSMENTS	\$949,455.00	\$949,455.00
4200 - COST SHARING - ALTEZZA	\$68,364.40	\$67,056.75
4310 - ASSESSMENT INTEREST	\$1,545.01	\$1,500.03
4330 - ASSESSMENT LATE FEES	\$1,633.00	\$2,250.00
4350 - LEGAL/COLLECTION FEES	\$7,775.12	\$7,499.97
4550 - GATE REMOTES	\$535.00	\$0.00
4600 - INTEREST INCOME	\$436.22	\$74.97
4800 - PENALTIES/FINES	\$250.00	\$0.00
Total INCOME	\$1,029,993.75	\$1,027,836.72
TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS		
8900 - TRANSFER TO RESERVES	(\$120,000.00)	(\$120,000.00)
Total TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	(\$120,000.00)	(\$120,000.00)
Total Income	\$909,993.75	\$907,836.72
Expense		
ADMINISTRATIVE		
5150 - ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PR	\$60,999.50	\$62,171.28
5250 - BANK CHARGES	\$0.00	\$112.50
5400 - INSURANCE	\$17,075.29	\$12,894.75
5530 - LIEN/COLLECTION COSTS	\$1,771.52	\$749.97
5625 - OPERATIONAL SUPPORT	\$3,356.17	\$2,475.00
5650 - BOARD/VOTING MEMBER MEETINGS	\$5,863.83	\$4,745.97
5800 - OFFICE EXPENSE	\$16,812.91	\$16,125.03
8600 - RESERVE STUDY	\$0.00	\$3,750.00
Total ADMINISTRATIVE	\$105,879.42	\$103,024.50
LANDSCAPE		
6300 - LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE	\$249,022.00	\$276,000.03
6305 - LANDSCAPE CONSULTANT	\$11,781.85	\$45,000.00
6310 - LANDSCAPE REPLACEMENT	\$306.15	\$0.00
6330 - LANDSCAPE OTHER	\$1,675.49	\$0.00
6340 - ARROYO & POND MAINTENANCE	\$9,309.50	\$0.00
6360 - IRRIGATION REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	\$26,343.57	\$13,092.03
6370 - PET CLEANUP	\$20,740.88	\$7,499.97
6380 - TRAIL MAINTENANCE	\$3,107.38	\$3,750.03
6395 - LANDSCAPE PROJECTS - MASTER PLAN	\$9,277.25	\$7,499.97
Total LANDSCAPE	\$333,564.27	\$352,842.03
MAINTENANCE		
6100 - GATE & GUARDHOUSE MAINTENANCE	\$478.19	\$2,625.03
6575 - SIGN/ENTRY MAINTENANCE	\$1,689.02	\$5,249.97
6590 - WALL REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	\$0.00	\$375.03
6600 - SNOW REMOVAL	\$4,505.53	\$5,000.00
6850 - LOCKS & KEYS	\$0.00	\$187.47
Total MAINTENANCE	\$6,672.74	\$13,437.50
PROFESSIONAL FEES		
5100 - ACCOUNTING/TAX PREP FEES	\$6,663.63	\$7,500.00
5270 - CONSULTING	\$33,560.15	\$26,250.03
5500 - LEGAL FEES-COLLECTION/SMALL CLAIMS	\$2,982.14	\$11,250.00
5501 - LEGAL-GENERAL SERVICES	\$24,942.12	\$11,250.00
5600 - ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT	\$116,968.95	\$121,057.47
8200 - SECURITY SERVICES	\$167,242.05	\$177,187.50
Total PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$352,399.04	\$354,495.00
TAXES/OTHER EXPENSES		
5200 - ALLOWANCE FOR DOUBTFUL ACCOUNTS	\$112.42	\$3,750.03
5860 - COMMUNITY EVENTS	\$633.55	\$3,750.03
5870 - WELCOME COMMITTEE	\$139.27	\$900.00
5900 - WEBSITE	\$2,338.16	\$7,499.97
8250 - MISCELLANEOUS	\$648.81	\$1,500.03
8800 - TAXES - CORPORATE	(\$445.34)	\$5,000.00
Total TAXES/OTHER EXPENSES	\$3,426.87	\$22,400.06
UTILITIES		
7100 - ELECTRICITY	\$3,380.72	\$2,781.00
7500 - TELEPHONE	\$0.00	\$602.28
7900 - WATER/SEWER	\$45,856.78	\$55,820.00
Total UTILITIES	\$49,037.50	\$59,003.28
Total Expense	\$850,979.84	\$905,202.37
Operating Net Income	\$59,013.91	\$2,634.35

HDROA Gated Villages Income/Expense Report YTD as of March 31, 2023

The Canyons	Actual	Budget
Total INCOME	\$19,345.09	\$19,305.00
Total TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	(\$39,250.00)	(\$5,250.00)
Total Expense	\$8,129.88	\$14,844.35
Canyons Operating Net Income	(\$28,034.79)	(\$789.35)

