



SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2022



Forest Fuels Management

The District continues to expand the Fire Department's Fuels Management Program to prevent and reduce the impacts on the community from catastrophic wildfire. Two major components of the program include the preparation of the Olympic Valley Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and securing funds to implement forest fuels reduction projects in forested areas in Olympic Valley and along the Truckee River corridor.

The Olympic Valley CWPP intends to prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and address issues such as wildfire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness, and structure protection. A draft version of the Plan was utilized to identify high priority projects eligible for funding in the 2022 CALFIRE grant cycle.

In early February 2022, the District applied to CALFIRE for a Fire Prevention Grant for the *Olympic Valley Fuel Reduction Project*. The Project encompasses 120-acres located on the northern ridgeline of the Valley, and is estimated to cost \$540,000 and take

three years to complete. The project team will spend the remainder of 2022 planning, permitting, and bidding the work, which is scheduled to begin in 2023.

Additionally, the District has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation's *Forest Futures Program*. These grant funds will be used to permit and plan for fuel reduction work along the south ridge and in the Squaw Creek corridor or to thin the lodgepole stand at the S-turns on Olympic Valley Road. The work for this grant is scheduled for completion in 2023.

The District will continue to work with its consultant, Feather River Forestry, to identify upcoming grant opportunities available to the District and Firewise Community to expand fire mitigation work within the Valley. The Fuels Management Program is discussed every month at the District's Board meeting. Please join us to learn more!

West Tank Coating Project — Please Conserve Water September through November

This summer the District will undertake the project of repairing and coating our largest water storage tank, the West Tank. Water storage tanks are critical assets in our water supply system, helping ensure sufficient water supply is available for domestic use, sanitation, and fire protection. The West Tank is a 1,150,000-gallon tank located on the west end of the Valley near Washoe Drive. The tank was originally constructed for the 1960 Winter Olympics and was replaced in 1990 with the large, welded steel tank you see today. The District conducts inspections on all three of our water storage tanks every 2 to 5 years to check that they are in proper working condition. The West Tank was last inspected in 2019 and showed that the interior, exterior, and roof of the tank are in need of a fresh coat of paint to mitigate corrosion and ensure continued structural integrity. The District contracted with Olympus and Associates to complete this work. The project will include sandblasting the existing paint off all surfaces, completing spot repairs to the steel as necessary, application of a fresh coat of paint on all surfaces, then cleaning and disinfection of the interior of the tank.

This project is scheduled to start in late June and end by early November 2022. The Contractor will complete the work on the exterior of the tank first, then move to the interior of the tank in early September. Working on the interior of the tank will require the Contractor to drain the tank, thus limiting our primary storage capacity to the Valley. Temporary water storage tanks of limited

capacity will be established prior to draining the tank. The District also installed additional infrastructure that will allow us to move water between pressure zones during periods of high water demands and fire flow events. Water system modeling suggests that all water demands can be satisfied utilizing the temporary storage tanks and our water supply wells. However, some District water customers, especially those located in the Hidden Lake and Granite Chief areas, may experience reduced water pressure in September through November while the West Tank is out of service.

To facilitate a successful West Tank Coating project, the District will rely on our customers to conserve water September through November 2022 while the West Tank is out of service. Our highest water demands during this time of year are primarily outdoor water uses. Water can be conserved by reducing irrigation to fewer days per week, irrigating early in the morning or late at night, checking for and repairing leaks present on your domestic water systems, limiting pool and hot tub filling, washing your laundry and dishes in full loads only, shortening your showers, and ensuring the water tap is turned off when not in use. In the event of a fire within the Valley, do not leave hoses or irrigation sprinklers running prior to evacuating your home as this will diminish available water supply for the Fire Department to fight the fire. The District greatly appreciates your cooperation during this project. Please contact us if you have any questions.

OLYMPIC VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire and Safety Notes

Preparing for Wildfire Season

Fire Department News

Crews are busy training for the upcoming wildfire season. Seasonal FF Scott Carlson is filling in full time, temporary for Leroy Valadez, who is out on injury - get well soon Leroy!

OVFD welcomes new seasonal firefighter, William Renfort. OVFD is accepting applications for Seasonal FF's.

Pancake Breakfast!?

The *Olympic Valley Firefighters Association* was proud to bring back the annual Pancake Breakfast for the SVPOA Memorial Day weekend community cleanup day! The event was canceled the last two years due to the COVID-19 virus. The Squaw Valley Property Owners Association clean up day is an Olympic Valley tradition since the 1960's. It's always the same day - Saturday of Memorial Day weekend at 8:00. It is a great way to meet your neighbors, hosted by the OVFD FF Association!

Dead and Dying Trees

Removing dead and dying trees are a high priority for defensible space and fire safety. This is a reminder to take care of any dead or dying trees on your property early in the season. Contractors will likely be busy and unavailable later in the summer season.

