

RESOURCE

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E-NEWSLETTER

Protect - Conserve - Preserve




Trinity Glen Rose- SAWS to Partner on Water Education

With a new school semester starting up, the Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District (TGR) has reached out to San Antonio Water System (SAWS) in creating a school education working relationship. SAWS' programs have evolved over the years and now are focused on helping students and educators formulate their own understanding of the importance of water in the community through hands on activities and service-learning projects. Their **Impact** program promotes science, water education and civic responsibility through service-based projects.

"We have a lot of friends at SAWS and we've begun talking to them about including information about the Trinity Aquifer in their presentations," said TGR General Manager George Wissmann. "SAWS provides water to many residents in the Trinity Glen Rose District and pumps water from the Trinity Aquifer so we felt it is important that we partner with them in community outreach efforts. They completely agreed with that and will be including Trinity Aquifer information in their presentations. We've also been invited to speak at an upcoming teacher workshop in January about the Trinity Aquifer."

As the high schools complete their projects, they are presented at an end of year conference called "Confluence," an event designed both to explore water issues facing San Antonio and ways students can play a part in sustaining that resource. Each year, more than 800 area high school students participate in the event. TGR has sponsored some students in the past for the Confluence Conference," Wissmann noted. "And, we're already looking ahead to next year's program and hope to work with a high school in the TGR District. We're also plan to present a mini-grant to the school that chooses to focus on the Trinity Aquifer for its project."

The high schools in the Trinity Glen Rose District are Taft, O'Connor, Johnson and Reagan. If you have students going to any of these schools, please pass the word about the TGR's water education plans. We will also be reaching out to the science and environment teachers in these schools. 

Be Prepared to Protect Your Water Pipes in Freezing Temps

Don't you just love winter weather in South Texas? One day your wearing shorts and out for a walk. The next day your worrying about a freeze killing your plants and maybe even breaking your water pipes. So, the best advice for making sure you don't find yourself without water because of a frozen water pipe is to be prepared.

- Continued on the Next Page -

Preventing Water Pipes from Freezing- continued



If you remember a few things from your chemistry classes, water has a unique property in that it expands when it freezes. Obviously, that expansion can put lots of pressure on the water pipes at your home, and that's when problems can occur. In fact, if your pipes aren't insulated, and the temperature drops below 20 degrees, they can become frozen and crack. Pipes that freeze most frequently are outdoor hose bibbs, swimming pool supply lines, water sprinkler lines, and water supply pipes in unheated interior areas like basements and crawl spaces, attics, garages, or kitchen cabinets. Pipes

that run against exterior walls that have little or no insulation are also subject to freezing.

Also keep in mind that some of the Trinity Glen Rose District lies in the foothills of the Texas Hill Country, and temperatures can get a little colder there as compared to the middle of San Antonio. Here are a few suggestions for keeping those pipes ready for those bitter winter blasts that blow through on occasion.

- Disconnect water hoses from the hose bibbs.
- Buy some pipe insulation from your local hardware store and wrap that insulation around the exposed hose bibbs at your home. You might need a little duct tape to secure the insulation.
- If you have a sprinkler system, make sure you turn it off. You really shouldn't be watering your yard this time of year anyway. Grass hibernates over the winter months and prepares itself for the growing season in the spring.
- If you plan to be away from home for several days, shutting off the water can reduce the chances of broken pipes. Also, keep the heater on in your house with the thermostat set to around 55 degrees.
- Be a good neighbor. If your neighbor is away or you are next to a vacant house and you suspect a water leak, call your water service provider immediately.
- You've probably heard that letting water drip from outdoor faucets can help prevent freezing pipes. Well, that is true, but it also wastes water. By being prepared for a sudden drop in temperatures and insulating those outdoor faucets, you should be able to avoid having to let your faucets drip.
- You can always call a licensed plumber for help. 💧

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tips

Did you know...

According to the Institute for Business and Home Safety, payments by all insurance companies in the past decade for claims due to water damage from frozen pipes have exceeded \$4 billion.