



Lake Charter Township Water System Newsletter



Volume 1, Issue 1

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2018 CCR Now Available!

The 2018 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:

<http://www.lake-township.org/ltw-2018-ccr.pdf>.

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:

jburkhardtwater@lake-township.org
269-465-3850.

State of the Water System

Jeff Burkhard

Lake Charter Township Water System Superintendent

I would like to take this opportunity to give all of our customers information on our continuing efforts to keep Lake Charter Township Water System both reliable and compliant. We strive to be as transparent as possible so that you as our customer can understand some of the cost associated with delivering your water. Our mission is to **“Provide our customers with clean, safe, affordable reliable quality water and quality service”**.

Ongoing Updates

Ongoing updates and maintenance are always happening at the Water Treatment plant located on Red Arrow Hwy, our Lake Front Pumping station located on Livingston Rd and to the distribution system. In 2018 we purchased a new backhoe to replace one that was 25 plus years old, cost \$89,000.00. In 2018 and 2019 we replaced two water department vehicles that were over 10 years old, cost \$100,000.00. Our distribution system consists of over 80 miles of water main, over 700 hydrants, and over 1,200 valves. We operate our distribution system with three full time and one part time employee, with a combined work experience of over 100 years.



Into the Future!

You may have noticed our distribution team out in the Township using our new GPS system. We have completed GPS locations for the entire distribution system and appurtenances. This allows us to locate and service system valves, meter pits, hydrants, customer shut off valves, easier and more accurately as well as maintain more accurate records of maintenance. We were able to save considerable costs by using Water Department Employees to complete the project.

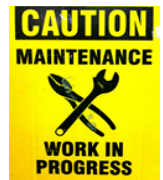
Our Water System will be jumping into the future in 2019 by installing radio reading equipment. You may notice a new plastic box where we read the meter. This new system will allow us to receive your actual water usage electronically. Be on the lookout for our distribution team to start installing up to 500 radio readers later this year.



Water Mains & Repairs

Over the past couple of years, we have implemented several water main replacement projects including Date Rd, Shawnee Rd, Gast Rd and California Rd. These projects totaled more than \$ 2,500,000.00. We continue to look for problem areas and ways to improve the system

We recently completed a roof replacement project at the Water Filtration Plant at a cost of \$ 126,000.00 and replaced seven furnaces at a cost of \$ 66,500.00. We have been updating our plant control system (SCADA), with phase 1 costing approximately \$ 54,000.00.

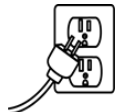


New Lead & Copper Regulations

With the new Lead & Copper revisions that were implemented in 2018, MDEQ is requiring all water systems to verify customer service line material this year and reconcile existing records. Although Lake Township does not have any lead service lines or water main in our system, we are still required to verify this information. This will be conducted throughout the year with your cooperation. There will be more information to come on the verification process.

Emergency Power

The water filtration plant has 3 permanently mounted generators should the incoming power be lost. Last year we interconnected two of the generators at the main plant. In the event one would fail, the other one could still provide power to the plant. The cost for this project was \$35,000.00.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: How much is it really costing you to purchase an individual bottle of water from the store?

A: The average cost of a 16 ounce bottle of drinking water is \$ 1.50. Doesn't seem like that much - However, this equates to \$12.00 per gallon.

Q: What's the average cost of 2 bottles of water then?

A: \$3.00

Q: How much is 1,000 gallons of cold, clean, safe Lake Charter Twp. water?

A: \$2.86 In township and \$4.29 Out of Township. This means... you can refill a 16oz bottle **8,000 times for less money than purchasing 2 individual bottles of water.**

Scenario: You are leaving for a long drive, but you do not want to get thirsty. Should you:

- A. Stop and buy a bottle of water for \$1.50
- B. Go thirsty
- C. Drink your passenger's water
- D. Fill 3 empty gallon jugs of ice-cold Lake Charter Twp. Water for \$0.01

The answer is D – and THAT'S A BARGAIN!

Did you Know?

The cost to rebuild a pump at our lake front pumping station, which is the initial stage of treatment, can cost anywhere from \$15,000.00 - \$ 25,000.00. We rebuild these pumps every few years for maximum performance and reliability. All six of these pumps have been rebuilt over the last 5 – 6 years.

How Old Is That?

The Lake Township Water System was constructed in the mid 1970's, so the system is 40 plus years old. As the system has aged, somethings fail and somethings become obsolete as well as new regulations get implemented and changes have to be made.

Knowledge is Power!

Our water plant operations are staffed 24 hours a day seven days a week and consists of four main operators as well as back up operators, with a combined work experience of over 80 years. All of our plant and distribution operators hold licensing through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and are required to participate in ongoing training to keep those licenses current.



In Closing...

There are many other costs that are associated with running a water system not mentioned in this newsletter. The staff at Lake Township Water System take pride in being good stewards of the funds that are entrusted to us and continue to be good managers of the resources that we have.

If you are ever interested in a plant tour and want to find out exactly how your water is processed, please give us a call and we can arrange for you to tour our facilities.

If you know of someone who may be interested in this field as a career, give us a call and we can steer them in the right direction for their education. And as always, we welcome your feedback.