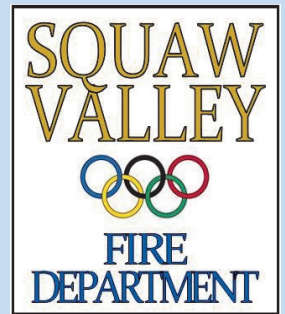




# SUMMER NEWSLETTER

## 2017



## Longtime SVFD Fire Chief Pete Bansen to Retire this Summer

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, following the Board Meeting & the Fire Department's Badge Pinning Ceremony, Pete Bansen will relinquish his title of Squaw Valley Fire Department's Chief, a position he has held for 24 years. Chief Bansen announced in January that he planned to retire this summer.

Bansen began working with the Department in 1980, when the organization was mainly comprised of volunteers. He decided to join after talking with Dale Cox, a volunteer firefighter at the time, who had responded to a large fire on Granite Chief with only two other volunteers. Later, Bansen became a part-time firefighter for the Department, and was chosen to be Fire Chief in 1993.

In a letter he submitted with his application for the position of Fire Chief, Bansen wrote: "Squaw Valley is a small community filled with complex relationships. An appreciation of those relationships, and the ability to achieve

consensus between parties with differing perspectives will be something that the new Chief will bring to the job or will need to develop over time. My association with Squaw Valley Fire Department has given me respect and affection for the institution, the people that serve it and the community that it



Bansen with his wife, Cindy, and their children, Paul and Helen.

serves. My regard for the Department and the community is such that I would not apply for the position of Fire Chief if I did not believe that I was an outstanding candidate for the job and could bring something to the Department that no other individual could offer. I believe that I have the administrative and fire service skills, the management experience, and the abilities to listen, learn and communicate effectively that are required of a Chief Officer."

It is safe to say that throughout his tenure as Chief, Pete was successful in continuing to foster relationships with community residents and businesses of Squaw Valley. He has been and continues to be a pillar of the Squaw Valley and Truckee communities. This has been demonstrated through his work with the SV Volunteer Fire Department, Tahoe Truckee Community Chorus, Squaw Valley Fire Department, Lake Tahoe Music Festival, Squaw Valley

*Continued on Page 3 BANSEN*

## Allen Riley Named SVFD Fire Chief



SVPSD is pleased to announce that Captain Allen Riley has been selected as the new Fire Chief for the Squaw Valley Fire Department. Riley began his service to the community of Squaw Valley in 1993 as a volunteer firefighter, and starting in July will assume the role of the Department's 5<sup>th</sup> Fire Chief in its 47-year history.

SVPSD General Manager Mike Geary said "Allen was selected based on his experience, leadership qualities, work ethic, education, integrity, communication and dedication. He continues to foster relationships within our organization, the community and the partner agencies with whom our men and women train and serve. I have complete confidence in his

expertise, experience, and commitment to serve as Chief. His drive for success of the organization along with the talent of the entire Department, from part-time Firefighter through Captain, is expected to result in levels of service that the residents, businesses and visitors of Squaw Valley will be proud of."

Chief Riley grew up on the east coast where he found a passion for the outdoors and skiing. In 1989, he moved from Vermont to the Lake Tahoe area, working in the ski and service industries and building construction. After joining Squaw Valley Fire as a volunteer, he became a part-time employee in 1994 and a full-time Firefighter in 2000. He promoted through the ranks to become B Shift Captain and the Department's Fire Prevention Officer. Riley has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Nevada, Reno.

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# Fire and Safety Notes

Summer, 2017

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFF NEWS**

First of all, a big congratulations on Pete Bansen's retirement after 24 years as the Fire Chief! We are grateful for your vision, leadership and service to the department and community.

Thank you to our personnel who took the time and energy to study and test for positions and promotions: new part-time firefighters, full-time firefighter, engineer, captain and chief ranks. Congratulations to our new part-time firefighters: Leroy Valadez, Paul Butterweich, Keith Erikson, Mitchell Nelson and Jens Schneyder. Congratulations for promotion to new full-time Firefighter Haley Cutter, Engineer Jeff Geigle, Captain Chris DeDeo and Chief Allen Riley.

