

***Letters from Sandersville's  
Water Customers***

4/17/23

my husband & I  
live in Sarderville, MS.

The water is awful &  
we don't drink it ~~be~~  
because it looks dirty.  
It looks like someone  
really filthy took a  
bath in it.

It would be nice to  
have healthy drinking  
water.

Carolyn & Gary Dunston

May  
To whom It<sup>th</sup> Concerns:

This is my list of Problems we've had with the water:

- (1) We have lived in Sandersville about 45 years, and during that time we have had to buy 5 Hot Water Heaters.
- (2) We have tried to use an Ice Maker with very little success. When we tried to use it after awhile it just quit. So I just use ice trays.
- (3) The Color of the water has been a big problem. It goes from light brown to dark brown. One day I got up and my water was a Cranberry Color, which I put in jar and show Bob and Paula. They told me the men had been working on the line. The men came and flush out the line for me.
- (4) The last problem is the smell. At times it is pretty strong.

Thank you for your time,  
Linda Fisher



April 14, 2023

Sandersville Water Dept  
Sandersville MS 39447

Dear Sirs:

At different times our water is brown and even has particles in it. This makes it ~~too~~ unusable for household use, not to mention for drinking. Something needs to be done to correct ~~out~~ this problem.

Thank you for addressing this as soon as possible.

Sincerely,  
Debra J. [Signature]

4-15-23

To: Mayor Bob White

I am writing to you concerning the 'brown water' that we now have for our home water usage. My concern is about the safety and cleanliness of our water. I now care for my 97 year old mother who has kidney disease and I am concerned about her disease progression.

Carol Davis

To Whom It May Concern,

The water in Sandersville is often discolored, smells bad, and has a texture that good clean water ought not ever have.

It ALWAYS smells strong of chemicals, no matter what color the water is. Speaking of which, water should be clear. Never yellow, orange, or brown. And the darker it is the grittier it is. Some days pure sludge has come out of our faucets. You can't do anything with that. Certainly can't drink or cook with it. You can't shower with it. Absolutely no washing clothes or towels with it.

We have had to drink bottled water for years. We don't feel safe drinking the tap water. Which means we are spending way more on water than we really should.

Tap water also should not be fizzy.

Sincerely,

Joy Thornton



To whom it may concern,

I hope all is well with you. My name is Wesley Page and I am the pastor in our home town. I live at the parsonage of a local church here in Sandersville,

Ms. I am writing to you on behalf of the town hoping to petition assistance for our water system. I have lived here for 4 years and the water is brown in the range from dingy to complete discoloration. The level depends on what day it is. The water has discolored and ruined some of our clothes and we now wash our clothes at my mom's house away from Sandersville. Even though the test are said to be okay, we do not feel comfortable about drinking it. This requires us to buy drinking water and is costly. Please consider us for assistance.

In Christ,  
Wesley Page

04/25/2023

## Town of Sandersville, Mississippi Water Problems

To Whom It May Concern:

My wife and I have been resident home owners in the town of Sandersville for over forty-years.

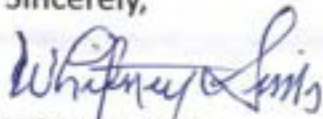
Our town water, to say the least, has been barely satisfactory. We do not drink the water because of the smell and color. Buying bottled water to drink can be a costly process. This puts an undo hardship on those who can least afford it.

The color of our water ranges from a slight gold color to a downright muddy color. When we wash our white clothes, towels, and such, they come out a dingy gold to brown color. Of course, this adds an additional financial burden in replacing the discolored whites.

The small town of Sandersville has limited financial resources to evaluate and address this continuing water situation. Our town needs assistance in solving this water issue for the benefit of all its citizens.

Any help granted would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Whitney Sims". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "S" at the end.

