

Tomas Watson

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Having lived here for four years, I can say the quality of municipal tap water has gone up and down more than once. I have seen brownish or rusty water come out of the faucet several times, usually after the utility flushes the hydrants. Sediment collects at the bottom of our water pitcher within a day, and the filter turns dark in weeks. I am concerned about lead from old service lines, because many homes in the downtown district were built decades ago. Lead pipes and solder in older plumbing remain a serious risk, and homeowners need help identifying them. Several neighbors have reported stomach upset that they suspect is linked to the water, though nobody can prove it. The pump station near us hums loudly and the pressure fluctuates, which makes me doubt that it is properly maintained. Emergency repairs are fine, but a long-term capital plan would prevent so many of these problems. Residents deserve to see trends over many years, not only a single snapshot of the current results. Test results should be posted online in an easy-to-read format, not buried in a long annual report. I installed a reverse osmosis system under the sink, but I resent paying for a fix that the utility should have handled. Renters like me cannot replace pipes or fixtures, so we depend completely on the quality delivered to the building. Small businesses such as cafes and bakeries in my street are also affected, because water taste matters for their products. Thank you for taking the time to read this, and I hope the feedback leads to concrete action.