2016 Consumer Confidence Report
For 2015
Well Water Supply System
MD 0030023

Gramercy Limited Liability Corporation
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In 1996, Congress amended the Safe Water Drinking Act to require annual reports to consumers on the state of the system that supplies their drinking water. Cities have to do this as well as small community systems like ours. It is supposed to make you more confident about our delicious well water.

1. Gramercy Limited Liability Corporation has an office number of (410) 486-2405. Please call if you have any questions. Ask for Anne Pomykala, Cristin Kline or Will Werley.

2. In 1999, we improved the well in the woods behind the Carriage House. In 2001, did the same for the well in the orchard. In both cases we replaced the 3000 gallon holding tank and the pipes to the well. We have replaced the pipes to the Memorial Building, the Kline residence and the Literacy House.

In early 2010 it was discovered that the view glass in the Forest Well gave a false reading because the small pipes connecting the view glass to the tank were corroded shut. The tank was drained and the pipes reamed. The tiny pipes leading to the view glass of the Orchard Well were also cleaned. (This was never a problem with the original tanks, which were much older.)

3. In 2005, we replaced the submersible pumps in both wells. One is designated as seven gallons per minute. The other is rated at five gallons per minute. If a pump removes water from the tube drilled into rock faster than it can seep back in, the pump will overheat and burn out.

It is easy to imagine the residents and guests using more than twelve gallons per minute. But our huge holding tanks supply enough at peak times. In fact, one well is enough to supply all of us.

One condition does cause problems: summer watering. Water can go out the hoses to our grass and gardens faster than the pumps can supply it.

If you ever notice that the water pressure is much lower than usual, please call the office.

In 2011, the pipes of the Memorial Building were replaced. In 1959, galvanized steel pipes were covered by a concrete slab. Copper pipes ran up to the apartments. Now they are CPVC.

In 2012, the copper pipes in Literacy House were almost completely replaced by CPVC.

In the winter of 2013, a huge, underground oil tank was removed from the side of Gramercy where the catering trucks park. If it had been leaking, traces of volatile organic compounds might have been present in our well water. So I took samples not only of the two we use for drinking, but also of the well we use only to fill our swimming pool, which is the closest one to the site of the tank.

The people who excavated the tank saw that it had not been leaking. The required samples were clean.

In the spring of 2014 we added a bathroom to the packing shed of the farm, along with its own septic tank.

In November, 2015, a water line was added at the Orchard Well to supply the new building called the Farm House.

4. The following definitions are required:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

5. Maryland Department of the Environment tests our water for about 115 chemicals and elements. They can't find a trace of any but the ones in the two charts. And, surprisingly, the state believes that the test for diphthalate (2-ethylhexyl) may give false results. "This contaminant is commonly found in laboratory blank samples. It should be noted that the method for analyzing this contaminant was just starting to be used in 1995 and had many false positives." That was from the "Source Water Assessments for Small Community Water Systems in Baltimore County", a report prepared by the MDE in March, 2001.

Our water is exceptionally free of such contaminants as nitrate. Test results were less than 2.0 mg/L.

Allowable is 10 mg/L. Nitrates penetrate aquifers from excessive fertilizer on farmland. Our water comes from under trees, so our water will continue to pass our yearly tests with flying colors.

Another test is for copper and lead. It isn't in the well water. It is dissolved overnight in your house. Some buildings have copper pipes. All faucets are made of brass.

The test collects water from your faucet in the morning. In years past we failed. Then we began running all our water through crushed limestone. Now we pass.

MDE wants you to know that in 2012 one lead sample would have failed if it had a little more lead (90% percentile) and one copper sample would have failed if it had a little more copper (90% percentile).

Bear in mind that to find a measurable amount, we have to let the water sit still in our faucets for six hours. To avoid lead and copper, run the water in the morning for a minute.

We have an obligation to tell you the results of our lead and copper tests as soon as we get the results even if we pass. Therefore MDE has charged us with two violations:

January 1, 2013 Lead Customer Notification 5000 Lead/Copper Rule, I.D. # 1374191

July 1, 2013 Consumer Confidence Report Adequacy/Availability, I.D. # 1374903

In July, 2014, we were notified that the following language regarding lead was required:

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. *Gramercy LLC* is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at *http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.*

We test each month for coliform bacteria. We have not failed any tests this year. We have no chronic problems with turbidity, smell, taste or color. If we switch wells or turn off the water to your building, there may be a temporary increase in sediment. If we work on the wells, we add chlorine to purify afterwards. For a spell you may notice the same weak bleach smell that city water sometimes has, especially from the hot water in your shower.

MDE wants you to know when our monthly test is late. It happened once in 2008. In 2010 MDE told us in February and July that we had not submitted our tests. We had. Trace Laboratories blamed MDE and resubmitted the results.

MDE wants you to know when we miss a test. In June, 2011, we forgot.

We do not monitor cryptosporidium, a microbial parasite. Typically it is found in surface water. It should not ever be a problem here.

