

Gator Tales



Volume 3, Issue 12

Newsletter Date: Fall 2015

A newsletter for the citizens of the PRVWSD community

The Pearl River Valley Water Supply District

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Free BBQ Highlights 3rd Smokin' on The REZ

The 3rd annual Smokin' on The Rez BBQ and Music Festival will be held Oct. 23-24 at Old Trace Park overlooking Barnett Reservoir in Ridgeland.



Pro and amateur pitmasters will fill the air with the smell of hardwood smoke and "low-and-slow" cooked pork while competing in the Memphis BBQ Network-sanctioned BBQ contest.

On Saturday, the \$10 admission to the event will include a big BBQ plate of pulled pork prepared by the competitors, as well as grilled sausage provided by Polk's Meats of Magee, and sides.

The Music Festival will provide tunes from some of the Mississippi's most talented and popular musicians performing on the Polk's Music Stage.

All of that, with the feel of autumn overlooking the scenic reservoir, comes courtesy of the Barnett Reservoir Foundation and the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District, co-hosts of the event.

Friday night is free to the public, and offers patio cooks their best chance to visit with and get tips from some of the best pitmasters and teams in the world of competitive BBQ as they prepare for the contest.

On Saturday, the BBQ plates will be served, along with a daylong side of great music, beginning at 12:30 p.m. Saturday until the supply is exhausted.

Mr. Sipp, the Mississippi Blues Child with a stage presence akin to Chuck Berry, headlines the all-Mississippi music lineup. Mr. Sipp will play from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Saturday.

Saturday's music begins at 11 a.m. with Jackson's own harmonica man Scott Albert Johnson, with Chalmers Davis on keyboards, playing tunes from Johnson's recently released "Going Somewhere" CD.

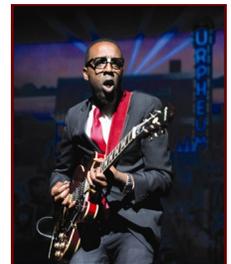
At 1:30 p.m., local favorites Andrew Pates and Barry Leach will take the stage, joined by some friends, to cover a full range of music.

SoulShot will provide the music from 5:30 to 9 p.m. on Friday.

A children's area will be located in the grass area near the stage.

Beer, water and other beverages will be sold on site. No outside coolers will be allowed.

Smokin' on The Rez is made possible by Foundation sponsors, including Southern Beverage, Polk's Meats, Academy Sports, I Heart Radio, Mississippi DEQ and Ergon, plus a grant from Mississippi Tourism's Visit Mississippi program. For more information, please visit BarnettReservoirFoundation.org.



Mr. Sipp



Scott Johnson and Chalmers Davis



Andrew Pates



News Around the REZ

Reservoir Board October Meeting at Pelahatchie Shore Park Pavilion

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District will be held at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 15 at the Pelahatchie Shore Park Pavilion just east of the North Shore Parkway.

Usually held in the Board Room of the PRVWSD's main office in Ridgeland, some Board meetings are held at different locations around the reservoir.

Like all board meetings, the October meeting will be open to the public. Committee meetings will be held in the afternoon on Monday Oct. 12 at the Ridgeland office. Times will be announced later.

Numbers to Know

Emergency: Emergencies can be reported 24 hours a day, seven days a week by contacting the Reservoir Control Tower at (601) 992-9703.

Non-emergency: For questions regarding PRVWSD policies and properties, contact the PRVWSD office during normal business hours at (601) 856-6574.

On the water: Boaters experiencing problems on the water requiring towing assistance should call *Sea Tow*, a private business specializing in emergency assistance, at (601) 992-0321.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Oct. 4	RyanMan Triathlon	LS	Race/benefit
Oct. 7	Lucky 7 Run	SP	Run
Oct. 14	Mayor's Fun Walk	OT	Walk
Oct. 23-24	Smokin' on The REZ	OT	BBQ contest / live music
Nov. 15	Barnett Arts & Crafts Fair	LS	Arts & Crafts Fair

OT- Old Trace Park / LS—Lakeshore Park / PSP—Pelahatchie Shore Park
SP - Spillway Road / FL— Fannin Landing

Danger: Low Water Level and Boating

Entering October, one of the driest months of the year, Barnett Reservoir is already over a foot and a half below its mean operating level of 297.5 feet above sea level.

Boaters are always urged to travel The Rez with caution due to its many hidden stumps, but at the current boat level extra caution should be practiced, especially in an unmarked area where a boater is unaccustomed to travel.

In addition to the lack of rainfall this summer, evaporation is a drain on the 33,000-acre lake. PRVWSD must discharge a minimal flow — about 240 cubic feet per second — through the spillway due to a contractual agreement with the City of Jackson, and to satisfy the needs of other downstream communities who depend on the Pearl River.

Archery Hunting Begins Below Dam and in Bay

Bow hunters selected through a drawing process in August will be hunting from Oct. 1 through Jan. 31 below the Barnett Reservoir Dam and in Sections M & N on the north shore of Pelahatchie Bay.