Whitney Sims

518 West Main St.

Sandersville, Mississippi 39477



Lisa Coulson  
104 Lindsey St.  
P.O. Box 243  
Sandersville, MS 39477

To whom it may concern,

I would like to inform you of the situation with our town water. It is severely discolored and has a disgusting smell. It is so bad that I have to buy bottled water to drink. Any help with this situation would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,  
Lisa Coulson

4-17-23

Our Water is brownish  
our water smells bad  
our water is not  
where we feel safe drinking it

Thank you for  
your help.

Anthony M. West

305 S. Pine St

Sandersville, GA 39477

601-283-5524

To Whom It May Concern,

The following is a list of my problems with Sandersville's water.

the strong chlorine smell, makes my eyes burn  
the hard water, messing up our pipes  
there's no pressure  
have to buy water to drink  
never know what color you're gonna get  
it's often gritty  
our water is cut off a lot to fix leaks around town, usually when I've gotten  
home from work and I'm in my dirty work clothes...  
and then I can't wash those dirty clothes

Sincerely,

*Marty Ilund*



Blakeney  
P O Box 20  
111 Oak St  
Sandersville, MS 39477

April 11, 2023

Town of Sandersville  
Public Works  
Water Department  
PO Box 692  
Sandersville, MS 39477

To Whom It May Concern,

My husband and I are citizens of the Town of Sandersville, Mississippi. Over the past year, or more, we have noticed several issues with the water quality of the town.

We have brown water. We have water that smells like you have opened a jug of Clorox bleach. We have water that leaves slime in our toilet. We have water that comes from the kitchen sink with bubbles in it, as well as brown/black specs. Our bathtub has turned almost completely brown from the water stains. We cannot use a water filter because we cannot afford to continue replacing the required filters.

We do not believe that this water is safe to drink or cook with. We use bottled water for EVERYTHING, from cooking to brushing our teeth. I boil water on the stove before I wash my dishes with it.

I am afraid of what this water is doing to our health by bathing in it and washing our clothes in it. By the way, the clothes do not come out smelling clean.

A person should not be afraid to turn on a faucet and get a glass of water, but we are. A person should not be afraid to use this water for bathing and brushing their teeth, but we are.

It seems that every month some new problem has come up with the water/sewer system in the Town of Sandersville.

As it is right now, we do not feel safe using the water from the water supply of the Town of Sandersville, and we are hoping something will be done about this in the future.

Sincerely,

  
Mike and Susan Blakeney

Apr 17, 2023

To Whom it May Concern.

Sandersville Water

There is seldom a day we have clear water, really a rare occasion. It hasn't just started, but it is getting worse. Some days we can't even run the washing machine. I buy a 24 pk of drinking water EVERY DAY, 90<sup>00</sup> - 100<sup>00</sup> each month on top of a 100<sup>00</sup> Water bill.

We definitely need some water improvements. We wouldn't even mind paying for good drinkable water, but we don't have any.

James Ray Henington Sr  
319 West Main  
Sandersville MS 39477  
601-325-1415

P.S. I put in a new home 7 years ago with all new water lines when I moved back here from Texas -

Our water system needs help. Major help.

I am a fourth generation Sandersvillian, and I have lived here for the vast majority of my forty-three years. I have never not know our water system to be without problems.

First, there is no filtration system. Our water is treated with chlorine only. More often than not, the water has been treated with so much chlorine to make it "drinkable" that the smell coming from the faucet burns the sinuses. We don't drink our tap water. We drink bottled water. In fact, our primary use of municipal water is to flush the toilet and shower. (I try very hard not to think about the amount of chlorine we've absorbed through our skin over decades of exposure.) The adage "the dose makes the poison" is less than helpful when what is potentially harming us is something we are exposed to throughout the day all day long.

We need proper filtration.

Second, one of our water wells has a high iron content. That was the explanation for our sometimes discolored water. And because of that high iron content another substance has to be added to the water so that it can flow easier through our outdated pipes. The very notion of drinking slimy water turns the stomach. (Not everyone can afford bottled water, so there are some folks having to drink that slimy water.) And even though my family isn't drinking it, we still have to bathe in it. Slimy water leaves the body feeling sticky and gross, not clean at all.

