

Small Municipal Water System's in Crisis

Good quality municipal water is not free! Some of the lessons of the failed Flint and Benton Harbor Water Systems, that have been in the news lately, relate directly back to mismanagement and the lack of investment in infrastructure.

It takes active municipal management to ensure water systems are maintained and water quality remains high.

Here are two articles that describe some of the Village's problems in a nutshell. Too few people supporting the system and the corresponding high rates that make it difficult for those that live and have businesses here to afford.

The answer is not to automatically reduce rates, not to perform needed maintenance or system upgrades, or plan improvements to the system. As they say, the solution to the problem is complicated. To get a better appreciation for the problem, here are several good recent articles that discuss the problem in some detail.

For those that want to understand some of the real problems rather than complain and dismiss the issues simply as someone else's problem, please check out the following series of articles (links) put out over the last couple of months by Michigan Public Radio.

<https://www.michiganradio.org/environment-climate-change/2022-05-02/after-decades-of-neglect-bill-coming-due-for-michigans-water-infrastructure>

<https://www.michiganradio.org/environment-climate-change/2022-05-03/michigans-20th-century-water-systems-too-big-for-its-shrinking-city-populations>

<https://www.michiganradio.org/environment-climate-change/2022-05-03/water-woes-loom-for-michigan-suburbs-towns-after-decades-of-disinvestment>

<https://www.michiganradio.org/environment-climate-change/2022-05-03/many-rural-towns-have-neglected-drinking-water-systems-for-decades>

<https://www.michiganradio.org/environment-climate-change/2022-05-09/short-changing-michigan-local-governments-has-resulted-in-deteriorating-water-systems-and-other-services>

<https://www.michiganradio.org/environment-climate-change/2022-05-11/some-michigan-water-systems-are-overbuilt-underfunded-are-mergers-the-answer>

<https://www.michiganradio.org/environment-climate-change/2022-05-16/what-michigan-can-do-to-help-save-drinking-water-systems-in-the-state>

<https://www.michiganradio.org/environment-climate-change/2021-12-02/rising-cost-of-water-in-michigan-leads-to-affordability-problems>

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