

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2024  
*The Villages of Carthage and West Carthage*  
*61 High Street West Carthage NY 13619*  
*(Public Water Supply ID #2202334)*

## INTRODUCTION

To comply with State and Federal regulations, we will issue an annual report describing the quality of your drinking water. The purpose of this report is to increase your understanding of drinking water and raise awareness about the importance of protecting our water sources. This report provides an overview of last year's water quality, including details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to State standards.

If you have any questions about this report or your drinking water, please contact Tyler Pominville at (315) 493-2210 or Pete Crump at (315) 493-1718. We want you to be informed about your drinking water and everything we do to provide our customers with safe, potable water. If you would like to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled monthly Joint Water meetings. Your Village Clerk's Office can provide you with the date, time, and location of each meeting.

## WHERE DOES OUR WATER COME FROM?

In general, the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include 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 can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants, inorganic contaminants, pesticides and herbicides, organic chemical contaminants, and radioactive contaminants.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The State Health Departments and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

Our water source is a clean and plentiful spring-fed source known as the Indian River, located in Belfort, New York. The Village owns 1,500 acres of uninhabited forest land that surrounds our drinking water supply. Water from this source flows into a man-made reservoir approximately two miles downstream. Once the water enters the reservoir, a process of settling occurs before it enters the screen house. In the screen house, the water passes through a fine screen prior to entering the 15 miles of transmission line.

The water travels through the transmission pipe via gravity to the Village's Slow Sand Filtration Plant located on West Street Road. The filter plant is operated 365 days a year by employees from Carthage and West Carthage, who are New York State Licensed Operators. The Operators conduct water quality testing, routine plant maintenance, and record daily water consumption. It should be noted that the reservoir is drained and cleaned twice a year, and the screens in the screen house are cleaned weekly. During 2024, our system did not experience any restriction of our water source.

At the water filtration plant, the raw water flows into three filter beds and passes through a sand aggregate prior to being treated. Once the water is filtered, it is disinfected with sodium hypochlorite (chlorine). Sodium hypochlorite kills bacteria that may be present in the water. The amount of sodium hypochlorite added to the water is continuously monitored at the plant to achieve the desired 1.4 mg/L concentration. The chlorine residual in the distribution system is measured at various locations at least four times each week.

Turbidity is a measure of the water's clarity, and both the raw and filtered water turbidity are continuously monitored at the plant. Turbidity measurements are also collected throughout the distribution system at least four times each week.

Before entering the distribution system, hydrofluosilicic acid, zinc orthophosphate, and caustic soda are added to the water. Hydrofluosilicic acid adds fluoride to the water at a concentration of 0.80 mg/L and is monitored at the filter plant. Fluoride has been shown to reduce tooth decay and dental cavities. The New York State Department of Health also analyzes the fluoride concentration once per month.

Zinc orthophosphate is added to provide a coating on the interior of the pipes to help reduce the solubility of lead and copper that may be present in the distribution plumbing. This is continuously monitored at the filter plant. The target zinc orthophosphate concentration is 1.0 mg/L.

Caustic soda is added to increase the pH level of the finished water to a target of 7.60. This level, as determined by the Department of Health, is most effective at preventing corrosion in the distribution system and in the consumer's internal plumbing and appliances.

## **WHERE DO HAA5'S COME FROM?**

Haloacetic acids are a group of chemicals that includes mono-, di-, and trichloroacetic acids, as well as mono- and dibromoacetic acids. Haloacetic acids are formed in drinking water during treatment with chlorine, which reacts with certain acids found in naturally occurring organic material (e.g., decomposing vegetation such as tree leaves, algae, or other aquatic plants) in surface water sources. The amount of haloacetic acids in drinking water can vary from day to day, depending on temperature, the amount of organic material in the water, the amount of chlorine added, and a variety of other factors.

Drinking water is disinfected by public water suppliers to kill bacteria and viruses that could cause serious illnesses. Chlorine is the most commonly used disinfectant in New York State. For this reason, the chlorination of drinking water is considered beneficial to public health.

Some studies of people who drank chlorinated drinking water for 20 to 30 years show that long-term exposure to disinfection by-products (possibly including haloacetic acids) is associated with an increased risk for certain types of cancer. However, how long and how frequently people actually drank the water, as well as how much haloacetic acid the water contained, is not known for certain. Therefore, we do not know for sure if the observed increased cancer risk is due to haloacetic acids, other disinfection by-products, or some other factor.

