



SQUAW VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT

Winter 2012 Newsletter

WINTER BIKE TRAIL ACCESS

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fire**

It's winter and the bike trail is open – and the District is providing a public recreation service for the first time in its history. Spurred by the community, the District is now providing snow removal and maintenance services on the County's bike trail between Squaw Creek Road and the Village.

The benefits of the project to the community, local and out-of-town visitors are many and include improved pedestrian safety, an additional option for recreation, and extra business for the restaurants and shops in the Village. Safety is expected to improve as pedestrians can avoid walking along Squaw Valley Road on busy days when traffic is controlled with three-lanes. For those who enjoy being outdoors but don't crave snow, winter use of the trail provides a much-needed alternative for recreation, especially in Tahoe and Truckee, where the winter weather is generally exceptional. Keeping the trail open in the winter is expected to bring additional foot traffic into the Village as well. The program also helps the District's Board fulfill its mission by taking "leadership in providing, maintaining, and advocating for needed, high-quality, and financially sound community services".

The two-year pilot program has been designed not only to provide the benefits described, but to assess the feasibility of

snow removal for other sections of the County trail network. Lessons learned this winter will be used to advise snow removal efforts in the Tahoe basin. The project is fully funded with a combination of funds including Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenue granted to the District by the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association (NLTRA) and Placer County, as well as generous contributions from both the Squaw Valley Business Association and the Squaw Valley Property Owners Association.



Pedestrian points of access are located along the trail as well as either end. Please be careful using the trail and avoid slip hazards, as well as snow removal equipment on both the road and the trail. We request the community's help by participating in the trail maintenance activities by packing out their trash and not forgetting to bring baggies to collect, and pack out, dog waste. We ask that you please contact the District with any maintenance and safety concerns.

The District would like to thank the NLTRA, Squaw Valley Municipal Advisory Council, Squaw Valley Business Association, Property Owner's Association, and Placer County; with special thanks to the District's Board of Directors, Maureen O'Keefe, Mike Livak, and the Board of the Squaw Valley Property Owners' Association.

Fire and Safety Notes

Winter 2012

PERSONNEL NEWS

Firefighter-Paramedic Travis Smith and Miss Erin Prado will be married in April 2012 - congratulations to the happy couple and welcome, Erin, to the Fire Department family!

Sal Monforte, III - Captain Sal Monforte's oldest son, is a freshman studying engineering at Cal-Poly in San Luis Obispo. His brother Nico is a standout ski racer in both Alpine and SkierCross. Paul Bansen, son of Chief Pete Bansen, is studying sustainable agriculture and anthropology in Santa Cruz.

Firefighter-Paramedic Alex Calvillo and his family have moved off of their sailboat in Alameda and have established a household on solid ground in Nevada City.

Former Squaw Valley Fire Captain Mike Gallagher recently became Operations Battalion Chief for Carpinteria Fire Department and former Firefighter-Paramedic Josh Scarboro is now a Captain with Coronado Fire Department.

KEY BOX PROGRAM

We're going to take another opportunity to extol the virtues of the key box program that our Department has used for many years. Having a key box installed on your home that only the Fire Department can access allows us to provide a much higher level of service to you than we'd be able to provide without it. If someone is seriously ill and cannot come to the door, if there's an alarm or smoke detector activation when no one is home, we're able to make entry without doing any damage, address the problem and re-secure the house. The correct key boxes can be ordered online at www.knoxbox.com. Call us if you have questions - 530/583-6111.

Building Codes Catch Up to Squaw Valley

State and national building codes go through periodic revision and adoption, resulting in new and sometimes confusing requirements. We're happy to report that the newest version of the California Building Code 'catches up' to requirements that we've had in place locally for some time. Some highlights:

- Residential fire sprinklers are now required in all new single and multi-family dwellings and under certain circumstances for remodels and additions. This has been the case in our jurisdiction for many years and has allowed us to operate the Fire Department with fewer people than would otherwise be required.
- Carbon monoxide detectors are required in all new homes. We pioneered this concept years ago and even got a FEMA grant to equip all of the homes in our District with CO detectors at no cost to the owner. Carbon monoxide poisoning is a serious consideration, because the gas is odorless, colorless and tasteless - the only way to detect it is with instrumentation.
- Fire-resistant exterior details are required under California Building Code Chapter 7A provisions, although we've been stressing the value of fire-resistant construction combined with adequate defensible space for many years.

Doing More With Less

Just as with the rest of the Public Service District operations, Squaw Valley Fire Department is managing our money very carefully these days and doing more with fewer people. Two of the three Fire Department shifts have four people, one shift has three. All of the shifts are operating on a 'minimum staffing of three' basis: when someone is out sick, at class or on vacation, the shift operates with three people that day. A new employee will start in March to fill the vacancy on C shift - once that happens, each shift will at least have four people on days with full staffing. Our part-time staff augments the full-time crew on weekends and during busy periods, providing badly needed additional capacity during the times when we need it the most.

Leasing Your Home? Is it Safe?

I had a call recently from a realtor who is actively engaged in selling and leasing Squaw Valley real estate. She asked if the Fire Department had the ability to inspect and require correction to unsafe conditions in private homes - especially those rented or "ski leased". I responded that we do not - the 'home as castle' doctrine ends that ability when the home is completed. My realtor friend commented that she sees homes that are ski leased and rented that don't have even the most basic safety provisions: smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors or seismic strapping on the water heater.

