

Gator Tales



Volume 11 Issue 36

Newsletter Date: Fall 2023

A newsletter for the citizens of the PRVWSD community

The Pearl River Valley Water Supply District

Happenings around the Rez

New Water Well in Pelahatchie Bay Water System



PRVWSD began construction of a new water well to supply customers around Pelahatchie Bay in August of this year. The new well will replace the old Waterwood Well, which failed in November 2021. The well is being constructed south of Spillway Road between the entrances to Hanover and Cliffview subdivisions. It was essential to locate the new well on the south shore of Pelahatchie Bay because, while the water system that serves customers all around the bay has three other wells, all of them are on the north side of the bay. Having a well on the south side helps to ensure that customers along Spillway Road will have plenty of water and enjoy good

pressure. Southern Consultants, Inc. of Brandon engineered the new well. Thompson Brothers Drilling from Moselle, Mississippi, is constructing the project, which will cost \$2.4 million.

Testing shows that plentiful, good quality water is available at a depth of just over 1,000 feet. The well has now been drilled and permanent steel casings have been installed to that depth. Pumping tests will determine the actual capacity of the new well. Preliminary data indicates that the well should produce about twice as much water as the old one did. Much work remains to be done, but if the project continues to go well, the new well will be producing water by the end of next summer. Typically, a water well will produce for 25 to 50 years, so while the initial cost is substantial, it is a long-term investment in keeping our community healthy and growing. Reservoir residents should remember to thank our legislative representatives, especially Senator Josh Harkins and Representative Brent Powell. Their influence and leadership were instrumental in securing the funds needed to construct the new well.



Barnett Reservoir Dredging Operations

Hemphill Construction and MN Alabama continue dredging in Pelahatchie Bay. The areas on the south shore of Pelahatchie Bay yet to be dredged are Forest Point, Turtle Creek, Bay Park, and Pelahatchie Shore Park.

The drought-caused low water levels are slowing things down. Work has continued, but only by dredging to a level six inches deeper than originally planned. This is because the dredge barge requires a minimum of 4 ½ feet of water to operate. If the drought does not cause any further reduction of the water level, dredging should continue through the winter.

Once dredging is complete on the south shore of Pelahatchie Bay, the dredge will move to the north shore to work channels in Northshore Village, Windward Oaks, and Fox Bay. Operations will then shift to the Madison side of the lake to Overlook Pointe, Point Clear, England Harbor, the Jackson Yacht Club, and Twin Harbors.

In December 2023, PRVWSD plans to receive bids for the next dredging contract. The bids will include Arbor Landing, Palisades, Bridgepointe, Northbay, and Lake Harbor. Tentative schedules will be released after bids are finalized.



Please note that dredging does not extend from shore to shore, but the goal is a 40-foot-wide channel. Where possible, the dredged channel will extend to within 10 feet of existing boat houses and slips. PRVWSD cannot dredge any closer to structures due to liability issues. The photo illustrates why the 10-foot setback is necessary.

With the holidays just around the corner, residents are reminded not to dispose of Christmas trees in the Reservoir. The discarded trees impede dredging and can become hazards.

Most importantly, we would like to thank leaseholders for their patience, and we would also like to thank the Legislature for their support of the dredging operation.

Who to call at PRVWSD

Keep the following list handy for the numbers to call at the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District. These contacts and other information is available via the free “The Rez” app for Apple and Android products.

24-hour Emergency Services Dispatch and Water/Sewer Emergency	601-992-9703
Main Business Office / Water Department	601-856-6574
Lease Department	601-856-6574
Construction Permit, Building Code, and Property Maintenance	769-243-7014
Reservoir Police Station	601-992-9894
Maintenance Shop Building	601-992-9714

Email questions or suggestions: comments@TheRez.ms

www.TheRez.MS.gov

Regional Sewer Charge to Increase by Fifty Cents per 1,000

Please be aware that water/sewer customers will see a rate increase, effective for the December billing cycle. These bills will be mailed out around the first of January. The rate increase will be applied through the Regional Sewer Charge (RSC), which will increase from \$4.25 per 1,000 gallons to \$4.75 per 1,000 gallons. There is no increase in the minimum or volumetric charges for water or sewer.

