

# TOMALES VILLAGE

NEWSLETTER  
SPRING 2019 #42



## **Message from Dru Fallon O'Neill, President, TVCSD Board of Directors:**

2019 marks my 14<sup>th</sup> year in Tomales, the 4<sup>th</sup> year on the Tomales Village Community Services District Board, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> as President.

What is my message this year? EXERCISE- Exercise your right to vote and exercise your right to participate in your governance at all levels.

Actual exercise is evident in past efforts by local Tomales residents who stepped up to investigate a sewer spill 20 years ago at our sewer plant and discovered neglect by an outside management agency. Local residents formed a groundswell of community support to take our system back by forming a special district with a Board of Directors elected by voters to locally administer our system. The Tomales Community Park was included under local management of the Tomales special district. For over 20 years, local citizens have exercised their governance and stewardship of the Park and sewer system by sitting on the Board and by volunteering on committees to keep our District going.

We continue to work hard to exercise good judgment in all of our decisions, maintain transparency, and take into account your input. Exercise with us this year! Your participation matters and your voice matters too!

*TVCSD Mission Statement: The mission of the Tomales Village Community Services District, a non-profit public benefit corporation, is to enhance the quality of life with a commitment to the health of the community by providing dependable wastewater collection, treatment and reuse in an environmentally friendly manner, maintain safe and reliable recreational park facilities, and provide a welcoming forum for active community participation and input.*

*TVCSD Vision Statement: Strive to be a sustainable model district, environmentally conscious, safe, and reliable with long term goals of achieving financial stability and fostering cohesive community partnerships.*

## **Message from Jose Ortiz, P.E., TVCSD General Manager**

In 2018 we began the implementation of our asset management plan for both sewer system assets and community park assets. As we reported last year, the asset management plan is the tool we use to update our 10-year capital improvement plan (CIP) and 10-year financial plan.

For the coming year, our focus will be to complete repairs to our treatment plant control systems for the sewer side of our mission and to use Measure A funds for improvements to the community park. The comprehensive closed-circuit TV inspection of our pipelines and replacement of the gazebo and fence at the community park we hope to have completed by June 2019.

We are updating our emergency preparedness plan. Board members have begun this effort by contacting organizations such as the California Special District Association to obtain publications and resources to assist the District in updating its emergency management plan. Additionally, the Tomales village is organizing disaster volunteers, getting trained and developing emergency responses.

## **Park Advisory Committee News, Walter Earle, Chair**

Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> - 10 am to 1 pm - it's time again for our annual spring clean up of the Park. Bring gloves and your favorite tool if you have one and you can pick whatever you're comfortable doing!

The Committee has been busy planning for our upcoming projects. We meet monthly at the Tomales Presbyterian Church Community room. Guests are always welcome. Our committee members are Walter Earle (Chair), Patty Oku (Secretary), Beth Koelker, Kara Davey and Drew Fallon O'Neill. We can always use a few more volunteers for the Park Committee! It's an easy commitment, pleasant company and you get to talk about playing - how great is that? Please contact TVCSD - 707-878-2767. Our web page for the park is:

<https://www.tomalescsd.ca.gov/the-park/>.

This year we will construct our new gazebo, install the handicap ramps to fulfill our obligations for the safety inspection approval, rebuild the northern fence and install the walk-in entry gate on Highway One.

### ***Park Statement of Purpose:***

*The Park was created to provide a space for cultural, educational and community activities for persons and organizations in the community at large. It was created with the desire to engage only in activities that are charitable and educational, and to be equally available to all members of the community. For rental information email [admin@tomalescsd.ca.gov](mailto:admin@tomalescsd.ca.gov).*

## **Financial Advisory Committee News, Melinda Bell, Chair**

The Financial Advisory Committee has been working on reviewing long-term planning projections, responding to auditors' suggestions, updating and drafting policies, and improving the rate of return on reserve funds. Most important of these objectives is the long-range planning.

This year implemented the second of two sewer rate increases, the first increases in 11 years. These increases were needed because although the adopted budgets have been balanced, no provision has been made in the rate structure for either depreciation expense or debt repayment. The two increases provide \$28,000 toward the annual debt repayment of \$40,000 thus reducing the ongoing drain on cash reserves. The long-range goal is to have adequate operating reserves and all debt paid off before major capital improvements are needed, now forecast for 2026/2027, to be funded by new debt at that time.

The Committee has already begun work on the 2019/2020 budget and anticipate no major changes from the current fiscal year budget which ends in June 2019. Budgetary goals include continued control of Sewer program expenses, increased rate of return on investments, minimal use of Sewer reserves, and application of Park reserves for the long-awaited Park improvements.

### **“Don't Rush to Flush”: No Medications Down the Drain!**

The presence of medications in treated wastewater is a growing environmental and human health concern. The practice of flushing unused or expired medications down the toilet or down household drains is harming human health and posing harmful effects on fish and aquatic life. Wastewater systems are not designed to remove chemical compounds in medicine. Research is ongoing, but one clear effect of chemical compounds in our water system is that people have increased bacterial resistance to antibiotics. The solution to flushing is to educate communities that there are healthy alternatives for disposal.

Medications include:

- 1.) Prescription Drugs: antidepressants, antibiotics, birth control pills, and hormone tablets
- 2.) Over-the-Counter Drugs: pain relievers, cold/flu remedies, and antiseptics
- 3.) Veterinary medicines

We are urging you to consider an alternative for disposal of unused or expired medicines. There are Take-back Programs all over CA. Consider the following locations: West Marin Pharmacy, Petaluma Police Department, and Walgreen Drug Store in Santa Rosa. Ask your pharmacy about a take back program. Protect your privacy! Put pills into a zip-lock bag and take them to a drop-off location in your area. Remove or scratch off all personal information on container before recycling.

# TOMALES VILLAGE

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Dru Fallon O'Neill, President

Donna Clavaud, Vice President

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POSTAL PATRON

TOMALES, CA

94971

Jose Ortiz, P.E., General Manager

Melinda Bell, CPA, Financials

Cynthia Hammond, Recording Secretary

District Office: 707-878-2767

Operator: Natural Systems Utilities (NSU)

Website: [www.tomalescsd.gov](http://www.tomalescsd.gov)

Newsletter: Donna Clavaud/Cynthia Hammond, editors

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## **Tomales Village Community Services District Board and Advisory Committee Meetings. Meetings are open and the public is encouraged to attend.**

TVCS D monthly Board of Directors meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Tomales Town Hall. Meeting time begins at 7:00 pm.

Park Advisory Committee meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at the Tomales Presbyterian Church Hall. Meeting time begins at 6:30 pm.

Finance Advisory Committee meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Tomales Town Hall. Meeting time begins at 6:30 pm.