A proper filtration system would go a long way to solving this problem.

Third, our pipes are old. The entire system needs to be overhauled, and not patched one leak at a time. Our water is cut off with alarming frequency to patch up random leaks that spring up all over town. Many folks come home in the evening from a hard day's work ready to shower and relax only to have to sit in their nasty clothes for hours until the water is turned back on. And when it is finally turned back on, it is ALWAYS gritty and gross. Our own water bills have increased do to running the water waiting for the grit to finally pass through. The lines are supposed to be cleared out after it's been cut off for repairs, but that almost never happens.

Fourth, our hard water, dirty water, high iron water is ruining our washing machines and our clothes. It's difficult to wash a body with slimy water. Now imagine what washing clothes in it looks like. On the high-iron slimy days, the clothes come out of the wash with a yellow/brown tint and a gross sticky texture.



Fifth, we have two water wells that the town has to alternate between. When the well with the clear water is having problems, as is often the case, the well with the brown coloring is what the town is left with. The two wells are struggling to keep up with the town's needs. We need another well, at the very least.

Sixth, the employees with the water department are overworked and under appreciated. If the system they are working with is outdated, no doubt the equipment they use to patch it is also on the brink of needing replacement.

Sandersville may be a small town, but that doesn't make our needs any less important. We may not have the numbers of a large city, but we are comprised of good, hard working people who simply want good water for our homes, our gardens, swimming pools for the kids.

We want to feel safe to drink the water. I don't know anyone in Sandersville who drinks from the tap. We have the added financial burden of having to buy water twice. Just because it's been going on for so long that does not mean we are content with the situation. We are not. We would love to save that extra \$100+ a month on bottled water. (Not to mention what all that plastic is doing to the environment.)

Please help us. No one wants to become the next Flint, Michigan, or even Jackson, Mississippi, and that is exactly where we are headed. Our town is having a water crisis and we need HELP.

Sincerely,

*Stephanie L. Allen*

4/11/23

I have been in Gandersville  
since 1997.  
Our water has been different  
but starting Nov. of '22 it  
started to smell & dark.

I've replaced water heater & a  
lot of my water lines.

There's still slight discoloring of  
the water & slight smell

Harold  
Watson

My issues with the water in Sandersville:

low water pressure

discolored water

strong smelling water

grit in the water

water turned off frequently to fix various leaks around town

slimy skin getting out of the shower

dingy clothes getting out of the washing machine

afraid to drink the water

hard water build-up

water often looks carbonated with air in the lines

Sincerely,

*Ernest Ma Olla*



206 Broad Street, Sandersville, MS. 39477

April 11, 2023

Town of Sandersville  
Public Works  
Water Department  
P.O. Box 692  
Sandersville, MS. 39477

To Whom it May Concern,

As a citizen of Sandersville, Mississippi over the last year and a half, I have noticed several issues concerning the quality of our water that I would like to address. Living close to the water tower, I believe that I am lucky not to have the tea-colored water many citizens have reported, nonetheless, I still have issues with my water as well. My husband and I have noticed a yellow tint to our water more times than not, at times our water was so carbonated, it was as if we were pouring seltzer out of our water faucets. Often, our water smells of copper or iron and there are specks of what I can only hope is dirt. When our water does not have a metallic smell, it can also smell of sulfur.

I do not believe our water is safe to consume and we do not even want to use it when we brush our teeth, shower, cook, or even provide it to our dogs. We do not ever drink the water straight from the faucet unless it has been run through our Brita filter first. We also have water purifying filters for our instant coffee maker as well. Water from our faucets should not have a smell, it should not have a yellow or brown tint, it should not have dirt or other particles in it. Water should not stain our bathtubs, toilets, nor our sinks, but it has.

I know our town has been "fixing" the issues with our water over the last year and a half, but to be honest, I don't see much improvement. We are still having the same issues and seeing even more issues with our sewer lines and pumps. I hope that over the next few months, or year, we can start to see less of these issues and feel comfortable using the water that we pay for every month.

