



# SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2023



## Brad Chisholm to be Olympic Valley's New Fire Chief



Olympic Valley Public Service District is pleased to introduce our new Fire Chief, Brad Chisholm, a homegrown talent who brings a deep connection to our valley, a love for outdoor pursuits, and a strong commitment to community involvement. Chief Chisholm's appointment marks an exciting milestone in our Fire Department's leadership, as we welcome a dedicated individual who understands the unique challenges and needs of our community.

Growing up in the heart of our valley, Chief Brad Chisholm has a profound appreciation for our region's rich natural beauty and the importance of protecting it. His love for the outdoors, particularly skiing and biking, has not only shaped his personal life but also influenced his approach to firefighting and emergency response.

Chief Brad Chisholm brings a wealth of experience and a strong background in firefighting to his new role. With 26 years of service in the fire service industry, he has consistently displayed exceptional leadership skills and a profound commitment to public safety. Chief Chisholm's journey started as a volunteer firefighter in 1997, where his dedication and exemplary performance paved the way for his rapid progression through the ranks. Throughout his career, he has continually sought opportunities for professional growth and development, earning certifications and gaining valuable experience in various firefighting disciplines.

The appointment of Chief Brad Chisholm reflects our community's commitment to safety and acknowledges the need for a dynamic leader to guide our Fire Department into the future. With his expertise, passion for public service, and dedication to community engagement, we can be confident that Chief Chisholm will uphold the highest standards of fire safety and lead our department with distinction.

## Fire Chief Allen Riley's Retirement



After an outstanding 30-year career dedicated to the safety and well-being of our community, Chief Riley bids farewell as he embarks on a well-deserved retirement. His unwavering commitment, leadership, and tireless efforts have left an indelible mark on our Fire Department, setting a high standard for service that will be cherished and remembered for years to come.

Chief Riley's journey in the fire service began three decades ago when he joined our local Fire Department as a young and passionate firefighter. From the outset, his dedication to public safety and his innate ability to inspire those around him were evident. Throughout the years, he consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, progressing through the ranks to ultimately become our esteemed Fire Chief.

Throughout his tenure, Chief Riley implemented numerous initiatives aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of

our department. He embraced technological advancements and modern firefighting techniques, ensuring that our firefighters had the best tools and resources at their disposal. Under Chief Riley's leadership, our department has become a model of excellence in emergency response and community safety.

Chief Riley had to skillfully navigate a challenging financial period during his tenure as Fire Chief, as the Department focused on aggressively reducing its pension debt. Allen's composed and balanced temperament proved invaluable to the District, particularly when the Department had to consistently tighten its budgetary reins on spending initiatives, wages, and benefits.

As Chief Allen Riley prepares to retire, his departure leaves a void in our Fire Department and community. However, his contributions will continue to shape our future. The Firewise Community and Fuels Management Program stand as testaments to his foresight, leadership, and unwavering dedication to public safety. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Chief Riley for his exceptional service and wish him a fulfilling retirement. The positive impact he has made on our community will be cherished and built upon by future generations.



## OLYMPIC VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

# Fire and Safety Notes

### Personnel Promotions

In response to Chief Riley's retirement the department has promoted Scott Halterman to Fire Engineer, Hans Walde to Fire Captain, and Brad Chisholm to Olympic Valley Fire Chief! The Department would like to thank all applicants for their interest and involvement in the arduous process.

### Community Connect

The Community Connect program is a free, secure, and user-friendly platform for Olympic Valley residents to share critical information about their household. This information aids first responders and emergency response personnel during an emergency. Residents can create a free account and enter valuable information about their household such as the location of gas or water shutoff valves, the number of pets in the house, and the presence of any medical equipment. The program is a vital tool for improving emergency response times, and residents are encouraged to keep their information up to date. The Community Connect program is a valuable addition to the emergency response toolkit of Olympic Valley, and residents are encouraged to sign up and share their information to ensure that they are protected in the event of an emergency. You can sign up or find more information about this program on the District's webpage.

### Pancake Breakfast

The *Olympic Valley Firefighters Association* was proud to bring back the annual Pancake Breakfast for the Memorial Day weekend community cleanup day! The Valley clean up day has been 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!

### Preparing for Wildland Season

After a record breaking winter, California is bracing for another fire season. Fuel conditions on the western slope of the Sierra are already drying out - 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.

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/Fire Aside/Firewise Certification

Olympic Valley Fire Department has switched to Fire Aside, a new defensible space platform for residents to view their reports and make corrections online. Once an inspection has been completed on your home, a door hanger will be left with a specific code to access your report. The first round of defensible space inspections will start the third week of June. A comprehensive online report will be available for review no later than July 14, 2023. This report provides steps to reduce your property's wildfire risk and improve your safety. Some actions in this report may be required by law. Please correct "priority issues" within 30 days of the inspection date. If you will not be at your home during the first round of inspections, please email [prevention@olympicvalleyfire.org](mailto:prevention@olympicvalleyfire.org) for an access code to your report. In accordance with a new agreement with Placer County, the Fire Department will be working with the County on enforcement: <https://www.placer.ca.gov/6561/Hazardous-Vegetation>.

In order to maintain the Valley's Olympic Valley Firewise Community Certification, hours and expenses related to completing defensible space cleanup must be documented each year. Go to <http://www.ovfirewise.net/> to record your hours and/or expenses.