## **NEW APPARATUS**

The Department took delivery, and put into service, a new KME Type I (structure firefighting) fire engine in April. The new Type I engine replaces our older Type I engine that we purchased in 2001. The older Type I engine was sold to our neighbors in Calpine in the Sierra Valley; we are excited to keep it in the area! Our new Type III (wildland firefighting) engine should be here sometime in July. The new Type III engine will be our "first out" engine for wildland fires in our area as well as for mutual aid throughout the state. The older 1999 Type III engine will remain in our fleet and will be available for wildland fire response when the new Type III is out of the area.

## **Homeowner's Defensible Space**

This summer marks the ten year anniversaries of the Angora Fire in South Lake Tahoe and the Washoe Fire on the West Shore of Lake Tahoe. In an effort to not let this happen in our area, we encourage everyone to keep up on their defensible space. Not only is it important to get your defensible space done early, but also to maintain it during the summer and into the fall, until we get our first significant snowfall.

The first cleanup weekend of the Valley started, as usual, Memorial Day weekend with another successful pancake breakfast at the fire house. Thank you to all those that attended! Going forward homeowners can drop off up to 6 yards of green waste at the landfill, on Cabin Creek Road, free of charge with proof of property ownership. If you need help with your defensible space, we have a list of contractors on the website <http://www.svpsd.org/svfd/defensible-space-contractors>. The defensible space inspections will start just after the 4th of July. The show *60 Minutes* had a nice piece about defensible space, it can be viewed at: <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/why-fighting-wildfires-often-fails-and-what-to-do-about-it/>

We are in the process of trying to get away from using "snail mail" and go to a digital platform. Our biggest hurdle is to get everyone's email address so that we can let you know what needs to be done on your property and have the ability to attach pictures or other files to an email. Please contact the SVFD at [prevention@svpsd.org](mailto:prevention@svpsd.org) with your Squaw Valley property address so we can update our records with your email address.

## **Nixle Will Keep You Informed**

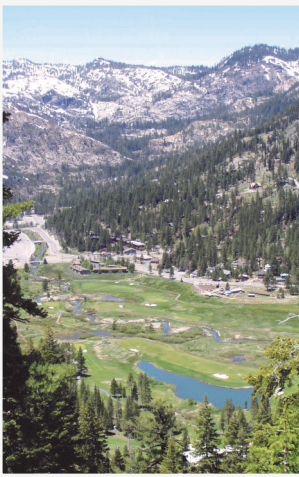
We continue to be excited about **Nixle** as a way of better communicating emergency information to our residents. The texted information and link allow us to provide rapid and effective notification to our community - it's easy to subscribe and equally easy to unsubscribe if you choose, simply text our zip code - 96146 - to 888777 on your phone - you'll receive a confirmation text immediately. We texted information several times this winter with avalanche advisories and will continue to notify residents of emergency notifications. We try to limit the amount of notices that go out to maintain a level of importance when you receive a text from us.

For more information see: <http://www.nixle.com/>

## **Results of a big winter!**

As most people are aware, the results of a larger than average winter this past season has left us with a deep snow pack in the higher elevations. The early part of the winter came with a large amount of rain and wind, resulting in a lot of tree damage in the forested areas. For those out hiking this summer, be very aware of the potential fall hazards from damaged trees and loose tree branches hanging precariously above the trail. Equally important to note is the amount of runoff that will affect creeks and rivers, likely well into August. We would like to encourage everyone to be aware of the swift water in the rivers and streams as well as the danger of exposure in the cold waters. Boaters, rafters, swimmers and fishermen should pay special attention to downed trees in the rivers and the potential for "strainers" and entrapment. If you find yourself swept off your feet and moving downstream in the current, keep your feet near the surface in front of you until you are able to swim toward an "eddy" or calm section of water.

## Consumer Confidence Report Now Available Online



The Squaw 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.

To view our 2016 Consumer Confidence Report and learn more about your drinking water, please visit the following URL: <http://www.svpsd.org/sites/default/files/documents/2016%20CCR.pdf> or visit [svpsd.org](http://svpsd.org) and click "2016 Consumer Confidence (Water Quality) Report" under the New Documents section of the homepage.

