



Lake Charter Township Water System Newsletter



MARCH 2023

2022 Water Quality Report Now Available!

The **2022 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 Water System 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. Email: jburkhardltwater@lake-township.org Phone: 269-465-3850.

Service Line Verifications

Toby Riley

Lake Charter Township Water System Assistant Superintendent

In June 2018, the lead and copper portion of the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act (MSDWA), 1976 PA 399, was amended. These revisions include requirements for community water supplies to verify and notify the owners and occupants of premises served by a lead service line (LSL), presumed to be served by an LSL, or **served by a service line where material hasn't/cannot be determined.** Our records go back to 1975 when the water system was installed and we can verify approximately 70% of service lines based on original records. Lake Charter Township has no known lead service lines installed in the water system. However, there are approximately 30% of service lines that are unknown. Of the 30% there were only 178 service lines that met the criteria based on the initial date the tap's were installed. Per the amended MSDWA, we are required to randomly verify the pipe material of 120 unknown service lines. This involves a 3 point material inspection: main to corp, corp to home and inside home to the first valve or 18" whichever is shortest. We are required to **visually verify** what the service line material is. Inside the home we will need to record the material where the line enters the home (usually in the basement or crawl space). This will mean one of our Distribution Operators will have to make an appointment to enter the premises to visually verify the pipe material. This should take no more than a couple of minutes. If there is a meter pit we are going to run a camera through the meter pit to visually verify the pipe material. If that method doesn't work, we will need to dig a small hole at the meter pit or curb box to make the visual verification.

I will be mailing letters to all 120 randomly selected addresses in April with more details.

State of the Water System

Jeff Burkhard

Lake Charter Township Water System Superintendent

In 2022, we continued to see similar challenges that we had experienced in 2021. Price increases and availability of products continues to be challenging. Beginning January 2023, you will have noticed an increase in the water rates. We strive to keep costs contained as much as possible. Unfortunately, some expenses are beyond our control.

I encourage everyone to access our 2022 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) through the link listed in this newsletter. There is essential information regarding the Township water quality. One example is the section titled "Additional information for Lead." Lake Township has a lead and copper sampling program required by EPA & MI EGLE. We use residential sampling sights throughout the township that meet specific criteria to be a part of this program. Testing is conducted on a three-year cycle. The Lead & Copper Regulation has components that will change in the coming years as these rules evolve.

Another chemical that I am sure everyone has heard about on the news or in print is PFAS, also known as Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. A section in our CCR explains what these substances are and the testing results. Michigan has one of the most stringent regulation limits for PFAS in drinking water and requires all community drinking water supplies to test annually or quarterly. An entire website is dedicated to this issue on EGLE's website, <http://michigan.gov/pfasresponse>. The EPA recently announced plans to implement maximum contaminant levels for PFAS. We won't know the impact until these limits are set. We will further participate in an EPA study beginning in January of 2024 to test for PFAS and Lithium in our source water. As science evolves and chemicals and substances are prohibited, we will see further studies on how we are impacted and what measures must be taken to limit exposure. Should you have questions about your water quality or how our treatment process functions, don't hesitate to contact me.

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 during normal business hours.** There is no charge, provided the inspection is conducted during installation or repair. 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 a fee will be assessed. It is the homeowner's responsibility to inform anyone performing work on the service line to have it inspected.



Water Rates

Just like your household budget, costs have increased in every aspect of the water department. Lake Charter Township implemented a rate increase beginning January 1, 2023. The new rate increased \$0.16 **per thousand gallons** of water consumed for in-township residents and increased \$0.25 **per thousand gallons** for out of township residents. The rate increase is still a bargain when on average, a 20-ounce bottle of water costs approximately \$1.50. In comparison, your tap water only costs between \$3.31 - \$4.97 for 1,000 GALLONS!

Residential Cross Connection Inspections

The Water Department completed 836 **exterior** residential cross-connection inspections in 2022. We have contracted with HydroCorp Inc., which specializes in cross-connections to conduct these inspections. HydroCorp will notify the remaining 813 properties in the Township when they will be in town to schedule for this year's **exterior only** inspections. The inspections should be completed by **November 2023**. We have more information in the resources tab on our website and a good video explaining what a cross-connection is and why it is vital to eliminate any potential hazard.