Here are some things to consider whether you are the lessor or lessee:

- Building Codes have required smoke detectors in single-family dwellings for decades and now requires carbon monoxide detectors. Renting or leasing your home without these simple, inexpensive, truly life saving items in place and working is foolish.
- Land-line phones provide the 911 operator with a location, even if the caller cannot provide one. Cellular phones generally do not provide this same functionality. Make sure that you post the street address of your home in a prominent location (or more than one place) within the home so that someone renting the home knows the address in an emergency.
- The people renting or ski-leasing Squaw Valley homes are a sophisticated, affluent market. The very minimum that they are looking for in a rental or ski lease is that it is safe for their family (and especially children). If the home they rent is NOT safe, it's a safe bet that they'll report their findings to the agent or in a VRBO review.

NEW TECHNOLOGY IMPROVES DISTRICT'S EFFICIENCY

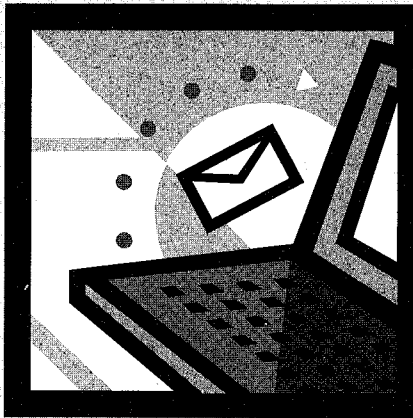
The District continues to leverage new technology to improve its efficiency and reduce costs. We are currently in the process of updating two enterprise software programs essential to the District's business operations as well as improving the way we communicate and provide information to our customers.

The update to our accounting software will eventually allow the District to e-bill our customers and allow payments to be made via our website. In addition, the new billing format will be easier to understand and include graphs showing monthly water usage.

The PSD is also employing Work Order and Asset Management software to support the District's mission to increase transparency, efficiency, and accountability. Of the many capabilities of the system, staff will commence use with the goal of accurately tracking labor and equipment expenses by department. This information is useful in the management of limited re-

sources as well as setting rates commensurate with the costs to provide services.

Part of the District's comprehensive plan relies on electronic com-



munication for billing, emergency contact, leak notification, service requests, and newsletters. Customer contact information, including cell and home phone numbers and email addresses, are essential to achieve higher efficiencies in our operations.

However, due to privacy concerns and abuses associated with provid-

ing personal contact information, many are hesitant to provide such information and prefer communication occur through the U.S. Mail service. District staff is sensitive to these concerns and as such, will protect any information provided and guard it as if it is our own. As the information is critical to employ methods to improve the way we operate, we certainly don't plan to jeopardize our own success by careless maintenance of it.

With that said, **ALL** customers are encouraged to provide the District with a reliable email address and phone numbers (primary residence, local, and cell). You may provide your contact information via our website at www.svpsd.org. Just click the "Change of Address" link on the side bar and enter your information there. Enter additional information in the "Additional Properties or Comments" field.

We are very excited about the new technology and believe it will improve communication between the District and its customers.

SEWER EASEMENT UPDATE

The District would like to sincerely thank those property owners who have cleared their easement saving the community the added expense. We also extend our gratitude and our sympathy to those who participated in the tree cutting project last fall. It was a tough job but it had to be done. To date the District has resolved over 120 easements and is about halfway through the easement inspection process. We are sorry for the inconven-

ience, but must have access to our facilities for preventative maintenance and to avoid costly sewer overflows.

Costs are kept low if District staff can regularly access facilities with the equipment necessary to maintain them. There is less risk of overflowing a manhole due to a line stoppage, as well as avoiding the regulatory fines associated with sanitary sewer overflows (SSO). The environmental benefit is

obvious due to the negative impacts associated with an SSO. Lastly, service interruptions necessary to make repairs are also avoided.

Please feel free to contact the District for more information on the easement program and the legal requirement to maintain access to its easements.

BOARD SECRETARY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Jim Smith, District Board Secretary since March 24, 2005, gave notice to the Board of Directors and staff of his pending retirement in April of this year.

I have been honored to have had the opportunity to serve the Board, management, and staff of the Public Service District for the last seven years, along with the general public. Of the myriad list of duties, responsibilities and legal mandates, I am most proud of carrying the District's record management program to the next level. A District library has been established, and a vast majority of the District's vital records and customer files

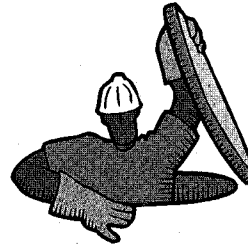
have been scanned into an electronic data base. A detailed Records Retention Schedule was prepared and the process of scanning further records and destruction of the paper copies will be a constant and on-going project.

It has been a great run of 16 years of public service and now it's my time to change direction, relax and enjoy life more. I extend my sincerest **THANK YOU** to the Board of Directors for appointing me to the position and for your continuous and on-going support.

Jim Smith

Squaw Valley Public Service District
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SEWER LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECTS 2012



The District will be replacing sewer lines in two neighborhoods this summer starting in July or August. The project located at the end of Squaw Peak Road will affect residents in the Shirley Lake and

Squaw Peak Apartments along with residents accessing the Shirley Lake trail. The other project is mostly easement work located on the 1200 block of Lanny Lane between Lanny Lane and Sandy Way. We are sorry for the inconvenience but aging sewers in these locations need to be replaced. Please be considerate of workers in the cone zone. If you have a concern, please give us a call.



***"Water Conservation is a
Moral Obligation"***