Weekly Update
Apalachicola City Water
July 28, 2025

Progress:

- Well rehabilitation and maintenance program

    - ***The problem:*** The water source in our region naturally has high levels of sulfides and sulfate-reducing bacteria. These bacteria naturally produce biomass, or slime, that reduces a well's pumping capacity over time. It has led to more frequent well-maintenance and cleaning which can take a well offline for several months. Over time, treating this water also requires adding an increasing amount of chlorine .
    - ***The solution:*** A technology that uses gaseous and liquid carbon dioxide will remove biological "slime" buildup and keep the wells' capacity from decreasing as quickly. Additionally, connections to the wells will be installed so future cleaning can be done in weeks instead of months. This will lead to a more consistent and reliable well operation. Future maintenance will be completed without removing the well pumps. This means future maintenance and cleaning will be faster. It will also help maintain a consistent amount of chlorine disinfectant throughout the system.
    - ***Approved*** *by City Commissioners* at the July 22nd City Commission Special Meeting.
    - ***Funding*** *was awarded by the Florida Department of Commerce*. $344,250 will cover rehabilitation and installation of the maintenance system for our three wells.
    - ***Timeline*** *will be provided in an upcoming update.*

- Weekly update calls are held with the City Manager, Water Department staff, Dewberry (our engineering consultant), Florida Rural Water Association (FRWA), and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

City Water Sample Test Results from July 21-28, 2025

- **Daily residual chlorine:**
    - At the plant, levels ranged from 3.04 - 3.77 ppm.
    - At the remote location, levels ranged from 0.44 - 0.91 ppm.

- **Residual chlorine** is the amount of chlorine that remains in the water after treatment at the drinking water plant. Chlorine reacts with organic material and hydrogen sulfide as it travels down the water distribution system–so chlorine levels decrease with increased distance from the plant. Levels at or above 0.2 ppm indicate there is enough chlorine to kill bacteria.