The individual haloacetic acids dichloroacetic acid and trichloroacetic acid have been shown to cause cancer in laboratory animals exposed to high levels over their lifetimes. Dichloroacetic acid and trichloroacetic acid are also known to cause other effects in laboratory animals after high-level exposure, primarily affecting the liver, kidneys, nervous system, and reproductive health. Chemicals that cause effects in animals after high levels of exposure may pose a risk to humans exposed to similar or lower levels over long periods of time.

## **FACTS AND FIGURES**

Our water system serves approximately 6,500 individuals through an estimated 1,800 service connections. This number includes the entire population of the two Villages, as well as a small number of customers in the Town of Wilna and the Town of Denmark.

The total amount of water treated at the filter plant in 2024 was 124,447,752 gallons. This was a decrease of 1,225,565 gallons from last year. The daily average of water treated and pumped into the distribution system was 340,953 gallons, a decrease of 3,357 gallons per day compared to last year. Our highest single day was December 1<sup>st</sup>, when we pumped 543,000 gallons in 24 hours.

Carthage billed a daily average of 208,732 gallons while pumping 215,592 gallons. This represents a difference of 6,860 gallons of water per day not billed, or 3.18%. West Carthage billed a daily average of 119,637 gallons while pumping 125,360 gallons. This represents a difference of 5,723 gallons of water per day not billed, or 4.56%. System-wide, we recorded a 3.87% unaccounted-for water usage, which is well below the national average of 20%.

Some of this unaccounted-for water loss was used to fight fires, clean streets, flush fire hydrants, and support other community-provided services that require the use of water, where metering or calculating this usage would be very difficult.

The water rate for residents in the Village of Carthage is \$4.86 per 100 cubic feet (748 gallons), and the Town of Wilna District #1 is charged \$5.00 per 100 cubic feet. Residents of the Village of West Carthage pay \$5.25 per 100 cubic feet, and residents outside the Village of West Carthage pay \$6.00 per 100 cubic feet. The Town of Wilna District #1 has additional costs associated with operations, maintenance, and debt reduction that are not represented in this report.

## **ARE THERE CONTAMINANTS IN OUR DRINKING WATER?**

As the State regulations require, we routinely test your drinking water for numerous contaminants. These contaminants include total coliform, turbidity, inorganic compound, nitrite, lead and copper, volatile organic compounds, total trihalomethanes, and synthetic organic compounds. The table presented below depicts which compounds were detected in your drinking water. The State allows us to test for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, is more than one year old. It should be noted that all drinking water, including bottled water, may be reasonably 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 EPA's Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791) or the Jefferson County Health Department at 315-785-2277.

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Average) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants/Turbidity</b>							
Total Coliform	NO	all samples were negative	Negative	N/A	0	2 or more positive samples/month (MCL)	Naturally present in the environment

#### Inorganic Contaminant

Chloride	NO	6/24/03	3.13	mg/L	N/A	250 (MCL)	Naturally occurring or indicative of road salt contamination
Copper <sup>2</sup>	NO	8/1/23	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile <sup>3</sup> 0.3024 mg/L Low- 0.0123 High – 0.3857 mg/L	mg/L	0	1.3 (mg/L)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Fluoride	NO	10/4/2024	0.52 mg/L	mg/L	N/A	2.2 (MCL)	Erosion of natural deposits. Water additive that promotes strong teeth. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Iron	NO	6/24/03	0.06mg/L	mg/L	N/A	300 (MCL)	Naturally occurring
Lead <sup>2</sup>	NO	8/1/23	90 <sup>th</sup> percentile <sup>3</sup> ND Low - ND High – 0.00120 mg/L	mg/L	0	15 (AL)	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Nitrate	NO	10/4/24	0.24	mg/L	10	10 (MCL)	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Radiological Combined 226 / 228 Gross Alpha	No No	Annual Running average 2017	0.637 0.716	pCi/L pCi/L		5.0 pCi/L 15.0 pCi/L	Naturally occurring when ground water travels through rock formations.
Sodium <sup>4</sup>	NO	6/24/03	3.26	mg/L	N/A	N/A	Naturally occurring; road salt; water softeners; animal waste
Sulfate	NO	6/24/03	6.66	mg/L	N/A	250 (MCL)	Naturally occurring
Barium	NO	10/4/24	0.003	Mg/L	N/A	2.0 ug/L	Naturally occurring

