

Yreka City Newsletter

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Winter & Your Water Pipes

Each winter, City Hall receives numerous calls from residents asking what they should do about frozen pipes. Below are some useful tips for preventing frozen pipes, what to do if your pipes freeze, and services provided by the City.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES:

- Disconnect all the outdoor hoses, if possible.
- Shut off the valve to the outside tap then run the faucet so the water in the line drains out. It is important to know that pipes usually freeze when they are closest to outside walls and the most vulnerable pipes are those running through unheated areas like crawlspaces.
- Try to keep the pipes warm by opening vanities under sinks and raising the temperature in these areas with exposed pipes by turning up your thermostat or using a space heater. Additionally, if specific pipes freeze regularly, turn on the cold tap so water continuously trickles during cold weather.
- Insulating wraps for pipes near outside walls may be beneficial, but it may be necessary for a plumber to move pipes installed in areas that are too vulnerable to the cold.
- If you leave your house for an extended time during winter, do not turn your thermostat completely off. Set the thermostat for 60 degrees and make sure all windows are completely sealed to ensure that no heat will escape. Then open the doors to vanities so warm air can circulate around the pipes under your sinks.

WHAT DO I DO IF MY WATER PIPES ARE FROZEN?

After water freezes in your pipe, the water flow will be cut off. The ice will expand and your pipes will be at risk of splitting if the clogs are not thawed promptly. When dealing with frozen pipes, it is important to act fast. A frozen pipe can turn into a broken pipe, transforming a small inconvenience into a big problem. To thaw frozen pipes, follow these steps:



- Find and turn off the main valve that brings water into the house.
- Trace the pipes around your house to locate any other shut-off valves.
- To thaw the pipes, you can use (a) a blow dryer, (b) a space heater or (c) electric pipe wraps.
- When thawing your pipes, you should NEVER use a torch or open flame to melt an ice clog.
- Monitor the pipes as they thaw because they may have cracked when they froze and could start to leak as they thaw.

EMERGENCY TURN-OFF SERVICES:

The City would like to remind you that any water valve on your property is your responsibility. The City of Yreka encourages all property owners to install a "Customer Shut-Off Valve" on the customer side of the water meter. If, for any reason, you must call the City of Yreka to request water turn-off, water turn-on, or meter reading assistance, the following fees apply:

- Turn-off for scheduled customer repairs or meter reading assistance: \$50
- Emergency turn-off fee (during regular hours, Monday - Friday 8am - 3:30pm): \$75
- Emergency turn-off fee (after regular hours, including weekends and holidays): \$150

If you have an after-hours water emergency and would like the Public Works Department to respond and turn off your water, call the Yreka Police Department at (530) 841-2300 (press 9 for dispatch). Alternatively, you may call a plumber to request assistance.

Important Numbers

City Hall/
Water Division
(530) 841-2386

Fire Dept
(530) 841-2383

Police Dept
(530) 841-2300

Public Works
(530) 841-2370

Senior Program
(530) 841-2365

Elected Officials

Rory McNeil
Mayor

David Simmen
Mayor Pro
Tempore

Robert Bicego
Councilmember

Bryan Foster
Councilmember

John Mercier
Councilmember

Liz Casson
City Clerk

Rhett Hogan
City Treasurer

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Greenhorn Park Project Completion



Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at Greenhorn Park

Falling snow did not prevent Yreka from making town history on December 2, 2010, as a small crowd huddled in the Upper Greenhorn Park kiosk to witness a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The ceremony was a celebration of the opening to the newly paved Greenhorn Park reservoir trail. It also marked the completion of the multi-year, phased, park improvement project. Now everyone can enjoy a walk around the trail or visit the restrooms that will be open year-round.

The project was successful because of the efforts of members of the community who implemented what began as a vision of the former City Attorney, Larry Bacon.

Quiet swept the room as Brian Meek, former City Manager, reminisced about the beginnings of the park. The lake was originally built as a reservoir to provide the City with water, but as the population of the town grew, the reservoir became inadequate. The City then had a reservoir without a purpose. It was not until the 1990s that efforts were initiated to preserve and transform the reservoir and surrounding hillsides into a park for recreational and public use. Over the years, the park has become a popular destination for tourists allured by the rich gold history and for locals who enjoy the extensive biking and hiking trail network within the park's boundaries.

As the number of visitors touring the park increased, an informal trail became worn around the lake. Muddy and frozen in the winter with several steep and eroding segments, the trail was in need of repair. The City sought funds to improve the trail and in 2005 was awarded a competitive State Park grant.

Early project phases included installation of a pedestrian bridge and the hand-crafted log cabin style bathrooms. The volunteers of the Siskiyou Arboretum designed and landscaped a native plant demonstration garden to beautify the area around the park restrooms. The volunteers have also placed name plates near numerous native plant species around the lake to help trail visitors identify and appreciate the beauty of the park. The grant project's final construction phase was the paving of the lakeside trail route to make it accessible for all users in all weather conditions. The trail paving was completed in early November.

At the event, Mayor Rory McNeil presented Certificates of Appreciation and Steve Neill, Director of Public Works, also extended his gratitude to all the designers, engineers, builders, contractors, employees and volunteers involved.



Former City Manager Brian Meek

Red Scarf to Provide Fabulous Entertainment Again!

The Red Scarf Society is sponsoring a "Celebration of Local Talent" on Sunday, February 27th at the Yreka Community Theater. This popular event will showcase the many talents of our friends and neighbors in Siskiyou County. Among those scheduled to appear include: Liz Harrison - vocal; Larry Hudson & Clarence Barger - instrumental; Eleanor Collier - piano; Rosie Chesney - vocal/guitar; Don LaVoy - french horn; Harlowe Kittle - clarinet; David Phillippe - vocal; Doug McAllister - classical guitar; Dr. Della Lana - dance group; Tom Sieber, Connie Croad and many others. Showtime is 3pm; tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. For more details, please call Mary Ellen Bryan at (530) 842-4656.