Chaco Compound	Actual	Budget
Total INCOME	\$9,142.21	\$9,108.00
Total TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	(\$5,625.00)	(\$5,625.00)
Total Expense	\$2,795.55	\$3,561.08
Chaco Compound Operating Net Income	\$721.66	(\$78.08)

Desert Mountain	Actual	Budget
Total INCOME	\$103,837.77	\$103,680.00
Total TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	(\$41,250.00)	(\$41,250.00)
Total Expense	\$65,193.58	\$55,947.84
Desert Mountain Operating Net Income	(\$2,605.81)	\$6,482.16

The Enclave	Actual	Budget
Total INCOME	\$24,392.34	\$24,354.00
Total TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	(\$12,000.00)	(\$12,000.00)
Total Expense	\$10,292.99	\$12,355.21
The Enclave Operating Net Income	\$2,099.35	(\$1.21)

Trillium	Actual	Budget
Total INCOME	\$45,810.66	\$45,666.00
Total TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	(\$68,750.00)	(\$18,750.00)
Total Expense	\$17,766.54	\$20,719.69
Trillium Operating Net Income	(\$40,705.88)	\$6,196.31

Wilderness Compound	Actual	Budget
Total INCOME	\$10,555.95	\$10,530.00
Total TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	(\$27,250.00)	(\$2,250.00)
Total Expense	\$3,897.92	\$5,911.95
Wilderness Compound Operating Net Income	(\$20,591.97)	\$2,368.05

The Legends	Actual	Budget
Total INCOME	\$25,552.77	\$25,488.00
Total TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	(\$5,250.00)	(\$5,250.00)
Total Expense	\$20,468.39	\$18,182.13
The Legends Operating Net Income	(\$165.62)	\$2,055.87

Wilderness Canon	Actual	Budget
Total INCOME	\$11,468.16	\$11,457.00
Total TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	(\$3,750.00)	(\$3,750.00)
Total Expense	\$4,656.63	\$5,953.26
Wilderness Canon Operating Net Income	\$3,061.53	\$1,753.74

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Spring Has Definitely Sprung in High Desert, Please Remove the Weeds Around Your Property



Justin Rodriguez

Hello, everyone. Thanks to everyone who has been in touch with me about their compliance concerns. A compliance inspectors' job is difficult and can often set a negative tone with residents. I appreciate hearing from owners so that we communicate effectively to resolve individual compliance matters or to address emerging issues. I enjoy working with the residents of High

Desert toward a common goal. I am so grateful you make the time to communicate with me because it makes every aspect of our relationship that much better. Those of you whom I have spoken with or emailed or even come by your house have helped me grow and learn and become better at serving our community.

It's that time of year again and the weeds have returned in full force. The association is also experiencing weed pressures in the common areas of the community and is working to address those issues. However, owners must also maintain their lots, including the curb lines and easements. If you receive a letter from me about weeds or overgrown grasses and foliage, please reach out if you have questions about what we are asking you to correct or if you need additional time to address the issue. The Association wants to work with you to resolve the matter in a timely manner.

It is natural that owners may have concerns about their village common areas or even a neighbor's lot. Reaching out about your vil-

lage or property concerns via anonymous letters may not be the best way to communicate with me because there is no way for me to get in touch with you about a resolution or next steps to resolve an issue. Please feel free to call, email or write me a letter with your concerns and the Association will work to its best ability to resolve any matters within our purview. And remember, there is a specific form on the website to report issues or concerns in your neighborhood. Go to the website and click on "How Do I?" at the top and then "Report a Neighborhood Problem" to see the form and print or send online.

I want to encourage owners to join in the Association's various meetings held monthly or quarterly. The Board of Directors holds board meetings via Zoom every month and quarterly for Town Halls and Voting Members meetings. It would be enormously beneficial for owners to participate in or even join meetings over Zoom in order to listen. These meetings are a great place to voice concerns and to hear about what's going on in our community. If you're considering joining the Board in the future or becoming a Voting Member, attending the meetings is a fantastic way to get your foot in the door and to gain a good understanding of the issues facing the community. All homeowners are welcome to attend and there is always a time when individuals can address the Board.

Thanks again to all of you for your diligence and for your kind communications.

Dan Kropp, The Canyons, is New Gated Village Committee Chair

By Dan Kropp, Gated Village Committee Chair

My name is Dan Kropp and I am the new chair for the Gated Village Committee.

My wife Sue and I moved from the Kansas City area in 2017 to the Canyons to be close to our grandchildren. Having lived in communities there with homeowner associations, we knew we wanted to live a similar area with covenants that protect home values and promote a sense of community. High Desert, with its beautiful scenery and wildlife, was the obvious choice.

