

FEBRUARY 2024

PINERY PIPELINE



From your Board of Directors

THE REPLACEMENTS

Late last year, the Pinery Water and Wastewater District (the District), asked me to finish the unfulfilled term of one of our departing Board members. I appreciate what an honor it is to serve the Pinery Water and Wastewater District, and I take the responsibility of this appointment very seriously.

As I considered what the subject of my contribution to the Pinery Pipeline was to be, it occurred to me that the District and I had something in common: we both need to perform replacements. Some of the most important District operations require installing replacements, and I hope to provide you with some insight into these processes.

One type of replacement the district has had to undertake is the ongoing Potable Pipeline Replacement program. The purpose of the program is to replace older waterlines (some date to 1971) that unexpectedly fail, which require expensive repairs. The District's philosophy is that it is better to proactively replace pipelines that are likely to fail, rather than deal with an emergency. The Pat Murphy Drive waterline project, expected to start later this summer, is the most current example of this program.

Many of you may also know that most of the Pinery's water supply comes from wells the District has had to drill over the years. Not surprisingly, these wells require maintenance from time to time, and one of the most important aspects of water well maintenance requires replacing casing that lines the deeper wells. The upcoming work project for Deep Well C2A is just one instance of casing replacement.

Another replacement for which the District is responsible involves replacing water itself. The water, which the District provides to its customers, comes from Cherry Creek, except during high demand summer months when deeper wells are in use. The district is legally required to replace the water sourced from Cherry Creek on a gallon-for-gallon basis. Replacement water is provided in the form of treated water from our wastewater treatment plant.

Another type of replacement involves professional service agreements between the District and various contractors. Such agreements expire over time and, if new contractors are selected, the old agreements need to be replaced. These agreements deal with information technology (IT), on-call engineering services (which are handy during emergencies!) as well as a variety of other goods and services.

One of the replacements, which I imagine will attract everyone's attention, is the outdated 2020 Water and Wastewater Rates and Fees Study. This study will be replaced by the 2024 version, which is scheduled to be released later this year. The study is designed to supply essential information to the Board as it figures out customer rates and fees.

There is one last type of replacement in which each of us can take part. The Turf Replacement Program could save you money on your water bill, plus improve the look of your lawn. Does this interest you? If so, I invite you to investigate this program on The Pinery website.



**Chuck Hinson, Director,
Pinery Water and Wastewater District**

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

Upcoming Board Meetings will be held at 6:00pm on Wednesday Feb 21, 2024 Wednesday Mar 20, 2024

Are Your Pipes Ready for Winter?

Winter is in full swing now and each year the District receives calls from homeowners with no water due to freezing temps. 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 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 are 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 features a central illustration of a house with various maintenance tasks labeled with arrows pointing to specific areas:

- Add Insulation in Your Attic** (pointing to the roof)
- Clean Gutters to Allow Water to Drain Freely** (pointing to the roofline)
- Seal All Windows with Caulking or Weather Stripping** (pointing to a window)
- Seal All Doors with Weather Stripping** (pointing to a door)
- Insulate Pipes in a Laundry Room and Bathroom on Exterior Walls** (pointing to a wall)
- Buy a Roof Rake to Safely Remove Snow on Your Roof** (pointing to the roof)
- Insulate Pipes in Cabinets on Exterior Walls** (pointing to a cabinet)
- Prevent Tree Branches from Overhanging Your Roof/Gutters** (pointing to a tree branch)

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 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.

Reference: <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/winter-storm/frozen-pipes>

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