

Gator Tales



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A newsletter for the citizens of the PRVWSD community

The Pearl River Valley Water Supply District

14th Independence Celebration—June 28

Independence CELEBRATION

The Barnett Reservoir Foundation will stage its 14th Independence Celebration on June 28, 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 5pm.

The annual event will include live music featuring Don Grant with Cory Hall at Old Trace Park and Tom and Bradley Buller at Bobby Cleveland Park at Lakeshore. Also, the 41st Army Band will perform at OTP, where they will play patriotic favorites and Mississippi Blues! Music begins at 6pm, after the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem.

"This is why we're here. Our Foundation exists to support the Reservoir and our community. We hope everyone comes out to see us," said Barnett Reservoir Foundation President Mark Williams.

Fireworks will begin at 9pm from the end of Red Dot Road near Old Trace Park and from a barge floated off of Bobby Cleveland Park at Lakeshore. Tune in to 98.7 for the fireworks show and musical simulcast!

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

For more info, or to receive a vendor application, please email events@rezlife.ms.

Dash 'n Splash 5k – June 28 – Old Trace Park

Kicking off the Independence Day Celebration will be the 12th annual Dash 'n Splash 5k, benefitting the Brain Injury Association of Mississippi. The event will begin at 8 am. at Old Trace Park. Please visit msbraininjury.org for more information or email erin@fleetfeetjackson.com.



Gates Update at Day Parks

You've probably noticed the kiosks and gate arms at Bobby Cleveland Park at Lakeshore and Old Trace Park. The District has been working to implement an unmanned gate system that we hope to start by mid-summer. This is in response to leaseholder complaints of litter, vandalism, and overcrowding.

Once the gates are in operation, they will operate from sunrise to sunset, year-round, and the entry fee will be \$5 per car. A guest will enter a phone number that must be used for entry and exit. Anyone with a PRV Annual Park Pass or a Rez Tag will continue to get into the parks daily for free. Additionally, seniors who use the Rec Center at Old Trace Park will use a code to enter for free. That code will be provided to the City.

Guests who walk into the park will not be charged. Additionally, fees at Pelahatchie Shore Park will continue to be limited to summer weekends.

To receive your free pass for your Rez tag, or to apply for a \$30 annual pass, please email us at parks@therez.ms.

Summertime Safety on the Rez

Safety is the number one ingredient for a fun summer, whether you're boating, fishing, skiing, or swimming. Check out our website for great information, such as lake maps, boating regulations, boating safety courses, boater checklists, and more. Visit therez.ms.gov and click on the Boating tab.

"Have fun, but please take care of yourselves and each other while on the water. And wear a life jacket!" said Reservoir Police Chief Carlos DiPuma.



Pelahatchie Bay Alligator Hunt Recap

For the third consecutive year, alligators were harvested in Pelahatchie Bay over two weekends in May. May is the ideal month because it's breeding season and because it's prior to the emergence of aquatic vegetation that restricts boating access. The goal is to reduce breeding populations by targeting females. The Department of Wildlife offered 24 permits for the Bay, and 19 alligators were harvested, including 15 females, despite bad weather. For more information on the Department of Wildlife's Alligator Program, contact Andrew Arnett at Andrew.arnett@wfp.ms.gov.

2025 Scheduled Events at The Rez

6/28/25	Independence Day Celebration	OTP/BCP
9/25/25	Sunset Concert	BCP
10/10-12/25	Celticfest	BCP
10/30/25	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

Planning a Project? A Permit May Be Required!

Pearl River Valley Water Supply District Building Department – Is Here to Help!

Before you start any construction or property updates, check with us first! Permits are required for many common projects to ensure safety, code compliance, and property value protection.

Projects That Require a Permit Include:

- New Residential or Commercial Construction
- Repairs, Renovations, and Additions
- Shoreline Protection (e.g., Seawalls, Boathouses, Piers)
- Roofing, Fencing, Foundations, and Driveways
- Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing Upgrades
- Pools, Mobile Homes, PODs, and Accessory Buildings
- Demolition and Garage Sales
- Rental Property Licensing
- Signs and Temporary Banners

Avoid fines or delays — check before you build!

Call us at (769) 243-7014
Office: 100 Reservoir Park Rd, Brandon MS 39047
Email: buildingdepartment@therez.ms
Cheridy West, Director of Building & Permitting

New Boat Ramps

Rankin County Boat Ramp, near Shaggy's, is the busiest boat ramp on the Reservoir, providing an ideal launching spot for leaseholders and guests. The original ramps, which were decades old, have now been replaced, thanks to a 75/25 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife.

With the total project cost just over \$1 million, the new facility affords boaters six launch slips with four floating piers and a non-skid surface on concrete ramps. A temporary breakwater on the north side will help protect the structure and users from the worst waves. The District is hoping to secure funds to add a more extensive permanent breakwater in the future.

“We knew this area was heavily used by boaters and fishermen, so when we had the opportunity to build new ramps for twenty-five cents on the dollar, we jumped at it. The old ramps had served their purpose, and it was time for a replacement. We’re really happy we can provide this facility free of charge so that people can enjoy the lake,” said District General Manager Adam Choate.





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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 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.