When Kitty Smith retired from the chair position of the Gated Villages, I decided to submit my name to fill the role. I currently am an Alternate Voting Member for the Canyons, and we received a lot of help from Kitty and benefited from the quarterly meetings she held. Gated Villages face their own unique set of concerns in the areas of finance, gates and maintenance and working together is the best way to get our issues solved promptly.

I will continue holding Gated Village Committee meetings with the first one set for May 11, 2023. My next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 10, via Zoom. If you have items for the agenda, please let me know so I can make sure we address them. My email is gveman@gmail.com.

I am looking forward to working with all of the Gated Villages!



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How Does Sandia Heights Handle Wildfire Concerns?

Editor's Note: The High Desert Fire Preparedness Committee, under homeowner and Chair Judy Pierson, reached out to our neighbors in Sandia Heights recently to see what they are doing to prepare for episodes of wildfire. Julie Rochman, a member of the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association's Environment and Safety Committee, recently spoke to Sandia Heights homeowners about fire preparedness. She is a homeowner and retired CEO of the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety. Julie is an expert on property loss mitigation related to natural disasters, including wildfire. She wrote the following article for High Desert homeowners:

By Julie Rochman, Sandia Heights

While Sandia Heights and High Desert are less vulnerable to wildfire than our East Mountain neighbors, we still do have very real risk. We are at risk because our homes are surrounded by growing and dead vegetation along the sides of our roads and on our properties - particularly in the arroyos.

Sandia Heights remains vigilant and active when it comes to educating residents about – and preparing for – wildland fires started by careless cigarette butt tossing, by lightning, or by embers raining down on us as the result of a nearby fire. Among our efforts on these fronts:

- Placing and refreshing information and links on the Sandia Heights Homeowners Association (SHHA) website, as well as in our GRIT Newsletter and through direct mail.
- In 2018/2019, we made individual wildfire risk assessments available to homeowners (conducted by an East Mountain non-profit with specific expertise).
- We worked to achieve a Firewise USA community designation from the National Fire Protection Association, but were unable to engage enough homeowners.
- We encourage all homeowners to provide designated cigarette disposal pails (full of dirt or gravel) for contractors working in their yards, or on their houses.
- Prior to Covid-19, we had a demonstration project showing the effectiveness of goats eating grasses and foliage in the Domingo Baca arroyo. The clearing done by the goats is still obvious after three years along Bobcat Blvd. at the arroyo crossing south of Deer Drive.

Wildfire Workshop with Community Leaders

Most recently, the SHHA held a wildfire workshop that featured Bernalillo County Homeland Security officials, Bernalillo County Fire Department leaders, a representative of the Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District, and myself—retired CEO of the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IIBS). The IIBS has conducted groundbreaking research about how to reduce or prevent wildfire damage to houses and commercial structures.

Sandia Heights Homeowner Association has conducted wildfire workshops every couple of years to keep awareness up for both new and long-time residents. Although we cannot require homeowners to “harden” their homes against wildland fire, some of our covenants do support good wildfire mitigation practices.

For example, Sandia Heights covenants state that homeowners are required to keep any lot that they own (whether built-on or

vacant) “and all easement areas encompassed within the exterior boundaries of said lots, clear of trash.” In addition, “no trash shall be burned on the premises except in approved incinerators located indoors or within service yard. No garbage shall be burned.”

Fortunately, our association’s Board of Directors is very supportive of fire preparedness. In addition, our Environment and Safety Committee, led by an SHHA Board member, is tasked with protecting and improving the parks and the safety of our surroundings in the Sandia Heights neighborhoods. This committee has primary jurisdiction to address wildfire preparedness and education, as well as pedestrian safety and a few other important topics. And, we include fire preparedness information in the welcome packet that is given to all new Sandia Heights homeowners.

Small Fire in Sandia Heights

A few years ago, Sandia Heights had a small fire, most likely started by a cigarette thrown out of a car window. It burned brush along the side of the road, near Paseo del Norte and Tramway. It also scorched a few bushes over the wall in one person’s backyard. This small fire was enough of a stark warning that validated our efforts to mitigate further fire losses through outreach, education and providing actionable, proven wildfire resources to all of our residents.

Questions about the Fire Preparedness Committee? Write High Desert homeowner Judy Pierson at: judy@judypierson.com.



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Volunteers Celebrate Earth Day By Cleaning Up Tramway

By Michele Lesher, Tramway Cleanup Project Chair

It was beautiful weather on Saturday, April 22, this year's Earth Day, definitely one of those days that reminded me how beautiful our Blue Planet is, how breathtakingly spectacular our little corner of the world is, and how much I love the glorious Sandias. To celebrate this event and fulfill our Adopt-a-Highway pledge, 20 High Desert residents donned orange vests and took to Tramway Blvd. to do some major spring cleaning. The wind gods were with us, our trash bags were well-behaved and no one blew away! I think if you walk or drive on Tramway in the next several weeks, you will notice that a whole lot of something is missing - and that you will enjoy your outing that much more!



