

We're very pleased to provide you with this year's Consumer confidence Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we have delivered to you over the past year. We at the City of Marietta Water Treatment Plant are pleased to be serving our valued customers. We strive to provide the highest quality water to every tap. It is our goal to protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and the future of our children.

We have a current Ohio EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) license to operate and maintain a public water system. Our Public Water System License to Operate is OH8400412. We have a current, unconditioned license to operate our water system.

Copies of this report are available at: the Marietta Water office at 304 Putnam St., the Mayor's office at 301 Putnam St, or by calling (740) 374-6864. This report is also on the City of Marietta web site at [www.mariettaoh.net](http://www.mariettaoh.net).

**We encourage public participation and comments at the Water/Sewer Committee meetings. The meetings are announced at the City of Marietta Council meetings. Council meets the 1st; 3rd Thursday of each month at Lookout Park. You may also contact the Clerk of Council at 740-374-5501. For more information on your drinking water, contact Jeff Kephart, Water Superintendent, at. 740-374-6864; fax no. 740-376-2002 or by E-mail [wtpm@mariettaoh.net](mailto:wtpm@mariettaoh.net).**

#### **Is my drinking water safe?**

Last year, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards. Once again we are proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

#### **Where does my water come from?**

The *City of Marietta's* water source is from seven (7) production wells located in a sand and gravel aquifer. Other areas nearby are included in a boundary line approved by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to inform the public of lands that might contribute possible contaminants to our water supply due to unwise usage of chemicals or accidental spills. These boundaries are marked by signs and give an emergency number to call to alert officials of situations that might compromise the future availability and quality of our public water supply.

A potential pollution source of lands, homes and businesses within this water supply area has been inventoried and submitted to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency as required. Finally, a water supply management plan has been developed to ensure the continued protection of our water resources and that future activities and uses of this land does not compromise the well field and our valuable water supply.

Present management of our water quality includes the following: (1) monthly monitoring of an existing element called, tetrachloroethylene (PCE), which was first discovered in 1986, (2) continuous pumping and aeration of interceptor wells #1, #2 and #6 to contain and remove PCE from our water supply, (3) hourly checks, continuous sampling and testing (4) boil advisories issued after water main breaks or loss of water service in various parts of our distribution network, (5) hydrant flushing to remove mineral deposits and air pockets that accumulate within the distribution mains, (6) upgrades in the existing system such as the new six inch water main on Sunset Lane this last year, (7) addition of flush hydrants to dead-end water mains and (8) upgrading smaller water mains to six inches to support fire demand water supplies for emergencies as needed. We have made recent upgrades to Sunset Lane and Colgate Drive water mains.

#### **What are sources of contamination to drinking water?**

The sources of drinking water both tap water and bottled water includes rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include: (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife; (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses; (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; (E) radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).



### Who needs to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDQ guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).



### About your drinking water.

The EPA requires regular sampling to ensure drinking water safety. The *City of Marietta* conducted sampling for bacteria; inorganic; synthetic organic; volatile organic; Total Trihalomethanes, Total Haloacetic Acids and Total Chlorine during 2011. Samples were collected for a total of 64 different contaminants most of which were not detected in the *City of Marietta* water supply. The Ohio EPA requires us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, are more than one year old.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The *City of Marietta* Water Treatment Plant is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.



### The Benefit of Trees

*By Kathy Davis, Washington SWCD*

When making home improvements, we often consider whether or not we will get a return on our investment. It doesn't take long to realize that homes with healthy, mature, well placed trees, in neighborhoods that offer the same, are in higher demand. Homes offering this can be valued as much as 15% higher. Aesthetics play a big part as trees offer wildlife habitat for migrating birds, provide color to our lawns with seasonal splashes of color, and can muffle road and airport noise. Trees also clean the air and can reduce our heating and cooling bills by providing wind breaks and shade. But, in addition to all of this, trees protect the water we drink.

**The Water We Drink** – Whether your drinking water comes from a well, spring, pond or public water system, trees play a critical role in cleaning and protecting this precious natural resource. Tree roots absorb storm water and bind the soil reducing rapid runoff thereby decreasing the potential for flash flooding and erosion. One mature Maple tree can absorb 1000 gallons of water a day! Leaves of a tree can act to slow the wind and collect rainfall. As water infiltrates into the soil, the roots hold soil in place and soil microorganisms are able to latch onto and break down harmful pollutants. Breaking down and assimilating pollutants can further help to protect the “water we drink”.