During the archery season, the Mule Jail Trail on the Madison County side of the spillway will be closed. No persons other than those selected for the hunt will be allowed in any of the areas through Jan. 31.

Each permitted hunter has a six-day window of hunting opportunity beginning on Tuesday and ending on Sunday. Mondays are to be used for scouting by all permit holders.

Some hunts remain available in the two areas of the spillway and the three areas in Pelahatchie Bay. The costs of the hunts are \$300 in the spillway and \$200 in the Bay. Phone Craig Hunt at (601) 856-6574 for more information.



High Water/Sewer Bills Concern PRVWSD Residents:



The dry summer and drought led to an increase in many water/sewer bills, raising concerns for many residents of the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District.

Consumption tends to increase in the summer months, and when consumption increases, so do water/sewer bills. Some residents complained that their bills were unusually high, and PRVWSD met with some leaseholders to find answers for spikes.

In most cases, the PRVWSD found increased water use for varying reasons related to hot and dry weather, including leaks and lawn-related usage.

The drought and extreme heat caused an unusually large number of busted pipes. Leaseholders are responsible for all plumbing between the meter and the house, and within the house.

Drought also led to an increase in the watering of lawns and the topping off of swimming pools, which can lead to spikes in usage. Depending on the size and type, a single hose can range from five gallons per minute up to 20 gallons per minute. At the 20-gallon rate, an hour's worth would add \$12 to a water/sewer bill, \$60 for five hours and \$120 for 10 hours.

A leaky commode can consume up to 1,000 gallons of water every 24 hours, or nearly \$11 per day in water/sewer usage.

Leaky faucets can also create increases. Even a small leak of 30 drops per minute can use 54 gallons a month, and a large leak of 1 1/2 -inch drips can account for 2,200 gallons a month, or \$24 a month.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, 10 percent of homes have leaks that amount to an average of 90 gallons of water a day. If you suspect you have leaks, there are some steps you can take.

To check within the home, read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter doesn't read the exact same, there is probably a leak.

The best way to curb your water bill is to conserve water — shortening showers, limiting lawn uses and fixing leaks.

A fluctuation of 2,000 to 3,000 gallons per month is normal within a household. The average single-family household will use between 7,000 and 10,000 gallons per month, with a bill of \$72.04 for 7,000 and \$103.57 for 10,000.

PRVWSD's current water and sewer rates were passed in 2014 after conducting an engineered water rate study (available at www.therez.ms). The current rates are:

- * Minimum water charge for up to 3,000 gallons per month: \$14.
- * Minimum sewer charge for up to 3,000 gallons per month: \$16.
- * Volumetric charge for water per 1000/gallons (after first 3,000 gallons): \$4.47.
- * Volumetric charge for sewer per 1000/gallons (after first 3,000 gallons): \$6.04.
- * Sewer fees will not be charged for consumption beyond 15,000 gallons per month for residential users.

For a list of Frequently Asked Questions, with answers, about PRVWSD water bills, visit www.therez.ms.gov.

Arts and Craft Fair Nov. 14 at Lakeshore Park

Perfectly timed for early holiday shopping, the 2nd annual Barnett Reservoir Foundation Arts and Crafts Fair will be held Saturday, Nov. 14, at Lakeshore Park on the Rankin County side of the main lake.

Sponsored by the Barnett Reservoir Foundation and the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District, the event will feature the works of many local artists and craftsmen from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Vendors must register by Nov. 2.

Booth space — 8 feet by 8 feet — is available for \$25, and is free for Barnett Reservoir Foundation community sponsors. Additional space can be reserved at the same rate.

Applications are available online at BarnettReservoirFoundation.org. For information, please phone Cindy Ford at (601) 856-6574 or email: CFord@TheRez.ms





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District Proposes Boathouse and Pier Policy

Pearl River Valley Water Supply District is currently drafting a boathouse and pier policy applicable for new construction, and for remodeling or renovation of existing boathouses and piers. Leaseholders have until November 9th to comment on the proposed policy.

The policy as proposed by the PRVWSD:

- * Boathouses and piers constructed prior to September 2015 are deemed to have been approved by previous permit.
- * Boathouses and piers must comply with subdivision covenants, the master lease and individual lease.
- * The subdivision's Architectural Review Committee shall approve the boathouse and/or pier plans. Boathouses and piers must be architecturally compatible with the other structures in the neighborhood.
- * Boathouses must not infringe on the vista of nearby leaseholders.
- * Boathouses and/or piers shall not be constructed so as to block a navigational channel.
- * Boathouses located in the littoral zone and not on leased property shall not contain living quarters, nor be used as a residence or residential rental property.
- * A building permit is required for all boathouses and/or piers.
- * Boathouses and/or piers shall not extend more than 25 feet from the waterside lease line and must be constructed between the projected side lease lines of the leased property.

The preferred method of receiving comments is email to: comments@therez.ms