



Lake Charter Township Water System Newsletter



APRIL 2024

2023 Water Quality Report Now Available!

The **2023 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)** is now available. The water quality report describing the source and quality of your drinking water is available through the Lake Charter Township website which can be found here:

<https://lakechartertownshipwater.org/ccr1>

If you would like to receive a paper copy, one can be mailed to you by contacting Jeff Burkhard, Lake Charter Township Water System Superintendent:

State of the Water System

Jeff Burkhard
Lake Charter Township Water System Superintendent

I encourage everyone to review the 2023 Consumer Confidence Report we publish annually. You can access it through the direct link mentioned in this newsletter. This report shares information about your water, where it comes from, what's in it, and other important information.

In 2023, we installed a new (replacement) water main on Snow Rd. from California Rd. East to Jericho Rd. and on Rambo Rd. from Baldwin Rd. West to the railroad tracks. If you were affected by this project, I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding. Completing this work will improve reliability in the area. This was a significant undertaking, and it did cause some inconvenience. There will be restoration this spring on areas that still may need attention. Once the final work is completed and you have any restoration issues in front of your residence, please let us know so this can be addressed.

Water quality is essential. We are involved in several voluntary and required water studies determining water quality. One such study, as mentioned in last year's newsletter and began in January of 2024, is the EPA study on PFAS and Lithium. Some of the studies help to set new standards or are just investigative. In June, we will begin our tri-annual Lead and Copper sampling program, a mandated program that has been in place for several years. You will receive further information before this date if you were a past participant.

Maintaining the water plant and the supporting infrastructure is expensive and requires upgrades over time. We are in the preliminary design phase of a project to replace aging equipment, and this project will take a couple of years to engineer and implement. Some of the equipment here at the water plant is over 50 years old and requires upgrading. I want to extend an offer to tour our facility so you can see what your fees are paying for and you want to understand what it takes to make Lake Michigan water safe for use. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tour, please feel free to contact me.

Sewer News

This summer will be busy for the sewer side of our business. We will be assessing the condition of all of the sewer lift stations in the township. Most of the lift stations are over 40 years old. We need to start the process of refurbishing the lift stations based on their condition to keep operations running smoothly. Starting in July, we will be gathering GPS data for all of the sewer manhole lids in the system.

As a reminder, section 7.02.5, Wastewater Collection System Ordinance (sewer ordinance) states **"No person shall connect roof downspouts, foundation drains, areaway drains, swimming pool drains, or any sources of surface or ground water to a building sewer, which in turn is connected to the system."**

Smoke testing will be performed in the next 12 months. Any non-compliant connections to the sewer system will be identified by the smoke test and will be required to be corrected.

Hydrant Flushing



You may notice our distribution team is starting to flush hydrants. We do this for two main reasons.

1. To flush all of the dead ends in the distribution system. We want to ensure a good exchange of water at all of the dead end locations.
2. Flushing allows us to exercise the hydrants and valves to ensure proper working order.

Please use caution when driving through any water on the road after hydrant flushing. If you notice a hydrant leaking after flushing, please call the water plant at 269-465-3850.



Water Rates

Lake Charter Township implemented a rate increase beginning April 1, 2024. The new rate increased \$0.17 **per thousand gallons** of water consumed for in-township residents and \$0.24 **per thousand gallons** consumed for out of township residents. Sewer rates also increased by \$5.62 per quarter for in-town residents and \$8.39 per quarter for out of township residents.

With the cost of everything we purchase going up there is no way around increasing the water rates. The water industry is still experiencing supply chain delays and with those delays come cost increases. There are products we use every day that still take upwards of 6 months from purchase to shipment delivery.

News and Notes

Bill Payment Assistance may be available at: <https://www.smcaa.com/utility-assistance>

Updated Water Ordinance is available in the resource tab at: www.lakechartertownshipwater.org

The township sewer system is operated by the Galien River Sewer District Authority. They can be reached at 269-469-3434.



Water Word Search

W E W W J Q F H W S T S O H N E C M
 F A C M G I C H T U I P C X Z O Y I
 R R V I K C I E S U D L E S L N L W
 E Z E E P N A V T D E A A D I A Y S
 I G I V O M I N J G T S N A G I G W
 C K J G I B I R I O D H R L I A R E
 A H U S C R W M D A H N U O M K E T
 L C N E Z W E L C E R P I O O V B Q
 G K O A H K B G S Z C D B P P J E X
 Z Y I N D I U Q I L C G P W J K C L
 S W C F H Y A J L W C R G T A Q I K
 K Z G G W R Y X E L T T O B Y R T P
 P I R D X S S J U U T Y M V K U N E

BOTTLE
DRINK
ICE
OCEAN
RIVER
STEAM
WAVE

COLD
DRIP
ICEBERG
POOL
SEA
SWIM
WET

DRAIN
GLACIER
LIQUID
RAIN
SPLASH
TIDE

Lead / Copper Sampling

The Water Dept. is currently on a three-year cycle to test for lead and copper in the water system. 2024 is a sampling year. The sampling pool was expanded in 2021 due to new State regulations. If you participated in the last round of sampling, we will be contacting you soon to schedule your sample collection. The sampling collection will take place starting on Monday June, 3 2024. Each participant will receive specific instructions on collecting the sample and will receive a copy of their analysis. This is an important mandated round of testing. To those who are participating, we appreciate your help!

Residential Cross Connection Inspections

We have completed all of the initial residential exterior inspections in the Township. The next round of residential exterior inspections will begin in 2038. After concluding the inspections last year, if you were notified that you have a testable backflow preventer, (specifically if you have lawn irrigation) that device needs to be tested. The testing frequency will be communicated to you through Hydrocorp Inc.

Service Line Installation or Repair

All service line (from the property line to the house) **installations or repairs require an inspection** by the Lake Charter Township Water System. There is no charge, provided the inspection is conducted during installation. If the work was completed without an inspection, it will not be accepted. You will be required to excavate the service line for inspection and an \$85.00 charge will be assessed. **It is the homeowners responsibility to inform anyone preforming work on the service line to have it inspected.**

Water Plant Tours

If you are interested in a tour of the Water Plant like the 2nd grade class from Bridgman Elementary School, please call the water plant at 269-465-3850. We are always proud to show off our state of the art water plant.