Sincerely,

Matthew and Holly Blakeney

John T. Suddith  
305 A South Pine Street  
Sandersville, Mississippi  
Telephone 601 433-2334

April 15, 2013

To whom it may concern:

Re: Grant Application for Water System in  
Sandersville, Mississippi

For several years now I have been purchasing purified drinking water in bottles to keep from using the water produced by the town of Sandersville, Mississippi through their water system.

I am very skeptical of the present of the integrity of the water which the Town of Sandersville produce. I do not trust the safety of such system regarding the purity of the present system.

Past experiences of using the present system have shown that it has produced a yellowish discolored appearance which causes concern over its purity and drinking ability.

The present water system of the Town of Sandersville has deteriorated to the point of many citizens are afraid to use it for drinking. There have been continuing over several years with the quality and safety of such system.

— Jones —



— At various times there have been notices by the media to tell the citizens to boil the Town's water before using it. This crisis is due to the aging present water system which desperately needs replacing or up-dating.

— The purity of water being produced presently is a vital concern for the health and viability of its citizens.

— In recent years the Town has had problems with the sewerage system which is constantly needing repairs and updating for the treatment of raw sewerage. Since the treatment of raw sewerage is closely related to the water system it is imperative that both systems need appropriate attention. Providing a safe and non-toxic system is a priority for the present situation the town experiences.

— I would like to urge the approval of a grant for the Town of Sandersville to acquire the necessary funds in order to replace or update the present system in order to assure its citizens that the quality and purity of the water being used.

Cardially,  
Lynn L. Euddith



April 16, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a long-standing resident of Sandersville, MS and have many grievances about the city water situation. Although I have been assured that the tap water is safe to drink, we buy bottled water for drinking but use the tap for cooking and all other household uses. It would be wonderful in my older years to not have to haul water in the house from the grocery, much less the expense and whatever havoc the plastic bottles are creating. Our water pressure is very low most of the time, there is dirt in it some of the time, and the worst problem is the really orange substance that I have been told is iron from a particular well. If that could be filtered out, I would be very grateful. My appliance repairmen have all told me that this water has caused problems with my dishwasher and clothes washer. My refrigerator has a filter for ice that I have to replace way more often than stated because it stops up really quickly, those are fifty dollars each. My water heater has to be drained 4 or 5 times a year because the iron accumulates in the bottom and even if the tap has cleared up from using the good well, we are still getting the bad water from the water heater. All of my bathroom fixtures have orange stains and the harder you scrub the worse it stains. The walls of my bathroom also get orange stains from the condensation after showers and baths. I have looked into a home filter system and were told that it would further decrease our already low water pressure and they were very expensive. I understand we are a small town without a lot of resources and would be very grateful for whatever you can do to help with the water issues.

Shelia Hickson  
209 Leonard Hudson Rd.



April 10, 2023

To whom it may concern:

I purchased the home at 706 Bennett in May 2021. After remodeling the home and changing all sinks and tub I ran water which was blackish in color. It had a foul odor so my plumber bought a new hot water heater and installed it. Off and on water may have a yellowish tint to darker color and smell at times. I am on my third water heater now, a tankless. Is there anything that can be done concerning the water lines to the house? I'm not sure what else I can do. I have purchased a whole house water filter to install also.

Thank you

Donna Graham

ATTN: Sandersville Water Department

To whom it may concern:

The water at my house is brown and has a bad smell. This is very concerning, as it could pose possible health and safety risks for my family, as well as the community. Please address this issue by whatever means necessary.