April 2023 Tramway Cleanup Crew



Cristina and Joe Wilson

Our formal assignment is miles 9 and 10, but we have informally adopted part of mile 11 (from Spain to Bear Canyon Arroyo). We were greeted with tires, cardboard, abandoned cell phones, and a \$10 bill which seemed to have "burned a hole in someone's pocket" and was found by one of our crew (clear proof that littering does not pay). We started at Albertsons, with half of the volunteers working south from Academy and the other half working north - and cleaned both sides of the street and the median. We accumulated 31 full

bags of trash and as I write this, the fruits of our labor are patiently awaiting pickup by NMDOT.

If you see one of your neighbors on this list, please join me in thanking them for their time and efforts:

- Jim DeBlois (Tierra del Oso)
- Charlotte and Jady Trone (Desert Mountain)
- Bob and Kitty Lind (Chaco Compound)
- Krisan Smith (Mountain Highlands)
- Susan Camp (Desert Highlands)
- Ed Arata, Gretchen Concannon, Joe and Cristina Wilson (Legends)
- Janet Brierley (Sunset Ridge)
- Meghan List (Chamisa Trail)
- Julie and Steve Hartig (Overlook)
- Elaine and Fritz Culver (Highlands)
- Dee Brescia (Wilderness Village)
- Tracy Bredeson, Marilyn Morton (Enclave)

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 October 2023. If you are interested in volunteering please drop me an email at mlesher222@comcast.net and I will add you to my list!



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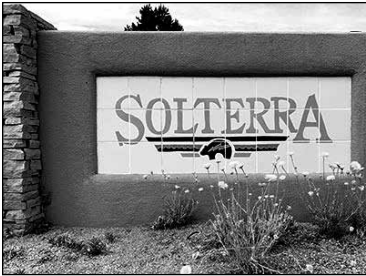
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Village Spotlight

Solterra is a Village of 68 One- and Two-Story Homes Built Soon After High Desert Was First Platted



When High Desert was conceived and building began in the mid-1990s, the Village of Solterra was one of the first that new buyers called home. Centex Homes built many of the 68 single-family one- and two-story homes, many with spectacular city and mountain views

on the land east of Tramway and just south of Spain. The first houses were completed in 1998, with most of the rest finished in the next 10 years.

Today, a quarter century later, Solterra is a solid community with long-time residents and young families. The Village is represented by Voting Members Lynn Claffy and Margo Murdock and by Alternate Voting Members Peter Gilmour and Karin Foster. Prior to the pandemic, Solterra regularly held block parties and 4th of July picnics. Some its residents are long-time High Desert volunteers.

Lynn Claffy, Contracts Committee Chair, is one of those volunteers. She and her husband moved to Solterra in September 1997. “We chose Solterra because of the view of the Sandia Mountains and the city lights,” she said. “The village was very empty when we moved in. There was considerably more wildlife early on, too. We regularly saw coyotes, quail, rabbits, roadrunners and snakes. Once we saw a pair of wolves in what is now Piñon Point.”

Margo Murdock and her husband Tom moved to a cul-de-sac in Solterra in February of 1999 where they built their home. Margo regularly writes a landscape column for the Apache Plume, is a Voting Member for Solterra and has served on the Landscape Committee. Her husband served on the Board of Directors as President and later Treasurer for two decades. She remembers seeing bobcats, roadrunners, a variety of finches, lizards and



Solterra homeowners celebrated National Night Out last August with a block party.

quail. A bobcat and her kittens lived in a drainage ditch for a time and Margo and Tom’s security camera took a photo of a bobcat jumping their back wall into the yard.

Native Grass Groundcover

Solterra is the only builder village that uses native grass groundcover for the homes. “We also allow crusher fines (small particles of hard rock quarry),” Margo said, “but not gravel.” There are two drainage ditches that cross the slope of the village and these are shared by the homeowner just as the arroyos are shared by owners in the estate and premier villages.

Both Margo and Lynn say the neighborhood is very stable. “There is a group of now-retired people who have been here many years,” said Lynn, “but there have been more and more new folks moving in with young children.” Margo added, “I can’t remember the last house that went up for sale.”

The views from Solterra have always been a popular selling point for houses.

“The views remain my favorite thing about living in Solterra,” Lynn said. “I have a second-story balcony on the front of the house with unobstructed view of the Sandias and a second-story balcony on the back of the house with great views of the city lights, the Balloon Fiesta and the 4th of July fireworks in the city.”

Says Margo, “I’ve also enjoyed Lynn’s view of the fireworks for close to 20 years! The views and my landscape where I watch them are some of my favorite things. I also love the neighbors and how helpful they have been to me since my husband’s death. This was unexpected because they all still work and have busy lives and most of them have young children.”

Margo said she and Tom had lived in a master-planned community in Houston before moving to High Desert. “We knew how important the covenants were to maintaining home values and providing structure,” she said. “So finding a master-planned community that extended the look of foothills and supported wildlife was the biggest reason we chose High Desert for our new home.”