Radon has been found in our water. Standards and rules have not been established yet. Until radon gas in water is proven to be a risk to water users, no programs to mitigate it will be required.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency suggests telling you this: Radon is a radioactive gas that you can

not see, taste, or smell. It is found all over the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities.

Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be as small source of radon in indoor air.

Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer.

If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in the air is 4 picocuries per litre of air (pCi/L) or higher. For additional information, call your state radon program or call EPA's Radon Hotline (800 SOS RADON).

Notice that the E.P.A is more concerned about the gas building up in basements and well-sealed houses than in what might be in your water.

6. The following statements are required:

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be 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 can be obtained by calling E.P.A.'s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemo-therapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with H.I.V. / A.I.D.S. or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. E.P.A. / C..D.C. guidelines on appropriate contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (1-800-426-4791)

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water dissolves, naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in the source water include:

-Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

-Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

-Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses. Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic compounds, which are byproducts of industrial processes, can come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.

-Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, E.P.A. prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

REFERENCE		PARAMETER	MCL	RESULT	PASS/FAIL
1	Memorial Kitchen, Apt #6	Copper	1.3 mg/L	0.41 mg/L	Pass
		Lead	0.015 mg/L	0.005 mg/L	Pass
2	Literacy Kitchen, 2nd Floor North	Copper	1.3 mg/L	0.27 mg/L	Pass
		Lead	0.015 mg/L	<0.005 mg/L	Pass
3	Carriage House Kitchen, 1st Floor	Copper	1.3 mg/L	0.23 mg/L	Pass
		Lead	0.015 mg/L	<0.005 mg/L	Pass
4	Gramercy Wet Bar, 1st Floor	Copper	1.3 mg/L	0.038 mg/L	Pass
		Lead	0.015 mg/L	0.007 mg/L	Pass
5	Kline House Kitchen	Copper	1.3 mg/L	0.092 mg/L	Pass
		Lead	0.015 mg/L	<0.005 mg/L	Pass

Analysis Completed by Laboratory 273
MCL: Maximum Contamination Level, an enforceable level established by the EPA

Date/Time Received in Lab: June 19, 2012 @ 2:53 pm (Samples 1-4)
June 20, 2012 @ 1:28 pm (Sample 5)

Date/Time Collected in Field: March 2, 2015 9:00 am
Date/Time Received in Lab: March 2, 2015 11:06 am

Information Provided By Client:
Water System ID: 003-0023
Property Location: Gramercy Bed & Breakfast
Sample Location: Orchard Well POE
Sampler ID #: 6706WW

PARAMETER	METHOD	MCL (mg/L)	RESULT (mg/L)	COMMENT
Fluoride	EPA 300.0[1]	4.0	<0.20	Pass
Antimony	EPA 200.8[2]	0.006	<0.00200	Pass
Arsenic	EPA 200.8[2]	0.010	<0.00300	Pass
Barium	EPA 200.8[2]	2	0.0139	Pass
Beryllium	EPA 200.8[2]	0.004	<0.00200	Pass
Cadmium	EPA 200.8[2]	0.005	<0.00200	Pass
Chromium	EPA 200.8[2]	0.1	<0.00200	Pass
Mercury	EPA 245.1[2]	0.002	<0.000200	Pass
Nickel	EPA 200.8[2]	N/A	<0.00500	***
Selenium	EPA 200.8[2]	0.05	<0.00500	Pass
Sodium	EPA 200.7[2]	N/A	3.46	***
Thallium	EPA 200.8[2]	0.002	<0.00200	Pass

MCL: Maximum Contamination Level, an enforceable level established by the EPA
***A non-enforceable parameter that may cause cosmetic effects or aesthetic effects (such as taste, color or odor) in drinking water.

Lead	Memorial Literacy Carriage H. Gramercy Kline's	June 19, 2012 " " " June 20, 2012	.005 mg/L <.005mg/L <.005mg/L .007 mg/L <.005mg/L	.015 mg/L		Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Unregulated Contaminants

Sodium	O W	April 25, 2012 May 3, 2013	4.1 mg/L 3 mg/L
Gross Beta	O O	November 13, 2013 March 11, 2013	4.4 pCi/L Too little to measure
Radium-228	O O O	March 11, 2013 November 13, 2013 April 13, 2013	1.3 pCi/L Too little to measure Too little to measure
Barium	W O	May 3, 2013 April 25, 2012	.016 mg/L .015 mg/L

Contaminant	Well (Orchard or Woods)	Date	Level Found	MCL (Max. Allowed)	MCLG (Goal Level)	Health Effects
Nitrate Possible Source: Runoff from fertilizer use Leaching from septic tanks Erosion of natural deposits	O W	June 11, 2014 June 11, 2014	Too little to measure in either well	10	10	Infants below the age of six months who drink water in excess of the maximum contaminant level could become seriously ill and if untreated could die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome
Copper	Memorial Literacy Carriage H. Gramercy Kline's	June 19, 2012 " " " June 20, 2012	.41 mg/L .27 mg/L .25 mg/L .038 mg/L .092 mg/L	1.3 mg/L		Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's Disease should consult their personal doctor.