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At the District Office:

Friday, January 13, 8:30 a.m.
and

Friday, February 10, 8:30
a.m.

ASCWD

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Chuck Nungester

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ASCWD BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPOINTS CHUCK NUNGESTER

The ASCWD Board of Directors appointed Charles "Chuck" Nungester to fill the unexpired term of Tony Stefani. Chuck and his wife Faye are full-time residents in the Alpine Meadows Estates subdivision. They have been residents for 15 years. Chuck has spent 35 years employed in the medical technology field. Chuck has a biology and chemistry background and will bring that background and his sincere interest in the well-being of the Alpine Meadows community to the Board. Chuck indicated during his interview that he "believes that the Board has been responsible for the excellent living conditions that he and his wife have enjoyed in the valley and that he would like the opportunity to contribute [his] time to maintain and improve our valley." Chuck will serve until the November 2006 election.

SANTA'S COMING TO TOWN – DECEMBER 24

Santa will be making his annual visit to Alpine Meadows on Christmas Eve. If you would like Santa to stop at your house, please call Pam at the District office to make a reservation. Santa only makes 15 stops, so call now to be sure your children are not disappointed.

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PLAN

Hopefully, you were able to attend one of the community meetings which ASCWD held, in cooperation with NTFPD and Placer County, where the Community Wildfire Plan for Alpine Meadows was discussed. The ASCWD Board of Directors adopted the Plan during its December meeting. The Plan was designed to help AM assess and mitigate risks for wildfires in the community. Here are the highlights of the Plan. The methodology used in developing the Plan included a hazards assessment which considered flammable building materials, effective defensible space, road widths and the number of unenclosed structures. Each community in the valley was given a rating. The rating, combined with an evaluation of the forest health, fuel sources and fire behavior expected in the community, was used to develop mitigation projects to address the hazards. The results of the Plan indicate that the fire threat around the Alpine Meadows neighborhoods is generally low to moderate. The Plan, after considering public input, proposed a number of specific mitigation projects. The first and most important measure is public education. The Plan recommends that the architectural design review committee (BCPC) review and update its landscape and building materials standards with an eye on encouraging the use of flame-resistant landscaping and building materials. Once BCPC updates its standards, handouts listing the appropriate building materials should be developed and distributed to the community. The valley should form a local Fire Safe Chapter to assist ASCWD and NTFPD in fire safe activities. The homeowners' associations have already started working towards creating a Chapter in the valley. The Plan recommends continuation and expansion of the NTFPD Defensible Space Program and the Chipper Program. In addition to the Defensible Space Program on private residential lots, the Plan recommends that each homeowner association address community property by developing open space fuels reduction and riparian improvement programs. The Plan sets forth such a program for each community. Worksheets were developed which will allow the homeowners' associations, government entities and other community groups to apply for grant monies to fund the projects. For more details, visit the ASCWD website and click on the Alpine Meadows Community Wildfire Protection Plan or stop by the District office located at 270 Alpine Meadows Road between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

WINTER IS UPON US - WHAT SHOULD YOU DO TO PREPARE

Every year, some ASCWD customers find themselves without water due to frozen water pipes. You can never anticipate how severe the winter is going to be, but here are a few steps you can take to hopefully avoid problems this winter, if you haven't done so yet.

Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses. Disconnecting the hose allows water to drain from the supply line, preventing an overnight freeze from bursting either the faucet or the supply

line. **Open cabinet doors.** Opening cabinet doors will allow heat to get to uninsulated pipes near exterior walls. **Insulate pipes or faucets in unheated areas.** Surprisingly, hot water pipes can freeze before pipes that carry cold water. Pipes that tend to be most susceptible to freezing are those found in outer walls, crawl spaces, attics or garages. Exposed pipes should be insulated with items such as pipe wrap, heat tape and foam jackets. These types of insulating products are available at your local building supply or hardware stores. Be to follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully when installing these products. If you have questions, call a plumber. **Winterize your vacant house.** If you leave your house for several days or weeks, take the following steps to help protect pipes from freezing: (1) Turn off main shut-off valve. Be aware that if you have a fire protection sprinkler system in your house, it will be deactivated when you shut off the water. (2) Turn off water heater. If you drain the water heater, be sure that you turn off the electricity or gas source. (3) Open indoor and outdoor faucets to drain pipes. (4) Drain toilets by holding down the lever until the tank empties. Pour biodegradable antifreeze into sinks and toilets. (5) Leave your heat on at a minimum temperature of 55 degrees to help keep pipes from freezing in interior walls. **If your pipes freeze, don't take chances.** If you turn on your faucets and nothing comes out, leave the faucets on and call a plumber. If you detect that your pipes have frozen and burst, turn off the water at the main shut-off valve in the house; leave the faucets turned on. Even the most cautious homeowner may sooner or later experience a frozen pipe. If this happens to you, don't panic. A freeze-up at an exposed pipe or under a sink can generally be eliminated by applying heat with a hair dryer, heat lamp or even a light bulb. Be very cautious if you use a light bulb. Light bulbs should always be protected by a cage and not be placed near any flammable materials. Start by warming the pipe as close to the faucet as possible, working toward the coldest section of pipe. **CAUTION: NEVER TRY TO THAW A PIPE WITH A TORCH OR OTHER OPEN FLAME.** Although this may seem to be a reasonable approach, it is one of the most dangerous. Attempting to thaw a line too rapidly with extreme heat could result in an explosion and may cause injury. Water damage is preferable to burning down your home. **Get to know your plumbing.** Learn how to shut the water off and know where your pipes are located. If your pipes do freeze, time is of the essence. The quicker you can shut off the water, or direct your plumber to the problem, the better chance you have to prevent pipes from bursting. **Update District office information.** Finally, make sure that the District has your emergency contact information and that it is complete and up-to-date. Call or email today to update your information.

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