#### Disinfection Byproducts for Carthage

Total Tri-halomethanes <sup>5</sup> (TTHMs)	NO	2024	<u>37.99</u> (22.43-66.1)	ug/L	N/A	80 ug/L	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5's)	NO	2024	<u>45.44</u> (21.5-65.5)	ug/L	N/A	60 ug/L	

#### Disinfection Byproducts for West Carthage

Total Tri-halomethanes <sup>5</sup> (TTHMs)	NO	2024	<u>48.65</u> (34.7-76)	ug/L	N/A	80 ug/L	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5's)	NO	2024	<u>37.4</u> (25-52)	ug/L	N/A	60 ug/L	

\*The disinfection byproducts results are the average from the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter locational running annual average summary sheet, which is the number above the parenthesis. The numbers in the parenthesis are the lowest and highest result throughout the 4 quarters of sampling.

## Disinfection Byproducts for Town of Wilna

Table of Detected Contaminants							
Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Average) (Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL, TT or AL)	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Microbiological Contaminants/Turbidity</b>							
Total Coliform	NO	all samples were negative	Negative	N/A	0	2 or more positive samples/month (MCL)	Naturally present in the environment

## Disinfection Byproducts

Total Tri-halomethanes <sup>5</sup> (TTHMs)	NO	2024	58.6 (37.9-76.7)	ug/L	N/A	80 ug/L	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5's)	NO	2024	53.98 (36-72.3)	ug/L	N/A	60 ug/L	

\*The disinfection byproducts results are the average from the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter locational running annual average summary sheet, which is the number above the parenthesis. The numbers in the parenthesis are the lowest and highest result throughout the 4 quarters of sampling.

## Definitions:

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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.

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

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Non - Detects (ND):** Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU):** a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Milligrams per liter (mg/L):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million -ppm).

**Micograms per liter (ug/L):** Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/l):** A measure of the Radioactivity in water.

## WHAT DOES THIS INFORMATION MEAN?

As you can see by the table, our system had a violation where we exceeded our MCL for Haloacetic Acids. Please refer to "SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS" to learn what action we have taken to mitigate this issue.

## IS OUR WATER SYSTEM MEETING OTHER RULES THAT GOVERN OPERATIONS?

**During 2024, our system was in compliance with all applicable State drinking water operating, monitoring and reporting requirements.**

We do have to report however, that the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter sampling of our Disinfection Byproducts exceeded the maximum containment levels for Haloacetic Acids. All sample locations experienced higher than normal results. The staff has taken additional methods to reduce the levels and find a solution. Many other water systems nearby are experiencing the same issue.

## DO I NEED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS?

*Although our drinking water met or exceeded state and federal regulations, some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens 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 infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).*

## INFORMATION ON LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

A Lead Service Line (LSL) is defined as any portion of pipe that is made of lead which connects the water main to the building inlet. An LSL may be owned by the water system, owned by the property owner, or both. The inventory includes both potable and non-potable SLs within a system. In accordance with the federal Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) our system has prepared a lead service line inventory.

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. Carthage/West Carthage Joint Water is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact us at (315) 493-2210. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## WHY SAVE WATER AND HOW TO AVOID WASTING IT?

*Although our system has an adequate amount of water to meet present and future demands, there are a number of reasons why it is important to conserve water:*

- ♦ *Saving water saves energy and some of the costs associated with both of these necessities of life;*
- ♦ *Saving water reduces the cost of energy required to pump water and the need to construct costly new wells, pumping systems and water towers; and*
- ♦ *Saving water lessens the strain on the water system during a dry spell or drought, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions so that essential fire fighting needs are met.*

*You can play a role in conserving water by becoming conscious of the amount of water your household is using, and by looking for ways to use less whenever you can. It is not hard to conserve water. Conservation tips include:*

- ♦ *Automatic dishwashers use 15 gallons for every cycle, regardless of how many dishes are loaded. So get a run for your money and load it to capacity.*
- ♦ *Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.*
- ♦ *Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you can save almost 6,000 gallons per year.*
- ♦ *Check your toilets for leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring in the tank, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. Fix it and you save more than 30,000 gallons a year.*
- ♦ *Use your water meter to detect hidden leaks. Simply turn off all taps and water using appliances, then check the meter, record the consumption number then wait 15 minutes, If it changed (increased), you have a leak.*

**Every winter the Water department responds to homes (mainly empty) where the water pipes have frozen and busted, causing extensive damage to the home. Recently we have discovered this problem was caused by a faulty furnace thermostat.**