### Fuel Management Projects This Summer

**North Ridge – 120-Acre Fuel Reduction Project:** Situated along the North Ridge of Olympic Valley, this project aims to safeguard the neighborhood from external wildfires, enhance emergency personnel access, and improve evacuation route safety. Implementation is scheduled for the 2023 season. The fuel break will involve thinning, selective tree removal, and mechanical mastication; reducing stand density to retain larger, native pine species, foster stronger stand vitality, and improve resilience against future fire incidents, insect infestations, diseases, and drought. Funding is provided by the CALFIRE's Fire Prevention Program as part of the California Climate Investments Program, with in-kind contributions from the District.

**Olympic Valley Road – 3-Acre Fuel Reduction Project:** This project focuses on reducing flammable fuels, improving the health of the meadow system and functionality of Washeshu Creek, improving emergency access, ensuring evacuation route safety, mitigating icy conditions on Olympic Valley Road and promoting dialogue among stakeholders about wildfire preparedness. Funding is from Friends of Squaw Creek, Trout Unlimited, and the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation's Forest Futures Program.



## Green Waste Disposal Programs:

Opportunities for residents to dispose of 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:



Pine  
Needles



Grass  
Clippings



Weeds



Pruning Waste  
& Small Shrubs



Small Branches  
< 1.5" Diameter

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

Monthly: June through October

Dates: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month on 6/11, 7/9, 8/13, 9/10, 10/8

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

Where: Empty Lot Across from the O.V 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 for green waste collection days to check material for green waste only. If interested, please contact Andrew Lange at (530) 448-1892

## Placer County Chipper Days:

For \$80/hour (min. 1 hour) residents can utilize a crew that will chip piled vegetation

Dates: July 25-26th, August 29-30th, September 26-27th

ENSURE YOU REGISTER FOR ONE OF THESE RESERVED DATES

For more information, specific guidelines, and to request chipper service please visit the Placer County website here: <https://placerrcd.org/projects/chipperprogram/>

On the scheduling questionnaire in the Additional Notes box please write OLYMPIC VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Green Waste Dumpster Rebate Program

The District has a rebate program to reimburse 100% of the cost of a 6-yard Green Waste Only Dumpster Rental.

### Dumpster Details:

- \$146.03 per dumpster- Call TTSD to order (530) 583 -7800.
- Delivered to property on Wednesday and retrieved full the following Wednesday.
- To be eligible for 100% 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 \$146.03
- FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED, rebate program has a \$10,000 cap
- 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 email: [info@ovpsd.org](mailto:info@ovpsd.org), mail: PO Box 2026 Olympic Valley CA, or in person: 305 Olympic Valley Road

## Summer Construction Projects



### Zone 3 Tank Recoat Project

This summer the District will undertake the project of repairing and coating our smallest water storage tank, the Zone 3 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 Zone 3 Tank is a 135,000-gallon tank located on the south side of the Valley above Sierra Crest Trail. This project is scheduled to take place July-October. Temporary water storage tanks will be established prior to draining the tank to ensure adequate water supply and pressure within our system. The District asks residents and visitors to please be aware of the work and take care when recreating on trails near the tank site.

### Well 2R Rehabilitation Project

The District completed rehabilitation work on one of the system's domestic water wells in May. This well was originally put into service in 2011 and has a historic yield of 340 gallons per minute. The rehabilitation work was completed to investigate the integrity of the well components, ensure continued high water quality and well efficiency, and to extend the life of the well.

### Water Meter Replacement Project

District staff have started the multi-summer project of upgrading water meters throughout the system. The new meters feature cellular technology that will improve meter reading efficiency and provide customers with real time information about their water usage and potential leaks through an online portal called Eye on Water. Customers can expect District staff to contact them with information on how to utilize Eye on Water after their meter is upgraded. This project is partially funded by a Placer County Water Agency grant secured by the District in 2021.



### Thank you District Counsel, Thomas Archer

This District extends its sincere appreciation to our legal counsel, Thomas Archer, who has represented the District since 1991. His dedication has endured the transitions of three general managers and nineteen board members, serving as a pillar of stability and expertise. Tom was committed to the best interests of the District, the Community, and the Board of Directors, providing invaluable guidance to ensure that the District remain free from legal conflict. He spoke of how the District was one of his favorite clients and worthy of his devotion. Tom guided the District through multiple development projects, drafted countless reports, contracts, agreements, easements, memoranda of understanding, and always offering a pragmatic approach to challenges that the District faced, seeking solutions, rather than confrontation. He had our backs. A final note from Tom: "This ain't mountin' up and ridin' into the sunset...its just like mountin' up and ridin' on. Heck, that should be the article."



### The District Welcomes New Administrative Assistant

We are pleased to announce the new addition of Aline Henriksen to our team. Aline moved to Tahoe in April 2023 from Chico after attending College at California State University, Chico. When Aline's not working, she enjoys hiking with her dog, spending time with her friends and family, and cooking. We feel very fortunate to have Aline 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 2022 Consumer Confidence Report and learn more about your drinking water, please visit the following URL: <https://www.ovpsd.org/consumer-confidence-report-2022>

If you would like a paper copy of the 2022 CCR mailed to your mailing address or would like to speak with someone about the report, please call (530) 583-4692.

