

Gator Tales



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A newsletter for the citizens of the PRVWSD community

The Pearl River Valley Water Supply District

PRVWSD raises water/sewer rates

Pearl River Valley Water Supply District customers will see an increase in their water and sewer bills beginning with the October billing cycle under a plan approved Thursday (Sept. 16) by the Board of Directors.

The rate increase is necessary to offset the higher costs the state agency is paying its regional sewer providers, PRVWSD General Manager John Sigman told board members at its September meeting.

“We are looking at an 80 percent increase in what we pay to the West Rankin Utility Authority, which just built a \$150 million wastewater treatment plant that is scheduled to go online in October,” Sigman said. “That’s in addition to past increases by both the Madison County Wastewater Authority and the East Madison County Sewage Disposal System.

“The agency has absorbed those increases in Madison County without increasing rates to our customers, but we can no longer afford to continue absorbing those costs if we are to maintain a fund to repair and replace infrastructure, some of which is 50 years old.”

While PRVWSD supplies its residents with clean water from its own wells, all sewage is sent to be processed by regional providers. Prior to the new wastewater facility opening in Rankin County, all of the sewage has been sent by Rankin County and south Madison County to be processed at Jackson’s Savannah Street facility. The opening of the new Rankin County treatment facility will reduce PRVWSD’s reliance on the City of Jackson for those services.

PRVWSD’s last water/sewage rate increase was passed six years ago with built-in annual escalations that ended in 2020.

The new increase will average out to about 20 percent per customer, mostly through a new line item on the monthly bill called a Regional Sewage Charge (RSC). This is a charge, Sigman said, that most surrounding communities in the metro area are already billing their customers and at higher rates than PRVWSD will be charging. PRVWSD’s RSC for FY 2022 is based on a \$2.25 fee per 1,000 gallons of water used.

For comparison, Flowood charges \$3.91 per 1,000, Brandon \$3.50, Richland \$3.78, and Pearl \$4.28 for residents and \$5.35 for its customers living outside city limits. Only two communities have lower Regional Sewage Charges: Madison at \$2 and Ridgeland \$2.07 per 1,000 gallons.

Under the new PRVWSD rates, a customer who uses 6,000 gallons of water per month currently pays \$68.40 for water and sewer. Beginning in October, that same customer would receive a bill for \$82.50, an increase of \$14.10.

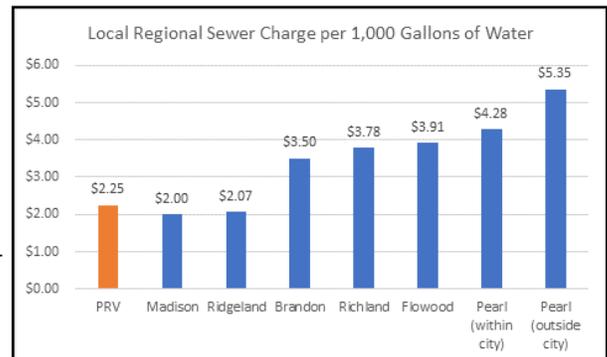
Sigman said that there will be small increases in both the water (5 cents per 1,000 gallons) and sewer (15 cents per 1,000 gallons) volumetric charges, a fee charged only to those customers using over 3,000 gallons of water a month.

The current water volumetric rate is \$5.45 per 1,000 gallons, which will increase to \$5.50 per 1,000. The current sewer rate is \$7.35 per 1,000 gallons and will increase to \$7.50 per 1,000 gallons.

Sigman said that nearly half of PRVWSD’s customers will see only the increase created by the regional sewage charge. Leaseholders using less than 3,000 gallons in July 2021 made up 47 percent of PRVWSD’s residential customers (2,578 of 5,487).

Customers who use 3,000 gallons of water or less currently pay a flat rate of \$30 per month for water (\$14) and sewer (\$16) and will see no increase in their flat rates, but in October will begin paying the RSC of \$2.25 per 1,000 gallons. For example, a customer using 2,000 gallons per month would pay the \$30 base rate plus an additional \$4.50 for the RSC, for a total bill of \$34.50.

There were 1,848 customers that used between 3,000 and 6,000 gallons, and 1,061 that topped 6,000 gallons.





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Free EyeOnWater App more valuable tool than ever

With the higher water/sewer rates announced by PRVWSD effective for the October 2021 billing cycle, tracking water use is now more important than ever for reservoir customers. The free EyeOnWater app, which is available for both iPhone and Android based devices, enables the user to see daily and hourly uses of water and compare to past usage. By identifying abnormal spikes in flow, the app can help identify leaks that could lead to higher water bills. Give it a try.

Giant Salvinia Update: More good news as peak growing period wanes

The Pearl River Valley Water Supply District's Giant Salvinia task group delivered good news to the District's Board of Directors in its latest update in September. No living - or dead for that matter - Giant Salvinia has been found since the three small areas were located and eliminated in late August of 2020. The tropical plant's peak growing season ends in late September or early October. That's important in that it brings PRVWSD a giant step closer to its goal of total eradication. A final thorough survey of the area will take place this fall.

Upcoming events includes concerts, Veteran's Day fireworks

Mark these dates down on the calendar as the Barnett Reservoir Foundation winds down its 2021 schedule of Rez Life events:



- Sept. 30:** Sunset Concert Series at Lakeshore Park featuring R.J. and the Good Time Band.
- Oct. 28:** Sunset Concert Series finale at Lakeshore Park featuring Dr. Zarr's Amazing Funk Monster.
- Nov. 11:** Veteran's Day Celebration and Fireworks at Old Trace Park.

For more information, visit the Foundation online at www.RezLife.MS