



the Current

Riverside Takes On Water Rate Increases

City official testifies against unfair rates, water quality

For years, Riverside Mayor Kathy Rose and City officials have been working to battle the historically high rates and frequent increases that Missouri American Water Company, or MAWC, charges its customers. Joe Bednar, an attorney and partner with the Spencer Fane law firm, has been retained to represent the City specifically, and other cities within Platte County Water District generally, in this issue.

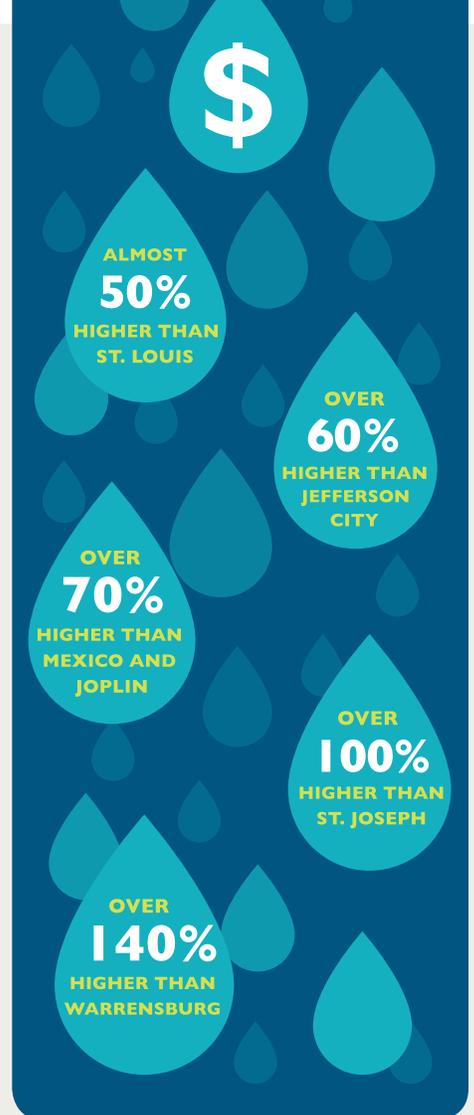
Currently, the Missouri Public Service Commission is seeking a decline in the rates MAWC charges residential and commercial customers in Riverside and throughout Platte County. The decline is due in part to the tenacious, consistent work by City of Riverside officials to block increases and move the utility away from different rates for each district. While a rate reduction may at first seem like good news, it is deceiving. Despite the decrease, the rates paid by Riverside residents would still be the highest in the state of Missouri by a margin of 60-70%.

Paying More Than Your Fair Share

Riverside residents currently pay more for their water services than other cities in Missouri, including St. Louis and Mexico, Missouri. According to Bednar, "Riverside officials have repeatedly called for more fairness in residential rates. Residents in every municipality in the MAWC water districts pay different priced rates for water from MAWC — with the highest in Platte County."

In 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2015, MAWC petitioned the Public Service Commission to raise water rates. Each time, said Bednar, the City argued on behalf of citizens that the rates were already too high, and that increases represented nothing more than increased profits for MAWC. Riverside officials have also repeatedly disagreed with the rate design impact on individual water users in Riverside. If the rate design remains as proposed, Platte county rates will still be 28-68% higher than other metropolitan areas in MAWC's districts.

Platte County Pays Highest Rates in MO



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Allegations of Diminished Water Quality

Adding to the dispute over MAWC's inflated rates and recurring hikes are emerging complaints about the quality of Riverside's water. During the Public Service Commission's public hearing, City residents testified about damage to appliances and fixtures stemming from excessive calcium in the water. One resident stated that nearly 30 homeowners in the Montebella subdivision have experienced similar problems. MAWC will host a community meeting on Thursday, March 3 from 6-8 pm in City Chambers.



The purpose was to seek testimony from customers of MAWC regarding their proposed rate hike. Mayor Rose said, "Industrial and commercial consumers can recover their costs through the prices charged for their products. The resident cannot. Nor do they have the ability to go to the commission to make a case that their salary or pension or social security be increased" to offset rising costs.

The Mayor further stated that the resident ratepayer has been forgotten in the rate cases of the last decade. "Should there be a true redesign of rates, the resident ratepayer should receive a reduction," she said. City officials will be recommending to the Public Service Commission that MAWC institute a tiered rate wherein residential customers are charged less than commercial and industrial customers.

The City will offer written testimony to the Public Service Commission in the near future. Updates regarding this matter will be published in this newsletter and on Riverside's social media sites as they occur.

Sharing the Burden of Rate Increases

Riverside officials feel that the high and often rising rates can and should be handled by a more equitable sharing between Riverside residents and its commercial and industrial users. During her remarks at the meeting of Riverside's Board of Alderman on February 2, Mayor Kathy Rose spoke about the Public Service Commission's public hearing held on February 1 in City Chambers.

