

Pinery Pipeline

January/February 2010

Pinery Water & Wastewater District – 303.841.2797

www.pinerywater.com

CURRENT WATER SUPPLY VERSUS FUTURE NEED

Be assured, the District has adequate water supplies to meet our customers' needs at the present time, including water rights from the Cherry Creek system and Denver basin groundwater. As well productivity decreases over the years, particularly the deep Dawson and Arapahoe aquifer wells, new wells are necessary to meet our demands. The District is currently drilling a new Arapahoe well near the R.V. lots (NW area of the District) for this very reason. If this was the only method of maintaining the level of service to our customers over the next fifty-plus years, the District would spend millions of dollars to continually drill new wells just to replace the declining productivity of our wells.

Fortunately, the District has had the foresight to join forces with other providers in tackling this challenge, and not go it independently. By participating in the South Metro Water Supply Authority (SMWSA) and the Cherry Creek Project Water Authority (CCPWA), the District has obtained additional water supplies and benefited in sharing the skills, knowledge and experience of multiple water managers, and independent consultants.

In future editions of the Pinery Pipeline, we will be sharing updates on multiple projects that the District is participating in including SMSWA's "WISE" (Water Infrastructure Supply Efficiency) program, how the Rueter Hess Reservoir fits into the regional water supply vision, and the proposed infrastructure plan for the CCPWA assets. We will also explore other metro area projects, such as Aurora's Prairie Waters Project, to give you a sense of what is happening in our region and the magnitude of this challenge.

District Board Adopts Budget and Sets Rates for 2010

The District Board adopted its 2010 budget at its December 16th Board meeting. The overall budget of \$9.8 million includes \$3.9 million in operating expenses, \$3.8 million for ongoing capital improvements (adjusted down from \$8.5 million due to deferral of new projects), and \$2.1 million in debt service. It is important to understand that the current revenue base does not fully cover operational expenses, or meet all of the requirements of the bond holders. Therefore, the Board approved a water/sewer rate increase of significance which covers increasing costs for water and wastewater treatment as well as to secure additional water for future District needs. This increase is nearly half of what the Board projected in 2008 due to ongoing cost controlling measures taken throughout the past year and the deferring of multiple projects. However, the District continues to have one of the most cost efficient rate structures in the area, charging for a two-month period what many water service providers charge for one month. An independent rate study is scheduled for 2010.

2010 Water & Sewer Rates

2010 Residential Water and Sewer Rates Effective January 1, 2010

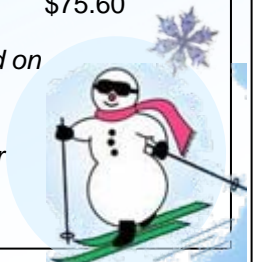
Water

<u>Gallons</u>	<u>Bi-Monthly</u>
0 - 6,000	\$ 50.00 + \$2.00/1,000 gallons
7,000 - 40,000	\$ 62.00 + \$2.90/1,000 gallons
41,000 - 60,000	\$160.60 + \$3.65/1,000 gallons
61,000 - 100,000	\$233.60 + \$4.75/1,000 gallons
101,000 - 120,000	\$423.60 + \$6.50/1,000 gallons
Over 120,000	\$553.60 + \$13.00/1,000 gallons

Sewer

<u>Gallons</u>	<u>Bi-Monthly</u>
0 - 6,000	\$51.45
Over 6,000	\$75.60

**Sewer rates are based on winter time water usage, either your January-February or February-March billing cycle*





Water, Water Everywhere

A Few Simple Facts About Water



Did you know.....

- That there is the same amount of water on Earth now as there was when the Earth was formed. The water from your faucet could contain molecules that dinosaurs drank.
- Nearly 97% of the world's water is salty or otherwise undrinkable. Another 2% is locked in ice caps and glaciers. That leaves just 1% of all of humanity's needs – all its agricultural, residential, manufacturing, community and personal needs.
- Water regulates the Earth's temperature. It also regulates the temperature of the human body, carries nutrients and oxygen to cells, cushions joints, protects organs and tissues, and removes wastes.
- 75% of the human brain is water and 75% of a living tree is water!
- While we are on the subject of water – let's talk about using bottled water. Did you know that according to the Beverage Marketing, the average American consumed 1.6 gallons of bottled in 1976? In 2006, that number jumped to 28.3 gallons. That's a lot of plastic in our landfills. Please use a refillable container when you can.
- A water faucet that leaks one drop per second can add up to 165 gallons in a month. That's more than one person uses in two weeks.
- An automatic dishwasher uses less hot water than doing dishes by hand – an average of six gallons less, equating to more than 2,000 gallons per year.

HERE ARE SOME EASY PROJECTS YOU CAN TRY:

- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator. Then you won't have to run tap water to cool it.
- When you clean your fish tank, use the water you've drained on your plants. The water is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus, providing you with a free and effective fertilizer.
- Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl, you have a leak. It's easy to fix, and you can potentially save more than 600 gallons per month.
- Designate one glass for your drinking water each day. This will cut down on the number of times you run your dishwasher.

Thanks to Colorado N.S.D.A.R. for the tips!

Preventing Frozen Pipes... Just a Reminder



Winter is here and it is a good time to remind all of our customers that *prevention* is the best policy when it comes to keeping pipes from freezing. Simple things like opening cabinet doors to expose enclosed piping, installing heat tape, insulating areas around interior pipes, blocking drafts, and caulking areas where the pipes go through walls.

Frozen pipes are a big hassle whether you are a homeowner or a renter. As the old saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure... *or perhaps in this case, a "gallon"!*

Frequently Asked Question....

Does the District estimate meter readings?

ANSWER: No, District customers actually have their water meters individually read every other month; the readings are then used for billing purposes. We've only had to estimate water usage one time in the past 15 years due to heavy snow burying the meter pits. Water meters are extremely accurate, but like any mechanical device, they do tend to wear with time. After computer and manual checks are completed to determine if any unusual changes in the amount of water used has occurred, sometimes we will re-read your meter before your account is billed. Typically if there is a meter issue, it is in the customer's favor!