Plainfield Sewer Rates to Rise But “Less than Two Dimes a Day”

In order to finance improvements to the Plainfield sewer system, the Town has chosen to put through a modest increase in rates effective September 1, 2015. The new rates will be noticed by users on the bill due October 15, which covers September usage.

“Residents of the town will see an increase of less than two dimes a day, based on a typical residential usage of 5,000 gallons/month,” said Robin Brandgard, Town Council President. “Those who receive services from the town but live outside the Town limits will see their rates rise less than three dimes a day based on the same criteria. Either way, Plainfield rates remain among the lowest in the metro area.”

Among the projects to be accomplished through a bond issue backed by the new sewer rates are: enclosing the Hardin’s Court ditch, an expansion of the South Wastewater Treatment Plant, the lining of aging sewer lines, drainage improvements in the Stafford/Simmons area, and the separation of stormwater/sewer lines along Carr Road, modifications to the treatment plants to meet a new federal requirement removing phosphorus during the sewage treatment process, and more.

Brandgard noted that a Town Hall meeting was held on May 7 at the Plainfield Recreation and Aquatic Center to acquaint sewer users with the proposed projects and get their input. From there, officials of the Town considered which projects to do, trying to balance needs with keeping rates reasonable for homeowners and business customers. “We’re able to do ten significant projects and still keep rates extremely reasonable,” he said. “A typical Plainfield resident who is metered and uses about 5,000 gallons/month would pay $30.25. Non-resident users who are metered would pay about $34.78/month. Even with the increase, that’s lower than most Hendricks County towns and most Indianapolis area communities.”

“Within the projects we will be replacing things that are completely worn out,” said Town Engineer Tim Belcher. “In doing so, we are bringing in new technology that leads to more efficient processing, which in turn will help keep costs down in the future. New technology will also play a role as we address aging sewer pipes, some as much as 60 to 80 years old. By relining the old pipes instead of replacing them, we don’t have to tear up roads, which would only increase costs and disrupt traffic flow.”

Belcher added that by practicing simple conservation measures, sewage customers may be able to mitigate some of the increase.
Plainfield’s 9th annual Puppy Pool Party will be held on Saturday, September 12 and Sunday, September 13 at the Plainfield Recreation & Aquatic Center’s Splash Island Water Park!

The schedule is as follows:

September 12:
- 11 am to noon – Small Dogs
- 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm – Large Dogs
- 2 pm to 3 pm – Small Dogs
- 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm – Large Dogs

September 13:
- 1 pm to 2 pm – Small Dogs
- 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm – Large Dogs

Small Dogs: up to and including 35 pounds
Large Dogs: over 35 pounds

Fees: Minimum $10.00 per dog.
- Pre-registration recommended at front desk
- $7 will support the Town’s Beneficent Fund and $3 will support the Hendricks County Humane Society’s HOPE program (Help Over Population End)

NOTE: All pets must have proof of current vaccinations the day of the event! Paper certificates are required – RABIES TAGS ALONE ARE NOT ACCEPTED. (Rabies, Distemper, Hepatitis, Para influenza, Parvovirus, Bordetella (Kennel Cough) are REQUIRED.)

ALSO NOTE: People are NOT allowed to be in the pool with dogs!

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**Ten Tips for Conserving Water** *(and reducing your sewer bills)*

1. Check faucets and pipes for leaks. A small drip from a worn faucet washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons.
2. Don’t use the toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket. Every time you flush a cigarette butt, facial tissue or other small bit of trash, five to seven gallons of water is wasted.
3. Check your toilets for leaks.
4. Use your water meter to check for hidden water leaks. Read the house water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.
5. Install water-saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators.
6. Insulate your water pipes. You’ll get hot water faster plus avoid wasting water while it heats up.
7. Take shorter showers. One way to cut down on water use is to turn off the shower after soaping up, then turn it back on to rinse. A four-minute shower uses approximately 20 to 40 gallons of water.
8. Turn off the water after you wet your toothbrush. Just wet your brush and fill a glass for mouth rinsing.
9. Rinse your razor in the sink.
10. Use your dishwasher and clothes washer for only full loads.

*Source: www.eartheasy.com

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**The 2015 QUAKER DAY PARADE will be on Saturday, September 19, 2015 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon. Here is the parade route. It starts and ends at the Plainfield Community Middle School, 709 Stafford Road.**