



GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

# SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024

## *Pine Needle & Combustibles Pick Up Dates*

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Big Trash Day:** Wed., October 23

**Pine Needle Pick Up:** Thurs., June 27  
Fri., June 28

South Tahoe Refuse's (STR) annual Big Trash Day will be held on **Wednesday, October 23**. At no additional charge, STR will allow up to six additional bags or cans of house garbage and/or spring cleanup yard waste. Anything over six extra cans or bags will be an additional charge at STR regular rates.

Residents must be **active service customers** with STR to take advantage of this service. Your STR invoice states that included in your weekly service you are allowed one garbage can, one blue recycle bag and one bag of yard waste. Please call (530) 541-5105, for more information.

## *You're Invited to our 10th Annual Barbecue*

**IMPORTANT DATES:** Open House Meet & Greet BBQ - Thurs., July 18

The RHGID Board of Trustees invites all Round Hill residents to an Open House Meet and Greet Barbecue at our office at 343 Ute Way on **Thursday, July 18, 2024** from 12:00 noon until 3:00 pm.

The Round Hill General Improvement District Board of Trustees is elected by *you*, the residents of Round Hill.

The Trustees have a fiduciary and civic responsibility to their constituents, the homeowners of Round Hill. In order to support you and understand your desires, they need your feedback.

The annual Meet & Greet BBQ is your opportunity to meet the board members and staff.

Coinciding with the STR Big Trash Day, the District also sponsors a "Pine Needle Pick Up." After your regular trash pickup day Wednesday, June 26, you may set out bags of clean pine needles and cones for pickup on **Thursday and Friday, (June 27 and 28)**. We do not know where they will start; therefore, please have the bags out early.

**Keep the pine needle pick-up bags separate from the regular trash.**

If you miss the above dates, you may take your clean pine needles, cones and slash to the Heavenly Stagecoach Lodge parking lot on Quaking Aspen Lane as part of the Tahoe Douglas Fire District's "Compost Your Combustibles" program from May 18 through July 20, 2024.

Please call STR for upcoming garbage pickup changes.

### **Your Board**

Keith Fertala was appointed in 2014 and was elected Chairman in January 2021. Darin Smith was elected as Trustee in 2016 and re-elected in November 2020. He is now Vice-Chairman. Hunter Harris was appointed in 2017, elected in 2018 and is now the Secretary/ Treasurer. Gregg Rossi was elected Trustee in November 2020. Josh Buck was elected Trustee in 2022.

Please come and meet the staff of RHGID and the Board to let them know what's important to you, and don't forget to stop and chat with the Fire Wise group.

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The District's 2023 Water Quality Report is also available online at <http://www.rhgid.org/CCR2023>

### **Round Hill Board of Trustees**

Keith Fertala, Chairman  
Darin Smith, Vice-Chairman  
Hunter Harris, Secretary/Treasurer  
Gregg Rossi, Trustee  
Josh Buck, Trustee

Please visit our improved and updated website!

[www.RHGID.org](http://www.RHGID.org)

# RHGID News

## Meet our new General Manager



Brandon Garden is a Nevada native and lifelong resident of Douglas County. He started his career in Public Works with The Town of Minden in Douglas County in 2003. His career changed paths when he started working for a neighboring General Improvement District in 2008 as a Water Operator working hard to gain as much knowledge and experience as

possible. He considers no job too small or too large to take on.

Brandon's certifications include Grade III Water Treatment and Grade III Water Distribution through the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection - Bureau of Safe Drinking Water, Grade I Sewer Collections, AWWA Cross Connection Control Specialist, National Rural Water Association/Water University certification in Utility Management, and was voted Supervisor of the Year in 2021 by the Nevada Rural Water Association.

When he is not working, Brandon spends his time with his spouse of 17 years, his three adult children, two "fur babies", and is an avid fisherman and golfer.

Please feel free to stop by the office to meet Brandon or call him at (775) 588-2571.

