Important Information for the Drinking Water Customers of the City of Benton Harbor. Please take a look inside.

This notification is for water customers served by the City of Benton Harbor Water Filtration Plant. If by chance you receive this notice and are not served by the City of Benton Harbor, please disregard.

The purpose of this notification is to inform the water customers of the City of Benton Harbor. It is a vehicle to inform the water customers of information related to 2018 and where to find much more information.

City water customers may find the details of the events that have transpired as they are located on the City’s website (www.bhcity.us).

**The City of Benton Harbor Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) for 2018**

As stated, the City had a number of events, related to its drinking water that occurred in 2018.

These events were as follows:

1. The City’s tri-annual Lead and Copper sampling results exceeded the Lead Action Level in September 2018.
   a. As a result of these results, the City was required to inform its residents through several important notices. The content of these notices identified what had taken place and more importantly, what measures could be taken to reduce or negate exposure to lead in the drinking water.
b. The City partnered with the Berrien County Health Department to assist with additional sampling. Also, the Health Department made available to residents, free water filters, which continues currently (visit www.berriencounty.org for more information on the program).

c. The City was the recipient of a Lead Pilot Grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) in the amount of $285,000. To date, the City has been able to:
   i. Completely replace 13 water service lines to City Residents.
   ii. Inspect 80+ residential service lines which revealed 50 services that had lead or galvanized piping connected to them (see example below).
   iii. On March 26, 2019, the City engineered and installed a treatment system that will (in time) reduce the level of corrosion in our drinking water. This system will assist in reducing the potential of lead, copper and other heavy metals from getting into your drinking water.

Beginning in April, 2018 the city was required to make public notice due to the failure of the treatment plant to reduce the amount of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) in the raw water. The notices were required for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Quarters of 2018. During the 4th Quarter (October-December) the City tried a different recommended testing process and was granted an exemption.

During the flooding at the end of February 2018, the water plant had an issue with water clarity in the filtered water known as turbidity (measured as NTUs). As a result of this event, MDEQ officials visited the water plant and identified concerns related to the overall operations of the City. These concerns included equipment, funding, staffing and required water testing.

At this time, the City has entered into an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) with the State. The ACO is a cooperative agreement designed to address the identified deficiencies and provided a time frame for correcting them (many of which have been corrected). The complete time frame should be completed within a few months and additional costs. The City continues to work cooperatively with the State to remedy all of the concerns that were delineated.

**EXAMPLE OF A LEAD SERVICE LINE CONNECTION**

A connection to a galvanized pipe going into the home

The Service line valve

For water shut off to homes that need to be off

This is a picture of a water service connection in the Benton Harbor Water System. Lines like this are the cause of Lead in Drinking Water.

The lead is connected to the service valve and goes to a tap on the water main in the street.

This line can be anywhere from 15' to 50'

The lead service line is pushed into the valve and secured with 50/50 lead solder. The lead line continues to a brass tapping valve on the actual Water Main, and is secured with lead wrap.

Pipe connection going to home.

Water Service Valve. The body is Brass; The stem nut and stem is iron. There is an Iron Box above for operating the valve open or closed.