The High Desert village of Solterra is bounded by Spain, Cortaderia Place, Imperata and Golden Aster.

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Contracts Committee Reviews RFPs for Management

By Caroline Enos, Contracts Committee Member

The High Desert Residential Owners Association Contracts Committee is busy working soliciting and reviewing proposals for the HDROA management company. A Request For Proposal was issued and bids were received at the end of April. The committee is performing a neutral analysis of all submitted proposals, reviewing both the associated costs and the company's ability to perform the duties required.

"The Contracts Committee is doing a neutral review of all the management company proposals submitted last month," said Caroline Enos, member of the Contract Committee. "We will do a complete review to see what companies meet our association's needs in the most cost effective manner possible."

After reviewing the proposals received, the Committee will interview the companies that are determined to be able to meet the Association requirements. This fact-finding process can take several weeks, after which the committee will present recommendations to the Board of Directors. The board will make the final decision on which management company will be asked to work for the Association for the next three years.

During the pandemic the board had the option to renew contracts when they came up for review. HOAMCO has been the association management company for over 10 years. Their contract was automatically renewed in 2022.

The committee estimates the current selection process will be completed later this summer. The Contracts Committee will make an announcement once the Board has made their final decision. See the website for additional details.

Please Forego All Fireworks This Summer in High Desert

The High Desert Board of Directors is asking homeowners to refrain from all use of fireworks within the community this spring and summer because of the very real possibility of starting an unintentional wildfire. The city bans the use of all aerial fireworks and ground audible devices with fines levied for use. While small fireworks are permitted by the city, the Board asks residents to **not** ignite anything this summer due to fire risk. A simple discarded sparkler could begin a small ground fire that could grow much larger.

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Revised Welcome Committee Needs Members



By Sharon Littrell-Marsh,
Welcome Committee Chair

Do you want to get to know people in your High Desert community? are you interested in visiting different areas of the community? Are you a “people person” who enjoys talking with neighbors? If so, the Welcome Committee is the place for you.

Sharon Littrell-Marsh

Welcoming New High Desert Residents

For years, the Welcome Committee met to hold two Wine and Cheese parties a year for newcomers. The pandemic halted the gatherings for the past three years, but the Welcome Committee has been revitalized and recently started visiting new High Desert residents.

As part of our outreach, we have a packet of information that we leave with each resident that we meet. The packet includes the new Welcome Brochure that Bill Freer and Mary Martin put together. The packet also includes various information such as which post office to use, “do’s and don’ts” in High Desert yards and City watering days. There is also a listing of some local businesses with a map to help people located those businesses.

Social Event in Late Summer

We are planning to have a get together in the late summer to encourage new members to connect with others in our community.

We are looking for volunteers to visit. If you would like to join this committee, contact me — Sharon Littrell-Marsh — at: Sharon.Littrell@hotmail.com.

See a Stopped School Bus in HD? Always, *Always* Stop and Wait!

Each morning and every afternoon school buses turn onto High Desert streets and pick up or discharge children. When they do, the bus drivers extended their side stop-signs and turn on their flashing lights. This is a clear signal for all approaching traffic to stop as they approach the school bus. Cars to the rear of the bus must stop as well and cannot pass the stopped bus.

However, too often cars have been seen passing the school buses and breaking New Mexico law. The fine for passing a school bus that is stopped and displaying its signs and flashing lights is \$100. But if a child is getting off the school bus and crossing the street to the other side, the result could be far more terrible than a simple fine.

There have been multiple reports of cars passing stopped school buses on High Desert streets. If you have a teenaged driver in your house, make sure they know the law and consequences of passing a stopped bus. And model that behavior. See a stopped bus? **Stop.**



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New Directors Elected to the Board

— From Page 1

buquerque, Alamogordo, and Tucson. During his career he was Principal Investigator for several funded NASA grants and gained experience with project management. After 10 years of retirement in Tucson, Harry and his wife returned to Albuquerque, buying a home in Trillium and later in Piñon Point.

As a homeowner in High Desert, Harry was a Voting Member for more than seven years and, until his election this April, was Chair of the Voting Member Group. He has served on several High Desert working groups and committees, including the Nominating Committee, the Elections Process Working Group, the Fire Preparedness Committee and the Documents Revision Working Groups as Chair.

Harry cited a number of priorities he hopes to address as a new director, including managing the master reserve funds, soliciting volunteers, updating policies and the CC&Rs, and landscaping.

Camille Singaraju

Camille was re-elected to a second two-year term on the Board of Directors this year. Camille was born in Topeka, Kansas, raised in Santa Fe and worked in Albuquerque hospitals for more than 30 years, including the emergency management field. She moved to High Desert in 2015, and she has two sons and four grandchildren.