Homeowner Resources

Many Homeowners in Olympic Valley are having a hard time getting or holding on to homeowners insurance. You are not alone in this challenge. For best chances, we encourage you to do your defensible space, and to use a local broker. Remind your State Legislature and State Insurance Commissioner that this continues to be a problem. California has a program that guarantees property insurance called *California FAIR Plan*: <https://www.cfpnet.com/>.

OVFD has a letter for insurance agents and an info blurb titled, *Your OVFD*, which may help with insurance. The OVFD website has also updated our *Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Guide*.

Defensible Space guidelines:
[Defensible Space / PRC 4291 \(ca.gov\)](#)

After a nice winter start and a wet spring, California is bracing for another fire season. Fuel conditions on the western slope of the Sierra are already dry - the grasses are turning brown in the foothills and the coastal hills are approaching that characteristic golden color as of the first week of June. The beautiful lush spring growth will not last through the long hot summer months.

Here in Olympic Valley, we've started the summer routine of defensible space inspections. We have had a very ambitious and successful program for over two decades, thanks to a very knowledgeable, concerned and conscientious community. Please be particularly careful this summer - get that vegetation cut early and make sure to maintain those neatly cut grasses as summer progresses. Remember that we're happy to come out and give you an on-site consultation so that you cut everything that needs to be cut and not much more.

Defensible space, coupled with home hardening, is essential to improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. Defensible space is the buffer you create between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland area that surround it. This space is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and it helps protect your home from catching fire—either from embers, direct flame contact or radiant heat. Proper defensible space also provides firefighters a safe area to work in, to defend your home.

Defensible Space Zones

Zones 1 and 2 currently make up the 100 feet of defensible space required by law. **Assembly Bill 3074**, passed into law in 2020, requires a third zone for defensible space. This law requires the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop the regulation for a new ember-resistant zone (Zone 0) within 0 to 5 feet of the home by **January 1, 2023**. The intensity of wildfire fuel management varies within the 100-foot perimeter of the home, with greater fuels reduction occurring closer to your home. Start at the home and work your way out to 100 feet or to your property line, whichever is closer.

Zone 0 - Ember Resistant Zone (New for 2023)

Zone 0 extends 5 feet from buildings, structures, decks, etc. The ember-resistant zone is currently not required by law, but science shows it to be the most important of all the defensible space zones. This zone includes the area under and around all attached decks, and requires the most stringent wildfire fuel reduction. The ember-resistant zone is designed to keep fire or embers from igniting materials that can spread the fire to your home. The following provides guidance for this zone, which may change based on the regulation developed by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

- Use hardscape like gravel, pavers, concrete and other noncombustible mulch materials. No combustible bark or mulch.
- Remove all dead and dying weeds, grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches and vegetative debris (leaves, needles, cones, bark, etc.). Check your roofs, gutters, decks, porches, stairways, etc.
- Remove all branches within 10 feet of any chimney or stovepipe outlet.
- Limit plants in this area to low growing, nonwoody, properly watered and maintained plants.
- Limit combustible items (outdoor furniture, planters, etc.) on top of decks.
- Relocate firewood and lumber to Zone 2.
- Replace combustible fencing, gates, and arbors attached to the home with noncombustible alternatives.
- Consider relocating garbage and recycling containers outside this zone.
- Consider relocating boats, RVs, vehicles and other combustible items outside this zone too.

Olympic Valley Firewise Community

This certification opens the Valley up for various wildfire prevention grants and could possibly lower homeowner insurance costs. To maintain this certification, we must follow an action plan. Every year, the Olympic Valley Firewise Community must submit an accounting to Firewise USA of the hours and/or dollars spent implementing the action plan. A key component of our certification is to track the amount of time and/or money you spend maintaining your yard and community. We need you to keep track of your hours and/or dollars spent doing this work between now and snowfall. The Olympic Valley Firewise Community created a simple on-line form to help you keep track of your efforts: <https://www.ovfirewise.net/> Save your info or post them to us along the way, so we can submit them to maintain the Valley's Certification.

Green Waste Days

Green waste collection days allow residents to dispose of their dry and dead vegetation, shrubs, trees and branches, as well as other wildland fuels in an effort to prevent life and property losses from wildland fire.

Green Waste Days are **FREE** events held throughout the summer, sponsored by the Olympic Valley Public Service District & Fire Department, Friends of Squaw Valley and Palisades Tahoe.

Green Waste Collection Days will take place on the following dates/times:

Monthly: July through October

Dates: 2nd Sunday of the month on 7/10, 8/14, 9/11, 10/9

Time: 9am – 4pm (no dumping outside of these hours)

Where: Empty Lot Across from the Olympic Valley Fire Department

Items NOT accepted include household garbage and trash, lumber, hazardous materials, and any items in garbage bags. **ONLY** natural vegetation please.

Want to Help?

Volunteers are needed to staff the gate and to check material for green waste only. If interested, please contact Andrew Lange at (530) 448-1892

Green Waste Dumpster Rebate Program

Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal (TTSD) no longer collects green waste curbside. But, creating Defensible Space around your home is an important part in wildfire safety. So, the OVPSD Board approved a rebate program to reimburse 100% (\$136.67) of the cost of a 6-yard Green Waste Only Dumpster Rental.