Helpful Resources at the Water Dept. Website

www.lakechartertownshipwater.org



Have you visited the water department website? The website provides valuable information, helpful videos and tips, a link to pay your bill electronically, current water rates and a whole lot more. Don't forget to **sign up for electronic alerts**. When you sign up, whenever there is a water dept. emergency such as a water main break or any type of service interruption you will be notified via text message or email whichever you prefer. This is a great way to stay informed!

2023 Scheduled System Upgrades

- Safety upgrades in the water plant
- New roof installation at the Livingston Road pumping station
- Electrical upgrades in the water plant
- Electronics / SCADA system upgrades
- Water Main Replacement: Rambo Rd Between Baldwin Rd & the RR Tracks (carryover from 2022)
- Water Main Replacement: Snow Rd Between California Rd & Jericho Rd (carryover from 2022)

Did You Know?

- There are over 75 miles of watermain in the water system.
- The distribution team maintains over 1,000 valves.
- There are over 700 fire hydrants in the water system.

Contacts:

Water Plant – Jeff Burkhard
Superintendent
269-465-3850

Billing Coordinator – Tracy Dettman
269-465-6601

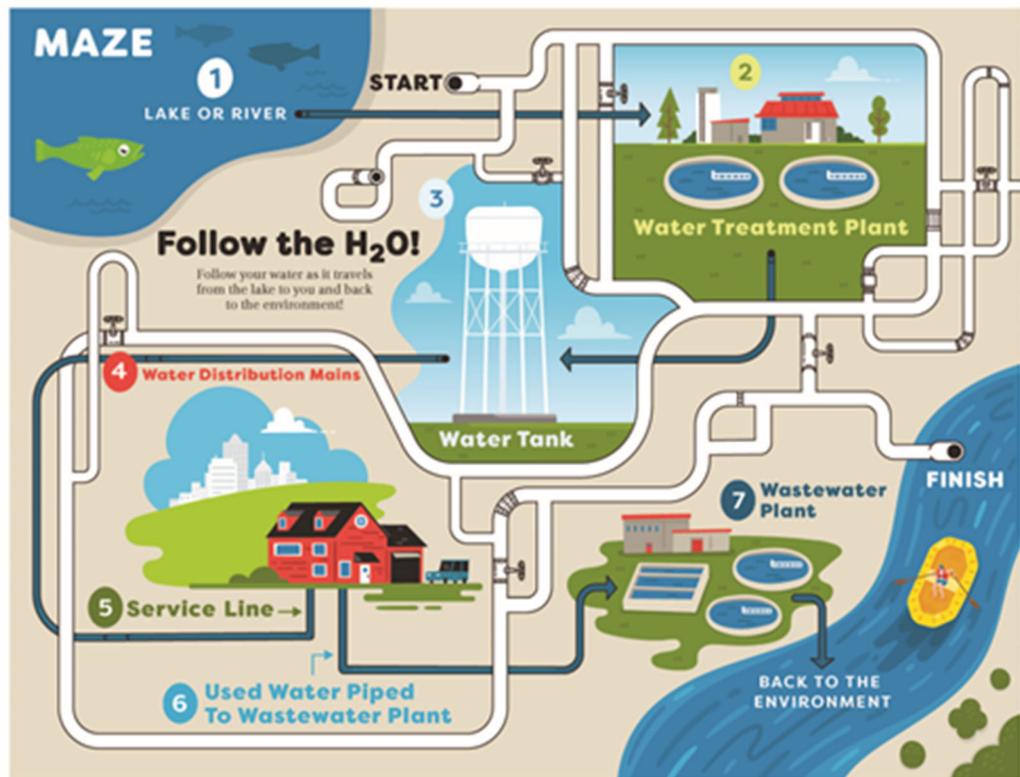
MISSDIG811 – In Michigan call before you dig!
800-482-7171

Thank You for Your Service!

Rich Hildebrandt, Distribution Operator retired with 45 years of service to the water department.

Mayo Roth, Maintenance/Operator is retiring in June with 22 years of service to the water department.

Kids Corner



Welcome to the Team

Larry Dungca joined our plant operations in July 2022.



Drinking Water Week 2023
May 7-13, 2023