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NOTICE OF RATE INCREASES

The City Commission approved new rates for the City's water & sewer utility systems. These new rates went into effect on June 21, 2021. The new rates will be reflected for the first time on the water & sewer bills received by customers in Districts 3 & 4 on the 7/1/2021. The new rates will be reflected for the first time on the 8/1/2021 billing for Customers in Districts 1 & 2.

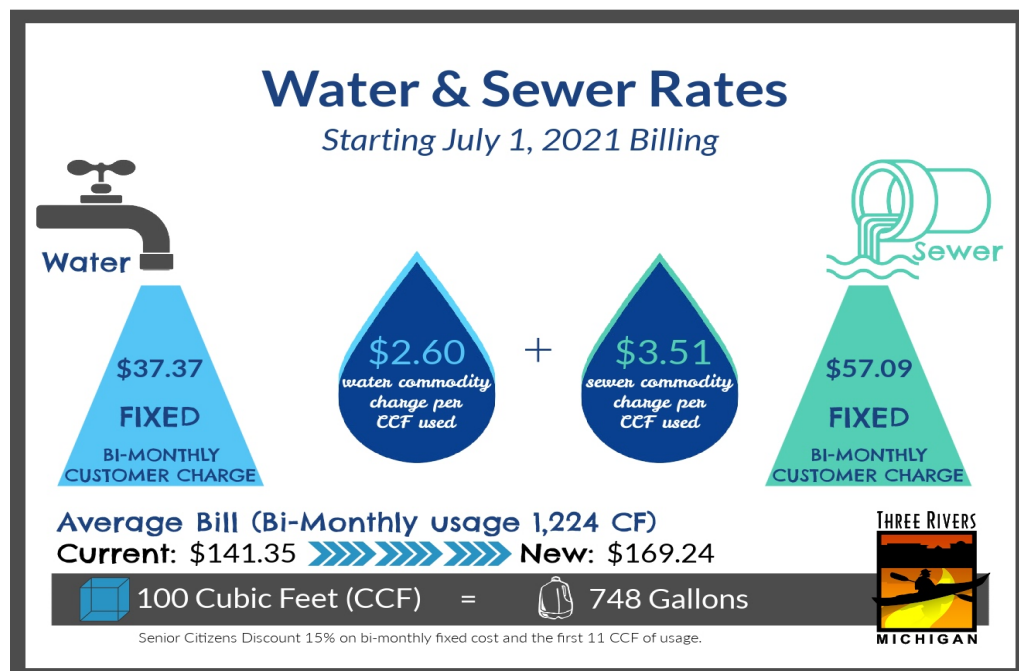
WHY DID THE WATER & SEWER RATES INCREASE?

Water & Sewer rates are evaluated each year by the City staff and adjusted to ensure that revenues received from users of the systems are sufficient to cover the cost to operate and maintain the system and complete budgeted capital improvements. These funds are essentially self-funded through utility rates.

The City of Three Rivers provides safe, clean drinking water and dedicated to keeping rates affordable by maintaining lean staffing and using reserves when necessary. However, the following costs continue to rise including (1) overall operational costs, (2) maintaining and enhancing infrastructure to provide reliable and safe water, and (3) building or maintaining adequate financial reserves for emergencies and future needs.

Additionally, as a result of the water crisis in Flint, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) issued new rules lowering the allowable level of lead in utility drinking supplies from 15 parts per billion to 12 parts per billion starting in 2024 and requiring utilities across the state to remove all lead service lines that connect homes to water mains, including any galvanized steel lines that are connected to lead lines over the next 20 years. This new mandate is an unfunded mandate that requires utility systems to incorporate additional funding into their operating and infrastructure improvement budgets. The impact of the new rules is substantial rate increases for drinking water systems throughout the State of Michigan.

The City of Three Rivers is committed to seeking any available State or Federal funding that will provide funding for the new lead line replacement mandate as well as other future infrastructure improvements.



HOW IS MY BILL CALCULATED?

The City's water rate structure is a two-part rate structure: (1) The Fixed Bi-Monthly Fee per REU is based on a Residential Equivalent Units and (2) a commodity rate charge for each 100 cubic foot (cf) unit of metered usage. Water usage is synonymous with sewer usage. For example, 1,000 cubic feet of water used will equate to 1,000 cubic feet of sewer usage.

The unit of measurement for each REU is based on an average household usage of 51 gallons x 2.4 persons per household or 122.4 gallons per day (GPD). Each Residential household or unit is assessed the minimum of one (1) REU for the fixed bi-monthly service fee. Multi-Family, Commercial and Industrial consumer's REU units will be calculated based on the previous fiscal year actual usage, converted to gallons per day. The Commodity Charge is applied to current usage for the billing period.

HOW CAN I REDUCE MY WATER & SEWER BILL?

Customers can reduce their direct water usage by installing water saving toilets, applying a water-saving showerhead, limiting shower and bath time, closing the tap while brushing your teeth, inspecting your home for other plumbing leaks (e.g., sinks, faucets, water heaters, furnace humidifiers, water conditioners, sprinkler systems, etc.), purchasing high-efficiency appliances.

For questions about your water & sewer bills, please contact the Utility Billing Department at 269-273-1075, ext. 110 or email waterbilling@threeriversmi.org.

HOW CAN YOU HELP US?

We encourage you to contact your State Representatives to encourage them to provide state resources to assist communities in implementing the new drinking water rules by providing the necessary funding lead line replacements throughout the state:

State Senator, Kim LaSata at 517-373-6960 or SenKLaSata@senate.michigan.gov

District 59, Michigan House Representative Steve Carra at 517-373-0832 or SteveCarra@house.mi.gov