



High Desert Bulletin

December 2022

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Studio Tour This Weekend – The High Desert Studio Tour is returning on Saturday, December 3, from 10 to 5. This event lets you see the work of our talented artist neighbors in their own homes. See a map and get artist information on the High Desert [homepage](#).

HOAMCO Office Closure – The HOAMCO office for High Desert will be closed from Friday, December 23 through Monday, January 2. It will reopen Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

General Announcements:

Updated High Desert Sign Policy – The High Desert Board approved a modification to the High Desert Sign Policy at the November Board Meeting. Section G of that policy, Temporary or Special Event Signs, was edited to clarify requirements for signs related to Elections, Estate Sales, Studio Tours, and Parade of Homes and Gardens. The [updated Policy](#) is available on the [Policies page](#) of the High Desert website.

Safe Use of Luminarias – Luminarias are a beautiful tradition in Albuquerque, but special care must be exercised in High Desert because of our natural environment. If you set out luminarias, please follow the [guidelines](#) provided by the city of Albuquerque.

HOAMCO High Desert Office Security Reminder – Reminder - Due to recent criminal activity in the area, the HOAMCO office will remain locked. Please call the office number 505-314-5862 if you are in the parking lot, and HOAMCO staff will let you into the building. A new security door is being ordered, which will use a call button to allow access into the building.

Board Nominating Committee Needs Committee Volunteers and Board Candidates

The 2023 Nominating Committee is looking for volunteers for two areas. First the Committee needs some additional volunteers to help with the Committee work. We will be working just like last year's committee in looking at candidates, by focusing on assisting the Voting Members in learning about the candidates. If you are willing to help with this vital task, please submit a Statement of Interest form, which can be found on the High Desert website at https://highdesertliving.net/Documents_Forms/Online_Forms/index.html. There are instructions for using the fillable PDF form, then emailing it to the office and printing or saving a copy for yourself.

The Nominating Committee also soon will be collecting Statement of Interest forms for volunteers willing to serve on the Board of Directors. In April of 2023 we will have 4 Board open positions. Please consider how your skills can help High Desert.

Fall Clean-Up for Fire Preparedness

The City of ABQ will have Fall Green Waste pick-up on your regular trash day from Nov. 28 – Dec. 10th. No appointment is necessary. Just leave your bags – any color will do – by 7 am at the curb near your other trash bins. They will take any green waste, including tree branches if they are cut to a minimum of 4 feet in length and bundled. They will not take dirt, soil, gravel, or any not vegetative material.

Where should you focus on fire preparedness around your home?

- Ignition Zone – clear all dead material in the 6 feet around your home and remove lawn furniture, etc. that you may have used earlier in the year.
- Defensible Zone – reduce the fuel load and fire risk out to 30 feet from your home if your lot is that big.

What 6 things should you do to be prepared for fire?

- Clear dead materials on the ground like leaves, pine needles and cones, tumble weeds and dead annual plants.
- Trim off dried foliage from perennial plants and trim grasses to 4 inches. In areas more than 6 feet from the house, you can leave some leaves for insects and birds to forage in during the winter. Quails, for one, nest under bushes. And remember to provide water for wildlife.
- Remove bushes and grasses from beneath trees and separate large bushes to prevent fire spreading from bush to bush.
- Reduce the dead, dry undergrowth from bushes and trim them to no more than 3-4 feet high to reduce the fuel load and stimulate healthy spring renewal.
- Trim tree branches a minimum of 2 feet and up to 4 feet from the ground to reduce chance of fire under or near the tree creating a ladder fuel situation.
- Separate trees and bushes. Tree branches should be more than 10 feet from the house or from other trees to prevent fire spreading. Bushes are safest if not near each other. Limbs must not hang over the roof.

Feel free to contact me if you have other questions or would like a copy of the Firewise pamphlet on Fire Preparedness. judy@judypierson.com

Monthly Website Highlight:

To round out the year, we would like to say a special thanks to our High Desert website team. Bill Freer and Mary Martin are the website liaisons and Janet St. John is the website administrator. Make it part of your routine to check out the [High Desert website](#), and you will notice useful information about High Desert as well as the continuing improvements the team is making to the website. They are truly a creative and conscientious team!

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](#).