Camille Singaraju

Camille has served on a number of High Desert committees as a volunteer, including as a Voting Member for Sunset Ridge, a member of the Landscape Committee, where she initiated the Fire Working Group and later served as Board Representative to the Fire Preparedness Committee, as current Chair of the Landscape Committee and as board representative to the Communication Committee for the past two years.

Camille wrote that over her next term she would particularly like to focus on the Reserve Studies, saying, “The Reserve Studies have not identified infrastructure issues like walls, and arroyo embankments that need significant repairs and continued maintenance. Lack of planning for these items has resulted in underserving homeowners and has long-term financial implications for our community. The Board and Voting Members must develop a working group to help develop a strategy for paying for these items.”

Steve Hartig

Steve was re-elected to the board where he served the last year as Treasurer.



Steve Hartig

Steve moved to Albuquerque and High Desert from the Chicago area where he was president of his 140-unit homeowner association for two years. Steve’s educational background is in chemical engineering and he spent his 40-year career working for a number of major corporations.

As a member of the board and as treasurer, Steve wrote, “I have personally focused on making sure we have sound finances and communicate openly and transparently to the neighborhood. My main reason to be on the board is to help High Desert thrive and become a better place to

live.” He wrote that maintaining the security and safety of High Desert is a priority with a focus on crime prevention, fire safety and the general safety of the community on the roads and in the parks. He wrote that other priorities include making sure the community is physically attractive and sustainable in the short and long term.

George Marsh

George Marsh was also re-elected by Voting Members in April for another two-year term. George served for 24 years in the US Air Force and later as general manager of several large hotels in Albuquerque over the past 10 years.



George Marsh

George wrote, “The biggest unresolved issue that we must finish is the ongoing direction that our wall stucco program will take in the coming years and how we are to achieve that from a financial perspective. First, we as a community must do a comprehensive inventory of our entire wall and fence structure and determine what needs to be done in a priority sequence going forward.”

George wrote that he would also like the board to work on updating and simplifying many of our governing policies.

And where does he hope the community will be in 2033? He wrote he sees the “community will be more of what it is – a better place to live. Our landscaping will be in tune with current climate concerns; our walls and infrastructure will be well-maintained. We will be aware of ongoing fire danger and will be a welcoming community to those wishing to maintain and enjoy the environment.”

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High Desert Patrol Report: March 22-April 30, 2023

Call Type:	March	April
CRIMINAL/		
CRITICAL EVENTS:	-	-
Assault/Fight	0	0
Breaking/Entering: Home	0	1
Breaking/Entering: Vehicle	0	0
Trespassing	1	0
Dwelling Fire	0	0
Vehicle Fire	0	0
Grass/Wild Fires	0	0
Medical Emergency	0	0
Alarms	1	1
Suspicious Person/Vehicle	0	2
Vandalism/Property Damage	1	1
TRAFFIC EVENTS:	-	-
Vehicle Crash/breakdown	0	1
Vehicle Issues/Speeding	2	3
PREVENTION & NUISANCE:	-	-
Neighbor Complaint	1	2
Noise Complaint	1	1
Open Door/Window/Garage	3	2
Notices Posted on Residences	0	0
Pool Issues	0	0
QUALITY OF LIFE:	-	-
(Lost) Children	0	0
(Lost) Pets	0	0
(Lost) Property	0	1

Call Type:	March	April
Gate Issues	1	2
Street Lights/Maintenance	0	0
OTHER:	-	-
Animal Control Calls	0	0
Abandoned Vehicle Calls	0	0
Snake Calls	0	0
Vacation Home Checks	164	310

**The new patrol contract with Vet-Sec began on March 22, 2023.*

High Desert Board Seeks New Events Committee Chair

The Board of Directors is seeking a homeowner to volunteer as the new High Desert Events Chair.

“With the pandemic pretty much behind us, it’s time for High Desert homeowners to get back to seeing each other and participating in neighborhood and association-wide events,” said George Marsh, Board President. “An Events Chair and committee members can organize events in High Desert Park and help villages with their own gatherings.” Prior to Covid, there were regular “Parties in the Park” held each year with music, children’s games, food and fire trucks on hand. If you are interested, please contact HOAMCO or fill out a Statement of Interest form online.

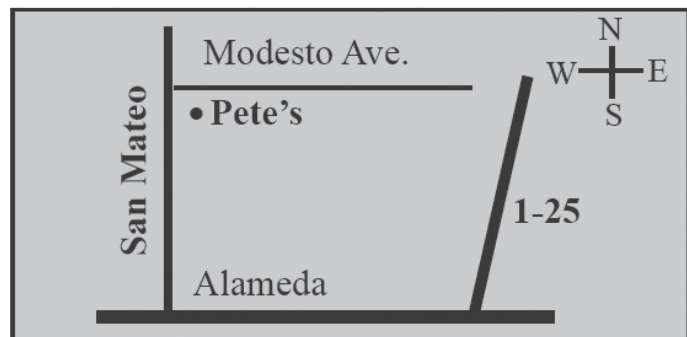
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The High Desert Gardener

Why Get Dirty?