Thank you,

Roland Blackledge

04/26/2023

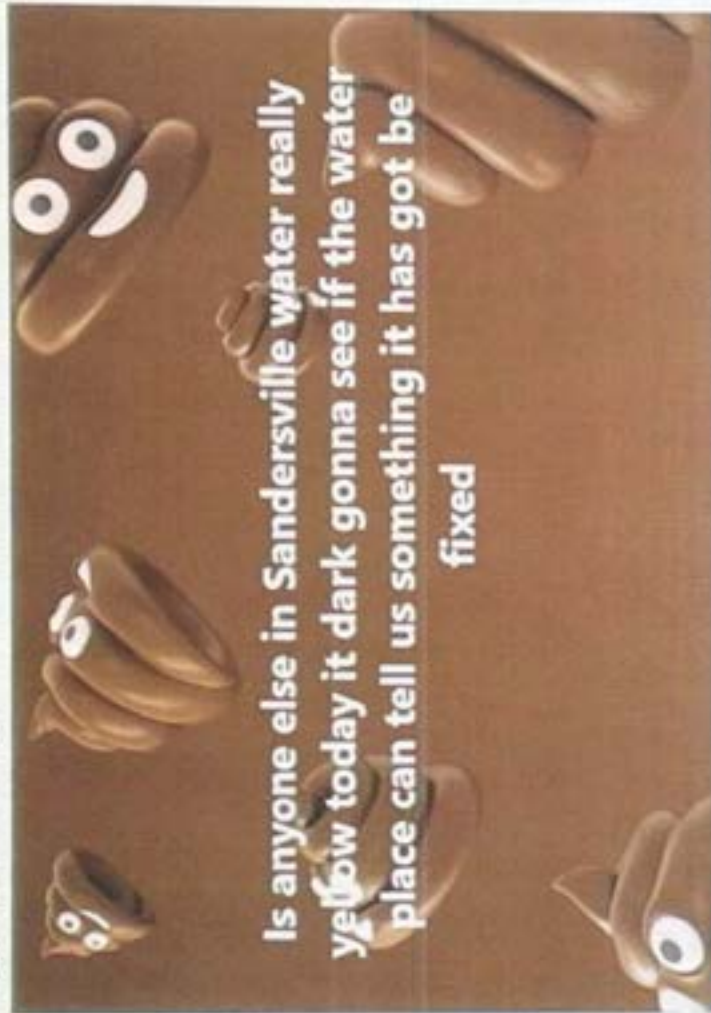
*Roland Blackledge*  
401 Peach ST  
Sandersville 39477

# ***Facebook***

*Complaints from Water Customers  
(October 2022 – April 2023)*



November 22, 2022 @



Comment



Alisha Cook  
Yes I'm hope  
fixed



Bonnie Ledet  
Ming has bee



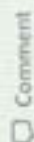
Monika Soley Flynn  
Yes! Looks like tea!!





13

52 comments



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Alisha Cook

Apparently we all have to go to one the water meetings they have cause with all the complaints to the Sandersville water they don't care enough the water is so gross looking hate having to use it but not much choice

20w



Susan Blakeney

Alisha Cook go to the board meeting & take a sample of the water with you

20w



LeAnn Allen

Alisha Cook

I think anyone who is able to go should

I went to one meeting years ago. There were only three of us there that weren't on the board.

When they started the meeting someone on the stage said, "What a good turnout tonight!"

I got the feeling that the meetings had not been attended by regular folk for quite some time.

20w Edited



Matthew Blakeney

Our water is fizzy and white and we live right across from the water tower.

20w



Debbie Henley

When is the water meeting?

20w



Amy McMullan

Debbie Henley town meeting is First Tuesday of the month at 5:30

20w



Raimy Brown

October 5, 2021

Anyone else having unusually smelly water.....?

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Cynsleigh Davis  
Margaret Hodge

6d



Makala Breazeale  
Alisha Cook Jimmie Cook

5d



## Photos



See all



James Tuminello-Photography

March 22, 2022 · 🌐

This is cold water only from our wonderful Sandersville water.  
Stinks as well.





**James Tuminello-Photography**

March 22, 2022 · 🌐



This is cold water only from our wonderful Sandersville water. Stinks as well.



4

9



4



Like



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ille water. Stinks as well.



