

# Gator Tales



Volume 12 Issue 38

Newsletter Date: Summer 2024

A newsletter for the citizens of the PRVWSD community

The Pearl River Valley Water Supply District

## 13th Independence Celebration—June 29

# Independence CELEBRATION

**Saturday - June 29 - 5pm to 9pm**  
**Bobby Cleveland Park @ Lakeshore**  
**and Old Trace Park**

**Live Music**  
**Kid Zones**  
**Food Vendors**  
**Refreshments**

**FREE EVENT**

**Fireworks**  
**Start @ 9pm**

**NO OUTSIDE COOLERS ALLOWED**

The Barnett Reservoir Foundation will stage its 13th Independence Celebration on June 29, highlighted by a dual fireworks show and music at Old Trace Park and Bobby Cleveland Park at Lakeshore!

Co-hosted by the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District, this show is free to the public. Gates open at 5 p.m.

The annual event will include live music featuring Brian Smith and Scott Stricklin at Old Trace Park and Skip and Mike at Bobby Cleveland Park at Lakeshore. Music begins at 6 p.m., after the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem.

Fireworks will begin at 9 p.m. from the end of Red Dot Road near Old Trace Park and from a barge floated off Bobby Cleveland Park at Lakeshore. Tune in to US 96.3 for the fireworks show and musical simulcast!

Each park will have kid zones, food trucks, and beverages! No outside food, beverages, or coolers please. Dogs on leashes are welcome as always. We look forward to seeing you for this annual community tradition!





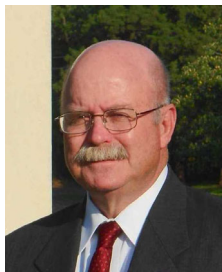
## Sigman Announces Retirement; New Director Named

Effective June 30 Pearl River Valley Water Supply District General Manager John Sigman will retire. Sigman has worked at the District for 17 years, 14 of them as General Manager.

"I want to thank the leaseholders, the Board, and the staff for making this such an incredible place to work. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working at the District, and I'm thankful for all the great memories that I'll take with me," said Sigman.

"We appreciate all the work that John has put into the Reservoir. We know that this agency and this community are better places because of his efforts," said Board President Kenny Windham.

Taking Sigman's place as General Manager will be Adam Choate, who has served as Deputy Director for the past three years. Tammie Ballard, the Director of Building and Permitting since 2018, will move into the role of Deputy Director.



John Sigman



Adam Choate



Tammie Ballard

## Beetle Infested Evergreen Trees - Update

As of June 1, the District has removed 858 pine trees at a total cost of \$197,125. This is a constantly-evolving issue that will continue to affect area trees for the foreseeable future. If you have questions about a tree, please contact us at [comments@therez.ms](mailto:comments@therez.ms). We greatly appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we work through this outbreak.

## J Structure Exclusion Zone

Upon request by the City of Jackson, the District has approved the installation of an exclusion zone around the "J Structure," which is the water intake point on the Ridgeland end of the main dam. The J Structure is used to transport water from the Reservoir to the O.B Curtis Water Treatment Plant.

"We realize that this is a popular fishing spot, but the City of Jackson has requested a buffer zone around the water intake structure to better protect its drinking water supply, and we do not have a reason to deny that request," said General Manager John Sigman.

Construction and maintenance will be provided by the City of Jackson.

## Update from the Capitol

The 2024 Legislative Session began on January 2 and concluded on May 4. Legislators considered and debated many key issues during the four-month session.

They did not overlook the District. Legislators authorized the building of a new main office building for PRVWSD at Bobby Cleveland Park at Lakeshore and appropriated \$2 million dollars for fiscal year 2025 for construction. Construction will begin around late fall of this year. The current office site in Ridgeland is expected to become leasable commercial property.

Additionally, legislators appropriated \$1.75 million to continue dredging operations.

We would like to thank our legislators, particularly our Madison and Rankin delegation, for considering the needs of the District. Sen. Dean Kirby, Sen. Josh Harkins, Sen. Walter Michel, Rep. Brent Powell, Rep. Scott Bounds, Sen. Jenifer Branning, Sen. Briggs Hopson, and Rep. John Read.

We would also like to thank Senate and House leaders Lt. Gov. Hosemann and Speaker White.

### DREDGING UPDATE

Dredge crews are currently working around Fox Bay. Upon completing that area, the dredge will move to the Northshore Village/Windward Oaks area. This dredge has encountered obstructions (mostly stumps) in some of the narrower channels, which has caused delays.

A second dredge has started working channels around Overlook Pointe. It will move north clearing channels around Point Clear, England Harbor, and the Jackson Yacht Club. Then, it will move farther north to dredge the channels in the Twin Harbors subdivision. Delays have been caused by hard clay bottom soils that are limiting the depth to which the dredge can cut.

A third dredge will mobilize this summer. It will dredge channels around Bridgepointe, Palisades, Arbor Landing, Northbay, and Lake Harbor subdivisions.

The Legislature awarded the District with \$1.75 million for dredging this year, in addition to \$2 million last year.

### 2024 Scheduled Events at The Rez

|          |                          |         |
|----------|--------------------------|---------|
| 6/29     | Independence Celebration | OTP/BCP |
| 8/17     | Lantern Festival         | OTP     |
| 9/22     | Pinelake Baptism         | BCP     |
| 9/26     | Sunset Concert           | BCP     |
| 10/11-13 | CelticFest               | BCP     |
| 10/24    | Sunset Concert           | BCP     |



OTP - Old Trace Park / BCP - Bobby Cleveland Park at Lakeshore / PSP - Pelahatchie Shore Park / SP - Spillway Road / FL - Fannin Landing

ML - Madison Landing / RR - Rankin County Boat Ramp / TBD-To Be Determined



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## 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 the Barnett Reservoir Foundation with License Plates

Over 2,000 vehicles now bear the Reservoir Tag, the proceeds of which benefit the Barnett Reservoir Foundation. The Foundation serves as a non-profit support group for PRVWSD and the Reservoir community.

The Foundation funds projects and events around the Reservoir, most notably the Independence Day Celebration fireworks displays at Old Trace Park and Bobby Cleveland Park at Lakeshore.

Other events include the Sunset Concert Series, Food Truck Frenzies, crawfish boils, and others.



The license plate provides free admission to PRVWSD parks and many Foundation events.