Rates are only increased when it's absolutely necessary, and this increase is necessary for several reasons: to offset the high costs PRVWSD is paying regional sewer providers, to offset increased costs for upkeep and maintenance of infrastructure, and because PRVWSD, as a state agency, is not allowed to borrow money the same way as municipalities and other water/sewer companies. We want to ensure that our infrastructure is maintained in great condition, and we want to guarantee great service for all of our customers.

Litter Awareness Program

PRVWSD is launching a litter awareness program. Here are a few examples of what YOU can do to help prevent litter:

- Set an example for others by using trash cans.
- Make sure trash cans have lids that securely fasten or use something to hold them in place.
- Secure all bags and loose trash for curbside trash collection.
- Always have a litter bag or portable ashtray available in your vehicle.
- Secure your load if you are hauling trash in a vehicle.
- Keep beds of pickup trucks trash-free to avoid blowing out litter on roadways.



KEEP THE REZ BEAUTIFUL

Reservoir Botanical Gardens

Friday, December 1, 2023
3 p.m. until Dark

If inclement weather occurs, the event will be re-scheduled to December 2, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Celebrate all creatures great and small at the Reservoir Botanical Gardens. We will be creating wildlife friendly ornaments to hang on trees throughout the gardens. Supplies will be provided, or you can bring your own. Suggested supplies are: pine cones, bird seed, apples, oranges, peanut butter, suet, dried flowers, berries and popcorn.

Eve Bunting's, *Night Tree*, will be a special story walk throughout the month of December. ReACHE will be selling hot cocoa and cookies, so come and enjoy reading and nature. For more information contact keeptherezbeautiful@gmail.com or keeptherezbeautiful.org or call 601-421-6160.

Northwest Point Reservoir Library
2230 Spillway Road
Brandon, Mississippi 39047 | 801-992-2539
<http://www.cmrfs.lib.ms.us/re.htm>

CMRFS
Regional Library System



4th Annual Krewe of Rez Mardi Gras Parade

Members of the Krewe of Rez Mardi Gras parade are gearing up to roll on the Rankin side of the Ross Barnett Reservoir on Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 11 AM. The 4th annual parade route will begin in Waterwood and travel along Scenic Drive and some of the connected neighborhood streets in Sunrise Point, Paradise Point, and Audubon Point. Line up and be ready to catch some beads, candy, cups, and signature throws! Enjoy some family fun with decorated floats, creative costumes, and jamming live music to get your feet dancing. Be on the lookout now for float building in your neighborhood as we get ready to Let the Good Times Roll! That just leaves one question. Which float will be your favorite? #KREWE OF REZ PARADE



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PRESORT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
JACKSON, MS
PERMIT # 573

GET CONNECTED!

To receive texts about road closures, dredging updates, boil water alerts, and other important news around the Rez, text Madison or Rankin to 833-205-7575, or scan the QR codes with your phone!

A shortcut to enrollment



Rankin County QR

1. Use your smart phone's camera to take a picture of the QR code for Madison County (right) or Rankin County (left). Your phone will be directed to enter the county name in a text to the correct number.
2. Hit "Send" and the enrollment process will begin.



Madison County QR

Support Reservoir Foundation and community with license plates

Over 1,800 vehicles now bear the Reservoir Tag, the proceeds of which benefit the Barnett Reservoir Foundation that serves as a support group for PRVWSD and the reservoir business and residential communities. The Foundation receives \$26 annually for each tag, which is the group's leading source of revenue.

The Foundation funds projects around the lake, as well as holding special events to enhance the Reservoir Community. Chief among those is the annual Independence Celebration fireworks show each summer. This year's event will be on July 2.

Other events include a Food Truck Frenzy, a Sunset Concert Series, a Crawfish Boil and a Steak Cookoff Association contest. The Foundation also partners in co-sponsoring events conducted by outside groups.

The benefit of the tag, in addition to its attractive look, is free admission to many of the Foundation events and free entry into the Reservoir parks.