4

9

4

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**Alisha Cook**

Ours usually like that to I wish they would fix how that water is

1y

**Barbara Morgan Thornhill**

Our hot water stinks

1y

**Tressa Dale Kelley**

I agree..always smell's like sewage..🤢

1y

**Tressa Dale Kelley replied · 1 Reply****Ramona Triplett**

Call your governor because this is serious problem to health as well.

1y

**Daniel Suttle**

Yes it's like that all the way to the motel just No one notices it but I tal sandersville he said he would check into it

51w





**Tiffany Lane Boleware**

Am glad am not the only one complaining about the. Water .. got my fish an all but 1 had died an the reason for these 4 gold fish was beca before died , I cleaned the fish tank out late yesterday afternoon An b seen the other two fish died I



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 Comment

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## Sandersville MS Neighborhood

🔍 WATER



Le'Ann Allen

6d · 🌐

The town of Sandersville is applying for a grant to fix our water system. Part of that application needs to include letters from its citizens listing the problems. It doesn't even have to be a full letter.

It can simply be a list:

Strong smelling water

Discoloured water

Low pressure

Whatever it is you are experiencing at your home.

Folks like to complain online about our water problems, but that isn't going to make a difference. The town needs folks to write it on paper (not online), so that it can go to the folks making these grant decisions. They have to see these complaints with their own eyes. I can guarantee you the folks in Jackson aren't scouring our Facebook group looking for the complaints.

It's such a small thing to write a letter or list what's going on with our water, and it could have a huge impact for our town. Please help yourself and all of Sandersville by writing a letter or list.

City Hall is closed today, but you can put your letter in the drop box outside the door.

# ***WDAM, On Your Side***

*TV Coverage and WDAM website  
(December 2022)*

*Website includes posts from complaining customers.*



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WDAM, ON YOUR SIDE - TV News Coverage

## Town of Sandersville deals with discolored water



Sandersville water has become an issue

By Emily Blackmarr

Published: Dec. 3, 2022 at 5:35 AM CST



SANDERSVILLE, Miss. (WDAM) - The Town of Sandersville is facing some water problems and they've been constant the past few days.

The main issue: discolored water flowing from the town's taps.

Sandersville has three water wells- one elevated and two in the ground.

The elevated tank was recently refurbished, leaving two remaining wells in use.

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WDAM 7

December 3, 2022 ·

Sandersville Mayor Bob White said the town hopes to have the water issue cleared up within a week.



WDAM.COM

### Town of Sandersville deals with discolored water

Town of Sandersville deals with discolored water

26

24 comments · 18 shares

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Oldest



**Andrew Luker** This isn't the full truth dude. I've been living here for 3 months now. Since I moved here my water has been brown or yellow. Smells heavy of chlorine, makes me and my dogs and cats sick to drink it. It turns the food I have into this terrible dish if I have to add that nasty water to it. I even installed a filter at my house and the water still comes out brown even with the filter. I've got video and picture proof of this. Either this issue has been going on longer than they are saying and they didn't know, or they just realized it and aren't telling the truth. I've called twice to have it fixed at city hall and they just tell me ok and no one ever actually comes or tells me what's going on so I can fix this issue. I've had to spend hundreds on bottled water just so I can cook and have water for my dogs. I'm about to be point of calling the state health board and report their butts since they don't seem to care too much.

20w

2



**Jamie Nichole Mathis** Andrew Luker we lived there for almost 10 years and it was always like

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left the tap uncovered and exposed as well as literally burying my water meter under mud where I can't even see the valves to stop my water if it ever leaked. There is something not right about this picture and the state is about to hear about it because I'm tired of being ignored and having to buy bottled water to be able to cook and drink without getting sick from the water from the faucet. I shouldn't have to spend hundreds on filters and bottled water when they could do something about it. They can't tell me that nothing can be done because that is a lie. Either they don't want to fix it or someone is ignoring my call ins when I call about it. But there has to be a solution to make my water more drinkable and usable. I'm getting charged for using water that makes me sick and that makes no sense to me at all. I don't expect it to be crystal clear like spring water. But there is no reason my water should be the same color as tea

