

FINLEY POINT BREEZE

We get the Point!

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Welcome to the July 4th 2021 Finley Point Breeze. As I have said so many times, July 4th is probably my favorite day of the year. Finley Point and Skidoo Bay become one giant block party. I am part of the boating crowd that watches the happenings from the bay, and it is inspiring! One of my favorite July 4th memories was watching the full moon pop up over the Missions during the fireworks show. It was a spectacular back drop and then provided a silver light on the water guiding my boat safely back to the slip.

Please mark your calendars. The Skidoo Bay fireworks display will be held on SATURDAY JULY 3rd this year!!!!

After all we have been through as a community, country, and world this year, we have much to celebrate. Let's all have a safe holiday.

Inside this special edition, be sure to see what the Flathead Lake Biological Station has to say. We are all so fortunate to have the Biological Station on the shores of Flathead Lake. Not only is their research global, they provide critical monitoring of our lake. Thank you, Bio Station!

We also have a story from the Finley Point/Yellow Bay fire department. Again, we are blessed to have this dedicated crew of volunteers, and the protection and reassurance they provide for us 24/7. They are well equipped to handle everything from fires to auto accidents to search and rescue. And.....they now have a drone! Read more about that in the following article. Their annual open house was June 26, which is always a festive occasion. If you missed it, they would still appreciate your support. Please send your contribution to the Finley Point/Yellow Bay Fire Dept. 35408 MT Highway 35. Polson, MT 59860-8999

So, what's up in the world of real estate? The rumors are true. It's off-the-rails crazy. Smith Team has over 60 years of combined real estate experience, and we have never seen anything close to this "Pandemic Market." We have had countless people ask if we feel that the bubble is going to burst, as it did in 2008-2010. While no one has a crystal ball, the lead up to 2008 was fundamentally different than what we are seeing today. The current demand is in large part a result of companies learning that employees can work from anywhere and live where they want to, placing an emphasis on quality of life. If you are reading this, you probably agree that Montana offers a quality of life unparalleled by most places. Others have discovered this as well! While we welcome our new neighbors with open arms, it is more important than ever that our growth planning and zoning are in place and adhered to. Finley Point has some of the most comprehensive zoning in Lake County, and our neighborhood's beauty reflects this. Getting back to the bubble....the current frenzy will inevitably calm, but we do not see demand diminishing any time on the horizon.

If you have ever considered selling, of course now is an optimal time to reach out to Smith Team. We can provide you with a current market evaluation at no cost or obligation. If you have ever thought of purchasing, now is also a good time, as interest rates are still at historic lows. Yes, buyers have challenges in a Seller's market, however, we have the skills to help navigate buyers in this climate. We want to help! Reach out to Smith Team with your real estate questions.

Thanks for reading and have a great 4th....see you on the water.

Ric Smith
Smith Team
Century 21 Big Sky



An Update from Your Finley Point/Yellow Bay Fire Department

While the 2020 season proved challenging on many aspects, we are happy to report that we had very little in the way of fire activity within our district. We sincerely appreciate the actions from all of those we serve in maintaining a high level of diligence during the burning season. Staffing for your fire department currently stands at 19 volunteers and we responded to a total of 80 calls for service within the district during 2020.

Your fire department open house will be held on June 26th, 2021. We invite you all to join us for food, fun and a tour of your fire hall with all of our equipment on open display. We look forward to seeing you.

In a year where new protocols and restrictions as it relates to the Covid-19 pandemic has complicated all of our lives, we have adapted and maintained our readiness and training requirements. We understand that as volunteers, knowledge is the cornerstone of our effective response on the multitude of scenarios that we face. We are aware that as your first responders, there are times when we must put our personal safety at risk in order to protect the lives and property of those that we serve, and as such, we have not compromised our training during the pandemic. Volunteers attended a total of 32 training days during the 2020 season and many of the team members recently completed certified extensive training courses in both wildland firefighting and ice rescue operations.

Finley Point/Yellow Bay fire department remains the only department within Lake County with the capability of a drone to assist in our missions. Our drone now supports thermal imaging technology which permits us the ability to fly above a structure fire and track the movement and temperature of the fire through the ceiling and walls. This provides for a higher degree of safety for the firefighters before making actual entry into the burning building. This technology was put into use during the 2020 season when we were called to provide mutual aid assistance during the fire at the people's center.

