

# DIRECT FROM THE DISTRICT



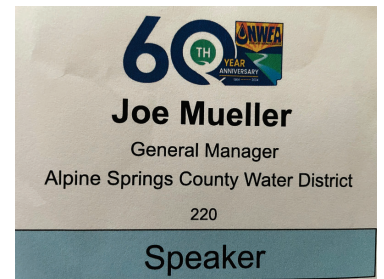
## GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

I hope you all have enjoyed the winter, the holidays and had the opportunity to make many memories with your friends and family. A lot has been happening here at the District, and we have tried to capture all of the important notifications and updates in this newsletter. We have great news that the community Park is opening Memorial Day weekend, May 25th -- just a few short weeks away. And I am excited to personally invite you to join me for a picnic in the park, as I will be cooking

hotdogs and hamburgers, courtesy of the district, to share in celebration of opening day! And in other great news, park fees are staying the same as last year ... no price increase! More details in this newsletter but wanted to highlight this upfront. Also, please read carefully the important update regarding our Fire Protection service agreement with North Tahoe Fire Protection District. A lot of has been happening on this front and we hope everyone in our community will stay aware and be involved in this important discussion.

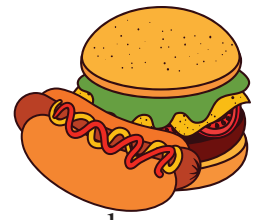
This past March, I was proud to represent the District at the Nevada Water Environmental Association annual conference, partnering with Carollo Engineers, on “How Rural Utilities Can Leverage Planning Tools to Optimize Limited Resources.” This opportunity arose due to the work the District has done with the Master Planning efforts. With support and leadership from the Board and community, we are setting the example for small districts and smart resource planning. My sincere appreciation to the Board and community for supporting this effort and leading the way!

See you May 25th at the Park!  
Joe Mueller, General Manager



**How Rural Utilities Can Leverage Planning Tools to Optimize Limited Resources;** Timothy Loper (Carollo), Joe Mueller Alpine Springs Country Water District, Carollo

# COMMUNITY PARK PICNIC - JUNE 15, 2024



Have you experienced our community park? Whether you are a regular visitor at our park or new, we hope you will come out and enjoy the park by joining the District's General Manager, Joe Mueller, for a park picnic, from 12:00-2:00 on June 15, 2024! Joe will be cooking hotdogs and hamburgers, courtesy of the District, and looks forward to seeing you and your families out at the park celebrating and enjoying this beautiful community space.

Also, watch for information on the community flower walk, the date is being finalized and information will be available on the District's webpage.



**SAVE THE DATE**



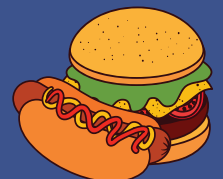
**Purchase your Park Pass Now!**



Great news, we are excited to share that the District will be keeping the park pass purchase price the same as last year -- there is no increase in cost this year! If you haven't purchased your pass yet, do so quickly so that you can join us for the opening day park picnic! As a reminder, we have transitioned to a fully web based purchase program, you can purchase your tickets on the District's webpage at [alpinesprings.org](http://alpinesprings.org).



- Single User Day Pass (only available to Alpine property owners) - \$20
- Family Day Pass (only available to Alpine property owners) - \$40
- Daily Guest Fee (Guests who are NOT staying at the home of the pass holder when accompanied by the pass holder) - \$5.00 per child - \$10 per adult Day Pass
- Alpine Resident Family Season Pass (Property Owners and Long-term Renters) - \$200
- Non-Resident Family Season Pass (Nonresident Passes restricted to those that held a season pass the previous year) - \$300



## FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES UPDATE:

A lot has been happening here at the District, most notably involving our Fire Protection Services contract. North Tahoe Fire Protection District (NTFP) is the agency responsible for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical services throughout Alpine Meadows under a contract agreement that runs through October 2026. We would like to provide you with a bit of an overview of the work being done to secure fire protection services for our community past 2026.

