



# High Desert Bulletin

March 2024

## Upcoming Meetings and Events:

*Board Meeting* – The High Desert Board will meet on Tuesday, March 19 at 5 pm via Zoom. If you would like to attend, please contact HOAMCO at 505-314-5862 or [highdesertmanager@hoamco.com](mailto:highdesertmanager@hoamco.com).

## General Announcements:

*Board Director Resigns* – Steve Hartig has resigned from his positions as High Desert Board Director and Treasurer. The Board would like to thank Steve for his many contributions while serving on the Board.

*Additional Opening for Board* - Steve Hartig's resignation has created a fourth opening for Board Director at the April election, with one year remaining in the term for that vacant position. The three candidates receiving the most votes at the annual election will serve in the two-year term slots and the candidate receiving the fourth most votes will serve in the one-year term.

*And the Lucky Winner is* – The Nominating Committee wants to thank everyone who submitted a response with their top concerns about High Desert. The winner of the drawing for a gift card to O'Beans Coffee Shop is Kathleen Garrett. Kathleen responded to the news with "WOW can't believe I won! I say that because I never win anything. Guess I won't be able to say that anymore. Maybe this is the beginning of a winning streak--maybe I should buy a lottery ticket."

*More Great Suggestions Please!* – Last month, the Nominating Committee received many great responses about High Desert concerns. The concerns can be grouped into: safety and the neighborhood feel, landscape and overall appearance, and expenses. The response was so successful that we want to get your ideas again. This time, we would like to know your suggestions about ways to get positive engagement in High Desert from homeowners. Email your suggestions to [tammidorsey@outlook.com](mailto:tammidorsey@outlook.com) and you will be entered into a drawing. The prize is a gift card to O'Beans Coffee Shop.

*Tip from our Crime Awareness Liaison* - Auto burglaries are often committed as crimes of opportunity. Thieves will look for anything of value, including the loose change you might have in your car. They will break in or open an unlocked door, looking for anything of value. Keep your valuables, even if it's your gym bag with dirty socks, out of sight and keep your car locked and in the garage, if possible.

*HOAMCO Compliance Officer Change* - We would like to welcome our new compliance officer, Joe Chabala, to High Desert. He will be replacing Justin Rodriguez, effective March 1st. Joe has been with HOAMCO for over a year and has overseen compliance for several large-scale associations in Albuquerque and Rio Rancho. Many thanks to Justin for all his hard work and dedication in High Desert, and we look forward to having Joe in the community.

*New Board Nomination and Election Procedure* – At the February Board Meeting, the Board approved a new procedure for selecting Board candidates and conducting the Board election at the annual meeting. Some of the content had previously resided in the Nominating Committee Charter and the remainder follows practices that have been refined over the past several years to choose Board Directors effectively and fairly. You can see the [new procedure](#) on the High Desert [website](#).

*Reporting Dog Problems* – Have you encountered an unleashed or unmanaged dog repeatedly? If you have tried talking to the neighbors with no luck, the City of Albuquerque, asks that you call 311 and give as much information to the operator as you can.

*High Winds and Gates* – As we are approaching our windy season, here is a reminder of the protocol for Gated Villages. If winds are projected to be 20 mph or over, HOAMCO will hold the gates open. Opening the gates during these times mitigates excessive wear-and-tear on the swing arms and gear boxes, and potential wind damage.

*Help us Stop Irrigation Leaks* - Yellowstone will begin turning on irrigation in High Desert at the beginning of March. While HOAMCO regularly drives through the community, they may not catch all drips or irrigation leaks so, if you see any leaks, please call the HOAMCO office at 505-314-5862 or the after-hours emergency line at 505-221-0189.

*New Construction Committee (NCC) Changes* – At the January Board Meeting, the Board approved two changes to the Guidelines for Sustainability: 1) any NCC applications shall require the compliance with all NCC guidelines, and resolution of any HOA violations prior to consideration for approval, and 2) any building envelope adjustment or variance from the HOA NCC guidelines shall require unanimous approval by the quorum of the NCC present. The revised Guidelines for Sustainability will be posted on the High Desert website.

*Planning Changes to your Yard?* – If you're planning changes to your landscaping, please remember that plants in public areas must be from the [Approved Plant List](#) and changes to public areas must be approved by the Modifications Committee. The [approval form](#) is available on our website. Please note, plants have many different common names like Chamisa and Rabbit Bush. When looking for a plant, if you do not see the common name look up the scientific name and do a search. Often times you will find the plant you want.

*This bulletin was prepared by the High Desert Communications Committee. Please email any suggestions to [communicationscommittee@hoamco.com](mailto: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](mailto:highdesertmanager@hoamco.com). Also, you can provide or update your email address through HOAMCO's [Caliber Portal](#).*