

# Pinery Pipeline

July/August 2007

Pinery Water & Wastewater District – 303.841.2797

[www.pinerywater.com](http://www.pinerywater.com)

## Challenge yourself to Conserve!

Many of the District's residents are active in saving paper, metals, and plastics through local recycling programs. We would encourage you to save water through simple, daily changes in your personal habits. Here are some suggestions to get you started toward conserving water:

- ✓ Don't leave the garden hose running free while washing your car. Save up to **10 gallons** per minute!



- ✓ Put a layer of mulch, or bark around trees, it slows down evaporation and can save up to **1,200 gallons** a month!
- ✓ Set lawn mower blades one notch higher. Longer grass means less evaporation. Save up to **1,500 gallons** per month!

- ✓ Water your lawn only when needed. Step on your grass. If it springs back, when you lift your foot, it doesn't need to be watered. Save up to **1,500 gallons** per month.



- ✓ Shorten your showers. Even a one or two minute reduction can save up to **700 gallons** per month!



- ✓ Check toilets for leaks. Put dye tablets or food coloring into the tank. If color appears in the bowl without flushing, there's a leak that should be repaired. Save up to **400 gallons** per month!

- ✓ Don't use your toilet as a "wastebasket" for tissues, insects or cigarettes. Save up to **600 gallons** per month!

- ✓ Put a plastic bottle weighted with pebbles and filled with water into your toilet tank, decreasing water in the tank! You could save up to **300 gallons** per month! (Note: Not applicable to low flow toilets)



- ✓ Capture tap water. While you wait for hot water to come down the pipes, catch the flow in a watering can to use on house plants or your garden. Saves up to **300 gallons** per month.

**Do you set your sprinkler system in April and never touch it again until fall when you shut it down for the season??????**

## New Technology for your Lawn!

Evapotranspiration ("ET") is a useful tool when it comes to calculating the amount of water your lawn needs to be healthy, without wasting water.

Varying temperatures, wind speed and vapor pressure impact your lawn's water need from spring to fall. The ET rate takes into account a combination of the soil evaporation, plant transpiration, weather, type of plant and available water in the soil. Different plants have varying ET rates. Switching to an ET rate application of watering will save water and also encourage proper plant growth!



An ET controller can be added to your irrigation system to monitor ET activity. By taking into account air temperature, relative humidity, wind, rainfall, and solar radiation, an ET controller calculates the evapotranspiration and actually regulates the amount of water applied by your irrigation system.

Check out the following websites for manufactures of residential ET smart watering systems:

[www.weathertrak.com](http://www.weathertrak.com)  
[www.aquaconserve.com](http://www.aquaconserve.com)  
[www.rainbird.com](http://www.rainbird.com)

**New technologies CAN save water!**

**Something to ponder.....**

- Homeowners cultivate an estimated **40 million acres of turf every day.** If "lawns" were classified as a "crop", they would rank **fifth largest in the United States after corn, soybeans, wheat and hay!** (based on the coverage area)

**How about trying xeriscaping instead?**

## Remember, We All Live Downstream . . .

Did you know that acre for acre, urban residents use more chemicals than farmers? Overused or misused fertilizers and pesticides become part of the runoff polluting our streams and groundwater. Because stormdrains are not connected to sanitary sewer systems or treatment plants, debris and pollutants are carried directly into rivers, lakes, and streams. Such pollutants cannot be “turned off” by technology, people must change their habits and practices that affect the quality of our water!

- Some best management practices for summer time include using biodegradable soaps and automatic shut-off nozzles when washing your vehicles! Never dispose of used motor oil, antifreeze or other automotive by-products down the drain!
- A fact... lawn fertilizer, pesticides, yard clippings and even leaves can be causes of water quality problems. Sweep fertilizer and grass clippings back into your lawn. Select organic lawn fertilizers. Fertilize sparingly and carefully!
- Decaying pet waste can alter water chemistry resulting in damage to the health of fish, as well as carry bacteria, viruses, and parasites. Please dispose of pet waste after securing it in a sealed plastic bag before placing it out for trash collection.

As a reminder, please read labels carefully, use the minimum amount required, and dispose of all chemicals properly. *Thank you!*

## A day in the life of a Water Operator at the District . . .

Everybody has heard the phrase, “Dynamite comes in small packages”. Russ Holmes is the District’s version of “dynamite”! Russ has been working with the Water Division for 8 years, learning the various tools of the trade and absorbing (no pun intended) every aspect of treating water. Whether Russ is operating heavy equipment, changing out chemicals, or performing pump station maintenance, his high energy style is commonly observed by his co-workers and customers alike. As one of the District’s co-safety coordinators, Russ has been instrumental in educating and promoting safety among the staff to the extent that the District has now worked over 2500 straight days without a lost time injury!

When asked what Russ’s favorite part of his job is, he confidently replies, “Variety!” Every day holds a different challenge and a diversity of tasks for each of the District’s operators. Although individuals tend to specialize in a specific area (i.e., locates, well monitoring, inspecting, etc.), the District prides itself in cross-training its operators to meet the needs of any assignment with which they’re confronted.



When not installing hydrants or monitoring the District’s backflow prevention program, Russ enjoys spending time at local coffee shops. The caffeine jolt helps him keep up the energy he needs at work and at home with two children under the age of two! Describing himself as a “workaholic,” Russ spends his free time laboring around his Parker home, as well as participating in church activities. As a final note, Russ is the District’s strongest promoter of using sunscreen!



*What can happen to make our water supply run low?*

When it doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ for a long time!

\* \* ● \*\* ⚡ \*\* + ♥

When people \_\_\_\_\_ too much of it!

♥ \* ⚡ ⚡ ◐

When the water supply gets \_\_\_\_\_!

♫ + ■ ■ ✂ ⚡ ◐ ◆

* = A	● = I	+ = O	⚡ = S	▼ = V
◆ = D	■ = L	♫ = P	⚡ = T	♥ = W
◐ = E	** = N	* = R	✂ = U	◎ = Z