## Welcome Jacob (Jake) Teschner



Jake has been with Round Hill General Improvement District since August of 2023. Jake holds Level II certifications from the State of Nevada for both Treatment and Distribution of Drinking Water.

Jake grew up in Lake County, California. Jake enjoys spending his free time with his family and friends and spends as much time as possible enjoying the outdoors.

## Notice: Billing Changes

Our current billing cycle is from the 18th of the month to the 17th of the following month. Depending on the weekend, sometimes we have 31 days rather than 30. Payment is due on the 15th of the following month to avoid late fees.

The district's current cycle makes calculations for water usage versus water production difficult. Compliance reporting, water production reporting, and many other requirements use whole months as timeframes for reporting. It requires a large amount of staff time to break the numbers down to match the reporting requirements. Using a calendar month billing cycle will also get the district in line with industry standards while simplifying the reporting requirements to all agencies including the Douglas County Lake Tahoe Sewer Authority.

We'll run the billing on May 17, 2024 and payment will be due by July 31st to make transition easier. This will leave 13 days in June needing to be billed for. We'll invoice these 13 days on July 1st and the payment will be due by July 31st.

The July invoice will be run on July 31st and be due by August 31st. This will complete the transition to billing in whole months for reporting purposes. **The July invoice will include the new increased water and sewer rates.**





## *Thermal Expansion Tanks*

A standard tank water heater can stress your plumbing pipes by the normal thermal expansion that happens during the heating process. A safety device known as a water heater expansion tank



(sometimes called a thermal expansion tank) can help minimize the risk of pressure damage to the plumbing system. (This is normally not a problem on modern on-demand, tankless water heaters -- only tank-style heaters are subject to this problem.)

The water heater expansion tank serves as an overflow receptacle by absorbing excess water volume created by the tank water heater when heating water, as well as absorbing fluctuations in the incoming water supply pressure. Since water expands when it is heated due to thermal expansion, the water heater creates extra water volume every time it heats water. It's estimated, for example, that the cold water in a standard 50-gallon water heater expands to 52 gallons when heated to 120° F. This extra water volume can create excess pressure in the plumbing system, and if the increased pressure is enough it may, over time, cause damage to the water heater, plumbing fixtures and the water pipes themselves.

### *Closed Water Supply Systems*

In an open system where expanding water can push back into the city water supply, there is rarely any problem. However, many homes have a *closed water supply system*, which is a water system equipped with a one-way valve such as a backflow valve, check valve or pressure-reducing valve. In a closed system, this extra water pressure from thermal expansion can cause the most damage because the extra water pressure cannot push back into the city water supply and therefore has nowhere to go.

Most cities require that residential closed plumbing systems be equipped with expansion tanks. If you have some form of backflow preventer installed on the main water line, you may be required by law to also have a water heater expansion tank installed. Check the local building code or call the building and safety department to find out. (775) 782-6222

### *How a Water Heater Expansion Tank is Installed*

If you do not have a one-way valve installed on the main water line and therefore do not have a closed water system, you may still benefit from a water heater expansion tank. Expansion tanks are normally installed above the water heater on the cold water line before it enters the water heater, however, they can really be installed anywhere on the cold water line prior to entry into the water heater. Having an expansion tank helps prevent dripping faucets and running toilets by keeping the extra

built-up pressure in the system from reaching the fixtures and prematurely damaging them.

Water heater expansion tank prices start at around \$40 and range up to nearly \$200; pricing is largely dependent on the size of the tank. For most residential installations with 40- or 50-gallon water heaters, a simple 2-gallon tank is fine. The tank is quite easy to install with a normal 3/4" threaded connection. A tee fitting will have to be installed above the water heater if one is not there already.

If you are hiring a plumber to have a water heater installed, it's a good idea to get a price for the installation of an expansion tank at the same time. It may not be much more than you are already paying if it is done at the same time. If you are installing a water heater yourself, consider installing an expansion tank even if it is not required, since the benefits far outweigh the work and cost involved.