The ability for rapid deployment of the drone during search and rescue operations was also put into play during a second mutual aid assist call for a swift water rescue incident at Buffalo Bridge during the 2020 season. This valuable lifesaving tool would not have been possible without your generous contributions and support.

As a reminder, open burning closed on April 30th, 2021. You can still burn, but will need to obtain a permit through CS&KT division of fire. You can reach them at 406-676-2550 or you can obtain a burn permit online at <http://www.csktfire.org>. There is no need to contact Lake County Dispatch. Please try and complete burning by dusk so that there are no visible flames and please do not burn on windy days.

In the event of a major power outage, the fire station located on Hwy 35, at the entrance to Finley Point, is equipped with a backup generator and we will gladly assist with any emergency power needs you might have.

We, the members of your fire department, appreciate your continued support and generosity, for without you, we would not be there for you. As always, we are honored to serve the residents of the Finley Point/Yellow Bay fire district.

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The 4th of July Parade will be back and better than ever this summer!

The theme of this year's Parade is 1909 to 2021 – Celebrating 112 Years of Growth!

In celebration of this theme, and to help make this year's Parade feel bigger and better than ever, the Chamber is making a few changes to the traditional Parade route. The Parade will now begin at Linderman School, and will make its way to Third and Main before turning down Main Street and finishing on the traditional route. This will create a longer Parade route that will expand beyond the traditional downtown area, offering more viewing opportunities to more areas in town, which will also give people the option of spreading out without sacrificing their Parade experience. Additionally, the Chamber Board is working on a streaming option for those who would like to experience the Parade from their homes.

Lineups for the Parade will begin at 11am. The Parade will begin at Noon. There will not be a registration fee this year for those entering floats.

An important note: The Polson 4th of July Parade and Fireworks event is and always has been a family-friendly and nonpartisan event promoting our undivided positivity and patriotism in celebration of our country and community. That's a tradition we aim to continue this year, and while we are confident this will ultimately be a non-issue, we do want to make it clear in advance: Any vulgar or offensive floats, signs, banners, or messaging will not be tolerated or allowed to participate in the Parade.

For more information about the Parade, please contact our Polson Chamber Office at 406-883-5969 or by email at chamber@polsonchamber.com. For those interested in registering to participate in the Parade, you can find a registration form on our website.

Registration forms must be submitted to the Polson Chamber Office by Noon on July 3 to be eligible for the Parade.

Thank you, Polson! Let's make the 2021 4th of July Celebration our greatest one yet!

Sincerely,
The Polson Chamber Board of Directors



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A message from the Flathead Lake BioStation:

It's great to be back! The days are warmer, the future is looking brighter, and FLARE K-12 is once again able to safely bring students and teachers out of the classroom and into the field.

Already, the program has hosted several in-person field trips at the Bio Station, including Bigfork Scout Troops 1916 and 1923, and FLARE educators recently took part in the Flathead Watershed Through The Seasons teacher workshop at Lone Pine State Park. Additionally, in the past few weeks FLARE K-12 joined CSKT Aquatic Invasive Species, Flathead Lakers, Montana State Parks, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Big Sky Watershed Corps, Protect Our Waters Montana, Montana Black Dog Services, and the students and teachers of Bigfork Middle School for the first official in-person Aquatic Invasive Species Mussel Walk since 2019!

We're incredibly grateful to all of the businesses, organizations, healthcare providers, and individuals for all that they've done to pull us out of the insidious grip of the pandemic, and an additional gratitude goes out to our wonderful partners throughout Montana and the Flathead Watershed! It's an honor standing on the front lines with you all in the fight to keep our waters mussel-free for generations to come!

The Return of FLARE K-12: In-Person K-12 Field Trips and Activities are Back at FLBS



4

FLATHEAD CHERRY FESTIVAL

SAT JULY 31
9AM-6PM

SUN AUGUST 1
10AM-4PM

MAIN STREET
POLSON
MONTANA

PRESENTED BY
POLSON BUSINESS COMMUNITY
FLATHEAD LAKE CHERRY GROWERS, INC.

