



*The challenge for our society is to find new ways to enable our seniors to remain in their own homes and help them maintain a life with dignity, independence, and self-respect. High Desert Village is an innovative approach, dedicated to making this a realistic and cost-effective option. **Village Life** is a place to share stories and resources on making it happen.*

## HDV Social Time

Each month, member Joan Rodine, hosts (arranges for) us to be able to gather socially. Coffee (10am) one month and the next month is Pub Night (5pm). The notices come through email and RSVPs are required so Joan can let the establishment know how many to expect. Please join us when you can!! It's a lot of fun!



### Coffee at 10am

The last Wednesday every other month.

Location changes each time.

### PUB NIGHT at 5pm

The 4th Tuesday of every other month.

Location changes each time.



Watch for your emails/flyers announcing these each month!!

RSVP and any questions, contact Joan at 541-318-1669.

## MEMBER BIO FOR GERRY BRICKELL

Although he grew up in the “bread basket” of the country, Gerry Brickell was not a farm boy! He was born in the small town of Emporia, Kansas, and was subsequently raised in the capital city of Topeka.

When he went off to college, he didn’t stray far from his roots, attending Kansas State University, where he majored in civil engineering, with a specialty in traffic engineering. While there, he enrolled in ROTC, which helped finance his college education.

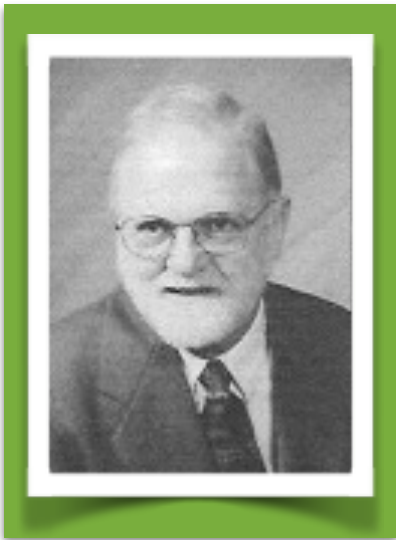
Following graduation, Gerry spent 2 years in the Army as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. He received additional training in El Paso (NOT his favorite location!), and then spent time in St. Louis at the Army missile site.



After his stint in the Army, Gerry got a job as traffic engineer with the highway department in Aurora, Colorado. This was a good experience, partly because he loved the beauty of the mountains, but especially because it was where he met his future wife!

From there, it was back to the Midwest, where he eventually started his own firm in 1963. This firm did consulting for the Kansas state highway department.

After “officially” retiring in 2000, he decided to go back to work, this time in Des Moines, Iowa, working for the Howard R. Green Company as senior project manager for the Transportation Services Sector. Over his long career, he was ultimately registered as a professional engineer in six states!



But in 2002, Gerry finally decided to “hang ‘em up” for good. He and his wife of 52 years chose to retire to Bend upon the recommendation of a fisherman friend. With two adult married daughters in the west (one in Corvallis, the other in Anchorage), it seemed like a good fit.

As a retiree, Gerry’s life is a comfortably quiet one. He volunteers for the Friends of the Bend Libraries, and proudly announced that the last book sale netted \$4800, which was presented to the Deschutes County Library for future purchases.

He has also discovered the joys of “square-foot gardening.” He has built his own wood boxes filled with carefully mixed soil, where he and his wife Clairece are growing their own vegetables.

It’s a good life now, shared with a black cat named Shadow, and occasional visits with family. It’s a long way from wheat and corn country, but Bend has truly become “home.”

*Submitted by Linda Melton*



## NEW MEMBER BIO...FRAN GNOSE

Retirement just became a reality for me a few weeks ago, and I'm still adjusting to the pleasure of "no pressure"! I was a full-time realtor for 25 years here in Bend, and ended that career by working from home for the past number of years. I have seen Central Oregon blossom and grow, and have witnessed many changes over those years.

