

insight

September 2015

Your Utility Bill

GRU customers will see changes to their bills starting October 1, 2015, based on the fiscal year 2016 budget as preliminarily approved by the City Commission.

As part of the proposed budget, GRU recommended no electric rate increases. However, changes to the electric residential rate tier structure were approved which will mean some residential customers' bills will go up and some will go down.

Residential customers using electric, natural gas, water and wastewater services – about 30 percent of GRU customers – could see an increase of \$3.35 per month (based on industry standard usage comparisons as outlined in the chart below). This includes a \$0.95 increase for gas, \$2.80 increase for water and \$2 increase for wastewater.

Approved FY16 Residential Rates

System	Usage Level	July '15 Bill	Base Rate Change	Fuel Change	Proposed FY16 Bill
Electric	1,000 kWh	\$140.50	(\$2.40)	0.00	\$138.10
Natural Gas	25 therms	\$31.19	\$0.95	0.00	\$32.14
Water	7,000 gal	\$27.05	\$2.80	0.00	\$29.85
Wastewater	7,000 gal	\$50.75	\$2.00	0.00	\$52.75
Total			\$3.35		\$252.84

Usage levels based on industry standard comparisons. Electric and gas bills based on Fuel Adjustment of \$0.078/kWh and Purchase Gas Adjustment of \$0.30/therm.

Copies of the complete budget proposal and budget presentations are available at gru.com/fy16budget.



Welcome Back Students!

Students have returned to Gainesville's college campuses and public schools.

Here are some efficiency tips to help control your consumption and costs this school year:



- If fewer people are home during the day, consider adjusting the thermostat accordingly. If no one will be home for a few hours, turn up the thermostat 4 degrees.
- When making meals for the day, take the food you need out of the refrigerator and then close the door. Keeping the door open forces your fridge to work harder, using more electricity.
- Unplug extra devices, like video game consoles, when not in use. Standby or "vampire" power used by devices that are plugged in but not turned on can account for up to 10 percent of household electricity usage.
- Do an energy audit of your morning routine. How long is your morning bath or shower? Did you turn off the lights, TV and radio before you left the house? Making small adjustments can help you conserve and save.
- Call GRU for a free home efficiency survey at 352-393-1460. GRU conservation analysts can check your home's windows, doors, ductwork, insulation, appliances and other equipment, and offer customized efficiency tips.

Connecting with Business Customers – First Magnitude Brewing Company and Swamp Head Brewery

GRU recently visited First Magnitude Brewing Company and Swamp Head Brewery to find out how important clean water is to brewing great craft beer.

Scan the QR code with your connected device or visit youtube.com/gru4u to hear from First Magnitude brewers Eric Dreyer and John Denny and Swamp Head brewer Joe Simmons about how water treated and delivered by GRU becomes your favorite craft beer.



Natural Gas Safety

Natural gas is a safe, reliable and efficient fuel that is naturally odorless and colorless.

For safety, a chemical that smells like rotten eggs is added to help detect possible leaks.

If you smell gas or suspect a leak, leave the area immediately and call GRU at 352-334-2550, or dial 911.



For more tips and important updates, follow us on Facebook at **GRU4U**.

September 2015

Public Service Announcements

Sunny's Howl-A-Palooza

Sun Country Sports Center presents their 27th annual Halloween carnival, Sunday, Oct. 25, 3-6 p.m. at their west location. Hayrides, carnival games, costume contests, face painting, haunted houses, train rides, bounce houses, raffle, and more. Costumes are welcome. All proceeds benefit the March of Dimes.

Fourth Annual Holiday Harmonies

The Gainesville Barbergators and Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus present Holiday Harmonies 4: "Class Reunion." Enjoy family-friendly seasonal songs performed a cappella at the Oak Hall Cofrin Theatre Sunday, Nov. 22, at 2 and 5:30 p.m. Tickets at barbergators.com, gainesvillechorus.com, 352-258-1915 or 352-378-6837.

Dance Alive National Ballet's 50th Anniversary Season

Help your own professional ballet company celebrate 50 years of performance, education and outreach. Performances include A Haunted Swan Lake Oct. 30, Nutcracker Dec. 16-20, and Golden Gala March 18 and 19. For more information, call 352-371-2986 or visit dancealive.org.

Submit a PSA

GRU offers PSAs to help local nonprofit organizations that support the arts and sciences or provide a community service. Call 352-393-1485 or email dongesph@gru.com well in advance to schedule a reservation.