Dumpster Details:

- \$136.67 per dumpster- Call TTSD to order (530) 583 -7800.
- Delivered to property on Wednesday and retrieved full the following Wednesday.
- To be eligible for reimbursement, place loose, green waste materials **ONLY** - do NOT put in bags or include ANY other material!

Rebate Process:

- Eligibility: One Rebate / Property up to \$136.67.
- **FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED**, the rebate program has a cap of \$15,000.
- Purchase between May 1 and October 31, 2022.
- Your receipt must include Proof of Payment, Property Address, Payee Name, and Mailing Address.
- Submit your receipt via any of the following methods:
 - Email: info@ovpsd.org
 - US Mail: PO Box 2026, Olympic Valley CA 96146
 - In Person: 305 Olympic Valley Road

And Then There Were Four...

Olympic Valley Public Service District's Board Secretary, Jessica Asher, and her husband, Tyler, welcomed their sweet baby girl, Madeline Ruth Asher on April 15, 2022. Kyle's taking on the role of big brother wonderfully.

Congratulations to the Asher Family!

Community Dumpster Facility

The Community Dumpster Facility may permanently close in August 2022 due to persistent abuse of the facility and rising costs to maintain it. Recurring violations at the site include dumping of couches, appliances, mattresses, and construction debris. As the dumpsters fill quickly from illicit dumping, household trash is often deposited on the ground and is an easy score for bears, raccoons, and dogs. The unsightly scattered mess left behind on-site and beyond requires frequent clean-up by the District's certified water and sewer operators. In addition, costs are scheduled to increase sharply to maintain the same dumpster capacity and collection frequency.

There has been a steady increase in use of the Community Dumpster Facility over the years from contractors as well as other businesses and short-term rental operators from both in and outside the Valley. The site is an attractive alternative considering the time and money saved by avoiding the required travel time and fees to dump waste properly at the Eastern Regional Landfill six miles away on Cabin Creek Road.

Without an increase in rates to directly pay for the Community Dumpster Facility, Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal Company (TTSD) proposes a reduction in service levels at the site that include a 50% reduction in dumpster capacity and a reduction in the frequency the dumpsters are emptied to once per week. Until now, trash was collected from the site as many times as needed to maintain available space in the dumpsters, which averaged 2½ times per week. To maintain the same level of service at the site, costs would increase more than the 10% rate hike already proposed for this year.

The District's Garbage Committee will explore alternatives to the facility at a meeting on July 6th at 3pm. The Board of Directors will consider the difficult decision on whether to permanently close the site at its Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, July 26, 2022 at 9:00 am. While the Directors acknowledge the popularity of the facility by some residents who use it responsibly, they also consider the necessary rate increase indefensible. Residents are currently allowed to leave as many as four (4) trash cans per week for pick-up. As only a minority of customers use the site responsibly, the rate increase imposed on all customers would effectively subsidize users who aren't supposed to use the site at all. The Board of Directors will consider effective and affordable ways to support the installation of bear boxes for Olympic Valley residents who don't already have one.



District Election

The Olympic Valley Public Service District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors. In 2022, there will be two seats up for election to serve a four-year term. Registered voters within the District boundary (which includes a portion of the Truckee River Corridor) are eligible to run for office. Candidate filings open July 18, 2022 and close August 12, 2022, during which nomination papers will be available at the Placer County Elections Office. Please contact us at info@ovpsd.org or (530) 583-4692 if you are interested in learning more about the Director position.

The District Welcomes New Office Supervisor



We are pleased to announce the new addition of Nicole Whiteman to our team. Nicole moved to Tahoe in 2003 from Upstate New York after attending college at Oswego State University. Nicole met her husband Brent while working in the Valley back in 2004. They have two children, Ailey (15) and Ryder (8), who attend school in Truckee. When Nicole's not working, she enjoys spending time with her friends and family, participating in their children's sporting events, paddle boarding, and working on home improvement projects. We feel very fortunate to have Nicole as part of our team.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Olympic Valley Public Service District is proud to supply safe, reliable and healthy water that meets or exceeds State and Federal public health standards for drinking water. Annually, the District publishes a water quality report titled "Consumer Confidence Report" (CCR) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The purpose of the CCR is to raise customers' awareness of the quality of their drinking water, where it comes from, what it takes to deliver water to their homes, and the importance of protecting drinking water sources.

In recent years the District has mailed its customers a printed copy of the CCR to comply with the SDWA. The California Department of Public Health has expanded its interpretation of the SDWA to allow for electronic delivery of the CCR. To view our 2021 Consumer Confidence Report and learn more about your drinking water, please visit the following URL:

<https://www.ovpsd.org/consumer-confidence-report-2021>

If you would like a paper copy of the 2021 CCR mailed to your mailing address or would like to speak with someone about the report, please call (530) 583-4692 x206.

