Coffee with the Mayor

Ser 42 (25-16) Water

There's something about Linton water that makes a good cup of coffee. I've noticed the same brand of coffee in other locations doesn't taste as good. That's just an observation. Not an expert on water qualities or makeup but I do know what my taste buds tell me.

Where does Linton water come from? Your first thought is probably from the tap in the kitchen when you turn the valve on. That's true, but where is the origination point and how does it get to the faucette. What pipes does it go through and where, in what areas, does it go?

Before taking office, I was asked for and was given a tour of our water system. It was quite enlightening. There are 4 wellheads (simply wells) roughly 8 miles south of town. These four are not active all the time, but their use is rotated to fill demand as needed. There is a building at the site for specific purposes that is checked on a daily basis to ensure things are flowing as required. The water is pumped the 8 miles through two large underground pipes to the water treatment plant located on N 900 W (I know it as Buck Creek South). As the name applies, the water is treated there and stored in an above ground tank. As the need arises, the water is pumped from there to the city (again through large pipes). To maintain water level in the two water towers, it is pumped as needed and, along the way, is diverted to locations needed as well. There is no one continuous direction the water flows but does maintain a pressure of around 40 pounds per square inch (PSI) regardless of where the gauge is put. As a side note, the water department is responsible for providing to each customer on an annual basis the status and quality of the water being provided.

The infrastructure can be complicated to understand. There are different size pipes based on need and availability. The range runs from 1 ½ inch to 16 inches. The make up of these pipes vary as well depending on when they were installed, some plastic, some steel and some copper or other metal. Part of this infrastructure includes connection to the many fire hydrants located throughout the community and valves installed to hopefully isolate certain areas. The radius around each fire hydrant is measured to ensure the areas are properly covered in the event of fire. Water meters are installed at almost all residences and businesses to measure the amount of usage. The responsibility of the city ends at the water meter. The pipe from the meter to the house is the responsibility of the homeowner. The Gas and Water department is responsible for the water lines within the city and to the nearby customers in the township.

In addition to the Linton community, the city also supplies water to nearby communities and water companies. All told, we provide water to over 8,000 residents. Not sure how many miles of water lines the department is responsible for but it is a daunting number. Almost daily you will see Gas and Water Department personnel fixing a water leak somewhere in the community. Some water leaks are more complicated to fix than others requiring additional equipment, parts, or sometimes, just how to stop the flow to fix or replace the problem.

Taking all that into consideration, Linton is truly blessed to own and maintain its' water system. That goes for all our utilities as well! There are water companies that would love the opportunity to take over our water system for pure profit. If that were to happen, we, the city, would have no control over what they would charge or how they would manage the system. The system works well, with occasional leaks here and there, and has for several years.

Remember that the next time you turn the faucette on in preparation for making that cup of coffee!