LOCAL
FRESH CHERRIES
ARTISTS & VENDORS
FOOD & DRINKS

FAMILY FRIENDLY

FLATHEADCHERRYFESTIVAL.COM

POLSONBUSINESSCOMMUNITY

Why I Love Finley Point

At the end of a work day, when I drive along Hwy 35 and turn left onto Finley Point, I can't help but smile and feel at home. Finley Point is so much more than a crooked finger reaching out into the lake. Of course the geography, vegetation, and vistas are amazing, as are the moonrises over the Missions and sunsets that linger forever.

However, there is something more. It is the sense of community. Finley Point still has something that so many places have lost. We wave at each other passing in cars and working in our yards. We know our neighbors, and yes, we have a huge beach party on the 4th of July.

We want to hear from you. Let us know why you love Finley Point. Send us your thoughts via email, and thanks!

~Ric

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As promised in the April 2021 issue of the Breeze.....
 Enjoy this in-depth article about Tyler Irwin, and his book, *The Seat*.

My name is Tyler Irwin. Born on Finley Point in Polson, Montana, I was raised on adventure. From hunting its rugged peaks and wild marsh lands, to wetting a fly in its blue ribbon trout streams, Montana was my outdoor playground. While certainly not alone in my Montana wilderness pursuits, less typical was my passion for, and eventual pursuit of, auto racing.

It all started with a five horsepower go-kart and Finley Point Road as my very own racecourse. There were high-speed asphalt corners and the occasional loose gravel where I could slide the rear tires out a little. It was purely for fun at the time, but those “roaring” laps around The Point developed car handling skills that would serve me well on racetracks around the country.

With the promise that my faith and education would take priority, and of course with the approval of Mom, I started racing cars at the age of ten. It was a family sport that took us all over the Pacific Northwest and eventually led me to Indiana where I graduated from the Indiana University Kelley School of Business and drove for my own USAC Midget race team.

While my dream of racing in the Indianapolis 500 never materialized, I look back on a wealth of experience and effort with gratitude. Most importantly, I feel blessed to have used my platform as a driver to share God’s love. But, racing is never far from my heart.

Five years ago, I embarked on a journey to write my first novel. It was a gnawing itch that I had hoped would replace the thrill of driving. Compared to sitting behind the wheel, the process of completing this project crawled at times, but the results are equally rewarding.

In the Bible, Joshua chapter 1, verse 7, tells us to “Only be thou strong and very courageous . . .” This scripture has provided me encouragement for years. It was written in my college notebooks, highlighted in my Bible, and taped on a yellow sticky-note between the tachometer and fuel shut-off switch on the dash of my race car. I would give my race harness a final cinch, take a deep breath, and glance at the scripture before barreling down the front stretch under a waving green flag. At times, my rumbling nerves and the vibration of the car would blur the words on the note, but just seeing its yellow glow behind my steering wheel was enough. I knew God was with me and the strength I found in Him was sufficient in both victory and defeat.

Writing this book was a lot like strapping into a race car. It often felt unpredictable, out of control, and at times, I certainly questioned whether or not I would triumph. It was at those moments I reminded myself of Joshua 1:7 and of the privilege I had of writing a story I believe in and pray God will use to encourage others.

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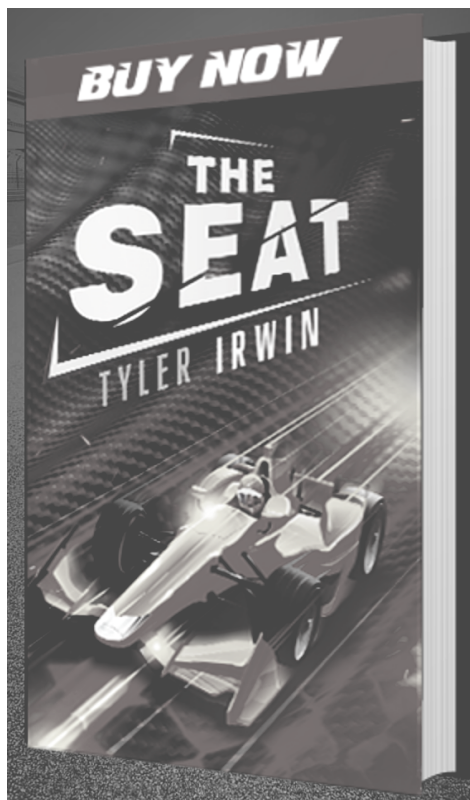
For the past five years, this book has been *my seat* and I have learned and grown along with the characters in my story. My hope is that you, too, find a little of yourself in these characters. Not many of us get to experience the actual seat of a race car, but we all have seats we occupy in our lives. Maybe your seat is an office chair at a challenging job, or the worthy and exhausting task of raising a family, or perhaps your seat is rooted in a gripping depression that keeps you from experiencing the life God has for you. Regardless, my prayer is that this story will provide encouragement and reflect the hope and redemption God offers us all.