If you are interested in planting trees in the *City of Marietta*, please contact the *City of Marietta* Tree Commission by calling Julia Paugstat at 740-374-2128.

## Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State EPA requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine		1.4	.6 – 1.4	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)*		18	18 - 18	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Trihalomethanes (TThm)*		46	46 - 46	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Barium	10/21/10	0.023	.023 - .023	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	10/21/10	0.882	.882 - .882	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen]		1	.701 - .701	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead and Copper	Collection Date	90th Percentile	# of Samples Over AL	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	08/31/09	0	0	1.3	1.3	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	08/31/09	0	0	0	15	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG:** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL:** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

**Action Level Goal (ALG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.



## NOTICE TO ALL CUSTOMERS OF MARIETTA CITY WATER & WASTEWATER

This notice is mailed to our customers in accordance with provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 4933.19. TAMPERING WITH WATER METERS OR WATER SERVICE EQUIPMENT AND THE THEFT OF WATER ARE CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES AND MAY RESULT IN PENALTIES TO OFFENDERS. A PERSON FOUND BENEFITING FROM TAMPERING OR AN UNAUTHORIZED SERVICE CONNECTION IS PRESUMED TO HAVE COMMITTED THE VIOLATION AND WILL BE PROSECUTED.

It is a crime to tamper with or by-pass a water meter, conduit or attachment of a utility. It is also a crime to reconnect a water meter, conduit or attachment of a utility that has been disconnected by the utility.

It is a crime to knowingly consume any water, which has not been correctly registered because a meter, conduit or attachment of a utility has been tampered with, or by-passed, or knowingly use service that has been disconnected by a utility and reconnected without the utility's consent.

A felony or misdemeanor conviction for a theft offense can result from a violation of these laws. The person so convicted is subject to the imposition of criminal sanctions including imprisonment and payment of fines and will also be required to make restitution for the costs of repairs, replacement of the meters, conduits or attachments damaged and for the value of the illegally consumed water.

### Checking Meters

The City Meter Department must read, inspect and service its meters bi-monthly to make sure they're operating properly. Only City of Marietta Water Department employees can connect or disconnect the meter, or change its location. Whether the meter is inside or outside your home, please clear a three-foot area around it; making sure it is accessible and visible.

Servicing a blocked meter is difficult and can be a safety hazard in an emergency.

### Backflow Prevention Requirements

The backflow prevention devices are required to be tested annually to make sure the devices are in proper working condition. It is the *customers/property owner's* responsibility to install (as per City of Marietta specifications) and have backflow devices tested by a qualified tester; backflow prevention devices are also required on residential service connections. The type of device required will depend on the degree of hazard your service connection exposes our water system to. Our required Testing and Maintenance Forms maybe obtained on the City of Marietta website at [www.mariettaoh.net](http://www.mariettaoh.net). Please contact the Backflow Dept. at (740) 374-6864 if you have any questions.

Removing or relocating an existing backflow device without the approval of the City of Marietta Backflow Department will result in the loss of your water services.

### Hydrant Flushing-The Importance of Flushing Water Lines

Residents who notice crews working at fire hydrants and see water running into the street may think that we are ignoring our own philosophy on conserving water. The process of periodically "flushing" fire hydrants, however, is an important preventive maintenance activity. Although it may appear to waste water, this process is part of a routine maintenance program necessary to maintain the integrity of the water system and to continue to deliver the highest quality water possible to our customers. Flushing the water system on a routine basis removes sediment from lines and keeps the entire distribution system refreshed. As a result of the flushing procedure, residents in the immediate vicinity of the work may experience temporary discoloration of their water. This discoloration consists primarily of harmless silt and precipitates and does not affect the safety of the water. If you experience discoloration in your water after crews have been flushing in your neighborhood, clear the pipes in your own home by running all cold water faucets for 15 (fifteen) minutes. This same philosophy of water line preventive maintenance is one that you should use in your own home. Your home's water heater should be drained and flushed at least once a year to keep it working efficiently and to protect the quality of water inside your home. Also, if you go out of town and there is no water use in your home for a week or more, when you return it's always a good idea to run all your faucets for a minute or so before using the water. This ensures that you don't use any stagnant water that may have developed in your home's pipes while you were away.