

NOVEMBER 2017

PINERY PIPELINE



FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In your September Pinery Pipeline, Board Member Heidi Tackett wrote about the WISE Project. This project is partially funded by your monthly Water Supply Project Fee and will bring sustainable water to the Pinery. I would like to emphasize the importance of this Project and thank the far-sighted Board Members who saw the need and then took action over fifteen years ago.

I recently attended a regional water solutions workshop in Colorado Springs hosted by the Colorado Foundation for Water Education. In attendance were many Water and Sanitation Districts, like the Pinery, in the Southern and Southeastern part of Colorado. Many of these Districts rely upon pumping ground water for their supply, and, as we all know, the ground water aquifers are being depleted and costs for drilling deeper wells are increasing to over a million dollars for each well.

If there is no water for the various homes, developments and businesses, what do you think the value of those homes, developments and businesses will be? My guess is zero, or not very much.

Consequently, there is an urgency to find additional water sources which comes at a great financial cost. The only realistic solution is to build partnerships with other Water Districts. This is not easy as you may have political, financial, logistical and legal issues to resolve. We know from the WISE Project that these can take many years to resolve even when all the parties want it to work.

Will the issues be resolved before some Districts run out of water? That is the 'Big Question'!

The good news for Pinery customers is they will have "Quality Water for Life" because of the long-term planning by your previous Board Members.

One other tidbit I picked up that I wanted to share is, under Federal Law, we are only able to keep one-third of the water generated in our rivers and streams. The balance goes to other Western States, meaning we need to continue to reuse what water we do have.

On behalf of your Board of Directors, we wish you a Happy and Blessed Holiday Season.



Walter Partridge, Chairman of the Board
Pinery Water & Wastewater District Board of Directors

Rates and Fees Update

The District will implement a rate increase effective January 1, 2018. You will notice the difference on your bill in February 2018 which applies to January 2018 water usage. The water rate structure below is known as an inclining block rate structure and is commonly used to encourage conservation.

2018 Water and Sewer Rates

Residential - Billed Monthly

Water

Base Rate \$29.22

# of gallons used	Cost per 1,000 gallons
0-5K	\$2.58
5K – 20K	\$3.74
20K – 30K	\$4.71
30K – 50K	\$6.13
50K – 60K	\$8.36
Over 60K	\$16.78

Water Project Fee

Flat fee to all customers - \$12.50

Sewer

Flat rate for all users - \$42.92

For additional information regarding rates and other fees, please visit our website at pinerywater.com/rates

Are Your Pipes Ready for Winter?!

Winter is fast approaching and each year the District receives calls from homeowners with no water due to freezing. Here are some tips to help prevent and thaw frozen pipes at home.

How to Prevent Frozen Pipes

- Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals up out of the reach of children.
- When the weather is very cold outside, let the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe - even at a trickle - helps prevent pipes from freezing.
- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night. By temporarily suspending the use of lower nighttime temperatures, you may incur a higher heating bill, but you can prevent a much more costly repair job if pipes freeze and burst.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55° F.

Freezing Weather Maintenance Checklist

The infographic shows a cross-section of a house with various maintenance tasks labeled:

- Add Insulation in Your Attic
- Clean Gutters to Allow Water to Drain Freely
- Seal All Windows with Caulking or Weather Stripping
- Seal All Doors with Weather Stripping
- Insulate Pipes in a Laundry Room and Bathroom on Exterior Walls
- Insulate Pipes in Cabinets on Exterior Walls
- Buy a Roof Rake to Safely Remove Snow on Your Roof
- Prevent Tree Branches from Overhanging Your Roof/Gutters

To-do List

- Prevent Frozen Pipes
DisasterSafety.org/freezing_weather/prevent-frozen-pipes/
- Reduce Ice Dam Risks
DisasterSafety.org/freezing_weather/preventing-ice-dams-on-homes/
- Prevent Roof Collapse on Homes
DisasterSafety.org/freezing_weather/prevent-roof-collapse/
- Installing Weather Stripping & Seals
DisasterSafety.org/freezing_weather/installing-weather-stripping-seals/

Additional winter weather resources are available at DisasterSafety.org/freezing_weather

Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety

How to Thaw Frozen Pipes

- If you turn on a faucet and only a trickle comes out, suspect a frozen pipe. Likely places for frozen pipes include against exterior walls or where your water service enters your home through the foundation.
- Keep the faucet open. As you treat the frozen pipe and the frozen area begins to melt, water will begin to flow through the frozen area. Running water through the pipe will help melt ice in the pipe.
- Apply heat to the section of pipe using an electric heating pad wrapped around the pipe, an electric hair dryer, a portable space heater (kept away from flammable materials), or by wrapping pipes with towels soaked in hot water. Do not use a blowtorch, kerosene or propane heater, charcoal stove, or other open flame device.
- Apply heat until full water pressure is restored. If you are unable to locate the frozen area, if the frozen area is not accessible, or if you cannot thaw the pipe, call a licensed plumber.
- Check all other faucets in your home to find out if you have additional frozen pipes. If one pipe freezes, others may freeze, too.