If you would like a paper copy of the 2016 CCR mailed to you, or if you would like to speak with someone about the report, please call (530) 583-4692.

### Why Did My Rates Go Up (or Down)?

The District recently completed a comprehensive water and sewer rate study to determine the necessary revenue adjustments, and subsequent water and sewer rates, to adequately fund each utility's infrastructure needs, programs, and operations and maintenance costs of the water and sewer utility. Based on this study, proposed rates have been developed to enable the District to:

- Recover projected costs of operations and maintenance
- Capital infrastructure improvements and replacements needed to maintain and repair the water and sewer systems;
- Maintain the operational and financial stability of the utilities; and
- Avoid operational deficits and depletion of reserves.

The proposed rates are calculated to recover the costs of providing water and sewer services and proportionately allocate those costs on a customer basis among the various customer classes served by the District. For further information on the rate study, draft budget, capital replacement and capital improvement plans please visit our website at [www.svpsd.org](http://www.svpsd.org).

### *BANSEN Continued from Page 1*

Institute, Tahoe Forest Hospital pre-natal classes, Arts for the Schools, Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church, the Catholic Church, the Child Safety-Seat Program, and the Cub Scouts.

Chief Bansen has been instrumental in advancing the operational capabilities of the Fire Department, bringing it from a volunteer-based organization to a fully-staffed operation that responded to over 500 calls in 2016. He has distinguished himself as responsible, financially prudent and a multi-talented leader. His work for the Department has brought significant benefit to the Department's abilities to achieve its mission and will continue into the future as we continue to implement much of the vision he had when he first started.

In a press release announcing the selection of Allen Riley as the new Fire Chief, Bansen wrote, "I'm indebted to the Squaw Valley PSD Board of Directors and our community for their confidence in me and the terrific support they have shown our organization through the years. Most of all, it has been my great honor and privilege to have worked with the men and women who have served our Department and our community for the last 36 years: your courage, compassion and professionalism make me very proud to be your leader." We will all miss you, Pete, and are so grateful for the devotion and love you've shown to the community of Squaw Valley. Enjoy your retirement, you've earned it!

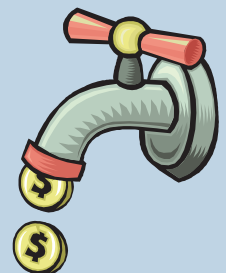
### Do you think your home might have a water leak?

A 1/32" leak can waste as much as 170 gallons in 24 hours and add over \$282 to your annual bill.

You can check your monthly water consumption by visiting [svpsd.org](http://svpsd.org) and clicking on "Water Meter Readings" under the *New Documents* section of the homepage.

If you can hear water running, check to make sure none of your toilets are running. The District has toilet tank leak detecting dye tablets. Feel free to stop in and grab one if you think your toilet is leaky! You can also put a couple drops of food coloring in your toilet tank, if the color appears in the toilet bowl, your toilet is leaky.

If you can't determine on your own if your home has a leak, we recommend contacting your plumber. We can set up an appointment to meet with you or your representative to check for possible leaks. Please do not open or adjust anything in your meter box on your own!







305 Squaw Valley Road  
Post Office Box 2026  
Olympic Valley, CA 96146

## IS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CURRENT?

It is important for the District to have your current mailing address, phone number and email address on file in order for us to contact you if we become aware of an emergency at your residence. This information is confidential.

If you would like to provide us with your updated information, please visit our website at [www.svpsd.org](http://www.svpsd.org) and select the “**CONTACT US**” tab at the top of the homepage!



## Board of Directors Meetings

Regularly scheduled meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at 305 Squaw Valley Road, Olympic Valley, California.

## Last Chance to Participate in the Toilet Rebate Program!

**O**ur Toilet Rebate Program is still open! The District received a grant to replace up to 200 water wasting toilets by offering participants a \$100 refund on a qualified purchase of a new 1.6 gallon per flush (GPF WaterSense compliant toilet.

The process is simple! Just contact the District prior to replacing your existing toilet, fill out an application and we'll send someone over to make sure you qualify!

To qualify, your house must have been built prior to 1994, and your old toilet must use more than two gallons per flush. Each house may receive a rebate for up to 2 toilets.

