Newsletter – Winter 2016 Editor: Janet S. Grant

In This Issue

New AME Well

Who Pays for Dumpsters

Poll Workers Needed

Winterize Your Home

Carbon Monoxide: The Invisible Killer

Reminder Notify District of Billing Address Change

Board Meetings

At the District Office: Friday, October 14th at 9:00 am Friday, November 11th, at 9:00 am Friday, December 9th, at 9:00 am Friday, January 13th, at 9:00 am Friday, February 10th, at 9:00 am Friday, March 10th, at 9:00 am

ASCWD

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Directors

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General Manager

John M. Collins



NEW AME WELL FACILITIES IMPROVE THE DISTRICT'S WATER SUPPLY AND

WATER SYSTEM RELIABILITY The District completed the construction of the AME well facilities located at the end of Beaver Dam Trail. The new well has a production capacity of 225 gallons per minute. The new facility is completely automated and controllable from the District office. The new well facilities replaced fifty plus year old facilities whose capacity had decreased to 25 gallons per minute.

WHO PAYS FOR THE DUMPSTERS LOCATED AT THE DISTRICT OFFICEMany people think they are paying for the dumpsters located at the District office site when in fact the dumpsters are provide free to the District by Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal (TTSD). The fee the District charges for garbage service is a negotiated rate between the District and TTSD. The current rate allows for up to four 32 gallon cans, under 50 pounds. The rate is \$277.28 disposal fee and \$145.00 District expenses for a total yearly fee of \$422.28. Everywhere else most people get two 32 gallon cans and annual charges average \$637.52. Please help the District continue to supply this efficient service by helping to police the use of these dumpsters for Alpine Meadows residents only, no construction debris or green waste. Only house hold garbage should be disposed of in the dumpsters.

REMINDER - LATCH THE DUMPSTERS AFTER DISPOSING OF YOUR GARBAGE

POLL WORKERS NEEDED

Placer County is currently seeking poll workers for Alpine Meadows for the upcoming November 8th election. Depending on the position, you can earn \$85-\$120 for the day. For more information, please visit Placer County website at placerelections.com, or call 530-886-5671 or 530-886-5663.

WINTERIZE YOUR HOME

We are hoping for a wet winter. With that in mind it seems every year, some customers find themselves without water due to frozen water pipes. Here are a few steps that you can take to avoid problems this winter:

(1) **Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses.** Disconnecting the hose allows water to drain from the supply line, which prevents an overnight freeze from bursting the faucet or the supply line.

(2) **Cover air vents.** Close or cover all air vents in the foundation wall of your home to protect pipes in the crawl space from exposure to freezing air.

(3) **Open cabinet doors.** Opening cabinet doors allows heat to get to uninsulated pipes near exterior walls.

(4) **Insulate pipes in unheated areas.** A little known fact is that hot water pipes generally freeze before cold water pipes. The water pipes that tend to be most susceptible to freezing are found in outer walls, crawl spaces, attics and garages. Exposed pipes should be insulated with items such as pipe wrap, heat tape or foam jackets. These insulating products are available at your local building supply or hardware store. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions when installing these products. Call a plumber if you have any questions.

(5) **Winterize your vacant house.** If you leave your house for several days or months, help protect pipes from freezing by following these steps:

a. Turn off your water using the main shut-off valve installed on the house side of the water meter. The District encourages ALL property owners to have a main shut-off valve installed. You may not turn off the water using the District's valve located in your meter box. Damage caused by doing so is the owner's responsibility. Be aware that if you have a fire protection sprinkler system in your house, it will be deactivated when you shut off the water, if your shut off valve is located ahead of the fire service take off.

- b. If you drain your water heater, be sure to turn off the electricity or gas source.
- c. Open indoor and outdoor faucets to drain pipes.
- d. Drain toilets by holding down the lever until the tank empties. Then turn off the water at the water supply located under the holding tank. Add RV anti freeze to the toilet bowl.
- e. Leave your heat on at a minimum temperature of 55 degrees to help keep pipes from freezing in interior walls. Heater can fail or run out of fuel, so always turn off your home water supply.

If your pipes do freeze, don't take chances. If your pipes do freeze and you turn on your faucets and nothing comes out, leave the faucet on and call a plumber. If you do determine that your pipes have frozen and burst, turn off the water at the main shut-off valve, not the District's valve, and leave the faucet on. Even the most cautious homeowner may eventually experience a frozen pipe. If this happens, don't panic. A freeze-up at an exposed pipe or under a sink can generally be melted by applying heat with a hair dryer, heat lamp or even a light bulb. Light bulbs should always be protected by a cage and not be placed near flammable materials. Start warming the pipe as close to the faucet as possible. CAUTION: NEVER TRY TO THAW A PIPE WITH A TORCH OR OTHER OPEN FLAME. This may seem like a reasonable approach, but it is very dangerous. Thawing a line too rapidly with extreme heat can result in an explosion and may cause injury. Water damage is preferable to burning down your house.

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.

CARBON MONOXIDE: THE INVISIBLE KILLER

The North Tahoe Fire Department strongly recommends that every home be protected by at least one CO detector, which can alert you to dangerous levels of CO in your home in time to prevent poisoning. Early warning of hazardous CO levels is very important, but prevention comes first. Know what you need to do to ensure your home is safe from CO. Cooking and heating equipment and motor vehicles in attached garages make up a large percentage of the home CO problem, but portable electric generators, camp stoves and lanterns can also be culprits when not used properly.

Please check NTFIRE.NET to see a list of recalled carbon monoxide and fire alarms.

Carbon monoxide: you can't see it or smell it, but with the right actions you can stay safe from it. For non-emergency questions regarding carbon monoxide, contact the North Tahoe Fire District, Division of Fire & Life Safety at 583-6913.

REMINDER Keep the District informed of billing address changes to avoid a 10% penalty. A Payment Plan is available, contact the District Office at (800) 244-2342 (CA/NV) or (530) 583-2342

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