By Margo Murdock
High Desert Resident



Margo Murdock

Gardening is often described as “digging in the dirt” and the question you may ask is why would anyone want to do that? One reason is the personal connection to nature that touching dirt provides. But there are many benefits to gardening related to physical and mental health. Here are some of the personal benefits you can get from gardening:

1. Growing your own food can help you eat healthier and you can control which pesticides are used and how the food is cared for, even how and when it is harvested.
2. Gardening can help boost self-esteem by creating something you can eat or something beautiful - from seed to harvest. It is the “feel good” result of accomplishing something and following through, of watching life develop and grow through the seasons.
3. Gardening reduces stress, which is even more important since Covid. It may be the result of the physical exercise, getting outdoors in the sunshine, or just communing with family or wildlife. It puts you more in tune with yourself. It also provides you with a personal goal that no one is pushing you to finish, so it is relaxing.
4. The exercise of gardening and the repetitive routine promotes sleep, helps with cognition, and aids in maintaining a healthy weight.
5. Digging, planting and weeding are activities that strengthen your heart and, when varied, provides a full workout of your muscles.



Here I am, taking a break from digging in the dirt in my back yard and enjoying my bit of the outdoors.

6. Gardening can make you happy, increase your levels of serotonin and reduce anxiety. Early exposure to dirt has been linked to allergy reduction and to improving the autoimmune system.
7. For those of you with arthritis it keeps you *moving*. In particular it develops your hand strength, but even lifting bags of soil or

(Continued on page 25)

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Why Get Dirty? — From Page 24

mulch can keep you stronger and more flexible.

8. Gardening is a family activity – everyone regardless of age can participate. If you're young, you can garden in beds close to the ground. If you're older, you can raise the beds and work at a more back-saving height. It can be a social activity that helps us talk with one another. It provides joint goals and objectives and the family operates as a team.

9. Your daily dose of vitamin D can come from gardening. Even on a cloudy day, you will still get it.

Broader Reasons to Get Dirty in Your Garden

There are also some community and environmental reasons for gardening.

1. Gardening cleans the air and the ground. Plants take in carbon dioxide which humans breathe out and generate oxygen which humans breathe in. Check out a soil food web chart to see how plants and animals, with the help of microorganisms, clean and rebuild soil.

2. Pesticide-free gardens provide an ecosystem for wildlife including birds and insects.

3. Plant roots capture and help hold soil. Plant leaves and stems capture blowing dirt. As a result your garden prevents erosion from wind and water.

4. Providing for our own soil amendments by recycling our organic waste into compost reduces our carbon footprint. If we grow some of our own food, it doesn't have to be transported, packaged, or stored elsewhere. It arrives fresh to your kitchen when

harvested from the garden. If we compost, we reduce the need for material to be transported to us. Just removing transportation reduces energy use and cost.

5. Planting trees and shrubs reduces your cooling and heating costs, providing shade in the summer and reducing wind in the winter by insulating the walls of your house.

A final benefit of gardening is that it is a "cheap" hobby and/or entertainment. You don't need a lot of tools and seeds are inexpensive. Many vegetables can be started outdoors from seed. Of course you can also buy the latest and greatest tools and plants, but you don't have to. You can create beauty and enjoyment for yourself while also increasing the value of your home. Although experience helps, there are numerous videos online now to show you how to do almost any gardening task.

Do remember though that gardening is "local." Advice from Chicago or San Diego may not be right for our local conditions. They have different soil, more rain, and usually different frost conditions. When searching for information try to use sources from New Mexico or nearby states.

Why Do I Garden?

On a personal note... why do I garden? The answers are because gardening makes me feel good, I love sharing my joy with wildlife, I like growing some of my own food (mostly tomatoes and herbs), the physical activity gets me outdoors, and finally, surveying the beauty of the finished product is endlessly satisfying.

Try it!

Crime Awareness Liaison Position Open – Volunteer Needed

High Desert is seeking a Crime Awareness Liaison between the Board of Directors and homeowners. The new liaison's role will be to communicate with residents on how they can reduce their chances of becoming victims of crime.

The position includes providing information for the Apache Plume and working with residents interested in participating in the Neighborhood Watch program. It also involves working with the Albuquerque Police Department's Community Crime Specialist on focusing APD resources to specific areas of concern in High Desert.

Duties include participating in the Foothills Community Policing Forum's meetings and obtaining APD Crime Mapping Statistics within High Desert, which is posted to the community website.

Interested persons should contact HOAMCO and fill out a Statement of Interest (SOI), found online at www.highdesertliving.net. Click on Documents & Forms/Online Forms/scroll to the SOI.

