

NOVEMBER 2023

PINERY PIPELINE



From your Board of Directors

We hope everyone had a happy and safe Halloween!

The Pinery water board will hold a Public Hearing reviewing rates and fees for 2024 and the proposed 2024 budget Wednesday, November 16th at 6:00 p.m. This Public Hearing is open to the public and the Board encourages customers to attend.

Water and sewer rates to residential customers have held steady for the past several years. There will be only a slight increase of 2% for 2024. A comparison of projected annual water and wastewater bills shows Pinery customers will pay less than neighboring utilities, including Parker and Stonegate. Our goal is to continue to provide “**Quality Water for Life**” at the lowest possible rates.

The proposed 2024 District Budget expenses will be just over 21 million dollars in the coming year. In addition to general water and sewer operating expenses to serve about 15,000 customers, approximately 12 million dollars will be spent on capital projects. Some of the most impactful projects next year include:

- Two new wells, a shallow alluvial groundwater well along Cherry Creek and a Denver Basin well along the District’s eastern border. The cost of these wells along with supporting infrastructure will exceed 4 million dollars.
- The District’s wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) relies completely on biology instead of filters to clean the water. It’s been almost twenty years since the last major upgrade to the WWTP and investments are again required to keep up with the changing state standards and to extend the WWTP’s useful life.
- In addition to the above, smaller projects include rehabilitating existing District wells, repairing or replacing fire hydrant replacements, pump station improvements, meter pit upgrades, cyber security upgrades and many others.

The complete budget can be found on our website at pinerywater.com.

We wish you all the best for Thanksgiving and the Christmas holidays.



Walt Partridge,
Chairman,
Pinery Water and Wastewater District

Please join us at our District Office for our monthly held Board Meetings at 6:00pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Upcoming Board Meetings will be held at 6:00pm on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023 Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023

District Announcements:

The Board will hold a Public Hearing to consider 1) fixing or increasing fees, rates, penalties or charges for Commercial, Irrigator and Domestic Water and Sanitary Sewer Services 2) fixing or increasing Tap Fees; and 3) the 2024 District Budget for 2024 at the Regular public meeting November 16, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the District Office located at 5242 Old Schoolhouse Rd.

Office Closure:
Our office will be closed November 10th for Veterans Day.

We will also be closed November 23rd and 24th for Thanksgiving.



SNOWBIRDS: WINTERIZING YOUR HOME FOR WHEN YOU ARE AWAY

Are you a snowbird? Many Pinery Water District customers flock to a warmer climate during the winter months. It is a very tedious task getting your home ready for those months you are away. However, creating a thorough checklist for winterizing your home can help protect against many unwanted surprises. The District receives many calls from homeowners, neighbors, or house sitters due to no water at the house or flooded rooms due to broken/frozen pipes. Here are a few tips to think about before you head to your warmer destination.

Protecting Pipes from Freezing:

- 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.
- Open the faucets indoors. Let the 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 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.
- Leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55° F.
- Consider completely turning off the water supply and draining pipes if your home heating system allows. Older steam heating systems need water to keep the house warm. The following link has a video showing how to shut off the main water valve in your house, <https://www.travelers.com/resources/home/maintenance/how-to-prevent-water-damage>.
- Ask a friend or family member to check on the house. Especially, after cold days or a snowstorm have your home checked that way any problems can be addressed right away.

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.

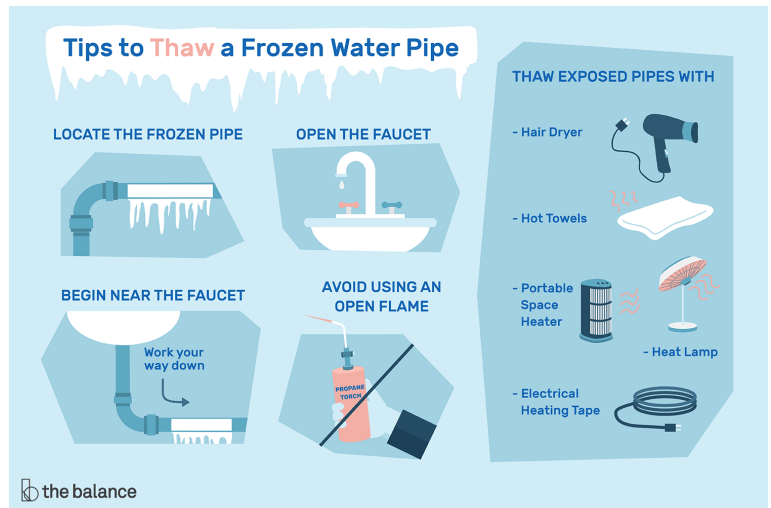


Photo from-
<https://www.thebalancesmb.com/how-to-thaw-a-frozen-water-pipe-2124986>

Eye On Water:

This year we have finished upgrading all our customers' meters to the latest metering technology. This makes it simple to track your home's water use right at your fingertips. You can review your daily, even hourly, water consumption by logging into the website or using the EyeOnWater mobile app. The app also allows you to set custom leak alerts to notify you when your leaks start instead of when your next month's bill comes. This is a great tool if you are away during the winter months. Sign up today at <https://eyeonwater.com/signup>.

For reference or more information: <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/winter-storm/frozen-pipes> and <https://www.travelers.com/resources/home/safety/snowbirds-winterize-your-vacant-home>

Pinery Water and Wastewater District Contact Information:

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For after-hours emergencies,
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