

Fellow Woodbridge Homeowners,

The Woodbridge Board asked that I send the following important message along:

A committee consisting of Sally Metzger, Susan Scott and John Foss met with Jeremy from the Colorado Springs Fire Department and Becky from Mountain High Tree Service to discuss reducing fire danger. The biggest fire concern is the large number of evergreens, primarily juniper brushes (pfitzers), close to the buildings, because those shrubs are so flammable. However, removing all the junipers and replacing with safer plants would be costly, and the HOA does not have enough funds in the operating budget to do a lot. Nonetheless, reducing fire danger is obviously important to everyone, so we would like to do as much as we can.

The Fire Department has agreed to **match up to \$10,000** in costs to 1) remove junipers close to the buildings, 2) remove dead trees close to the buildings, and 3) prune branches overhanging or touching the buildings. Thus, Woodbridge HOA can expend up to \$20,000 and the Fire Department will reimburse one-half (although the Fire Department will not match costs to remove deciduous shrubs, remove live trees or dig up stumps). This may be a one-time deal that is too good to pass up, even if the HOA does not have funds for replacement plants.

Our goal then is to remove as much as we can without exceeding \$20,000 and without making owners unhappy who may like the junipers by their units. Therefore, we ask owners to identify junipers that they wouldn't mind if removed by the HOA and for which they would volunteer to plant something in their places. The replacement plants can be of the owner's choosing as long as they are not junipers or will grow to be too large for the space. Suggestions of suitable plants can be provided. We hope that with the matching contribution by the Fire Department and by owners providing replacements, fire danger can be significantly mitigated and unsightly junipers can be replaced with more attractive vegetation.

Please spread the word, talk to your neighbors and identify junipers, dead trees or overhanging branches for possible removal in an email to Sally at woodbridge2sally@aol.com with the subject line "plants" as soon as possible. Please note the unit # and location/description. Also, please let Sally, Susan or John know if you are willing to help coordinate the identification and mapping. We hope to complete the project in August. This is a great opportunity to make Woodbridge safer and more beautiful without a huge cost.