

# PINERY PIPELINE



## *From your Board of Directors*

Happy New Year, and may 2024 be a joyful and successful year for you!

I'm writing this month to address a recurring topic. Once again, the Pinery Staff have received comments encouraging the expansion of recreational activities on Bingham Lake. In this case, an eighth-grade resident of the Pinery, writing in an impressively mature manner, cited the many enjoyable activities already facilitated by the Lake and added how allowing non-motorized boating activities would make it even better. He stated that it wouldn't be difficult to implement these privileges, given the existing boat ramp and parking availability at the Lake.

Undoubtedly, such activities would be very popular. However, as the writer also pointed out, there are valid and compelling reasons for tightly controlling what enters the water. Here's a little refresher course about the Lake:

- Bingham Lake is owned by Pinery Water and Wastewater District and serves as a water supply storage vessel for the entire District. Douglas County Parks, Trails & Building Grounds manages the Bingham Lake recreational facilities and the fishery.
- Bingham Lake draws fishers due to the various warm water game species that inhabit the lake, such as large-mouth bass, black crappie, walleye, blue gill yellow perch, channel catfish and wipers (hybrid white/stripe bass). An annual stocking program began in 2005 to ensure adequate numbers of fish are available to catch. In addition, a habitat enhancement project, periodic assessments, and requests for anglers to "catch and release" has helped maintain a quality fishery. The District participates in this annual fish stocking due to the water quality benefits of having a strong fish habitat in the lake.
- Currently the District prohibits any boating on or wading in the lake due to concerns of introducing Zebra or Quagga Mussels into the lake. Both are invasive species that would have a profound impact on the ecosystem and mechanical pumping operations at the lake.

Zebra mussels are native to the Black, Caspian and Azov Seas of Eastern Europe. They were discovered in the Great Lakes in Lake St. Clair in 1988 and have since spread to 33 states in the United States. Quagga mussels are native to the Dnieper River Drainage in the Ukraine. They were discovered first in the Great Lakes in the Erie Canal and Lake Ontario in 1989 and have since spread to 27 states in the United States. Once in North American waters, aquatic nuisance species often hitch rides to other bodies of water on the boats, trailers, and equipment that people transport from place to place. Given their ability to attach to hard surfaces and survive out of water for extended periods (+30 days), many infestations have occurred by adult mussels hitching rides on watercraft. The microscopic larvae also can be transported in bilges, ballast water, live wells, or any other equipment that holds water.

The State of Colorado has ramped up efforts to inspect all boats before entering State run reservoirs. Bingham Lake has no inspection program. Staff has been advised by a senior ranger for Douglas County Open Space that the Pinery should continue its policy of no watercraft on the Lake because it's just too risky without an inspection program in place. The costs of instituting and administering an inspection program at Bingham Lake would be prohibitive and could not guarantee the protection that the District desires.

As Bingham Lake is a community amenity, its first purpose is for water supply. Opening the lake to float devices may enhance its use in our community. However, when considering that action against the mission of the Pinery Water and Wastewater District, it does not align with what we are charged to do which is to "Provide Quality Water for Life". Ensuring the security of the District's water supply and infrastructure must be a higher priority than providing recreational opportunities to our community.



**Rod Bergholm,**  
**Director, Pinery Water and Wastewater District**

While recognizing the attraction of additional water sports at the Lake, the Board of Directors are committed to continuing with its policy of prohibiting watercraft of any kind and swimming/wading on or in Bingham Lake to protect the integrity of the water supply and the District's infrastructure. Hopefully, all will agree that caution is the best policy, given all that is at risk. We must keep in mind the primary purpose of the Lake and protect those functions. And still, as our young resident stated, "Bingham Lake is such an amazing place!"

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

Upcoming Board Meetings will be held at 6:00pm on Wednesday, Jan 17 2024  
Wednesday Feb 21, 2024

# How to Read Your Water and Sewer Bill

**Account Number**  
This is the 4-digit number associated with this service address

**Newsletter**  
If you receive an email bill or view your statements online, you can click on the green text that will take you right to our newsletters on our website.