In addition to my professional work, I was an "animal interpreter" at the High Desert Museum, and did flower arrangements for The Bloom Project. I love to hike and explore, and am crazy about my dog! I now look forward to getting involved with High Desert Village and getting to know my fellow villagers.



## SNICKETS by Midge...*submitted by Midge Michael*

### THE OLDER CROWD

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office.

"Is it true," she wanted to know,  
"that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my  
life?"

"Yes, I'm afraid so," the doctor told her.

There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied,  
"I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition  
because this prescription is marked  
**'NO REFILLS!!'**"

## The President's Corner

"I love how summer just wraps its arms around you like a warm blanket."

--Kellie Elmore

Tom and I have lived in Bend for 36 years and this seems like one of the most consistently sunny summers ever. I hope you have enjoyed it.



*Friends Helping Each Other*

The annual August picnic is a reminder that summer is now starting to move on. It's a good time to reconnect with HDV friends and meet new ones, and to celebrate our wonderful organization. It was a fun afternoon, with plenty of good food and drink. A special thanks to Joan Rodine and her committee for putting it all together!

September will find us back at work continuing to fine tune the Service Teams. We are still getting input from Verified Volunteers, and hope to have that process completed in the near future. Our goal is to have everything in place by October 1, at which time we can begin accepting new members again.

In the meantime, enjoy these last warm and beautiful "dog days of summer." Falling leaves and falling snow will be with us all too soon!

Pam DiDente  
President

## *High Desert Village Newsletter Article .....by Ed Green*

### **My \$15 BLT. It's all about supply and demand.**

Maybe it was Fake News as the New York Times said this past February. But still, the buzz is that bacon prices will rise as the demand for pork belly is outpacing supply. Hmm... supply and demand. Well, that's the nature of business, profits and market trends. It can be a pervasive reality in most every industry. So I can expect to pay more for my BLT if pork belly supply goes way down. That is, if I am willing to buy it!

The value of a home is that which a willing buyer and a willing seller agree upon. The same concept of supply and demand play a major role in this meeting of the minds of buyers and sellers.

The state of Real Estate is summed up in these few bullet points:

- It is a seller's market (When supply is low and buyer demand is high)
- Prices continue to rise (Stating the obvious)
- Bend is among the very top of the pace of rising prices in the nation.



**Seller's Market?** When the demand for homes by buyers is met with a shortage of homes on the market, sellers are able to command higher prices and buyers are willing to pay more to get what they want. "Willing" is the operative word here. No one is forcing the buyer to pay the higher price. No one is forcing the seller to sell at a lower price.

Wait a minute there Ed, there are homes for sale all over town! True, there are about 776 homes (Stick Built and Manufactured) with Bend addresses for sale. This includes all price ranges, all size homes, and all lot sizes. But let's dig a little deeper.

Let's get into "price constraint mode." Let's say the buyer wants a home in good shape for under \$400,000. Now we are looking at 178 homes, quite a drop! Still a good selection right? Oh, but the buyer wants it to have 3 bedrooms and 2 baths and on a lot that is not jammed up to the neighbors? Okay, now you have 53 homes to choose from.

Oh, you want west side that meets these same criteria? Guess what? Zero, Nada, None! But if Mr. & Mrs. Buyer can go to \$500,000 there are three for the buyer from which to choose. Will Mr. & Mrs. Buyer like them all? Will they like even one of the three?

So you see, there is very low inventory for a buyer, once that buyer considers their individual hunting constraints.

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## On Downsizing:

"A house is just a pile of stuff with a cover on it...a place to keep your stuff while you go out and get...*more stuff*." ~George Carlin, Comedian/Social Critic

The construction of new homes is trending away from the sprawling homes of the past. Today the middle to higher income families are looking for what they need in space more than having space for its own sake. The very rich can afford to have people to take care of their stuff and property, so downsizing for that demographic is not as important, although many are choosing to downsize as well.



Empty nesters and the seniors are wanting to keep costs lower (energy, insurance, taxes and purchase costs) in order to use their cash for travel and entertainment, so they buy smaller homes on smaller lots.