Advertise in the Apache Plume

- The High Desert newsletter is mailed each quarter to every High Desert homeowner. Issues are also available on the website. Interested in advertising? Contact Rebecca Murphy at eenews@outlook.com or call 505-377-7227.
- Classified ads are free to High Desert residents selling household goods. 20 word maximum.



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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 following page for names and contact information

- 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 Awareness Liaison:**

Position Open: Contact HOAMCO if interested.
hdcrimprevtn@googlegroups.com

- **Welcome Committee:**

Sharon Littrell-Marsh: sharonlittrell@hotmail.com

- **Landscape Committee:** Camille Singaraju:

bsingaraju@msn.com

- **Voting Members Interim Chairperson:**

Mark Soo Hoo: ldrpad@gmail.com

- **Gated Village Committee:** Dan Kropp: GVEman@gmail.com

- **Tramway Cleanup Project:**

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

- **Fire Preparedness Committee**

Judy Pierson: (505) 220-9193: Judy@judypierson.com

- **Communications Committee:**

Reg Rider and Susan Camp:

CommunicationsCommittee@HOAMCO.com

High Desert Security Provides Vacation Watches for HD Homes

Are you leaving on vacation or business and would like High Desert Security 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 High Desert Security directly at (505) 485-5658.

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• 2023-2024 •
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Board Directors	Term:
President: • George Marsh,	4/2023-4/2025
Vice President • Bill Pederson	4/2022-4/2024
Treasurer • Steve Hartig	4/2023-4/2025
Secretary: • Bob Howell	4/2022-4/2024
Director: • Ray Berg	4/2022-4/2024
Director: • Camille Singaraju	4/2023-4/2025
Director: • Harrison Jones	4/2023-4/2025

Officers will be elected at the next meeting.
 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):

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 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 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Management Staff:

• Community Manager: **Brandy Hetherington,**

bhetherington@HOAMCO.com

highdesertmanager@HOAMCO.com

• Assistant Manager: **Erin Brizuela**

ebrizuela@HOAMCO.com

• Violations Coordinator: **Justin Rodriguez,**

JRRodriguez@HOAMCO.com

• Administrative Support: **Salena Allison**

sallison@HOAMCO.com

• High Desert Security:

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

• High Desert Apache Plume Newsletter:

Rebecca Murphy: Editor, (505) 377-7227;

EEnews@outlook.com

Newsletter Liaison: Susan Camp

CommunicationsCommittee@HOAMCO.com

• High Desert Website:

Website Liaison: Bill Freer & Mary Martin:

hdwebcom21@gmail.com

The next issue of the Apache Plume will be mailed to all
 High Desert homeowners in mid-August 2023.

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

- Ad deadline for the August issue: July 24, 2023
- Copy deadline for the August issue: July 31, 2023

Board & Committee Meetings

• Modifications Committee Meetings:

All requests processed by email. Write HOAMCO at
highdesertmanager@HOAMCO.com. For information on
 submissions, see HD website at www.highdesertliving.net.
 Submission deadlines: June 2, July 7, August 4.

• Board of Directors Meetings:

June 20, July 18, August 15, 2023, at 5 p.m.

Zoom meeting

(Note: Board meetings are now held monthly at 5 p.m.)

• Voting Members Quarterly Meeting:

Thursday, July 27, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Zoom meeting. Obtain link on website.

• Town Hall Meeting:

Thursday, May 18, 2023, July 20, 2023

at 6:30 p.m. (New time begins in May)

Zoom meeting. Obtain link on website.

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

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 Community Association Manager, Brandy Hetherington: highdesertmanager@HOAMCO.com: (505) 314-5862
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 Communications Committee, Co-Chairs Reg Rider, Susan Camp: CommunicationsCommittee@HOAMCO.com**



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SHARON'S HIGH DESERT HOMES SALES UPDATE!

High Desert Homes are Selling at a brisk pace. The Albuquerque and High Desert real estate market activity continues to be solid with increases in home values. Low inventory and strong demand are driving sales, and buyers are still willing to afford the current interest rates. Buyers are looking for High Desert Homes. Now is still a good time to sell your home while the market sales are strong and with a low home inventory supply.

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UPDATE HIGH DESERT MARKET ACTIVITY - PAST YEAR 5/2022 TO 5/2023

<p>HIGH DESERT HOME SALES ACTIVITY</p> <p>1 Home FOR SALE average asking price \$600,000 at \$242. per sf</p> <p>2 Homes PENDING average asking price \$428,267 at \$250.66 per sf</p> <p>42 SOLD this past year (12 mo) average sold price \$554,431 at \$270.15 per sf</p>	<p>HIGH DESERT ESTATE PROPERTIES SALES ACTIVITY</p> <p>4 Homes FOR SALE average asking price \$1,333,750 at \$331.41 per sf</p> <p>5 PENDING average asking price \$1,289,780 at \$302.14 per sf</p> <p>44 SOLD this past year (12 mo) average sold price \$1,158,836 at \$307.52 per sf</p>
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