The District team has been working with NTFPD to amend the existing fire protection service contract to be reflective of actual services received. This included services such as staffing, chipping, grant tracking and defensible space. The many discussions did not yield the needed results, and therefore, in late fall the District provided notice to NTFPD, that we would be terminating the existing contract. This provides the District with the ability to begin negotiating a new service contract, with either NTFPD or another provider. Under our contract, NTFPD will continue to provide Fire Protection services through October 2026. In January, the District formed a community ad-hoc advisory committee, with five Alpine Meadows community members. They reviewed the existing fire service contract and providing input as to the future needs of Fire Protection, Emergency Medical and related services. I would like to thank Liz Hobart Zang, John Moise, Don Fulda, Steve Siig and Ricky Holak, for their service on this ad-hoc committee and for openly sharing their thoughts and recommendations for the General Manager and the Board to consider in negotiating a new Fire Protection service agreement. The ad-hoc Committee's recommendations were based on the reasoning that any agreement should actually reflect current staffing level, while still providing operational flexibility for NTFPD and provide a path for ASCWD to make contractual changes if staffing is altered below the staffing model. The ad-hoc committee drafted a letter of recommendation to the ASCWD Board which was also forwarded to NTFPD on April 23, 2024 for consideration. The District did not receive a written response from NTFPD. You may review the Committee recommendation letter on the District's website.

On May 1st NTFPD de-staffed /closed the Alpine Meadows station as allowed under the existing contract. The Alpine Meadows station remains functional with equipment and resources; however, staff are currently no longer present at the station.

Per the contract, NTFPD is required to staff the Alpine Meadows fire station for at least 150 days a year, staffing is at the sole discretion of the NTFPD Chief. Staffing predictability and certainty is one area that the District Board and the community have been focused on, and will be an important part of future contracts for fire protection services.





## FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES CONT.

Seasonal or part-time stations are not unique to our area with both NTFPD and Truckee Fire operating seasonal stations. Typically, they are staffed during the fire season where the threat of fire is highest. However, calls for medical aid and transport service are highest in the winter months around Alpine Meadows, Olympic Valley and the surrounding area coinciding with the operation of the ski resorts.

To reiterate, the decision to de-staff the fire station is in compliance with the current fire agreement between NTFPD and Alpine Springs County Water District, and at the sole discretion of the NTFPD Chief. As such, questions regarding staffing of the Alpine Meadows station should be directed to NTFPD. As always in the case of an emergency, call 911 and watch for updates regarding fire services on the District's webpage.

Thank you, Joe Mueller

## Defensible Space and Green waste Clean-Up!

Are you planning Defensible Space and Green Waste cleanup around your property? Instead of just having that pile of branches chipped consider a better alternative of a green waste dumpster.

Green waste dumpsters allow you to dispose of branches, tree needles, and cones completely by removing them from your property.

TTSD offers a 6-yard Green Waste only dumpster delivered to your door at a special rate for District Residents. Effective July 1st through October at the rate of \$154.79. Call TTSD directly to order (530) 583-0148

Firewise Community: As a reminder, Alpine Meadows is a firewise community and this means you may qualify for insurance reductions. If your insurance provider recognizes firewise communities, you may be asked to provide a certificate of recognition. If so, the certificate may be found at [https://alpinesprings.org/graphics/pdf/Firewise\\_Cert\\_2023-2024.pdf](https://alpinesprings.org/graphics/pdf/Firewise_Cert_2023-2024.pdf).

From the District's webpage, select "Links" on the upper top right banner and select the link that reads "Firewise Community Certificate"

REMINDER ALERT: The District has a green waste dumpster reimbursement program -- for more information contact the district at 530-583-2342 to find out more!



# Understanding Your Water Meter!

By: Miguel Ramirez

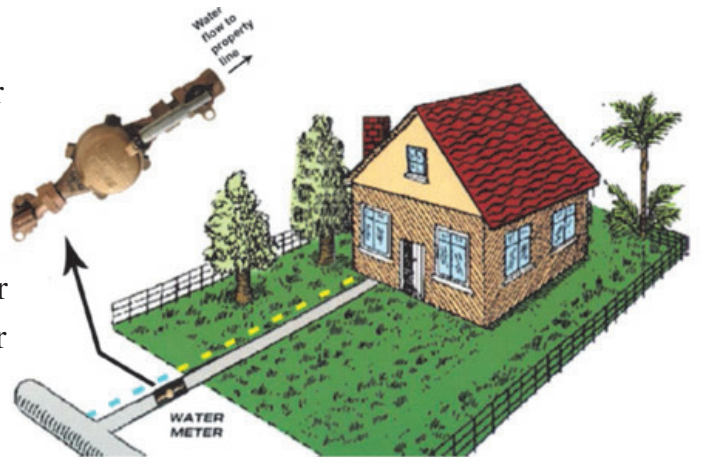
Welcome to Spring from the ASCWD Operations staff!