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## *Vacation Home Rentals*

As summer is soon upon us and tourists will be vacationing in Round Hill once again, we wanted to give you an update of what you need to do if you have any issues with Vacation Home Rentals (VHR) in your neighborhood.

RHGID has absolutely no authority against troublesome vacation home renters. Should you have issues or complaints about those renters, Douglas County has established a website and a Code Enforcement Team to handle those issues. That website is provided below.

[www.douglascountynv.gov/government/departments/  
community\\_development/vacation\\_home\\_rentals](http://www.douglascountynv.gov/government/departments/community_development/vacation_home_rentals)

**Douglas County VHR Hotline:**  
**(775) 782-6214 option 2**

**or please send an email: [vhr@douglasnv.us](mailto:vhr@douglasnv.us)**

Please, if you can, provide video or photos of the issue for the incident records.

All complaints will be logged and managed by Douglas County Code Enforcement personnel. Please have the address of the property ready to provide the officer on duty.

Of course, if you have an emergency that requires immediate response from law enforcement or fire/rescue/medical personnel, call 911.

VHR's are required by Douglas County Code Enforcement to obtain a permit to operate. Please visit the above website for a list of permitted VHR's and contact information.



# WATER QUALITY REPORT 2023

## ROUND HILL GID

### Consumer Confidence Report – 2024 Covering Calendar Year 2023

#### *Your Water Meets All Drinking Water Standards.*

Absolutely. Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Round Hill GID vigilantly safeguards its water supply and once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant or other water quality standard.

The water that you use in Round Hill comes from Lake Tahoe. Your water is treated with filtration, then it is chlorinated and delivered through a seven mile distribution system to your home. **The water from your tap meets all requirements set forth by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.**

This brochure is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are the details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies. It is important that customers be aware of the efforts that are continually being made to improve their water systems. To learn more, please attend any of the regularly scheduled meetings. For more information please contact Brandon Garden at 775-588-2571.

We treat your water to remove several contaminants and we add disinfectant to protect you against microbial contaminants. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires states to develop a Source Water Assessment (SWA) for each public water supply that treats and distributes raw source water in order to identify potential contamination sources. The state has completed an assessment of our source water. For results of the source water assessment, please contact us.

#### *Message from EPA*

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as those with cancer undergoing chemo-

therapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

**Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

**Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

**Pesticides and herbicides** may come from a variety of sources such as storm water run-off, agriculture, and residential users.

**Radioactive contaminants**, can be naturally occurring or the result of mining activity.

**Organic contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, may also come from gas stations, urban storm water run-off, and septic systems.



In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulation which limits the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water system is tested a minimum of 2 samples per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presences in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio.

### *Water Quality Data*

The following tables list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the 2023 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1- December 31, 2023. The state requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, is more than one year old. **The bottom line is that the water that is provided to you is safe.**

### *Health Information About Water Quality*

While your water meets the EPA's standard for Lead, if present at elevated levels this contaminant can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).



## WATER QUALITY TERMS & DEFINITIONS

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** the "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** the "Maximum Allowed" MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water.

MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL):** the secondary standards of "Maximum Allowed" MCL allowed in drinking water.

**Action Level (AL):** the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** a treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Non-Detects (ND):** laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

**Parts per Million (ppm):** or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

**Parts per Billion (ppb):** or micrograms per liter (µg/l)

**Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L):** picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Millirems per Year (mrem/yr):** measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

**Million Fibers per Liter (MFL):** million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

# WATER QUALITY TABLE

## Testing Results for Round Hill GID

Disinfection By-Products	Monitoring Period	RAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	2023	3.2	3.2	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	2023	12.2	12.2	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Lead and Copper	Date	90th Percentile	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source	
COPPER, FREE	2020-2022 <i>(next test date is in 2025)</i>	0.035	ND - 0.046	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives.
LEAD	2020-2022 <i>(next test date is in 2025)</i>	3.5	ND - 5.5	ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Radionuclides	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
Combined RADIUM (-226 & -228)	9/19/2019	0.2	0.2	pCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits

Secondary Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	SMCL	MCLG
CARBON, TOTAL	2023 Quarterly	7.1	ND - 7.1	ppm	4	
CHLORIDE	9/13/2022	3.7	3.7	mg/L	400	
MAGNESIUM	9/13/2022	2.5	2.5	mg/L	150	
SODIUM	9/13/2022	7.4	7.4	mg/L	200	20
SULFATE	9/13/2022	1.9	1.9	mg/L	500	
TDS	9/13/2022	83	83	mg/L	1000	

**Violations:** The RHGID public water system did not receive any violations for 2023.

*The 35th annual \$5.00 Dump Day will be held on June 8, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.*

- \$5.00 per vehicle load (California residents)
- \$10.00 per vehicle load (Nevada residents)
- Oversized trucks & U-Hauls priced by size
- Refrigerators FREE (usually \$68.95) Thanks to Pay it Forward Project
- Free Mattress & Box Springs (California residents only) Recycled by MRC Bye Bye Mattress Program
- Free Computer Monitors & TVs (California residents only)
- Free Document Shredding
- Commercial loads pay regular prices! We cannot accept dirt, concrete, asphalt, roofing, or construction materials

As part of the event, Clean Tahoe offers curbside pickup of bulk items for senior and disabled residents in need. Please call our office (530) 544-4210 to schedule a pickup.

## ADOPT-A-HYDRANT PROGRAM



**Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District is asking for YOUR help to protect YOUR home and neighborhood.**

**IF YOU ADOPT WE ASK THAT YOU KEEP YOUR HYDRANT VISIBLE AND ACCESSIBLE**

THERE ARE OVER 800 HYDRANTS IN THE TDF DISTRICT THAT NEED TO BE SHOVELED AND KEPT CLEARED EACH WINTER.

**TIME SPENT CLEARING A HYDRANT DURING A FIRE COULD GREATLY REDUCE THE CHANCE OF SAVING YOUR HOME OR LOVED ONES.**

- Please shovel the area around the fire hydrant after each snowfall. Clear an area approximately three (3) feet around the hydrant as well as a path from the street or roadway (Northern Nevada Fire Amendments).
- DO NOT repair, paint, personalize, or change the appearance of the hydrant in any way. Hydrant cap colors provide critical available water flow information to firefighters.

Please report any hydrant problems to TDFPD at [prevention@tahoe-fire.com](mailto:prevention@tahoe-fire.com)  
Please send photos of your snow cleared hydrants to [social@tahoe-fire.com](mailto:social@tahoe-fire.com)



# What is a Backflow Preventer and why do I need one?

Many people do not understand the importance of having an irrigation system backflow prevention device and/or why it is necessary. The landscape around your home or business is filled with all sorts of things that can make you sick if ingested. Fertilizers, pesticides, and the bacteria from pet or wildlife waste are just a few examples.

Most irrigation systems are connected to a potable (drinking) water supply. Backflow preventers, as the name implies, prevent contaminated water from flowing back into the potable water supply.

Backflow can occur if there is a sudden pressure drop in the municipal water supply line. This can be caused by the opening of a fire hydrant, for example. When the pressure drops suddenly on the supply side of an irrigation system, it creates a back siphoning effect where water that is standing around a sprinkler head can be drawn into the irrigation pipes, into your home water pipes, and potentially into the municipal water lines, thus potentially contaminating the municipal water supply. Another example is having a hose sitting in a bucket of soapy or dirty water while you wash your car. Contaminated water can be drawn in the same manner.

Round Hill GID has preventative measures in place to protect our municipal water supply, but that still leaves your home water lines vulnerable. Irrigation backflow preventers and hose bib backflow preventers keep this from happening.

