

Pinery Pipeline

September/October 2009

Pinery Water & Wastewater District – 303.841.2797

www.pinerywater.com

Elementary Students Discover 407 Leaking Toilets!

Two Thousand fourth grade students studied water conservation this past year in Douglas County elementary schools as part of the Water Ambassador educational outreach program sponsored by the Douglas County Water Resource Authority (www.dewater.org).

DCWater.org consists of water providers, municipalities, and the County government coming together to pursue water resource conservation, education, public policy issues that impact more than 325,000 residents located in Douglas and S. Arapahoe Counties.

Each of the students was given a take-home assignment to work with their parents to test their toilets for water leaks. The toilet leak kits were supplied by Lockheed Martin. The 2,000 students participating in the program recently discovered 407 leaky toilets! In Colorado, where drought and water conservation go hand in hand, that's a lot of leaky toilets! Consider that a slow leak can lose up to 300 gallons a day and a constantly running toilet can lose up to 60,000 gallons a month (source: EPA).

Area home centers sell toilet repair kits, as well as high efficiency toilets, which can reduce water consumption by up to 60% over toilets installed prior to 1994. Water waste increases the homeowner's water bill unnecessarily by hundreds to thousands of dollars over time and can create property damage as well.

Stella, a Douglas County fourth grader said, "It's really easy to test and even fix a leaky toilet; if I can do it, you can do it too." A video that shows exactly how to do it, step by step, called "Stella Fixes a Leaky Flapper" can be viewed on DCWater.org.

"Teaching responsible water habits begins at an early age and lasts a lifetime," said DCWater.org President Larry Moore.

For more information on water saving efforts, go to www.dewater.org. You may also contact the Pinery Water District at 303/841-2797 or visit www.pinerywater.com.



LONGEVITY

Not many companies, whether public or private, can boast about a staff turnover record of “zero” for over six years. The combined total number of years employed by our seventeen full-time District employees is over 220! The average tenure of the District’s employees equals 13+ years.

What does this mean to you, our customer? It translates to having a knowledgeable person on the telephone when you call the District with questions. Or, having a highly skilled operator providing your water and sewer service. You will be provided with experienced individuals for locates, inspections and system maintenance.

The District may contract with outside professionals or hire seasonal workers intermittently to assist our experienced core staff.

So next time you contact the District with your concerns and questions, you can feel confident that you’re speaking to a District employee who knows their business!

MEETING REMINDER

Just a reminder that the District’s Board meetings are held at 6:00pm on the second Wednesday of each month at the District administration office:

5242 Old School House Road

These are public meetings, customers are encouraged to attend to learn more about what is going on in the the District.

KEEP HYDRANTS CLEAR

The District owns and maintains over 700 fire hydrants, which serve the District’s uses for fire protection, system flushing and testing, street and sewer cleaning, and road and building construction.

Please keep the area around each hydrant free of shrubs, trees and fences, as well as free of snow all winter. This clearance will help District personnel and emergency responders locate a hydrant in case of a water or fire emergency. If temperatures are below freezing and a hydrant appears to be leaking, please contact the District.



PRESSURE REDUCING VALVES



Has your household experienced a sudden loss or a gradual reduction in water pressure for no apparent reason? Have you heard a banging or high pitched whistling sound coming from the pipes usually when the water is being turned off? Or have you noticed higher-than desired water pressure from your taps, or a toilet that continues to run after the bowl is filled?

It may be possible that you have a failing pressure reducing valve (PRV). This is a type of valve installed in the plumbing of most (but not all) homes that reduces the water pressure coming from the District’s main lines to a pressure that is appropriate for the household plumbing system. A PRV is located between the meter and where the water service line feeds into the home, usually in the basement by the shutoff valve. The standard pressure setting for a PRV is 50 pounds per square inch (PSI), and the District recommends that household pressure reach no more than 70 psi.

The PRV is part of the home’s plumbing and is owned by the homeowner. A new PRV can be purchased at most hardware or home supply stores, or installed by a licensed plumbing contractor.

The District will, upon request, perform a pressure check on your PRV at no charge.

If you would like to have your pressure checked, please call (303) 841-2797, ext. “0”, Monday through Friday from 8a.m. until 4:00p.m.