

Editor: Barbara Danz

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**Board Meetings**

At the District Office:  
July 14, 2006, 8:30 A.M.  
August 11, 2006, 8:30 A.M.  
September 8, 2006, 8:30 A.M.

**ASCWD**

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**Directors**

Barbara Danz, President  
Virginia Quinan, VP  
Janet S. Grant  
Jon Northrop  
Chuck Nungester

**General Manager**

John M. Collins



**DISTRICT APPROVES A THREE-YEAR INCREASE IN WATER AND SEWER RATES**

The Board, following a Public Hearing on June 12<sup>th</sup>, approved a package of rate increases for the District's water and sewer rates. The increases will take effect on July 1, 2006, 2007 and 2008. The increases were needed to replace property tax revenues which in past years have been used to subsidize expenses associated with water and sewer operations. The property tax revenues are needed to meet the increased cost of fire protection services. In addition, the Board is concerned that the State of California will continue with its plans to reduce tax revenues to Special Districts. In July 2006, the 3/4" (basic residential use) water service base rate will increase from \$310.00 per year to \$406.00 per year. Starting in July 2006, the annual water consumption rate will increase from \$1.10 per 1,000 gallons to \$1.44 per 1,000 gallons for the first 100,000 gallons. For water consumption between 100,000 and 200,000 gallons annually, the rate will increase from \$1.45 to \$1.90 per 1,000 gallons. For water usage over 200,000 gallons annually, the rate will increase from \$2.45 to \$3.21 per 1,000 gallons. The base rate and consumption rates will increase each year for the following two years. The average Alpine Meadows residential water customer uses approximately 63,500 gallons per year. This usage is low compared to other communities because of the high number of second homeowners in the Valley. The average year-round resident uses 150,000 gallons per year (12,500 gallons per month). In July 2006, the average ASCWD water customer's bill will increase from \$31.65 per month to \$41.45 per month or approximately \$497.00 for the year. The average year-round resident's water bill will increase from \$475.00 per year to \$622.00 next year.

The average annual sewer bill will increase from \$130.00 to \$178.00 in 2006/07. Similar increases will take place in the next two subsequent years. If you have questions about the rate increase please contact the District office at (530) 583-2342

**DEFENSIBLE SPACE**

Summer is here and so is the threat of wildland fires. Do you have enough defensible space to protect your home? Defensible space is that area between your home and an oncoming fire where the vegetation has been managed (i.e., pruned, thinned, removed, replaced, etc.) to reduce the fire threat to your home and allow firefighters to safely defend your home. The actual amount of defensible space varies depending upon the type of vegetation (grass, shrubs or timber) and the slope of the terrain. Depending upon these factors, the actual defensible space zone distance can range up to 200 feet.

The defensible space zone consists of three areas: the noncombustible zone; the lean, clean and green zone; and the wildfire fuel reduction zone. The noncombustible zone is the area immediately adjacent to your home and extends out from the footprint of your home for at least five feet. Remove all dead plant material from within this area, including firewood.

The lean, clean and green zone extends out approximately 30 feet from the footprint of your home. This area often serves as the transition between wildland vegetation and your home and is where the irrigated, residential landscaping is situated. It is important that this area be managed so that the vegetation that is present would not be able to generate enough heat for a long enough period of time to ignite your home. It should also provide a safe and effective area for firefighters to defend your home if it becomes necessary. Trees should be thinned to provide an average separation of 10 feet between crowns. Before removing any live trees, contact the Fire District. Also, if the tree is alive and is six inches or more in diameter, approval from BCPC is required. Tree branches within 10 feet of a chimney,

overhanging the roof, or in contact with your home should be removed. Low growing (less than 18 inches in height) native plants can be retained so long as they are kept healthy and vigorous.

The following is a fire hazard abatement check list: (1) Thin brush away from structures. (2) Clean all needles and leaves from roof and rain gutters. (3) Screen chimney and stove pipes with 1/2" mesh. Chimney installation should be vertical to prevent smoke damage. (4) Store firewood away from buildings. (5) Remove dead limbs within six-eight feet of ground level and within 10 feet of chimneys or overhanging structures. (6) Cut dead trees and remove from property. (7) Be sure your address number is visible from the street in all directions of travel (3" tall of reflecting material or 5" tall in contrasting color to paint.)

The North Tahoe Fire Protection District will be performing defensible space inspections in Alpine Meadows during the months of July and August. If you have any questions regarding the defensible space around your home, please contact the Fire District. Also, remember that the Fire District provides a FREE chipping program (see below).

### **ALPINE SPRINGS COMMUNITY PARK**

Don't forget to come and check out our wonderful community park. An **Open House** is scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup>, all day. Use this free day to check out our two wonderful tennis courts, fabulous swimming pond, volleyball court, grassy play area with picnic tables, gas barbeques and more. These amenities are well-maintained in our beautiful alpine setting. The park opened on Memorial Day weekend and, depending on weather, will be open until October.

### **FREE CHIPPING SERVICE**

The North Tahoe Fire Protection District (NTFPD) is once again offering a FREE chipping service. To take advantage of the program all you have to do is call NTFPD's "chipper hot line" at **530-546-4347**. Leave your name, address, phone number, the best time to return your call, and whether you would like the chips blown back onto your property or left in a pile on the edge of your property. Here are the rules: (1) Chipping will occur within approximately a two-week window from the time of your call on a first-come-first-served basis. Priority will be given where multiple parcels are to be chipped. (2) All material to be chipped must be placed along the edge of the road with cut ends pointing towards the road. There is a 7" maximum diameter. (3) All materials chipped will be blown back onto the property to the left of the pile or left on the edge of the property.

### **ELECTION TO ASCWD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Three seats on the ASCWD Board of Directors will be up for election in the November General Election. The seats are currently held by Barbara Danz, Janet Grant and Chuck Nungester. If you are interested in running for election, please contact the Placer County Registrar of Voters to obtain information about the procedures and deadlines.

