

# 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 pipes, 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 blow dryer, a space heater or 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, Mon-Fri 8am-3:30pm): \$75
- Emergency turn-off fee (after regular hours, & weekends & 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

Rhetta Hogan  
City Treasurer

[www.ci.yreka.ca.us](http://www.ci.yreka.ca.us)



# A Farewell by Retiring Planning Director, Pam Hayden

I began my employment with the City of Yreka in December 1993 as an account clerk to process the Landfill Fee that had just been implemented and to clerk for the Planning Commission and Historic District and Landmarks Commission meetings. Within three days of my first day of work I had a lunch date with my future husband, FJ Hayden (thanks to my cousin Cyd!). The girls in the office got a big kick out of that!

The landfill fee was incorporated into the water bills and in July 1996 I was promoted to Planning Assistant. Under the tutelage and watchful eye of the City Attorney Larry Bacon and by taking classes on planning issues, my understanding of the planning department continued to grow. In July 1998 I was promoted to Planning Director. Every day is still a new learning experience.



During my tenure with the City, we updated the 20+ year old General Plan and the sign and zoning ordinances. New structures erected include the Fairchild Medical Center, an assisted-living facility, a senior housing complex, apartment complexes, and expanded businesses at Yreka Junction Shopping Center. Other accomplishments include Black's Appliances' new complex in the Wal-Mart center, the new County maintenance yard, the US Forest Service relocation, two new motels, a new RV Park, and more. It may not seem like it sometimes, but Yreka continues to grow.

After our retirement at the end of December, FJ and I look forward to spending more time enjoying our kids, grandkids and families, riding and packing into the mountains, seeing the country in our RV, golfing, and working on and enjoying our home and horses in Scott Valley.

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with my fellow employees and the people of the City of Yreka. It has been an excellent experience with each day bringing new questions, new issues to resolve, and new businesses interested in locating in Yreka. The people you work with are an integral part of the working experience. I have been so fortunate to work with an outstanding staff (including Planning and Historic Commissioners) all of whom are very good at what they do. They all strive to work together to provide the public with the best possible customer service. I will sincerely miss everyone and am so grateful for the opportunity provided to me by the City of Yreka.

## Dog License Rate Increase

In accordance with our dog license rate increase plan, dog license fees will be going up again for 2012. This will be the final increase according to the plan. The new fees will be \$25.00 for altered dogs and \$50.00 for unaltered dogs. Animal Control is an important service that is beneficial to the entire community. These rate increases will only provide 50% of what it costs to operate a kennel, respond to an average of 3 calls for service per day, and reunite lost dogs with their owners. To assist dog owners who are on fixed incomes, the City has established a Community Service Fee Waiver. This waiver is granted to parties who have performed 3 hours of community service for an altered dog and 6 hours for an unaltered dog. Please contact Lysandra at City Hall for more information.