To achieve downsizing, careful planning is important. It is important to be sensitive to the emotions associated with stuff; talking about it and giving yourself permission to let go.

**Remember, your biggest expense is, for most, your home! So it makes sense to tackle that expense in trade for more freedom and security long term.**

*The primary goal and benefit of downsizing is freedom by having more cash for enjoyment.*

**Freedom from or reduction in:** Mortgage payments; lowered home operating costs; hours and expenses taking care of the land and structure. Freedom to use the saved money to enjoy travel and entertainment and friends.

Wherever we are, still living large or already downsized, we members of the High Desert Village want to stay as independent as we can for as long as we can and in our own way, we help each other do just that.

Downsizing has its upsides and downsides. For some it may make more financial sense to stay put and refinance or use a reverse mortgage or consider other options.

Yes, your home is your biggest expense and maybe your largest asset, but that does not always call for cashing out for something smaller.

*Ed Green is a Principal Broker/Realtor with John L. Scott Real Estate and is a member of High Desert Village. The comments and thoughts above are not intended to solicit business nor to influence your personal decisions on buying or selling a home or on getting rid of the stuff you love and cherish. The advice of financial and even legal professionals is strongly recommended before making a decision to move.*



High Desert Village Newsletter is published for the  
members by the members.

Please share your areas of interests with your fellow members.

Submit photos and articles  
to Linda Melton (editor) or Nora Miller (publisher)  
for newsletter consideration!

Linda Melton [lmfannypack@bendbroadband.com](mailto:lmfannypack@bendbroadband.com)

Nora Miller [nkolberg@gmail.com](mailto:nkolberg@gmail.com)

## BATTERY CHANGES FOR SMOKE ALARMS

The worst sound ever is that little chirp coming from a smoke alarm in your home. Mine even "talks," telling me that my battery is low. Only 3 months in my new home and the most out-of-reach alarm (in the cathedral ceiling) started talking to me at 5:00 a.m.! Thankfully, Art Johnson cheerfully brought his double ladder over and installed new batteries.

At the 1-year point in my home, I heard Jack Thomas say that the fire department might install new batteries. I called the number and made an appointment. A friendly, efficient fireman came and did the job. Not only that, but he gave me the batteries I was missing!

What I learned is that our Bend Fire Department has a Prevention Division that performs many activities intended to prevent unwanted fire and hazardous conditions, and provides community education. There is a wonderful web page about their goals and activities which can be found on the Bend City site, Prevention Division. You can call 541-322-6309 for more information.

*Submitted by Jeanie Young*

## SOME of our MEMBER SERVICES

### Daily Living and Home Services

- Meal preparation when ill, injured or recovering from a surgery
- Errands
- Wait in home for a service or delivery
- Pet care or dog walking
- Basic housekeeping on a temporary basis
- Taking out trash and recycling
- Mail collection when out of town

### Transportation

- Airport
- Shopping. Will walk member to door and carry in packages
- Hair and or nail salon appointments
- Doctor and Dental appointments
- HDV events

### Handyman/Light Home Maintenance

- Simple house repairs
- Changing lightbulbs and smoke alarm batteries
- Heavy Lifting
- Referral to reliable vendors when problem needs more expertise assistance

### Medical Advice and Advocacy

- Accompany to Doctor's office at member's request
- Calls and visits to discuss and advise members about medical conditions by RN
- Assist with obtaining durable medical equipment

### Electronics and Computers

- Simple solutions for computers, DVD, phones and clocks

### Gardening Advice and Help

- Water outdoor and indoor plants during brief

Call 24/7/364..... 541-419-9912

**Village Life** is a monthly publication of High Desert Village, a non-profit organization where friends help friends stay in their homes longer.

**Interested in becoming a Villager?**

Call us at 541-419-9912.

Check out our web site at <http://highdesertvillage.com>

Email us at [desertvillage@gmail.com](mailto:desertvillage@gmail.com)

Send this to a friend

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