The construction season is right around the corner, and we wanted the homeowners of Alpine Meadows to be informed about your water system and who is responsible for what parts and who is allowed to operate the valves. So, I have come up with a little introduction called “**UNDERSTANDING YOUR WATER METER**”.

As a property owner or resident, it's important to become familiar with the water pipes and valves within your property and if you rent out your place or let people stay there you will want to have some good, detailed instructions on how everything works and the operational procedures for turning the water off and on. Water emergencies, such as leaks, happen without notice and can cause damage and unexpected expenses if repairs aren't made in a timely manner. The following information will help you to be prepared and may save you both time and money in the future.

## *How to locate your water meter?*

Every resident should know where their home's water meter is located. It's helpful to know where it is in case you see water coming out of the ground or think that there might be a leak. The water meter box is usually located in a driveway or in the dirt close to the property line. It usually has a concrete lid or metal lid and sometimes will say “water” across the top. Even if you know where the water box is located, homeowners, contractors, and plumbers are prohibited from opening or entering this water box. Only ASCWD staff or representatives of the District may open this box. ASCWD owns the box and homeowners will be liable and charged with any damages that occur from non-authorized persons accessing this box. If a homeowner needs their water off, you can call (530) 583-2342 during normal business hours. In an emergency, we have a 24/7 Emergency hotline Phone Number 1-866-696-9608. Every homeowner is encouraged to have this number for after-hours emergencies. My direct cell phone for normal business hours is (530) 902-3190. If you see anything out of the ordinary or see water flowing, please call the office or if it's after hours, please call the hotline.

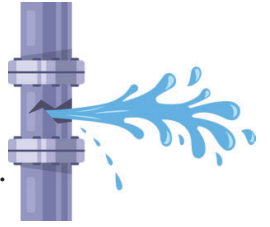


## *Who owns the pipe?*

ASCWD is responsible for the street side of the pipes. Including all service lines and water mains throughout the community. We take responsibility up to the water meter and as soon as the water passes through the meter it becomes the resident's responsibility. If anyone needs help identifying the responsibilities and where they end or begin, please feel free to call the District.

## *How to check for household leaks this summer!*

Call the ASCWD operations staff and we will locate your water meter. We can work with you on a simple procedure to make sure your household plumbing is sound and tight. We read our water meters monthly, and everyone is welcome to give us a call and request a report or water usage. We suggest you call as soon as you suspect a leak.



## *Who do I call for help?*

The ghostbusters won't be able to help you with this one, but don't worry, we have a few suggestions for you. Just as you maintain your house, property owners are responsible for maintaining their plumbing system. This includes all interior plumbing, outside irrigation and basically everything all the way down to the water meter. If a leak occurs between the water meter and the house, or inside the house itself, it is the property owner's responsibility to repair it. It is recommended that you call a plumber and communicate with them about the ASCWD ownership of the water meter. Please do not let anyone in the water box and encourage the plumber to call us for assistance with shutting off the water.

*Plumber!*



*ASCWD!*

If you notice a leak in the street or in the vicinity of the water meter, please call us and we will send someone out to investigate. If you need the water turned off for any reason, call us. Summer is the perfect time to check for leaks in your residence and we can assist with that too.

Please feel free to call the ASCWD offices with any questions, and we would love to help you in any way that we can.

Thank you from the ASCWD Operations Staff.



# BACK TO BACKFLOW -- BUT FIRST: A HUGE THANK YOU!



*Backflow  
Prevention  
Device*

## BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE TESTING

We wanted to say **thank you** from the ASCWD operations staff for everyone getting their backflow devices tested this year. We encourage everyone to get their devices tested in July or August even if it has already been tested for the year. If you're living at your residence full time and you have an easily accessible backflow device this may not be an issue but if you are not at your residence full time or have an outside

backflow device, you will want to make it easier on yourself and us by changing the testing date to the summer.

**\*Residential Cross-Connection Survey to be mailed with your water bill.**

Lookout for a residential Cross-Connection Survey that will be sent out with the billing this July. This is a survey we would like every homeowner to complete and mail back with their water bill or you can e-mail it directly to the District. This is a very important survey for the protection of the potable drinking water system. Thank you in advance for taking the time to protect your water system.

