



South Harrison Water Corporation

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Dear South Harrison Water customer,

Once again, we are sending out our annual customer newsletter this winter. Please read this newsletter carefully for information regarding South Harrison Water Corp. If you have any questions, feel free to call our office during working hours.

Automated Meter Reading System – We began installing automated meters last year in the Laconia area and now have nearly 300 in service. We plan to install at least 300 more in 2014 in the South Central School area. In the next two years, we plan to work north along SR 337 to New Middletown and later on toward Lanesville. Once an AMR meter is installed at your residence, you will no longer be responsible for reading your meter. With the new system, SHW personnel can read the meters simply by driving by your residence. Nearly every customer has embraced this new technology. Please bear with us as we work our way around the system installing these new meters.

E-Bills – We are offering an e-billing option for our customers and many are taking advantage of this feature. Go to www.southharrisonwater.com and click the link that says “Access My Account”. That takes you to our billing portal where you can login and view or pay your water bill online. After logging in, click the link on the left that says “ebill delivery settings”. If you choose “email” and update the status, an email will be sent to your email address. After you receive that email and click the link to acknowledge it, you will receive email notifications **instead of a paper water bill** in the mail. You may also choose an ebill texting notification where text notifications are sent to your mobile device.

On Line Bill Payment – Our online billing portal also offers an option to pay your bill online with a credit card. After logging in, click the link on the left that says “pay your bill”. You will be prompted for the steps necessary to pay by credit card on line. As with card payments in our office, there is a nominal \$2.00 processing fee for this service.

E-Checks – We now offer the ability to pay your bill online via e-check. Using this feature you enter your payment and account information online and the amount is deducted from your account just as if you had written a paper check. We do not charge a fee for this service, but please **be aware that we do charge returned check fees** if your account has insufficient funds or if you enter the information incorrectly on the web site. Please make sure you enter the account and routing numbers exactly as they appear on the bottom of your paper checks to avoid errors and the returned check fees.

Automatic Bank Draft – We continue to offer this service to our customers and it is a very popular program. Over 300 of our customers are using this service. This is a voluntary, no cost, program where your bill will be sent to you on the first of the month as always and will contain the words “BANK DRAFT – DO NOT PAY”. If you agree with the amount billed, do nothing, and the amount will automatically be deducted from the bank account of your choice on the 15th. You will still need to submit a meter reading to us and may do so by mail, phone, email, or the web site form. Call our office for details of signing up for this payment method.

Online Customer Services – The above items are examples of the expanded customer service features that we continue to offer our customers via our online billing portal. Many customers have asked about adding these features and we have responded to your requests. If you choose the e-billing option and pay online, your water billing and payment is entirely a paperless process. It is quicker, easier and uses fewer resources.

2014 Planned Construction Projects – We have no **major** construction projects planned for 2014. We do plan on replacing a ½ mile section of water main on Ball Diamond Hill RD where we have had nearly continuous problems. A shorter section of line will also be replaced on Buck Creek Ridge RD for the same reason.

After Hours Calls – For many years now, we have used a 24 hour call center for after hour's customer calls. Just call our regular telephone number (968-3425) and you will be transferred to our call center. They do not have access to customer billing records. They can take messages and also meter readings over the phone. They can also contact our on-call crew for emergency repairs. As a reminder to our customers, our on-call crew will not repair leaks on customer owned lines, nor enter your home for plumbing issues. If you call our crew out for a customer problem that is not our responsibility to repair, an after hours service call of \$80.00 may be charged.

Well Head Protection Program – South Harrison Water has an active well head protection program in place to help ensure protection of our wells and aquifer. We are very aware that clean drinking water is a valuable natural resource that should not be taken for granted. We are taking steps to ensure that our well field area is protected from contamination. These include taking our well head property out of agricultural production and limiting public access to our private property. We hope that these steps help ensure a continued supply of fresh drinking water. You can help us protect all ground water sources by disposing of house hold chemicals properly and being aware that any chemical dumped on the ground has the potential to contaminate ground water, and eventually your drinking water. Please help us keep your drinking water clean and safe.

Memberships – As a reminder to all our member customers, you can easily transfer your membership to another person by filling out a form available at our office or online at our web site. More than one name can be listed on a membership, but only one person will have voting rights. For example a child (or another heir) can be listed on the membership with an elderly parent. In this example when the elderly parent dies, the membership is still active in the child's name. Since the water corporation was formed in 1972, our bylaws have always stated that a membership ceases upon the persons death, meaning that a membership cannot be transferred after a person dies. Call our office for more details if you are interested in transferring your membership, or adding more than one name to an existing membership.

Membership & Business Meeting –The 2014 Annual Meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 21st at New Middletown Elementary School. The meeting agenda includes the election of three board members and a review of 2013 business.

Pressure Regulators – As a reminder, remember that every home should have a pressure regulator installed. This device makes sure that your plumbing is not subject to our full line pressure and the pressure fluctuations caused by pumps starting and stopping. If you need a regulator, please contact a plumber as we do not install or maintain these devices for you. This device may save you money on water consumption and may also prevent expensive leaks and plumbing repairs.

Frozen Water Meters & Customer Lines – During these cold winter months, please take a moment to check your water meter. Make sure the lid covering the meter is securely in place and in good repair. If you need a new lid, call our office and we will take care of replacing it. As a reminder, 99% of the frozen line complaints we receive are either frozen customer lines, or the water meter is frozen where the lid has been left off. Our crews will thaw out the meter if frozen, but we do not work on private water lines from the meter to your home. You can prevent the inconvenience of a frozen meter by making sure the meter lid is on tightly! Some customers will lay a hay bale on the meter lid to help prevent any possible freezing.

Another tip to help prevent frozen water lines is to make sure your home's crawl space is closed off and secure. Cold air blowing through cracks in mobile home under pinning will quickly freeze even insulated water pipes. Also make sure that there are no open areas in the under pinning around freeze proof faucets. An opening that allows cold air to blow past the freeze proof faucet will allow pipes to freeze. One final tip is to install heat tape and pipe insulation on pipes that may be exposed to cold air and freezing.