

Yreka City Newsletter

October / November 2012

Volume 5, Issue 6



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

David Simmen
Mayor

Robert Bicego
Mayor Pro Tempore

Bryan Foster
Councilmember

Rory McNeil
Councilmember

John Mercier
Councilmember

Liz Casson
City Clerk

Rhett Hogan
City Treasurer

Snow Plowing of City Streets

The Department of Public Works will typically start to plow the streets when there is between 4 and 6 inches of snow at the Police Station on Miner Street. Main travel routes and intersections will be plowed first and not all streets will be plowed.

In the event of snow removal, Public Works will deploy its snow plowing equipment including two trucks, one loader, and one grader to clear the streets. The City only clears streets within the City limits. The snow plows will do one sweep of the street until a second pass is deemed necessary by the City. Snow is removed from the center of the street. This means that snow will pile up on both sides of the street. Residents should expect plowed snow in their driveways and are responsible for its removal. Public Works also encourages residents not to park their cars on the street during snow storms as they may have to shovel snow to get their cars out.

Also, according to City code, no snow may be removed from private property and placed into public property, such as removing snow from a driveway and placing it in the street. The reason for this ordinance is excess snow on the curb line can block the flow of water and create flooding problems.

Important Note: The City does not remove snow on business and residential sidewalks.

The City may place cinders on streets within City limits. Using the City's two cinder spreaders, this precautionary measure helps to prevent sliding and accidents on particularly dangerous turns and sections of the streets.

Annual Dog Licenses

City of Yreka dog licenses for 2013 are due between January 2 and March 1, 2013. Per City code, any dog that resides within the City limits must be licensed through the City of Yreka and possess a current rabies certificate.

The Animal Control license fees for 2013 are:
\$26.00 for Spayed/Neutered (Altered) Dogs
\$52.00 for Unaltered Dogs



Any dog owner whose dog is not licensed by March 1, 2013, is subject to a penalty of \$10.00 for each unlicensed dog in addition to the license fee.

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City of Yreka Upcoming Holiday Closures

December 24 - Christmas Eve
December 25 - Christmas Day
December 31 - New Year's Eve
January 1 - New Year's Day
January 21 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



Winter Weather & Frozen 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.

PREVENTION MEASURES:

- Disconnect all 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 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.
- After turning off the main valve, trace the pipes around your house to locate the other shut off valves.
- To thaw the pipes, you can use (a) a blow dryer, (b) a space heater for pipes under a sink or (c) electric pipe wraps.
- When thawing your pipes, keep in mind, 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 may start to leak as they thaw.

THE CITY CAN HELP WITH TURNING OFF YOUR WATER SERVICE, BUT FEES MAY APPLY

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 you need to call the City of Yreka to request water turn-off, water turn-on or meter reading assistance, fees may apply.

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) to request assistance. Alternatively, you may call a plumber.

Streetlights



Streetlights are maintained by the Maintenance Division of the Public Works Department. If you know of a streetlight that is out, please call (530) 841-2370. Streetlights are scheduled for repair in large groups. This allows the Division to more efficiently use its resources, and it reduces the per streetlight repair cost. Unfortunately, this means that it may take some time before a streetlight is repaired.

FALL LEAVES

The City would like to remind you not to dump or blow leaves from your property into the streets and drains. It is against City code and often leads to clogging the City's drain inlets. If the drains are clogged in the event of a storm, despite the City's best effort to keep them clean, the possibility of flooding is much higher.