## WHAT IS A CROSS CONNECTION YOU MIGHT ASK?



A cross connection is an actual or potential connection between a public water system or consumer's potable (drinking) water system or any source or system containing non-potable water or other substances. (Non-potable water is water that is unfit or unsafe to drink.)



## WHAT IS BACKFLOW?

Water normally flows in one direction, from the ASCWD water system through your water service, to your plumbing fixtures. However, under certain conditions water can flow in reverse direction-creating “backflow.” Backflow can contaminate the water supply and cause serious health issues. Backflow is the reverse flow of non-potable water or other substances through a cross-connection hazard into the piping of the consumer’s potable water system or the public water system.



## WHAT CAUSES BACKFLOW?

1. **Backsiphonage**- occurs due to loss or deduction of pressure in the public water system providing your water. This can be caused by a rapid withdrawal of a high volume of water from the system due to a system shutdown, a break in the supply mains, or active fire protection. This reduction of pressure creates a vacuum in the piping which draws water back into your home from your irrigation lines, hot tub, or any plumbing fixture with a submerged inlet. These sources of water can contaminate your home’s drinking water and even enter the public system contaminating other’s potable water.
2. **Backpressure**- is created when the source of pressure, such as a household pump, creates pressure greater than that supplied through the public water system. A pump from a landscape pond, pool, hot tub, hydronic heating system, fire sprinkler system or other system containing non- potable water supply affecting your home, and even the entire public drinking system.

## HOW CAN I PREVENT CONTAMINATION OF MY OWN HOME AND THE PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM?



You can determine if your property has any potential cross connections by completing the Cross Connection Survey with your water bill. The District maintains a database for testing, and we support the testing process as needed.

If you think you have a backflow device, and it hasn’t been tested or you may need a backflow device at your residence please contact the Alpine Springs County Water District at (530) 583-2342.

Thank you from the ASCWD operations staff.



# ASCWD Committees - What are they all about?

Did you know that ASCWD has four Board established committees that are comprised of Board members and/or community volunteers -- all working on your behalf. We would like to thank all of our committee members and volunteers for their participation and service to the community - it is through volunteerism such as this that we learn what is important to our community members and how to best serve the Alpine Springs Community.

Want to know more -- Please see below for information about each of our committees.



## **Budget & Finance Committee**

The Budget and Finance Committee works in close liaison with the District CPA and Board Treasurer to maintain prudent and efficient financial controls relating to district operations and long-range capital planning.



## **Administration & Personnel Committee**

The Administration and Personnel Committee is responsible for recommending policy to the District Board in the areas of administration (contracts, rules, procedures, responsibilities, etc.) and personnel (wages and salaries, employee relations, etc.,).



## **Long Range Planning Committee**

The Long Range Planning Committee is responsible for recommending policy to the Board regarding the District Master Plan and Capital Improvement Plan for water resources and sewer systems as it pertains to the District's infrastructure and assets.



## **Park, Recreation and Greenbelt Committee**

This Committee is responsible for recommending policy to the Board regarding Park and Recreation, including state of the park, use and fee policy, annual fee schedule, park amenities policy and operational policy, including level of maintenance. In addition, the Committee recommends greenbelt policy to continue conservation of the undeveloped lands and provide the appropriate monitoring of greenbelt lands by providing defensible fire safe space.

## *Annual Bills Processed In July - Please Update Your Billing and E-mail Address*

Did you know you can pay your utility bill throughout the year? Some customers prefer to make multiple service payments throughout the year instead of waiting for the year end bill to arrive. ASCWD can help you determine a schedule the best fits your individual circumstances, be it monthly, quarterly, or semiannually just contact the district office to learn more about payment options.

Bills are issued July 1st of each year; make sure the District has your correct billing address as the District will not be responsible for any mail that comes back as undeliverable and you will incur a 10% penalty if payment is not received by the due date. The due date is July 31st, and there is a grace period until August 14th before penalties go out. ASCWD also has a payment plan, but you need to set up a payment plan with the District no later than August 13, 2024 with your first payment. If you would like more information contact Laurie Axell (530)583-2342 x101 between the hours of 9am to 3pm or send an email to [info@alpinesprings.org](mailto:info@alpinesprings.org).



### *Annual Bear Box Reminder*

It's worth repeating - Be Bear Aware! The Board of Directors adopted an ordinance requiring all persons who rent their home on a part time or full-time basis to install a "Bear Box". The size of the Bear Box is determined by the size of your house. If the residential unit is less than 2,500 square feet you need a minimum of 1 bear box capable of holding 2 thirty-two (32) gallon cans. For residential units between 2,500 to 3,500 square feet you need a minimum of 1 bear box capable of holding 3 thirty-two (32) gallon cans.

