2014 Consumer Confidence Report

We're very excited to provide you with this year's Consumer Confidence Report. We want to keep you informed about the excellent water and services we strive to deliver to our customers over the past year. We take great pride in providing the highest quality water to every tap. It is our goal to protect our water sources, which is essential to our community, our way of life and the future of our city.

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

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 and 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*.

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. In 2009, the *City of Marietta's* Source Water Protection Plan was approved by the Ohio EPA.

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 and #6 to contain and remove PCE from parts of our water aquifer. Interceptor Well #2 was taken offline due to successive water samples showing no contamination to date, (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) addition of flush hydrants to dead-end water mains, (7) upgrading smaller water mains to six inches to support fire demand water supplies for emergencies as needed and (8) in recent years we have replaced water mains on Sunset Lane, Colegate Drive, Glendale Road and Brentwood Drive. In 2014, the 500,000 gallon North Hills Water Tank received a new coating system. Main replacements for Greene Street and Colegate Drive along with new coating systems for the 100,000 gallon Harmar & 676 Water Tanks are planned for 2015.

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; nitrates; volatile organic; total trihalomethanes, total haloacetic acids and total chlorine during 2014. Samples were collected for a total of 69 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, is 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 1-800-426-4791 or at *http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead*.

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	Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Typical Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2014	0.93	0.93-0.93	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2014	9.20	< 6-12	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2014	51.0	19-68.0	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Typical Source of Contamination
Barium	6-7-13	0.011	0.011-0.011	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	2014	1.11	0.83-1.11	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]	6-3-14	1.39	1.39	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	Typical Source of Contamination
Copper	2012	0.0114	0	1.3	1.3	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	2012	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

Backflow prevention devices are required to be tested annually to make sure the devices are in proper working condition. It is the c*ustomers/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 Maintance Forms maybe obtained on the *City of Marietta* website at *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.

Only the *City of Marietta* Water Treatment/Distribution employees and Fire Department personnel have the authority to use hydrants. All other requests must be pre-approved by a Hydrant Usage Agreement form issued by the *City of Marietta* Water Treatment/Distribution Department. Please report any suspicious hydrant activity at 740-374-6864.

Help Protect Our Well Field

The City of Marietta relies on ground water resources to provide drinking water to your home and local businesses. As a resident or business, please be aware that the actions you take within or near the well head protection area can affect the quality and cost of clean drinking water. Ground water contamination can occur through the improper disposal of chemicals, such as cleaning, automotive, and lawn/garden products, as well as motor oil, furniture strippers, and oil and latex based paints. Storm water runoff can carry these pollutants to areas of infiltration, potentially contaminating ground water. Improper disposal methods include: pouring chemicals on the ground, down a sink or toilet that is connected to a septic system, or down a storm drain that drains to ground water through a dry well or drains directly into a nearby stream or river.

"Green" Lawn Care Tips for a Healthy Lawn & a Healthy Environment

by Kathy Davis Washington SWCD

Whether you own or lease property for private or public use, or as a business, one item of maintenance is sure to be the lawn. Everyone likes a green healthy looking lawn, free of weeds and pests and with as little maintenance as possible. Healthy lawns have less potential to pollute storm water runoff or pollute ground water. Here are a few "green" tips to achieve a healthy lawn and help the environment.

Dethatching: Rake dead & dying matted grass if greater than ½ inch thick. Less thatch allows air, water & fertilizer to reach the soil providing the potential for greater biologically activity. This allows soil organisms to do their work, like breaking down grass clippings that feed your lawn's root system.

Mowing: Try not to remove more than 1/3 of the blade in one cutting. More can cause stress and increase the potential for pests and diseases. Keeping the mower blades sharp to produce a nice clean cut with no frays can also reduce the potential for pests and diseases. Set the mower blade to mow a height of 3 – 4". Taller grass provides shade reducing weeds from germinating and cools the soil reducing moisture loss.

Clippings & Leaves: Leaves & clippings should be mulched or discharged back to green areas. Soil organisms will break down this resource as it feeds your lawn. Keep clippings and leaves away from impervious areas such as the street and sidewalks. Not only will they clog the storm drains and culverts, but it's also wasting a resource.

Composting: If you choose to collect your clippings and leaves you still have some green options. Leaves and grass clippings make excellent composting material. Set aside a place to compost in your yard. The composted material can be used in your garden and the needy areas of your lawn. Don't care to have your own compost? Offer to share this resource with a neighbor or friend or spread directly on your garden area.

Pesticides: Use pesticides sparingly. Know your weeds and if desired, treat accordingly. Follow manufacturer's guidelines. Beware….some broad leaf pesticides can destroy soil organisms.

Fertilizing: Grass clippings and leaves should be mulched back into the lawn utilizing a mulching mower or side discharge. Clippings provide nutrients. Know your soil. Unless your soil is sandy you may not need additional fertilizer. If in doubt, test. If chemical fertilizers are used follow manufacturer's guidelines. Mishandled use can kill soil life and structure. Utilize a slow release fertilizer to provide food over a period of time. Fall is the best time to fertilize your root system and rigorous roots provide a healthy lawn.

Irrigation: If you must water, water slowly so that pesticides & fertilizers do not wash into storm drains. These products can be costly; you don't want to lose the investment. Morning hours are best for watering, reducing evaporation in the heat of the day and diseases that can occur from evening watering. Know your soil. Clay soils hold more moisture and dry out slower needing less watering verses sandy soils that hold less and dry more quickly. During times of drought watering may be restricted. Don't worry, brown grass is not dead, it's just dormant.

Parking: When attending events in the Fairground area, park away from well head areas. Leaky vehicles could contaminate surface drainage as well as seep into ground water resources. Check your vehicle for leaks often.

Protect your well field: Don't use pesticides and fertilizers within 300 feet of a well head. This is known as the isolation area around a well that is used for drinking water. The water you protect may be your own!