



Mountain News

Issue 4

July 2008

Water Tank Project Update

The water tank project is progressing. POA members attending the June meeting voted to proceed with this project using money from the POA general maintenance fund. The total projected costs to install the water tank are just over \$10,500, including the site preparation, engineering and installation for the footings, tank preparation and repair, moving and installing the tank.

Thanks to Bill Hawkins and Rich Messner for donating their time to work on the tank, and to the Millers for loaning equipment, tank preparation is proceeding quickly. The tank was recently sanded to remove rust and prepare it for painting.



Bill Hawkins working on the water tank

The tank sight grading is finished and the culvert installation and gravel driveway will be completed soon. The water tank still needs to be painted, and two legs need to be repaired before it can be installed. The water tank installation should be complete in late August.

Road Project Update

Special Assessment funds for the road paving project are being collected. Owners of 54 lots (66%) took advantage of the reduced payment option by paying early (\$7,800 due by July 15). The \$8,000 paving assessment is due August 1, 2008.

Because \$421,200 of paving assessment funds have been received, preparing the roadbed for paving will begin once the water tank site preparation is completed (the same contractor is working on both projects). The Board expects paving will begin mid to late August. Johnson Paving is committed to keeping our paving job a high priority in their schedule. Further updates and progress reports will be provided through this newsletter.

Local Marion News

On June 24, the town of Marion approved a new law allowing beer and liquor by the drink in local restaurants. This is good news for Marion because it will initiate further growth of existing restaurants and will bring more new restaurants to the area over time.

High Speed Internet Service Available on Grants Mountain

Grants Mountain has a significant advantage over many mountain home communities because we have access to high speed internet data service. This is an important differentiating feature of our community that may be overlooked by owners and by

Continued from front page

potential property buyers and sellers. Internet data service is available from the following companies:

- Verizon Wireless offers a PC wireless card to access their network. The card gets good reception in most spots on the mountain (828-652-1001)
- AND Wireless & Security is a new local company with two antennas (2.4Ghz Radio & 900 MHz Radio) on one of the Grants Mtn. towers (call 828-899-5114 OR 828-275-3871)
- WildBlue Satellite Internet (800-521-1435) and HughesNet Satellite (888-892-2434) both offer high speed internet through satellite service

All companies require a one-time fee for equipment and installation along with a monthly service charge.

Invasive Plants on Grants Mountain

The beauty of the natural surroundings on Grants Mountain is at risk due to a potential epidemic of invasive plants that can overrun and kill native plants, and also affect your property value. Some invasive species on our mountain may not be viewed as a nuisance, such as the wild blackberries that are prolific on our mountain. Currently, blackberry picking is a very popular activity with blackberry patches found everywhere on the mountain. People are enjoying the fruits of their labor by making preserves and blackberry cobbler.

Other invasive species that are *not* tolerable include poison ivy (ask anyone who has suffered from a close encounter with the vines), wild grape vines, honeysuckle, and the nemesis of the southern states, **KUDZU!**

Kudzu can grow at a rate of up to one foot per day and 60 feet per year! Kudzu is not only an invasive species, but an evasive species because it is so difficult to eradicate.

For eradication, every kudzu plant in and around a patch must be killed or the spread from any surviving plants can make all prior efforts and investments useless. This means that all landowners sharing a patch must arrange to treat the whole patch simultaneously.

There are several ways to eradicate kudzu. These include repeatedly spraying herbicides, bulldozing and physically pulling the root crowns from the ground, prescribed burning, disk harrowing, and grazing with goats. In fact, a local farmer offers a service of goat grazing on kudzu infested areas. Go to: <http://wellsfarmgoats.com/> for more information on the grazing solution.

There are numerous resources available on the internet about kudzu eradication. Here are some helpful links to help you learn more about kudzu eradication:

<http://www.pfmt.org/standman/kudzu.htm>

<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/985>

<http://www.clemson.edu/extfor/publications/ec656/>

<http://kokudzu.com/ControlOutline.html>

Special thanks go to the Palmers, the former owners of lot 63. Their lot was overrun with kudzu. Being good neighbors, they took eradication steps including bulldozing, removing root crowns, and subsequent spraying to kill the surviving kudzu on their lot. This proactive action stopped the spread of kudzu to other neighboring lots. ***Lot 63 should be monitored for the presence of kudzu because it typically takes repeated treatments to completely eliminate the vines.***

If you have kudzu on your property, please take steps to eradicate its' growth, otherwise it WILL spread to your neighbors lot, and eventually overrun the mountain. Kudzu is present on lots 1, 2, 3, 52, 53, and 67. Please do your part to help keep kudzu from running rampant on Grants Mountain!