"Father God, I pray that whoever chooses to read this book would be encouraged. Encouraged to overcome, to chase their dreams, to make the most of their seat. Most importantly, I pray they choose your unconditional love. Amen"

Summary of *The Seat*

Race driver, Remington Mason, seems to have it all . . . a beautiful fiancé, a coveted ride in the IndyCar Series, and a shot at winning the greatest race in the world, the Indianapolis 500. But when tragedy strikes, Remington faces a battle greater than any he ever had on the track. In the midst of a desperate fight for life and love, Remington learns that the greatest contributions sometimes come in the most unexpected ways.

Grab your own copy of *The Seat* on amazon.com, or visit Tyler's website at TylerIrwinAuthor.com. It's a perfect read for a summer afternoon on the Point.



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Finley Point Real Estate

There have been 6 residential sales in the Finley Point area for 2021 as of June 11, 2021. Four of these residential sales are lakefront properties, or properties with lake access.

-Lowest sales price is \$215,000 for 1964 sqft log home built in 1985 in need of TLC, located on 2.81 acre wooded lot.

-Median sales price is \$935,000 for off-lake property with mesmerizing lake views, privacy on almost 7 acres, coveted mixture of trees/meadows/gardens, 2550 sqft lodge main home, tastefully appointed guest quarters, sleeping cabin, and an expansive garage/shop.

-Highest sales price is \$1,650,000 for lakefront property with 188 frontage feet, 1940 sqft updated home on 3 acres.

There have been 7 land/lot sales in the Finley Point area for 2021 as of June 11, 2021.

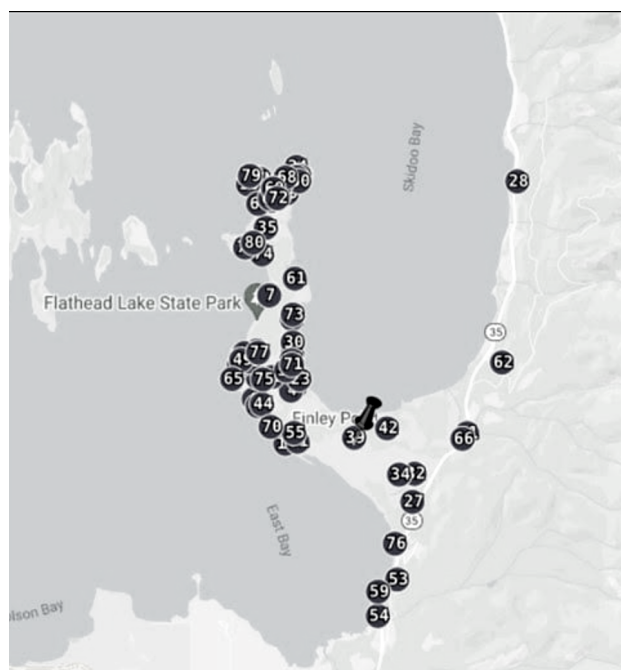
-Lowest sales price is \$118,500 for a .61 acre beautiful, gently sloping lot on Mellett Point Lane with peekaboo lake views.

-Median sales price is \$175,000 for a building lot with lake access in the Borchers waterfront community.

-Highest sales price is \$237,500 for 2 building lots with lake access in the Borchers waterfront community.

If you have ever thought of selling or buying on Finley Point, please let us know! With a presence on the Point, we not only know every nook and cranny, we are aware of the market climate at any given time. Our goal has always been to specialize in our own backyard. We promise to deliver service and results that will exceed your expectations.

