

### Upcoming Events

The Park will close the end of September or at the first snowfall.

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#### **Board Meetings**

At the District Office:

Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

#### **ASCWD**

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#### **General Manager**

John M. Collins



#### **UPDATE ON ALPINE MEADOWS FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT**

We reported in our last newsletter that Alpine Springs County Water District had received grant funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in the amount of \$176,375.00 for the "Alpine Meadows Community Consolidated Fuels Reduction Project". Additional funding for the project is being provided by AMEA (\$2,500.00), JMA (\$2,500.00) and ASCWD (\$5,000.00). The project is underway and the District has retained the services of a registered professional forester, David Jaramillo, to manage the project. The services of Webb Land Surveying have been retained to mark the boundaries of the project. Surveying started during the week of August 25<sup>th</sup>. A variety of treatments will be employed to reduce forest fuel loading in the Alpine Meadows area along Bear Creek, Juniper Mountain and a two-acre Alpine Meadows Estates parcel. These treatments will include:

- Removal of up to 75% of the manzanita and other low-growing vegetation surrounding the Juniper Mountain area;
- Removal of small diameter conifers that surround larger, more fire-resilient trees and possibly the removal of a very small number of larger firs for the restoration of aspen.

The work will be done by hand crews using chain saws and a small masticator. The material will be either chipped on-site or removed and chipped at an agreed-upon location. A majority of the material will be placed in small burn piles and burned in the fall of 2009.

A pilot project is planned for an area adjacent to Bear Creek. This area has been selected to demonstrate how pile burning can be conducted within the Stream Environment Zone (SEZ). We are lucky to be involved in this project because many land managers are trying to determine what to do with the over-accumulation of fuels in the SEZ. A certified archaeologist will be retained to survey the project area to ensure that historical and pre-historical sites are protected during the fuels reduction process. The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed the project and determined that no additional permits will be needed.

A portion of this grant provides for free defensible space inspections and free chipping service to residents in order to encourage defensible space clearing around private homes. Chipping services are fully booked for this season. **To schedule a defensible space inspection, call (530) 546-2212**

**WE NEED TO DOCUMENT COMMUNITY MATCHING FUNDS. LET THE DISTRICT OR YOUR HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION KNOW OF ANY TIME OR MONEY YOU SPEND ON CLEARING DEFENSIBLE SPACE.**

#### **WELL R-1 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED**

The District completed its Long Range Water and Sewer Master Plan in December 2006. The highest ranked recommendation was to make improvements to Well R-1. The improvements were needed to alleviate existing deficiencies of the water system to meet maximum day water demands. The improvements consisted of:

- Removal of the old pump and motor and reequipping Well R-1 with a new pump and motor so that it can pump water to the existing water storage tank located behind the River Ranch and River Run Condominiums.
- Installation of four new automatic valves and associated vaults to control amount and direction of the water flow.
- Installation of two new remote read flow meters and associated underground vaults for both Well R-1 and Well R-2.
- Construction of a new building to house the pumping equipment, controls and disinfection facilities.
- Abandoning a nearby existing 12-inch well to prevent possible contamination of the ground water aquifer.

- Installation of Supervisor Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system controls.
- Installation of a new transformer and power service.

The total cost of the improvements was approximately \$505,000.00.

### MONTHLY SAVINGS – MANAGING YOUR UTILITY BILL

Several of our customers have asked the District to explain why utility rates have increased. Here are the reasons: (1) We no longer have a volunteer fire staff. We contract with the North Tahoe Fire Protection District (NTFPD) for all of the District’s fire service needs. As part of that contract, Alpine Meadows pays NTFPD more than \$350,000 annually, approximately 80% of our property tax revenues. This compares with \$99,000 which we paid NTFPD three years ago. (2) Property tax revenues were previously used to subsidize our water, sewer and garbage services. Now, property tax revenues are used exclusively for fire and park operations. (3) Two years ago, the Board adopted a Long Range Water and Sewer Master Plan which set forth \$6,500,000 of capital improvements needed to bring the water and sewer systems into compliance with State standards and to replace undersized and aging infrastructure. The first of these improvements was recently completed (see above).

As a result of these changes, the utility bills of some of our customers have more than doubled, thus making it difficult for some customers to make the annual payment out of their routine monthly budget. Setting aside a monthly amount is one approach to managing your annual utility bill. Take your utility bill for this past year, divide it by 12, and set aside that amount monthly in a savings account. In addition to being ready for the July utility bill, you can earn interest on what you set aside.

Customers also have the option to pay their bills in installments. Customers who inform the District within 75 days after the billing date that they wish to make installment payments may pay off outstanding balances in no more than four equal payments, due at 30-day intervals, for a \$20 per payment finance and handling charge. Please call Pam Zinn, Office Manager, to schedule a payment plan.

### FIRE SAFETY

Oily Rags: In July, a fire in Alpine Meadows was started by oily rags left in a garage. To dispose of oily rags, place them in a bucket of water. Do not leave them piled in or near a structure. Red Flag Warning Days: The National Weather Service proclaims a red flag warning day when humidity is low and temperature and winds are dangerously high. Firefighters take these proclamations very seriously. NTFPD posts red flags at all its fire stations, places changeable message units on Highways 89 and 28, and keeps its crews dressed and its engines ready to go. In this area, all major catastrophic fires have occurred on red flag days. On these days, warming fires are not permitted, use of heavy-duty electrical equipment is not recommended and homeowners should take care when using any open flames or fires within their homes.

### RECEIVE THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

If you do not currently receive the quarterly ASCWD Newsletter, you may receive it by email or by picking it up at the District office. These options are best because postage costs are high; but, if neither works for you, the District will send it to you by regular mail. Please call or email Pam Zinn, ASCWD Office Manager ([pam@alpinesprings.org](mailto:pam@alpinesprings.org)), to inform her of your choice.

### LATCH THE DUMPSTERS

As winter approaches, the bears are on a day-long search for food and the dumpsters at the District office are one of their favorite locations. Unfortunately, some people either leave their garbage sitting outside the dumpsters or do not latch the dumpsters after putting their garbage in them. As a result, the bears make a mess of things. As we approach winter, you can help by following all the posted rules every time you use the dumpsters. Be sure to latch the dumpsters after every use. Two disposable plastic glove dispensers, located on a stand marked “Gloves”, have been provided for your convenience.

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