**If you have a battery-operated programable thermostat, it is vital to check the battery before it fails. When the battery dies it no longer functions and the furnace will not operate.**

**We recommend changing the battery every year and at the same time you change the batteries in your smoke detectors.**

## SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

*Water System Maintenance:* Village employees from both Carthage and West Carthage operate the joint water system cooperatively, while operating their respective distribution systems. Each village has employees that are New York State Licensed operators, which share the day-to-day operations of the filter plant including weekends and holidays. These operators are always attending training seminars and required classroom studies to learn ways to improve the quality of water they deliver to you, the consumer. This summer the water department drained and cleaned our raw water reservoir twice. This procedure is normally completed only once per year. Our goal was to eliminate more of the organic matter that settles in

the reservoir, thus improving the water quality prior to the filter plant. We continue to explore operational changes that improves the water quality by reducing the levels of Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids. The transmission line from our source to the filter Plant is 15 miles long. Routine maintenance is conducted on the Pleasant Lake back up supply annually as well. The Joint Water Board has received a report from 1 engineering firm recommending our water storage tanks be torn down and replaced with a new tank in Carthage and relocating the West Carthage tank. This same Engineering firm is developing a plan to clean the interior of our transmission line. This project was completed in 2002 with great results.

The business of providing the public with water of excellent quality is a full-time task. The next time you pour a glass of water, wash a load of clothes, or just water your garden take a minute and consider what it takes to receive this service. When you open your faucet, you only see the end results, clean potable water that meets and exceeds the requirements established by the D.O.H. and the E.P.A. What you don't see is the many hours of hard work and dedication that the employees of both villages have put into keeping the water flowing to you. Systems of this magnitude do not operate without problems and these problems do not always occur during normal working hours. Many times, the water dept. employees are working late at night in less than favorable conditions repairing a problem so that the service to you, the customer, is maintained. All too often we take for granted the little things in life. Our abundant water source is the life blood of our community and needs to be protected and appreciated. **Thank you for allowing us to continue to provide you and your family with quality drinking water. We ask all our customers to help us protect our water sources. Should you have any questions about the information in this report or want to learn more about the service we provide please feel free to contact Tyler Pominville at (315) 493-2210, Pete Crump at (315) 493-1718, or the New York State Department of Health at (315) 785-2277.**

This report was compiled with the assistance of the New York State Rural Water Association and the New York State Department of Health.

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<sup>2</sup> During 2023, twenty samples were collected from our distribution system and analyzed for lead and copper. The number presented represents the lowest and highest levels detected. (The Department of Health requires these samples to be collected every 3 years.)

<sup>3</sup> The level presented represents the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 20 sites tested for lead and copper in the distribution system. A percentile is a value on a scale of 100 that indicates the percent of a distribution that is equal to or below it. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of the values detected in your water system. In this case, 20 samples were collected in the system and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value was the 18<sup>th</sup> highest value. The action levels for lead and copper were not exceeded in any of the samples collected.

<sup>4</sup> Water containing more than 20 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on very restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 270 mg/L of sodium should not be used for drinking by people on moderately restricted sodium diets.

<sup>5</sup> Stage 2 DBP Rule sampling began in 2013. Stage 2 average represents the highest locational running average of all the sites sampled for THM's and/or HAA5's. Data is collected quarterly and averaged to calculate the Annual Running Average. Stage 2 sample ranges represents the array of results from all collected samples.

The NYS DOH has evaluated this PWS's susceptibility to contamination under the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), and their findings are summarized in the paragraph(s) below. It is important to stress that these assessments were created using available information and only estimate the potential for source water contamination. Elevated susceptibility ratings do not mean that source water contamination has or will occur for this PWS. This PWS provides treatment and regular monitoring to ensure the water delivered to consumers meets all applicable standards.

The assessment area for this drinking water source contains no discrete potential contaminant sources, and none of the land cover contaminant prevalence ratings are greater than low. However, the high mobility of microbial contaminants in reservoirs results in this drinking water intake having medium-high susceptibility ratings for protozoa and enteric bacteria and viruses.

The Twin villages are committed to source water protection of the 1500 acre watershed. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting the supplier of water.

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## CLOSING

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Thank you for giving us the opportunity to continue providing your family with clean, high-quality drinking water this year. To ensure a safe and reliable water supply, we occasionally need to make system improvements that benefit all our customers. These necessary upgrades may result in changes to our rate structure.

We appreciate your understanding and support, and we encourage everyone to help protect our community's water sources—our most vital resource. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our office.

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