

PINERY PIPELINE DECEMBER 2024



Please join us at our District Office for our monthly Board Meetings typically held at 6:00pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Our Upcoming Board Meetings will be held at 6:00pm on Wednesday, December 18th and Wednesday, January 15th.

From your Board of Directors

As the end of the year approaches, I am reminded of other things that will, or already have, ended. One of the “ends” to which Pinery Water always looks forward, is the end of the summer season high water demand. This is why you may have heard a pronounced sigh of relief from Pinery Water staff recently. Were you aware that water demand, during the summer months of June/July/August, can be 7 to 8 times higher than any other time of the year?

What difference does this make? Don't we have all the water we need? While we do indeed have enough water to meet the needs of the District, a portion of it is located underground. We do not have a river like the South Platte that we readily access. Water must be pumped from the subsurface before we can use it. During most of the year our water demand can be met via our Cherry Creek water alluvial wells. These wells are only a few tens of feet deep. However, the increased water demand during summer months requires turning on the District's deep (2,000'+/-) high volume water wells. While these wells can meet any summertime demand, extended, extreme drought conditions can tax the ability of our water supply during such high demand. These circumstances also cause our utility costs to skyrocket. This is one reason the Board is so focused on reducing water use during the summer months – and why the end of summer is such a welcome relief for our staff!

During last summer's regional Water Symposium in Parker, a comment which two of the state water officials made, struck me as “odd.” They referred to Kentucky Bluegrass as “an *invasive species*”! Isn't that an odd comment? This “tongue-in-cheek” reference to Kentucky Bluegrass was designed to draw attention to the drawbacks and costs of this type of lawn. According to the USDA, an invasive species is “non-native to the ecosystem and whose introduction causes, or is likely to cause, economic or environmental harm.” Kentucky Bluegrass is not native to our state and can be considered detrimental because it takes so much water to survive in Colorado. Viewed in this light, the term makes sense.

Should any of you feel the need to address your own “invasive species,” Pinery Water has several programs and offers to help you with that (please see the Incentives and Rebates section of The Pinery Water and Wastewater District website).

In regard to infrastructure, have you noticed that there are no water towers in The Pinery? Don't you find that a little “odd”? In my home state of Texas, water towers are ubiquitous, and there are also quite a few in Colorado's eastern plains communities, but not in the Pinery. Turns out there is a good reason for this. Water towers consist of water tanks perched on metal legs or stilts. Stilts raise the elevation of tanks to provide water pressure. The Pinery also has water tanks, but they are buried underground. Our water tanks do not require stilts because the significant elevation range within The Pinery provides all the pressure we need for our customers. This is a win-win situation because of lower construction costs plus the lack of surface clutter in our neighborhoods.



Merry Christmas!

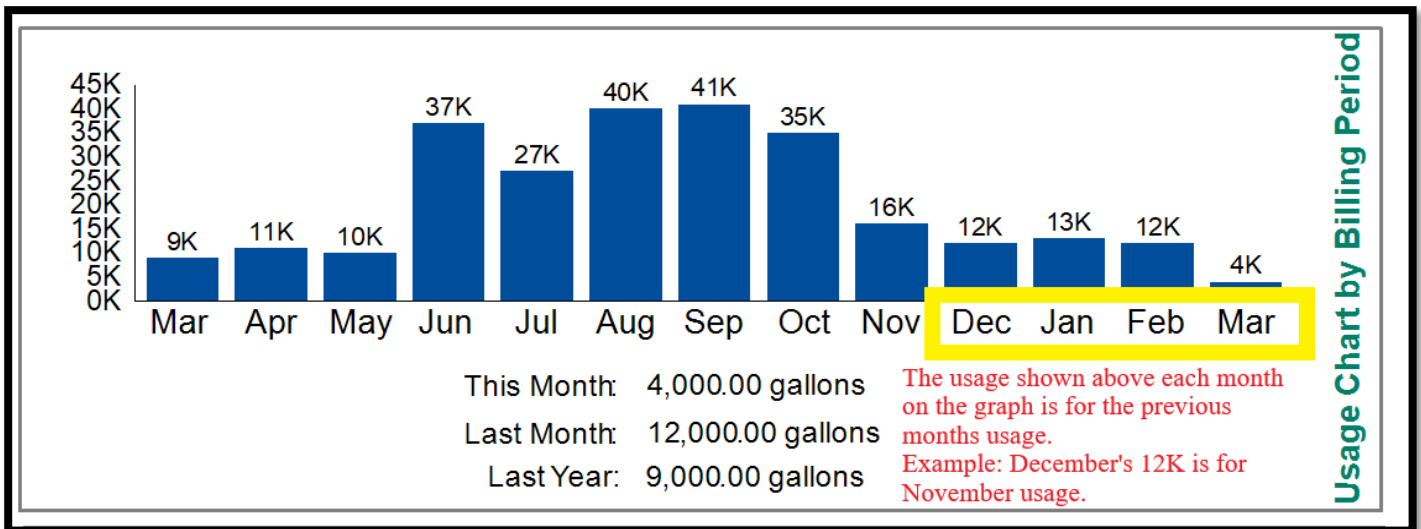
Chuck Hinson, Director, Pinery Water and Wastewater District

Conserving Water

Water conservation is not just meant for the summer months. Conserving water in the winter months helps you as well to save money monthly but also could put you in the lower sewer tier for the next year. In December of 2020 the Board passed a two-tier rate structure for monthly wastewater charges that took effect in 2021. What does that mean for you? Customers who use more water/wastewater services through the winter months will pay a higher rate than those who use less. The process to determine what tier you fall into is explained below.

We will add your November, December, January, and February water usage together and divide that total by 4 to get your average. That average number then determines which tier you fall into. If your average monthly water consumption (AMWC) is 0-5,000 gallons you will be billed \$38.43 each month for wastewater service in 2025. If your AMWC is over 5,001 gallons you will be charged \$56.44 each month for wastewater service in 2025. These rates will be recalculated each year.

If you are looking at the graph on your bill to see where you are at for usage, you will need to look at December-March. The graph shows the billing period, meaning the usage shown above the month is for the previous month. The picture below highlights the months to look at on your bill.



Leaving Town For Winter?

Did you know that the district can temporarily change your mailing address so you will still receive your water bills while you are away? If interested, please reach out to our staff at (303)841-2797 and we would be happy to make this change for you! If you would prefer to go paperless and skip the mailing of paper bills altogether, our office would be happy to set you up for emailed billing as well.

Office Closure

Our office will be closed December 24th, 25th, and January 1st to celebrate the holidays. Please call our after-hours line for emergencies, (303)841-2797 ext. 9.

From all of us at Pinery Water and Wastewater District, Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Pinery Water and Wastewater District Contact Information:

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For after-hours emergencies,
(303) 841-2797 EXT 9