

Gator Tales



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A newsletter for the citizens of the PRVWSD community

The Pearl River Valley Water Supply District

12th Independence Celebration—July 1st

Independence CELEBRATION

Saturday - July 1st - Gates open at 5pm

Bobby Cleveland Park @ Lakeshore

and Old Trace Park

**Live Music
Kid Zones
Food Vendors
Cold Beer**

FREE EVENT

**Fireworks
Start @ 9pm**

NO OUTSIDE COOLERS ALLOWED

The Barnett Reservoir Foundation will stage its 12th Independence Celebration on July 1st, 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 Hunter Gibson & Rick Moreira at Bobby Cleveland Park at Lakeshore beginning at 6 p.m.

Activities will start with the Pledge of Allegiance and followed by the National Anthem at both parks before the music begins.

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

Each park will have Kid Zones, food trucks, and beverages, including beer. No outside food, beverages, or coolers will be allowed. Dogs on leashes are welcome.



Old Trace Park Slope Failure Repair



Retaining Wall Under Construction.
Section Farthest From Camera Represents
Most Closely the Final Height of the Wall.

Guests of Old Trace Park will notice construction on the eastern side of the park, near the Overlook Pointe inlet. The project includes construction of a 150-foot-long galvanized steel sheet pile retaining wall that will stabilize the slope and prevent further slides. "We're very happy that we can finally eliminate the landslide that has choked the channel between Old Trace Park and Overlook Pointe. This will be a great benefit not only for leaseholders in Overlook Pointe, but also for guests of the park," said General Manager John Sigman. The project also includes improvement of the drainage channel that carries storm water into the inlet. The drainage improvements will help eliminate potential flooding of the backyards of Overlook Pointe lots that adjoin the park. Completion of the slope stabilization will allow the channel in the inlet to be excavated and dredged to improve boat access. The construction will have only minimal impacts on the operation of Old Trace Park so that all park facilities will remain open. Weather permitting, the project will be completed by fall of this year.

Fannin Landing Circle Multi-Use Path

In May of this year, the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District (CMPDD) awarded the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District funds to construct an extension of the multi-use path along Fannin Landing Circle. The project will extend the existing path from the Fannin Landing Boat Ramp to the Arbor Landing entrance into Arbor Landing subdivision. It will add another 0.35 mile to the District's existing 23 miles of paved trails. It will connect the existing phases of the Arbor Landing subdivision and the new Osprey Point phase to the trail network. The planning, design, and construction of this project is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.



Successful Gator Hunt in Pelahatchie Bay



This past May, Pelahatchie Bay had its first Spring alligator season. Residents have long complained about the number of alligators in the area, so the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) requested approval from the PRVWSD Board to allow a hunt to bring the population of alligators down to a more manageable number. Alligator hunting has been allowed on a limited basis on the Barnett Reservoir since 2005, but it hasn't been allowed in Pelahatchie Bay until this year.

Twenty-two hunters were randomly chosen in a drawing and were allowed to hunt Friday through Monday on two separate weekends. The hunters were allowed two alligators that were over six feet long. Of the forty-eight tags available, twenty-two were filled. MDWFP is considering additional hunts.

2023 Scheduled Events at The Rez

7/1	Independence Celebration	OTP & BCP
7/29	Christmas in July	BCP
9/24	Pinelake Baptism	BCP
9/28	Sunset Concert	BCP
10/13-14	Celticfest	BCP
10/26	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

Entrance Gates Coming to Two Day Parks

Entrance gates, or kiosk gates, are being constructed at Bobby Cleveland Park at Lakeshore and Old Trace Park.

Responding to problems of overcrowding, vandalism, and litter, PRVWSD will install unmanned gates that will charge \$5.00 per vehicle upon entrance of the parks, from sunrise to sunset throughout the year. Currently, guests are charged on weekends during the summer at officer-and-staff-manned kiosks.

“We want to keep our parks beautiful and enjoyable for our guests. We think adding a layer of accountability will do that. We also hope that unmanned gates will reduce costs and allow our police officers to better serve the parks and community in other capacities,” said Adam Choate, Deputy Director.

Guests who have a “Rez Tag” will be able to use the parks for free, as will guests who have an annual pass (sold through Timberlake Campground for \$30.00).

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

More details will be provided to leaseholders and guests later in the summer.





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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 (left) or Rankin County (right). 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, and holds 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 1.

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.