We get the Point!



**Smith Team Finley Point
Sales History**

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The Flathead Lake Food Web: A Cautionary Tale of Salmon and Shrimp

by Ian Withrow

(This story originally appeared in the Flathead Lake Biological Station's monthly "Deep Dive into FLBS" column in the Bigfork Eagle.)

According to the earliest accounts in the late 1800s from settlers of European descent, Flathead Lake was originally home to around 10 native fish species, westlope cutthroat trout (Montana's state fish) and bull trout (top predator of its time) the most notable among them. This relatively low level of diversity is not surprising. Flathead Lake has only been around in its recognizable form for 15-20,000 years, after all, and more time than that is needed for new fish species to evolve.

Today, Flathead Lake is home to 21 species of fish, and nonnatives (lake trout, lake whitefish, and yellow perch) have become the dominant species. Westlope cutthroat and bull trout populations, meanwhile, have plummeted and are under continued threat. What happened, you ask? Well gather around the campfire, friends, because the Flathead Lake food web story has enough drama and intrigue to rival anything HBO or Netflix might offer. Submitted for the approval of the FLBS Society, I call this one, "A Tale of Salmon and Shrimp."

As towns sprouted up in northwest Montana, early fisheries managers saw an opportunities to bolster recreational fishing. So they did what almost all fisheries managers of that era did: They began stocking nonnative fishes. Between 1890 and 1950, state and federal fisheries managers introduced nearly 25 fish species into Flathead Lake that were known elsewhere for being fun to fish and tasty to eat. These fish included rainbow trout from the West Coast (1914), brook trout from the East Coast (1913), and lake trout and lake whitefish from the Midwest (1905).

Then, in 1916, fisheries managers introduced kokanee salmon to Flathead Lake. Unlike their coastal cousins, which spend much of their lives in the ocean before traveling up freshwater streams and rivers to reproduce and die, kokanee are a landlocked sockeye salmon. In Flathead, they used the lake as their ocean and traveled up the Flathead River to reproduce.

Between 1940 and 1980, kokanee salmon flourished in the Flathead. Their abundant numbers attracted bears and fishermen alike, and soon bald eagles were migrating from afar to feed on the kokanee, creating internationally renowned wildlife watching opportunities and the largest eagle congregations in the United States outside of Alaska. And yet in spite of the unimaginable recreational and tourism achievements, the question re-emerged: How can we make it better?

And that's precisely where everything fell apart.

Starting the in 1950s, fisheries managers across the West began stocking lakes with a freshwater shrimp from the Midwest called Mysis. In many lakes like Flathead, the native zooplankton that serve as the foundation of the food web are barely visible with the naked eye. Mysis, on the other hand, can be over half of an inch.

Between 1968 and 1975, believing the larger food source would create bigger numbers of bigger kokanee, managers introduced Mysis to five lakes in the Flathead Watershed, including Whitefish and Swan Lakes. By 1981, the Mysis had moved downstream and were discovered in Flathead Lake by a burgeoning lake monitoring program at the Flathead Lake Biological Station.

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Pictured: Mysis Shrimp

Instead of boosting the kokanee in Flathead Lake, however, Mysis caused a complete population crash of the species it was meant to enhance. In 1984, the kokanee in Flathead were estimated to be over 300,000. By 1989, that number was zero. The bears moved on and the eagles flew elsewhere. Flathead Lake's famous kokanee salmon were no more.

How did it go so wrong? There were actually three main mechanisms at work:

First, as the Mysis population exploded, they gobbled up large numbers of zooplankton, leaving little food for the kokanee and other fishes. Additionally, Mysis migrate vertically, spending the day on the bottom of the lake while the kokanee were feeding near the surface. At night, the shrimp would ascend and eat zooplankton, thereby stealing food from the salmon. In other words, the Mysis weren't a food option for kokanee, and instead were a direct competitor.

Second, two of the fishes introduced in the early 1900s, lake trout and lake whitefish, evolved with Mysis and feed on the bottom of the lake. Prior to the introduction of Mysis, lake trout and lake whitefish populations in Flathead Lake were modest at best. After the introduction of one of their favorite foods, their numbers increased dramatically, impacting not only the kokanee population, but westlope cutthroat and bull trout populations as well.

