



Lake Charter Township Water System Newsletter



MARCH 2022

2021 Water Quality Report Now Available!

The **2021 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.

Remembering John Gast



Lake Charter Township recently lost a great leader. John Gast, Township Supervisor sadly passed away in March. John was quick with a smile and whether you wanted to or not, he would make you laugh. He was a master storyteller. If a hectic situation came up, John had a way of calming that situation by simply telling a fishing story or an old police story. He was a good friend to the Water Department and a great advocate for the Township. We will all miss him very much.

Did You Notice Our New Fence?

In 2020 the EPA mandated that all Water Departments conduct a Vulnerability Risk Assessment. The findings confirmed the need to install a security fence at the Water Plant on Red Arrow Highway and the Water Tower on Shawnee Rd. The fence project was completed in early December. If you need to gain access to the Water Plant, use the north driveway and simply follow the instructions on the call box to talk with our personnel.

State of the Water System

Jeff Burkhard

Lake Charter Township Water System Superintendent

2021 Continued to be a challenging year regarding shortages and costs associated. Beginning January 2022, you will have noticed an increase in our water rates. Even though we use strategies to reduce costs, we have seen a significant increase in water treatment plant chemicals. When I started writing this article, I received notification that our disinfectant (sodium hypochlorite) has increased by \$2,295.00 per tanker load since we last ordered! As in your personal budget, we have seen increases across most of what we need to purchase to keep the water plant in operation. Repairs contracted outside of the water plant take longer because of parts availability. We continue to upgrade the water plant and distribution system to replace obsolete and antiquated equipment. We have several upgrades planned for 2022.

I recommend that our customers keep their contact information up to date with the Township Hall (269-465-6601). We have had instances where service line leaks have been reported, and we do not have adequate contact information to inform the customer, and the water loss generates a large water bill. Next time you stop by the Township Hall to pay your bill, ask Sandy, Tracy, or Mandy if we have your current information.

If you ever have questions or concerns about your water quality or water service, please don't hesitate to give us a call. If you would like to schedule a tour, please get in touch with us, and we will consider the current conditions and allow a small group.

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 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 an \$85.00 charge will be assessed. It is the homeowner's responsibility to inform anyone performing work on the service line to have it inspected.



Water Rates

Lake Charter Township implemented a rate increase beginning January 1, 2022. The new rate increased \$0.15 **per thousand gallons** of water consumed for in-township residents and increased \$0.22 **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



Helpful Resources at the Water Dept. Website

www.lakechartertownshipwater.org

Last year we launched a new 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. A new feature is the ability 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.

Residential Cross Connection Inspections

The Water Dept. will be conducting 813 exterior residential cross-connection inspections in 2022. We have contracted with Hydrocorp Inc., which specializes in cross-connections. Hydrocorp will contact those scheduled for exterior inspections this summer to schedule an appointment. 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.

www.lakechartertownshipwater.org

Did You Know?

We budget \$200,000.00 for our annual electrical costs. With the current inflation rate of 7.9% our electrical cost increased \$15,800!

We conduct over 96,500 laboratory tests each year.



2022 Scheduled System Upgrades

Membrane Filter System Upgrades

Water Main Replacement: Snow Rd Between California Rd & Jericho Rd

Water Main Replacement: Rambo Rd Between Baldwin Rd & the RR Tracks

Electronics / SCADA System Upgrades

Kids Corner

I spy these water items

There are so many water-related items we see every day. Can you spot the items at the bottom of the page in the picture? The numbers indicate how many times each item appears.



 American Water Works Association

Surface Water Protection

In 1996, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) established a new requirement under Section 1453 of the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act for each state to develop a Source Water Assessment and Protection Program (SWAP) to assess all public drinking water supply sources.

SWAP had two components: assessment and protection. The "Assessment" component, mandated by the USEPA, required all states to provide a source water assessment to each of their public water supply systems. The second component of SWAP, "Protection", is voluntary and consists of developing and implementing a Surface Water Intake Protection Plan (SWIPP).

Last year, in collaboration with the Michigan Rural Water Association, the water department completed the required SWIPP. Sensitivity/susceptibility ratings use a six-tiered scale from "very-low" to "high," based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry, and contaminant sources.

Using the Great Lakes Protocol for assessing the intake sensitivity, and susceptibility, the Lake Charter Twp Water System intake sensitivity is considered Moderate, and the susceptibility is Moderately High