

Pinery Pipeline

November/December 2007

Pinery Water & Wastewater District – 303.841.2797

www.pinerywater.com

Prevention is the Key!

The District often gets questions about how to prevent frozen water pipes. We thought we'd pass on some useful tips to all of our customers:

- ❖ Don't ignore areas in your basement or crawlspace where cold air can enter and freeze pipes; a predictable problem.
- ❖ Keep garage doors closed if water supply lines run through the garage.
- ❖ Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warm air to circulate around the plumbing.
- ❖ Add insulation to basements and crawl spaces where your water pipes run.
- ❖ Leaving town for the holidays? Keep your indoor thermostat at a minimum of 60 degrees.

"If it's predictable, it's preventable!"

-Gordon Graham

2008 Residential Water & Sewer Rates Effective January 1, 2008

WATER

<u>Gallons</u>	<u>Bi-Monthly</u>
0-6,000	\$40 Base Rate
7,000-40,000	\$40 + \$2.00/1,000 gal.
41,000-60,000	\$108 + \$2.80/1,000 gal.
61,000-100,000	\$164 + \$3.50/1,000 gal.
101,000-120,000	\$304 + \$5.00/1,000 gal.
Over 120,000	\$404 + \$10.00/1,000 gal.

SEWER*

<u>Gallons</u>	<u>Bi-Monthly</u>
0-6,000	\$44
7,000-20,000	\$62
Over 20,000	\$70

*Sewer rates are based on winter time usage
(January-February or February-March)

Do you have plans to buy, sell or rent in the District?

Planning to sell your home...

What does this mean to you with regard to your water bill?



The title company provides the District with the closing date of the sale and the new buyer's information. On the closing date, your water meter is read for the calculation of the final bill. This bill is then forwarded directly to the title company

handling your home sale. Included in that bill is a \$40 transfer/final reading fee. The title company ultimately makes the actual decision as to how much is escrowed. Any left over monies from the escrow account will be refunded to you, the seller, by the title company.

Planning to rent your home...

If you as a homeowner wish to place the water and sewer utilities into the name of your renter, please note the District's Rules and Regulations: "The entire responsibility for the payment of water and sewer fees lies with the owner of the property, and a lien will be placed against the property for nonpayment. If the property is rented or leased, the owner assumes full responsibility for collecting user fees and late charges from the tenant." The District requires the following two steps be completed prior to setting up a renter on your account:

1) A District *Renter/Owner Agreement* form must be completed and signed by the owner stating that you understand the above rules and regulations of the District. You can download this form at www.pinerywater.com.

2) The meter must be read so that the District can calculate a final bill covering water usage from the last meter reading through the date the renter takes over responsibility for payment.

Once we receive the signed agreement and payment for the final bill, which will include a \$40 final meter reading fee and a \$50 renter set up fee, it clears the account so that new charges will begin on your renter's move-in date, and we transfer the account into your renter's name.

The District strongly suggests that owners continually track the status of their account by keeping it in their own name and forwarding the water/sewer bill to the renter for payment.



Congratulations!!!!

- On September 11th, the Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association awarded the following District Wastewater employees:
Shannon Wirtjes – Analytical Merit Award
Tim Richards – Collection Systems Award **Erik Ekbohm** – Plant Maintenance Merit Award
- Director **Rod Yoakam** received a Distinguished Board Member award in September from the Special District Association. Personnel development, insurance, customer service, safety, and operational excellence are all hallmarks of Rod's leadership during his 13 years of serving on the District Board.



The year was 1973 . . . It was a “common” year, starting on a Monday. The theatres were busy showing classic movies such as *American Graffiti*, *The Sting*, and *The Exorcist*. Billie Jean King defeated Chris Everett at Wimbledon. Richard Nixon and Spiro Agnew presided as President and Vice President, respectively; “Watergate” was becoming a common household term. Women termed as “Miss” or “Mrs.” now wanted to be referred to as “Ms.” And, Tony Orlando & Dawn were at the top of the pop charts with “*Tie a Yellow Ribbon 'Round the Ole Oak Tree*,” followed by Jim Croce’s “*Bad, Bad Leroy Brown*”.

Also during 1973, Paul Makowski started working for the Pinery Water District. Some 34 years later, Paul is still actively involved in the development of the District’s future. His historical knowledge is invaluable. Think about it . . . Paul worked at the District through the Disco era, the millennium transition, the M.A.D.D., S.A.D.D. and “Just Say No” campaigns!

Paul was working for the District years before first generation arcade games like Pac-Man, Space Invaders and Donkey Kong were even invented!

In Paul’s words, “There have been countless changes over the years. In the last ten years alone, nine wells, three pump stations, seven water storage tanks and about 45 miles of water and sewer mains have been added to the system. The wastewater treatment plant has doubled in size and is now capable of treating two million gallons per day. Over 1,900 homes have been built bringing the total to nearly 4,000 homes served by the District. There have also been changes to the way we do our work. We now use a geographical information system (GIS) to map and retrieve data about our system. We have added the ability to remotely monitor our water system. This allows our staff the ability to make adjustments to the system day or night improving service to our customers. The District replaced the billing software before Y2K so everyone could keep receiving their bills.”

Years ago, most of Paul’s time was spent operating and maintaining the water system, whereas now time is spent making improvements to the system. The most memorable moments Paul has experienced are generally related to District repair problems. When Paul came to apply for the job back in 1973, a 16” water main had broken the night before and washed out the road to the office. At the time, he didn’t really know what he was getting himself into. Thirty-four years later we are still fixing water mains!

The District Board would like to publicly express their thanks and appreciation to Paul for nearly three and a half decades of providing consistent, competent, and unflinching service to the customers of the Pinery Water District.

The High Price of Bottled Water

(Adapted from THE WEEK, September 7, 2007)

Just say the words “bottled water” and images come to mind of underground limestone caves, mountain streams, and other all-natural sources. But, that pastoral picture isn’t entirely accurate. Between 25-40% of bottled water sold in the U.S. is nothing more than purified tap water (e.g., *Aquafina* and *Dasani*), which accounts for 24% of this nation’s bottled-water sales. In 2006, Americans consumed 8.25 billion gallons of bottled water (30 billion bottles worth). Whether taken to the park, the gym, or to our desks at work, bottled water is undeniably convenient. Clever marketing leads us to believe that bottles of water are pure, healthy, and even “chic”!

Compared to tap water, blind taste tests continue to prove that bottled water does not necessarily taste better. As for safety and purity, water from springs is not immune to contaminants found in nature or introduced during bottling. In fact, FDA standards for bottled water are looser than EPA standards. Many bottled water samples in a 1999 study by the NRDC found chemicals (toluene, xylene, adipate) and bacteria at levels higher than the “microbiological-purity guidelines” allow. And the price???? A single 20-ounce bottle of water costing \$1.50 would pay for 750 gallons of Pinery water, enough to fill that same bottle every day for 10 years! Assuming your tap water cost the same as the cheapest bottle of water, your average bi-monthly water bill would be about \$20,000!

