

# CHAPIN UTILITY NEWS SPLASH

Information for the Customers of the Chapin Utilities Department

Volume 1, Issue 2 Summer 2016

## Water and Sewer rates

You have likely noticed an increase in your water and sewer bills beginning earlier this spring. The Town of Chapin purchases water from the City of Columbia to supply its customers. The City implemented a rate increase of about 10% to all of its customers. In order to minimize the effects of this increase on Chapin Utilities customers, the Town implemented an 8% increase on water rates effective in the March billing cycle. As you may be aware, the City was considering an additional 4% increase in water rates last month, however, it was defeated by vote of Columbia's City Council. Mayor Benjamin lamented the defeat of the measure and indicated that the City would possibly ask for another double digit rate increase next year. Should the City elect to raise rates once again, the Town of Chapin will be forced to address a rate increase as well.



Sewer rates were also increased, anticipating the need to construct a new wastewater treatment facility. Due to several factors, including growth in the service area, more stringent environmental requirements, and the need to replace an aging wastewater treatment facility, the Town of Chapin increased rates for sewer customers by \$5.00 per month beginning in April. The money collected from this rate increase is being put into a capital improvements fund to help offset the amount of money that will need to be borrowed to facilitate construction. It is anticipated that prior to beginning construction on a new wastewater treatment facility,

an additional increase of approximately \$5.00 per month will be required in order to meet debt service requirements for the new facility. This increase would be implemented sometime in the first quarter of 2017.

Even with the water and wastewater rate increases, the Town of Chapin still has below average water and sewer rates when compared to the other municipalities in South Carolina.



## 2015 Annual Water Quality Report

With the news earlier this year of the problems with the water system in Flint, Michigan, many people around the country have been concerned with the quality of their drinking water supply. The Town of Chapin Utilities Department wishes to assure its customers that the water being provided is very much safe for consumption.

The United States as a general rule has some of the highest standards for drinking water in the world. Chapin water customers can rest assured that constant diligence is used to provide the safest, purest, and best quality drinking water possible. To view the 2015 Annual Water Quality Report, go to the Town of Chapin Website and view the document at [www.chapinnc.com/156/Helpful-Forms-Documents-Videos](http://www.chapinnc.com/156/Helpful-Forms-Documents-Videos).

## Utilities Department Contacts

Main Office (803) 345-0416

Emergency Response (803) 605-9711  
(After Hours and Weekends)

Andy Metts - Director

Susan Wright – Utilities Coordinator

Theresa Hiott - Billing

Dan Lambert, PE – Town Engineer

Russell Wright - Operations

Matt Cameron - Maintenance

## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, August 17 – First day of school

Thursday, August 18 – Free shred event and school supplies collection for needy students 11:00AM – 2:00PM (Town Hall Parking Lot)

Monday, September 5 – Labor Day (Town Offices closed)

Town of Chapin Utilities Department  
157 NW Columbia Ave.  
PO Box 418  
Chapin, SC 29036



**KNOW WHAT'S BELOW!!!!**  
**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!!!!**

### SMART HOMEOWNERS SAVE MONEY

- + It takes at least 24 gallons of water to fill a washing machine. Save water by using your washing machine only with full loads.
- + Turn off the tap while you brush your teeth or shave. This can save the average household nearly 2000 gallons of water per year.
- + Remember... water that goes down the drain is wastewater that has to be treated !!

## Wastewater Treatment Facility PER

The Town is currently under contract with Hussey Gay Bell & DeYoung to develop a Preliminary Engineering Report for the construction of a new Wastewater Treatment Facility. Stay tuned to [www.chapinsc.com](http://www.chapinsc.com) for information on the upcoming public hearing to present the findings of the report.

## SUMMER NOTES:

Replace damaged clean-out caps to prevent rainwater that collects in low areas of lawns from entering the sewer system. These caps are inexpensive and can be purchased at any hardware store or home improvement warehouse. The inflow of rainwater can add considerable cost to treating wastewater.



Billing concerns or questions in general can be made during regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 9AM to 5PM at (803) 345-0416.

Emergencies after hours or on weekends and holidays may be directed to the Town's Emergency Response Line at (803) 605-9711.

Keep informed of pertinent news on cable channel 2 or at [www.chapinsc.com](http://www.chapinsc.com).