For residential units greater than 3,500 square feet you need a minimum of 1 bear box capable of holding 4 thirty-two (32) gallon cans. Curb side trash pickup is every Monday.

## **HELP TAHOE BREAK UP WITH PLASTIC!**

With 99.994% purity, Tahoe Tap water has been voted the best tasting water in the country by the National Rural Water Association. The DRINK TAHOE TAP initiative is a program of the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association. It was designed to reduce the use of single-use plastics and increase accessibility to drinking water filling stations throughout the region. This initiative is working to encourage people to purchase and use reusable water bottles instead of single-use versions that end up in the landfill or worse — in Lake Tahoe.





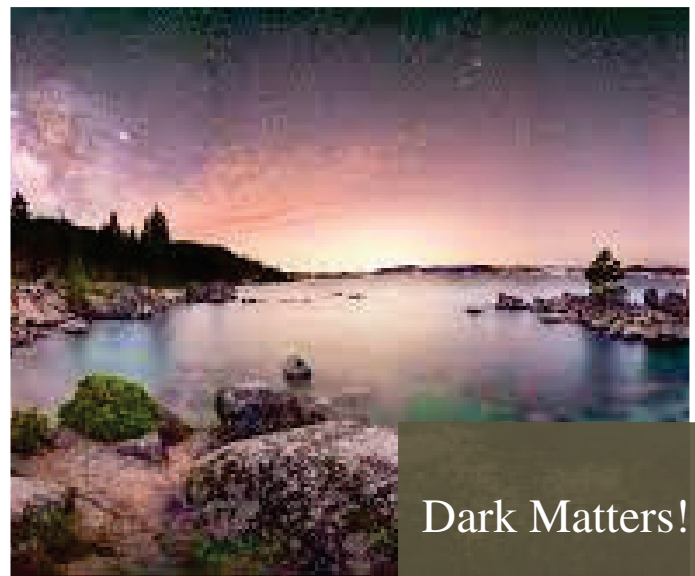
As a reminder, ASCWD is a member of the CTA, a regional public-private partnership of local governments, special districts, community organizations, businesses, and individuals committed to collaboration, innovation, and accountability through a governing body and shared vision for the North Tahoe-Truckee community to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. The CTA is committed to the development of local policy and initiatives that will promote the resilience of the community, recognizing that more can be achieved for the community together. To learn more about CTA, you can visit their website at: <https://www.sierrabusiness.org/archives/climate-transformation-alliance?>



## DARK SKIES

Do you know about Dark Skies?

Placer County regulates lighting — to minimize both impacts on neighborhoods and light pollution that diminishes our shared enjoyment of the night sky. Described broadly, Placer County's policy is to discourage the use of outdoor lighting that shines unnecessarily onto adjacent properties or into the night sky. You may wonder why this is important --- light pollution affects everyone!



Dark Matters!

If you are interested in learning more about the Dark Skies movement, visit [darksky.org](http://darksky.org), but also, we ask you to remember to honor our dark skies and be aware of outdoor lighting! Enjoy your star gazing evenings!

### Light Pollution Affects Us All!



Wildlife



Health



Energy



Heritage



Safety

## ASCWD GENERAL INFORMATION

Board meetings are now offered in a hybrid format - both in person and available virtually via zoom. Upcoming Board Meetings are:

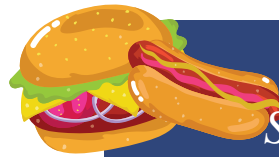
Friday, July 12th, at 9:00 a.m.

Friday, August 9th, at 9:00 a.m.

Friday, September 13th, at 9:00 a.m.

Friday, October 11th, at 9:00 a.m.

Friday, November 8th, at 9:00 am



*Save the Date:  
Community Park  
Picnic.  
June 15, 2024  
12:00-2:00*



### **Board Of Directors**

Janet S. Grant, President

Janice Ganong, Vice-President

Evan Salke

Dave Smelser

Christine York

### **District Staff**

Joe Mueller, General Manager

Laurie Axell, Office Manager

Miguel Ramirez, Operations & Maintenance  
Supervisor

Scheid Limbird, Operations Specialist

Robb Pascarella, Operations Specialist