TEXT to 9-1-1 Now Available



Text to 9-1-1 is now available in Riverside and throughout the Greater Kansas City region. Only certain carriers currently support texts to 9-1-1, including AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile and Verizon. Calling 9-1-1 remains the preferred method in an emergency because calltakers can get vital information more quickly through a voice call. Texting to 9-1-1 is intended for situations where callers are not able to speak safely, or for those who are deaf or have difficulty speaking.

FREE Storm Spotter Training



Each spring, the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Pleasant Hill conducts courses to train "SkyWarn Severe Weather Spotters." Whether you want to become more involved with severe storm spotting to help officials keep your community safe, or just want to learn more about severe thunderstorms, this course is for you. Topics covered include:

Severe thunderstorm basics

How to visually identify severe storm features

How to report observed severe weather

Storm spotter safety

*Monday, March 21, 7-9pm
Park Hill High School Auditorium
7701 NW Barry Road
Registration NOT required*

Eagle Animal Hospital Named “25 Under 25”

Each year, Thinking Bigger Business Media Inc. holds its annual 25 Under 25® Awards to recognize 25 outstanding Kansas City businesses with under 25 employees. In 2016, Riverside’s Eagle Animal Hospital was named to the “25 Under 25 Class of 2016.” The Veterinary Center recently completed an extensive expansion of physical space

and services. The purpose of the awards program is to recognize the significant role companies such as Eagle Animal Hospital play in the Kansas City economy. The award winners are nominated by the business community, and winners selected based on criteria from financial stability to community involvement and service.

Community Blood Drive

Tuesday, March 22, 2-6pm
Riverside Community Center

Riverside will host an American Red Cross blood drive in the meeting rooms at the Community Center. Walk-ins are welcome, or you can save time and preregister at the ARC website at www.redcrossblood.org



City Calendar

March 1

Board of Aldermen, 7pm

March 2

Parks Board, 6pm

March 10

Planning and Zoning, 6:30pm

March 15

Board of Aldermen, 7pm

March 24

Planning and Zoning, 6:30pm

Spring Forward to Daylight Savings Time Sunday March 13



Did You Know?

The Library Offers Free Tax Help for Riverside Seniors

AARP Tax-Aide representatives will be at the Riverside branch of the Mid Continent Public Library through April 15 to assist moderate-to-low income seniors with tax questions and tax return preparation. Call the library at (816) 741-6288 to learn more.

Hippity, Hoppity...

join the

City of Riverside’s Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 26th —
E.H. Young Park

Hunt begins at 10am sharp!

Join the hunt and get photos with the Easter Bunny! Bring your own Easter basket or a bag will be provided. For more information or weather cancellation, call (816) 741-4172.

Age Groups

2-3 years

4-7 years

8-10 years



2015 Progress Report Available Online

The Riverside 2015 Progress Report highlighting community and economic milestones along with the yearly financial recap was recently mailed to residents. The report can also be viewed online at the City’s website by visiting www.RiversideMo.com





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Need a job?

Many Riverside and Platte County companies are now hiring. For job postings visit plattecountyedc.com/work

COMMUNITY CENTER CALENDAR



The YMCA offers fitness classes and league play to members every week at the Riverside Community Center. The full schedule is available online at www.RiversideMo.com. *Note: Membership now required: Call 816-741-4172 with questions.*

SU, 1-5pm and T/TH, 2-5pm M/W, 2-6pm
 Open Gym
M/W/F, 8-9:30am
 Aerobic, Toning, Yoga
M/TH/F, 10-11am
 Line Dance & Weights
M/T/W, 9-10am
 Tai Chi for Beginners
M/W, 10-11am
 Intermediate/Advanced Tai Chi

M/W, 12:15-1pm
 Express Strength
M/W, 4:15-4:45pm
 HIIT
M/W, 5:15-6pm
 Yoga
M, 6:30-7:30pm
 Zumba
T, 12:15-1pm
 Core
T/TH, 8-9am
 Zumba

T/TH 10-11am
 Silver Sneakers Classic
T/TH 11am-12pm
 Silver Sneakers Yoga
T/TH, 11am-3pm
 Hand and Foot Card Game
No YMCA Membership Required
T/TH 5-7pm
 Pickelball
T/TH 6-7pm
 R.I.P.P.E.D

W, 10-11am
 Stay Strong, Stay Healthy
W, 6:30-7:30pm
 Zumba Kids
TH, 12:15-1pm
 Yoga
2nd & last Monday of month
 Senior Dances, 1-3pm
No YMCA Membership Required