20w

2



**Price AndKayla Robinson** Been going on for decades .....

20w



**Michael C. Dempsey** Time for a new mayor.

20w



**Dorsey Trina** Hattiesburg has these same problems and it has been for a while now.

20w



**Sarah McFadden** Raimey Brown

20w



**Sarah McFadden** A tree limb

20w



**Raimey Brown** Sarah seems fake but ok

20w



Top fan

**Jessica Watts** Mr. Bob!!!

20w

1



**Forest Johnston** I live on Mitchell street and my water isnt brown

20w

1

[2 Replies](#)



**Michaela Cooley** A few days?! It's been no pressure for 2 months. Its been pumped out of tanks. It's been dark as tea for months now and our water bill is constantly going up. It's higher then my power bill but nothing has changed. They have tore our yards up claiming "faulty meters" and ever since then my bill has gone from \$35 to \$150!! -we do not have any leaks.

20w



WD  
Toc

Too boot,  
down, 2 tree  
time as the r

7



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# ***WDAM, On Your Side***

*TV Coverage  
(December 2022)*

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WDAM, ON YOUR SIDE - TV NEWS COVERAGE

## Sandersville water has become an issue

Updated: Dec. 3, 2022 at 2:18 AM CST



### World War II veteran remembered, family honored in Friday night ceremony

Updated: 18 hours ago |



### Bridge repair creating unappreciated detour

Updated: 16 hours ago |

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## Sandersville water has become an issue

Updated: Dec. 3, 2022 at 2:18 AM CST



### World War II veteran remembered, family honored in Friday night ceremony

Updated: 16 hours ago |



### Bridge repair creating unappreciated detour

Updated: 16 hours ago |



TOWN OF SANDERSVILLE  
P O BOX 692  
SANDERSVILLE, MS 39477  
(601) 649-3068  
FAX (601-649-3622)

MAYOR  
C. ROBERT "BOB" WHITE

ALDERMAN/MAYOR PRO TEM  
HARMON HILL

ALDERMEN  
WALTER "BUZZ" JACK  
MAX SANDERS  
TONY HELTON  
DARLENE HILL

March 26, 2024

U.S. Congressman Michael Guest  
3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District, Mississippi  
308 B East Government Street  
Brandon, MS 39042

Dear Congressman Guest,

The Town of Sandersville is earnestly seeking your support to fund the much-needed Water Well and Treatment System Project for our Town and citizens. We are applying for appropriation of funds through the State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) program. The total estimated cost of our project is \$2.1 million. Should the grant be awarded, the Town is committed to the completion of the project and the 20% match required for the program.

The Town has been working diligently over the past several years to upgrade our water system, as funding allows. The majority of the work we have been able to accomplish has been funded through the assistance of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Facilities Program. We have recently rehabilitated our existing water storage tank and replaced valves in our system. We are currently in the design phase for an upcoming project to replace well controls and upgrade the discharge main from one of our two wells that supply water to our Town.

The proposed project we are seeking your support for is to replace the other well in our system and to provide an appropriate treatment system for the water produced from this well. As you will see in the letters from residents in our application and from the local news coverage, the water produced by this well is often discolored, filled with sediment, and makes people concerned about the safety of using this water. We are constantly receiving complaints due to the poor-quality water that this well produces. We have looked into options to replace this well and provide treatment for several years. However, the cost of these improvements far exceeds what the Town is able to collect in user fees and also exceeds the allowable funding through the CDBG program.

Our goal and duty is to provide safe, quality drinking water for the residents in our community. We need your help to make this project a reality. We appreciate the concern that you have shown for our Town with visits from you and your staff. I hope that you will give the Town of Sandersville every consideration as you evaluate our appropriations request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Robert White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "R".

C. Robert White, Mayor  
Town of Sandersville