**Eye On Water**  
The water droplet lets you know you have the EyeOnWater Technology. If you receive email statement or view your statement online, you can click on the red text that will take you straight to the registration page for EyeOnWater.

**Balance Forward**  
This section shows the amount of the charges from the last billing period minus any payments received. If you paid the amount due your balance forward will be \$0.00.

**Water Service Charges**  
This charge has two components – the base rate and the volumetric rate. The base rate stays the same every month and the volumetric rate rises as you use more and more water. Please visit the District website to see the current Rates and Fees Schedule.

**Date Bill Printed/Billing Date**  
This is the date your bill is printed and/or usage charges are applied. It is typically mailed to you within 2 business days of printing.

**Usage Chart by Billing Period**  
This graph represents water usage, per billing period, in 1,000-gallon increments. Please keep in mind that we bill out for the previous month and the information you are looking at for one month reflects water usage for the previous month. Example: the usage shown for the September billing period reflects water usage in August. Please see the Read Dates to verify what month the usage is for.

**Meter Readings**  
These numbers represent the actual, current and previous readings from your water meter. To determine your consumption, shown in the 'Actual Usage' box, subtract the previous reading from the present reading.

**Sewer Service Charges**  
This rate is based on Average Monthly Winter Water Use (Nov-Feb).  
• 0-5,000 gallons-\$37.86  
• Over 5,000 gallons-\$55.61  
(Average Gallons will appear on every bill on the sewer line.)

**Water Supply Project Fee**  
This is a flat monthly fee that was established by the Board in 2011 to fund current and future renewable water projects to decrease the District's dependence on its non-renewable water sources.

*\*\*Please note that some residents may also see a Groundwater Protection Fee on their bills. This is a flat fee each month to those properties located in the Cherry Creek Alluvium. The District's most precious water supply is in this alluvial system and this fee recoups the extra cost to the District to buffer the alluvium from development. Go to our website for a map of the Groundwater Protection Zone.*

**Usage Chart by Billing Period**

Month	Usage (1,000 Gallons)
Sep	68K
Oct	59K
Nov	28K
Dec	8K
Jan	13K
Feb	10K
Mar	10K
Apr	14K
May	16K
Jun	30K
Jul	67K
Aug	53K
Sep	52K

**Read Dates**

From	To	Days in Cycle	Previous Reading	Current Reading	Actual Usage
08/01/2022	09/01/2022	31	485	537	52,000

**Charges Summary**

Category	Amount
Previous Balance	\$370.08
Payments Received	-\$370.08
Total Past Due	\$0.00
Water Usage Charge Total	\$292.68
Base	\$29.51
Tier 1 (0 - 5,000)	\$13.05
Tier 2 (over 5,000 - 20,000)	\$56.70
Tier 3 (over 20,000 - 30,000)	\$47.80
Tier 4 (over 30,000 - 50,000)	\$124.00
Tier 5 (over 50,000)	\$21.82
Sewer	\$53.99
Water Supply Project Fee	\$12.50
Current Charges	\$359.47
Penalties	\$0.00
Adjustments (Misc. Charges)	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	<b>\$359.47</b>

**Payment Stub**

For Automatic Payment Information, go to [pinerywater.com/payment-options](http://pinerywater.com/payment-options)

Payment may be made at our office or online at [pinerywater.com](http://pinerywater.com).

Current Charges: \$359.47  
Total Amount Due: \$359.47  
Due Date: 09/30/2022  
Amount After Due Date: \$372.76  
Amount Paid: \$

**Payment Stub**  
Please detach and return with your payment.

**Amount Due After Due Date**  
This is the Amount Due plus the late payment fee of \$10 plus 1% per month of the past due balance. This amount applies to payments made after the due date only!

**Amount Due**  
This is the sum of total water charges, total sewer charges and any balance forward.

**Service Address**  
This address should match the location being billed for water service. Some customers pay bills for more than one address.

**Due Date**  
This is the date on which your payment is due to the office.