

CONNECTED



February 2012

Water Rates Restructured to Better Reflect Individual Usage

Marietta enjoys some of the best water quality in the country. Our annual water quality reports have consistently shown that the drinking water Marietta Power and Water delivers to you exceeds federal drinking water standards established by the EPA. Our wholesale providers of water and waste water are vital components in the high quality of service we are able to offer you. As part of maintaining this exceptional service, they are required to adhere to ongoing environmental regulations that preserve the integrity of our water. The fulfillment of these regulations results in higher costs for them, which mean higher costs for all of us.

Effective January 1, 2012, Marietta Power and Water began passing through these higher costs to customers in the form of rate increases for water and sewer services. The overall rate increases total three percent for water rates and one percent for sewer rates. Not all customers will have the same percentage increase due to the new rate structure that better reflects individual usage patterns.

Customer Feedback Key in Restructuring Water Rates

Some Marietta Power and Water customers with very low usage levels had expressed their concerns to us about charging for a minimum use level of 2,000 gallons per month. Now, customers who use the smallest amount of water receive a modest decrease in their bill.

Director of Business Analysis Herb Edwards explains how the new rate structure works. "Marietta Power and Water's residential rate structure is a conservation-oriented one,

meaning that it seeks to encourage water conservation at those levels of use which are the most likely to be discretionary. The rate consists of four different use levels, each with a different use charge per thousand gallons. The first two levels, or tiers, contain relatively low charges per thousand (\$2.65 per thousand for the first 2,000 gallons and \$4.40 per thousand for the next 5,000 gallons) to reflect the desire to keep rates as low as possible for essential needs use," he says.

Here's a look at the new rate structure in chart form:

Base Charge \$13.00		
	GALLONS	PER THOUSAND GALLONS
Tier 1	0-2,000	\$2.65
Tier 2	3,000-7,000	\$4.40
Tier 3	8,000-12,000	\$5.50
Tier 4	13,000+	\$8.80

According to Edwards, the median use level for Marietta Power and Water customers is about 4,000 gallons per month.

There have been no structural changes in the sewer rate schedule. All sewer customers will see a one percent increase in their bill.

Marietta Power and Water's primary goal is to provide you with a quality product and service at the best possible price. As always, we appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

For more information, visit www.mariettapowerandwater.com.

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Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act Mark Four Decades of Protecting Our Nation's Water Supply

Ensuring the safety of our nation's water supply has been a key objective of the federal government since the Federal Water Pollution Control Act was enacted in 1948. Over the decades the initiative evolved into what was named the Clean Water Act in the 1970s. During this decade, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was founded to establish and enforce environmental protection standards consistent with national environmental goals.

For the past four decades, the EPA has set forth regulations involving discharges of pollutants into the country's water supply and quality standards for surface waters through the Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Act's

pollution control programs also include setting wastewater standards.

The Safe Drinking Water Act was also established in the 1970s to protect the quality of our nation's drinking water. This act focuses on all drinking water whether from above ground or underground sources. The Safe Water Drinking Act authorizes the EPA to establish minimum standards to protect tap water and requires all owners or operators of public water systems to comply with health-related standards.

For more information, visit the Environmental Protection Agency's website at www.epa.gov. ✨



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Calendar of Events

Saturdays

Marietta Square Farmers Market

Glover Park in Marietta Square
10 a.m. until 1 p.m.
Open Sundays starting April 8, 2012. This popular city market will take place every Saturday through March 31 — rain or shine. For more information call (770) 499-9393 or visit www.mariettasquarefarmersmarket.net.

March 7 through April 8

Flyin' West

Theatre in the Square
Main Stage
8 until 10 p.m.
For more information call (770) 422-8369 or visit www.theatreinthesquare.com.

March 10 through July 14 April 13 and 14

Smooth Jazz On The Square

Earl Smith Strand Theatre
Jazz Grooves is proud to bring Jazz music to this landmark theatre. Tickets are available online at earlsmithstrand.org, over the phone (770) 293-0080, or in person.

Saturday, March 30

Easter Egg Scramble

Laurel Park,
151 Manning Road
6:30 until 7:30 p.m.
The Easter Bunny will be available for photos after the egg hunt. Arrive early to find parking and your child's correct age group. Age groups - 3 & under, 4-6 & 7-10 years of age.

The General

Earl Smith Strand Theatre
This is part of Marietta's celebration of the Civil War's Great Locomotive Chase that began in Marietta with Union spies spending the night at the Kennesaw house. Buster Keaton did extensive research in producing this film to include site visits to Marietta and Kennesaw. It is considered one of the greatest films ever made. Tickets are available online at earlsmithstrand.org, over the phone (770) 293-0080, or in person.

Sunday, April 29

Taste of Marietta

11 a.m. until 7 p.m.
Marietta Square
The 19th annual event features over eighty restaurants and caterers showcasing their best food. For more information visit www.marietta.com/taste-of-marietta.

For a complete list of City of Marietta events, please visit www.marietta.gov and click on Calendar of Events.

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