

September 27, 2013: City Utilities invites neighborhood associations currently served by Aqua Indiana water service to include this column in an upcoming association newsletter

**Aqua Indiana Southwest Transition update
From Fort Wayne City Utilities**

In July, Mayor Tom Henry and Aqua Indiana officials announced City Utilities' intent to purchase Aqua Indiana's water system serving southwest Fort Wayne and Aboite and Lafayette townships. Mayor Henry and City Utilities thanks everyone who supported and advocated for this change.

Fort Wayne City Utilities and Aqua Indiana are working toward a seamless transition to City Utilities water service starting in 2014, similar to Aqua Indiana North in 2008. The official acquisition date is not yet final, but we are working to pin down the transition timeline. City Utilities will release a transition schedule when ready.

Here are some things to know about the agreement and transition:

- On the first day of City Utilities' ownership, all one-time Aqua Indiana Southwest water customers will be billed at City Utilities' rates, regardless of when they receive City water in their pipes. Customers will be billed for the amount of water actually used, a monthly meter charge, a monthly fire protection fee and possibly a small monthly capital improvements fee. City Utilities does not charge a minimum water usage fee.
- Most all Aqua Indiana Southwest water customers will see their water bill go down after City Utilities acquires the water system. The typical residential customer, using about 5,000 gallons of water a month, is likely to save between \$100 and \$140 annually after the transition to City water.
- When the transition is complete, all former Aqua Indiana Southwest water customers will receive City water, which our customers describe as softer and better tasting, in the existing pipes. City Utilities and Aqua Indiana engineers are working out the technical details of the phased physical transition.
- Aqua Indiana will continue to own and operate the sanitary sewer system, but Aqua has agreed not to seek a sewer rate increase through 2015. Starting in 2016, Aqua officials have agreed to appear before City Council to describe and justify future sewer rate increases, before seeking Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission approval.
- City Utilities will offer employment, subject to City hiring policies, to all Aqua Indiana employees who would otherwise be displaced by the acquisition.

Mayor Henry and City Utilities are excited to provide City water with a more precise billing structure to southwest residents and will keep the public informed throughout the transition. More information is available at www.cityoffortwayne.org/aquatransition. For questions about the southwest transition, contact the Citizens Services Department at 311 or (260) 427-8311 or 311@cityoffortwayne.org.