There are several types of backflow prevention devices. The type of device you are required to install is likely dictated by local codes and the severity of the contaminants located downstream of the device. Contact the RHGID office if you have any questions about what type of device you may need.



This photograph shows a 3/4" Wilkins-Zurn 720a. These are very common for residential irrigation systems. You can purchase these or similar kinds for under \$100 and install them yourself if you have a knack for DIY. Otherwise, call your local plumber for a quote to have one installed.



This is a hose bib backflow preventer. These can be found at your local hardware store for under \$10 and is installed between your hose and the hose bib.

## BE BEAR SMART

Living in Tahoe means we share this beautiful landscape with black bears. Black bears are native to Lake Tahoe and the Sierras. You may encounter a bear (even in town) because some bears have lost their fear of humans; they have become habituated to human presence, human food and human garbage. Black bears are wild animals, but if you take precautions, your chances of being injured are extremely low.

Bears are always hungry and seeking food resources in homes, dumpsters, trash cans, buildings and vehicles. Once a bear becomes habituated to human presence or human food, the end result is usually the bear's death. We have the ability to save bears by embracing the practices of a "Bear Smart Community." This is something that everyone in the community, full-time residents and visitors alike, need to be aware of and take action on.

Here are some Bear Smart Tips:

1. Garbage should be secured at all times except for placement at the curb after 8 a.m. on trash collection day.
2. The most effective way to store household garbage is inside a metal bear box or locking dumpster.
3. Wildlife-resistant cans are a secondary option, though not as secure or durable.
4. Garages and utility sheds are the least secure storage options. Bears will make strong efforts to get into garages with garbage and damage can be costly.
5. Always lock dumpsters securely, with no gap between the body and lid.
6. Don't leave food in your car and lock your car doors. They have learned to open car doors. Air fresheners, gum, mints, coffee cups and takeout containers are all attractants.
7. Keep home and garage doors closed, except for immediate use. A bear walking into an open garage and taking food or garbage is one preventable incident most often reported.
8. If you want to compost, use an indoor worm-bin composting for kitchen scraps.
9. NEVER FEED WILDLIFE! Don't use bird feeders.
10. Feed your pets indoors and keep the BBQ clean.
11. Authorities recommend making noise to scare away a bear you find on your property. Always make sure that the bear has an obvious escape route, and never act aggressively toward a bear in a confined space, for example, a bear that has entered your home.
12. Always use caution and common sense when dealing with wildlife.



343 Ute Way  
P.O. Box 976  
Zephyr Cove, NV 89448

Tel: (775) 588-2571  
Fax: (775) 588-5030  
E-mail: info@rhgid.org

**We Welcome Your  
Feedback**

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ZEPHYR COVE, NV  
PERMIT #49

**WWW.RHGID.ORG**

**Be Water Wise!**

Remember, RHGID restricts all outside irrigation between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. *RHGID reserves the right to resort to odd / even water restrictions. Please avoid wasting water and over irrigating.*

*Cut and put on your refrigerator!*

**Important Numbers to have on hand:**

**Emergencies (Fire/Sheriff/Ambulance): Dial 911**

**Non-Emergencies:**

- **Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District**  
193 Elks Point Rd., Zephyr Cove, NV 89448  
(775) 588-3591  
<https://tahoefire.org>
- **Douglas County Sheriff's Office**  
175 US-50, Stateline, NV 89449  
(775) 782-5126  
<https://sheriff.douglascountynv.gov>

- **NV Energy Outages**  
(775) 834-4100  
<https://www.nvenergy.com/outages-and-emergencies/report-an-outage>
- **Southwest Gas**  
(530) 582-7200  
Suspect a leak? Call 911 and 877-860-6020  
<https://www.swgas.com>

*For parking, noise, and other complaints:*

[https://www.douglascountynv.gov/government/departments/  
community\\_development/code\\_enforcement](https://www.douglascountynv.gov/government/departments/community_development/code_enforcement)