

**CITY OF BLACKSHEAR**  
**2016 WATER QUALITY REPORT**  
Georgia Water System ID #:       GA2290000

|                                      |                              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Name of Water System Contact:</b> | <b>Contact Phone Number:</b> |
| City Hall (Day)                      | 912-449-7000                 |
| Donnie Harris (Day)                  | 912-449-7008                 |

**Summary of Water Quality Information**

The **City of Blackshear** drinking water system is owned and operated by the **City of Blackshear**. The facility office is located at 318 East Taylor Street in Blackshear, Georgia. If there are ever any comments or inquiries to be made, please feel free to visit or contact City Hall by phone at 912-449-7000 during regular working hours.

Included in this report is information about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. The **City of Blackshear** is committed to providing your community with clean, safe, and reliable drinking water. For more information about your water or this report please call City Hall or Donnie Harris at the numbers listed above. Consumers are also invited to attend the City Council meetings scheduled the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. in the courtroom at City Hall. This report is available at City Hall upon request and will not be mailed to consumers.

Your water comes from three (3) community *groundwater* wells with depths ranging from 618 feet to 812 feet. The water source is commonly called the *Upper Floridan Aquifer* and provides ample volumes of water for this community. Well 101 is located on Memory Street, Well 103 is located on Carter Avenue, and Well 104 is located on Bowen Road in Blackshear, Georgia. These properties are protected from activities which could potentially cause contamination of this water source. Treatment is performed at the well to include removal of contaminants, chlorine disinfection and the addition of fluoride.

As a result of actions on and after September 11, 2001, the **City of Blackshear** conducted a security and vulnerability assessment as directed under the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002. This guide is designed to assist the **City of Blackshear** in providing an uninterrupted supply of water, which is essential for public health and safety. Adequate security measures can help prevent the loss of services through terrorist acts, vandalism, or pranks. The **City of Blackshear** also developed an *Emergency Response Plan* (ERP) to aid in the event of partial or total loss of public water services as a result of natural disasters, chemical contamination and/or civil disorder.

A *Wellhead Protection Plan* has been completed for the City. This is a report in which the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division identifies any types of pollution to which your water supply could be vulnerable and includes information regarding potential sources of contamination in your watershed. There are no potential pollution sources within the fifteen (15) foot control zone for Well 101 or 103. Cited potential pollution sources within the 100 foot radius Management Zone for Well 101 include major highways and railroads, an abandoned well, auto repair and underground storage tanks at the public works facility as well as a vehicle parking area and underground storage tanks at Dixie Egg Company. The assessment for Well 104 had not been completed at the time of publication of this Water Quality Report. The *Wellhead Protection Plan* is available to you upon request at City Hall, but will not be mailed to all consumers.

The **City of Blackshear** conducts laboratory tests for more than eighty (80) drinking water parameters on a periodic basis determined by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division Drinking Water Program and/or the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Generally, samples are collected in the **City of Blackshear** for analysis of inorganic compounds, volatile organic compounds, and lead and copper once in every three (3) year period whereas nitrates are sampled once a year. Synthetic organic compounds are sampled by the state based on a three year cycle. Based on these results, a waiver may be issued for synthetic organic compounds, cyanide and/or asbestos because studies show that the distributed drinking water in this area is not vulnerable to contamination from these chemicals. In addition to these parameters, bacteriological analysis is conducted on seven (7) samples collected by the facility on a monthly basis from 21 potential sampling sites.

Radiological analysis is conducted on samples collected on a periodic basis. Based on the results, the facility may not be required to collect for five (5) to nine (9) years.

During 2016, the parameters for which analyses were conducted for the **City of Blackshear** were monthly bacteriological analyses, annual nitrates and nitrites analyses, analysis for inorganic and volatile organic compounds, analysis for lead and copper, analysis for radionuclides as well as analysis for Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids. **The accompanying chart indicates all contaminants detected during routine monitoring events for each parameter group. We are proud to inform you that the City of Blackshear had NO violations of water quality parameters during 2016.**

Twenty (20) locations have been selected throughout your community on which Lead and Copper analyses are conducted on a periodic basis. Even though the **City of Blackshear** had no violations of water quality parameters during the latest sampling event, Lead and Copper analysis in residences indicate the presence of some service lines containing these contaminants. **NO** sample collected during the latest sampling event indicated Lead content equal to or greater than the established *action level*.

Lead and Copper may be found in household plumbing fixtures such as service lines, pipes, solders and fluxes as well as brass fixtures. Lead is found throughout the environment in the air, soil, water and household dust as well as in consumer products such as lead based paint, pottery and pewter. Lead and Copper enter drinking water as a result of the corrosion or eroding of materials containing these metals. Lead can pose a significant risk to your health if too much of it enters your body.

*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. The **City of Blackshear** 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>.*

**To minimize exposure to Lead and/or Copper, the following measures may be taken.**

- When your water has been sitting for several hours, minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking.
- Use cold water for drinking or cooking.
- Do not cook with or consume water from the hot water faucet.
- Do not use hot water for making baby formula.
- Use only “lead-free” solder, fluxes and materials in new household plumbing and repairs.

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. The EPA has established Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL’s) and Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLG’s) for potential contaminants. MCL’s are 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. MCLG’s are the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety. **More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 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 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 about drinking water from

their health care providers. **EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 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 travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

**Contaminants that may be present in source water include the following:**

- **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 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 chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also 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, EPA 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.

*The City of Blackshear strives to maintain the highest standards of performance and quality possible. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, improvements that benefit the community must be made. Please help keep these costs as low as possible by utilizing good water conservation practices.*

**DEFINITION OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT**

**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 as feasible using the best available treatment technology.”*

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

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

**Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL):** reasonable goals for drinking water quality. Exceeding SMCL’s may adversely affect odor or appearance, but there is no known risk to human health.

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

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** *“The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbiological contaminants.”*

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** *“The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.”*

**Not Detected (ND):** By regulation, this substance or group of substances was tested for in our finished tap water; however, none was detected at the testing limit.

**TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes):** One or more of the organic compounds Chloroform, Bromodichloromethane, Chlorodibromomethane, and/or Bromoform.

**HAA5s (Haloacetic Acids):** One or more of the organic compounds Monochloroacetic Acid, Dichloroacetic Acid, Trichloroacetic Acid, Monobromoacetic Acid, and Dibromoacetic Acid.

**NA:** Not applicable to this contaminant

**ppb or ug/l:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter

**ppm or mg/l:** parts per million or milligrams per liter

**pCi/l:** picocuries per liter, a measurement of radiation