

PHCA February 2017 Eblast

I am receiving reports that some locations did not receive the Q1 newsletter. If you did not receive it last Friday please let me know. We will reprint and hand deliver.

Also please vote for our grant application at

<http://review.wizehive.com/voting/search/nfpapublic2017/?q=Ponderosa+Hills+&p=1>

You can vote once each day. May 6th will be our Firewise Day. We would love some help in planning, promoting, and working on activities that day.

Douglas County responded to the PHCA request to assess and clear fire hazards in the Open Space bordering Ponderosa Hills. Signs are up and activities are underway.

Dues are due for 2017. \$30 annual dues to PHCA .

Mail to : PHCA, Box 2127, Parker Co 80134 or go to the website ponderosahills.org Click on the JOIN tab along the top to pay with Paypal.

Enjoy this beautiful weather but pray for a wet spring.

Cathy

Lots of info today. Topics covered are Firewise grant voting, Wildfire Training Exercises, Well water testing.

Application for FireWise Grant

PHCA has entered a grant application for \$500 to help us cover the costs of Dumpster Day and other Fire Mitigation work. Please help us win by voting. The more votes the greater our chances of winning. We applied last year also but did not receive many votes. Please help us win this year.

There are three ways to vote.

1. The easiest way it to go to this link and vote:

<http://review.wizehive.com/voting/search/nfpapublic2017/?q=Ponderosa+Hills+&p=1>

Voting at www.WildfirePrepDay.org

2. Got to www.WildfirePrepDay.org Click on [vote for your favorite project](#). On the Search box on the proposals page, type in “Ponderosa Hills” and press the Magnifier image to search. When our proposal is screened, please press the **Vote** button. My name, Cathy Lichty, is in the top two fields of the proposal.

3. Log into to Facebook and search for “Firewise”. Click on **PrepDay Voting**. This will take you to the proposal screen. . On the Search box on the proposals page, type in “Ponderosa Hills” and press the Magnifier image to search. When our proposal is screened, please press the **Vote** button.

Voting on Facebook at Firewise Facebook Page

Click on **PrepDay Voting**. This will take you to the search screen where you type in PONDEROSA HILLS and search. When our proposal comes up you can vote. It has my name, Cathy Lichty, in the top fields.

Please vote and get all your family members to vote. The most votes wins. Thank you.

Wildfire Training Exercise

South Metro Fire has again asked Ponderosa Hills to host their Wildfire Training exercises. We did this two years ago and it has proved useful to have the fire department crew familiar with the Ponderosa Hills area and the fire issues they are likely to encounter here. We do not have dates yet but we know they will be looking for specific scenarios or settings on which to train. We will be seeking property owners to volunteer the use of their property for the training. We will let you know the details when we receive more information.

Well Water Testing

The following information is from the Rural Water Authority of Douglas County.

Acreage, nature and open spaces drew us to our rural lifestyle. Quality of life, property value and other benefits we enjoy, however, depend on the availability and quality of groundwater from our Denver Basin wells. Ensuring that our wells can provide safe drinking water is essential to our health and lifestyle.

The quality of water flowing into public water systems is checked regularly by water experts. However, the quality of water used by private well owners is not regulated. Therefore, water in many private wells has never been tested to confirm its quality or suitability for drinking. As a private well owner, it's your responsibility to protect your well and to know whether it is working properly and your family's drinking water is safe!

Groundwater quality across Colorado varies significantly due to climatological conditions, topography, geology, and human-caused contamination

In Colorado, groundwater contamination has been found in many locations, and older wells in shallow aquifers are more likely to be contaminated as a result of human activity. Naturally occurring contaminants include trace elements often found in underground rocks and soils. These trace elements may include iron, manganese, arsenic, selenium, radium, radon, and high concentrations of calcium, magnesium and sulfate, among others.

Common groundwater pollutants from human-caused activity include:

- Improper use of fertilizers, animal manures, herbicides, insecticides and pesticides
- Improperly built or poorly located and/or maintained septic systems for household wastewater
- Leaking or abandoned underground wells, storage tanks and piping
- Animal holding pens/corrals with concentrated waste that rainwater and snowmelt can carry into groundwater
- Improper disposal or storage of wastes
- Industrial activities such as chemical or metals processing, paper making, mining, oil and gas exploration and production.

The Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment's excellent publication on "[Drinking Water from Household Wells](#)" discusses natural and man-made contaminants in layman's terms. It also provides helpful tables like the Quick Reference List of Noticeable Problems and Protecting Your Water Supply.

Well water testing is available through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 303-692-3048 cdphe.lab@state.co.us

Protect your rural lifestyle by [testing your well water](#) regularly and maintaining it to safeguard your drinking water. Why? Because we can't see, smell or taste most contaminants. Understand your groundwater well by downloading, "[How Well Do You Know Your Water Well?](#)" It's worth your time!!