Third, lake trout are voracious and indiscriminate predators. They can eat a fish more than 50% of their own body size and will even eat their own young. As lake trout increased in Flathead Lake, greater numbers of native trout and the kokanee were consumed. When young kokanee were stocked in the 1990s by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) during an unsuccessful reestablishment effort, lake trout were discovered to have distended bellies and young kokanee tails protruding from their mouths.

The Mysis population has generally stabilized in recent years, and continues to be preyed upon heavily by lake trout and lake whitefish. Native bull trout are listed as threatened by the Endangered Species Act, while westlope cutthroat are a "species of special concern". Today, scientists and stakeholders have a far better understanding of the role nonnative species can play in altering an ecosystem, and a soon-to-be published collaborative study between USGS, FWP, and FLBS promises to shed additional light on the matter. Still, the "Tale of Salmon and Shrimp" remains a cautionary one in the annals of freshwater folklore, and an ever present reminder that more and bigger isn't always better when the Last, Best Place is on the line.

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State of the Lake

Flathead Lake Activity

Activity from January 1 through April 30, 2021

RESIDENTIAL

ACTIVE LISTINGS

Up to \$500,000 - 0

\$500,001 to \$1,000,000 - 0

\$1,000,001 to \$2,000,000 - 5

\$2,000,001 to \$4,000,000 - 6

\$4,000,000+ - 6

TOTAL - 17

PENDING SALES

Up to \$500,000 - 0

\$500,001 to \$1,000,000 - 5

\$1,000,001 to \$2,000,000 - 3

\$2,000,001 to \$4,000,000 - 1

\$4,000,000+ - 3

TOTAL - 12

SOLD/CLOSED

Up to \$500,000 - 0

\$500,00 to \$1,000,000 - 4

\$1,000,001 to \$2,000,000 - 7

\$2,000,000 to \$4,000,000 - 2

\$4,000,000+ - 0

TOTAL - 13

LAND

ACTIVE LISTINGS

Up to \$500,000 - 0

\$500,001 to \$1,000,000 - 3

\$1,000,001+ - 4

TOTAL - 7

PENDING SALES

Up to \$500,000 - 3

\$500,001 to \$1,000,000 - 0

\$1,000,001+ - 2

TOTAL - 5

SOLD/CLOSED

Up to \$500,000 - 0

\$500,00 to \$1,000,000 - 2

\$1,000,001+ - 1

TOTAL - 3

Yearly Sold/Closed Sales Comparison - Residential
Flathead Lake
Year-to-Date

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
As of April 1		7	10	8	10	7	7	7	4	7	13
As of July 1		21	26	15	23	25	20	18	21	19	
As of Oct 1	36	51	47	33	42	35	37	37	41	86	
As of Dec 31 (total for year)	53	65	59	43	54	50	49	60	57	126	

Yearly Sold/Closed Sales Comparison - Land
Flathead Lake
Year-to-Date

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
As of April 1		4	6	1	0	3	0	3	1	3	3
As of July 1		10	12	5	6	5	5	10	6	8	
As of Oct 1	2	12	14	7	10	8	12	17	8	13	
As of Dec 31 (total for year)	5	14	16	8	11	12	14	19	11	35	

Compliments of The Smith Team, Ric and Sarah Beck, Brokers, Century 21 Big Sky
(This data is compiled from the Montana Regional Multiple Listing Service)



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Do you have friends or family who want to receive a copy of *The Breeze*?

Drop us an email at **sarah@century21bigsky.com** with their name and address, and we will happily add them to our mailing list. You may also include their phone number and email address for Century 21 Big Sky's monthly newsletter.

We never sell, share or show anyone our mailing list. It is for exclusive use.

CENTURY 21[®]
Big Sky Real Estate

Finley Point Homeowners Association

Check out the local newspapers for upcoming events.

If you are intersted in joining, please fill out the form below and return to Barry Hansen, FPHA President.

Annual fee for Finley Point Property Owners Association membership is \$10.

Name:

Mailing Address:

Finley Point Address:

Mail form and \$10 to Barry Hansen, President, 33668 Lilac Hedge Lane, Polson, MT 59860.

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