

HYALITE FOOTHILLS NEWSLETTER

July, 2023



NEIGHBORHOOD ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Please join us on August 20 in Cougar Park. Come and go from 4-6.



OPPORTUNITY TO GATHER WELL DATA

Are you concerned about our dwindling water table? See page 3 for information about an upcoming opportunity to gather well data.

New Shade Shelter in Cougar Park

Thanks to Arn Burdick's leadership and the army of volunteers, we now have a Shade Shelter in Cougar Park and wood chips refreshed in the playground.



WALKER SAFETY

As you are walking in the neighborhood, keep in mind a couple safety items:

1. Wear reflective clothing and/or carry a light if walking from dusk to dawn.
2. Walk to the side of the road facing on-coming traffic.

Homeowners: You can help safety of walkers by:

1. Slow your drive. The speed limit on neighborhood street is 25 mph.
2. Cut branches/shrubs along your road frontage that impede walking on the edge of the asphalt.
3. Clean up gravel that was pushed from your driveway that impacts walkers.
4. Bonus points for cutting tall grass along your road frontage (recommended ~ 1 foot minimum).

E-Mail

The HOA Board would like to initiate alternate communication means via email. We currently have email contact info for ~80% of our homeowners. A test email will soon be sent to confirm accuracy (bcc to respect privacy.) If you need to update your e-mail, please send it to info@hyalitefoothills.org. Alternately, verify your email on the dues invoice return slip that is mailed in October.

Architectural Review

Reminder that an Architectural Review is required for any exterior modifications of structures (including fences, out buildings, chicken coops, solar panels) on your property. "Minor" form can be used for modifications that do not change the footprint of structures. Forms can be found at hyalitefoothills.com.

Obnoxious Fowl

Our covenants have a statement prohibiting "obnoxious fowl". The interpretation of this statement has been that a few chicken hens are permitted if properly controlled, but roosters are not.

Mid-year Board Changes

Our long-term president, Sean Burrows, tendered his resignation on July 5. We wish him and his family the best on their new adventure as they move to Virginia. Arn Burdick has graciously stepped up to the role of President. The board appointed Mari Eggers to fill the open position. Both appointments are valid for the remainder of this fiscal year. We encourage all homeowners to attend our Annual Meeting in October where a couple board positions will be up for election.

NOXIOUS WEEDS

Many of those "pretty white flowers" that are currently blooming in our neighborhood are one of two varieties of noxious weeds. Also, please be on the look out for the pink flowers of spotted knapweed that will be blooming soon. More info on how to control these and other noxious weeds can be found at: msuinvasiveplants.org.



Oxeye Daisy



Hoary Allysum



Spotted Knapweed

Communication

Website: hyalitefoothills.com. Find covenants, by-laws, architectural review forms and other info. And, you can always contact the HOA board (see below) if you have questions or comments.

Your HOA Board for 2023 Fiscal Year:

Arn Burdick, President
Mari Eggers, Vice-president
Sallee Nelson, Vice-president
Anne Dingerson, Secretary
Martha Case, Treasurer

Contact at:

e-mail: info@hyalitefoothills.org
Mail:
PO Box 1994
Bozeman, MT 59771

Thank you for being great neighbors!

OPPORTUNITY TO GATHER WELL DATA

Two homeowners in our neighborhood – an engineer and an environmental scientist – independently tested the static water level (depth to water table) in their well and compared it to the static water level when their well was drilled (which is listed on their well log.) Both found that the water table has dropped about 35 feet in the past 35 years. Of course, these are only two wells – we need a lot more data to determine if this is happening throughout the neighborhood.

If you would like to check your well log, to see how deep your well was and where the water table was when your well was drilled, instructions for finding your well log are here:

https://waterquality.montana.edu/well-ed/testing/gwic_guide.html

Note that you can search this state groundwater database in several different ways, and you may have to try them all to find your log. If you do not know the name of the original property owner (under which the well log is filed), you can search by Subdivision, entering “Hyalite Foothills” and then looking it up by your lot number. To confirm you’ve found the correct log, you can click on the mapping link in the upper right to see the location in Google maps.

Here’s an example: If your log says your well depth is 150 feet, and the static water level twenty years ago was 125 feet and the water table has dropped one foot per year: $150 - 125 - 20 = 5$ feet. You may only have a few feet of water depth in your well, and hence checking the current static water level would be a good idea. Any well pump company can do this – but the minimum charge for a visit can run ~\$175. Hence, we are going to organize a day when multiple people can sign up for this service, which should bring it down to ~\$40/well.

At our annual meeting in October, there will be assistance for finding your well log as well as a sign-up sheet for static water level testing, scheduled soon thereafter. We will also plan a water level testing day for April.

If you are then willing to share your results with the HOA Board, we’d like to map the depths to water (by region of the neighborhood, not by exact location). This will not only be helpful in managing our own wells, it might also be very helpful data the next time a dense housing development is planned adjoining our subdivision. We are very grateful to Sean Burrows and others for staving off the most recent threat to our groundwater.