



# News Update

October 13, 2017



**HEALTH**  
DEPARTMENT  
*Caring today for a healthy tomorrow*

## Update on Groundwater near House Street in Belmont



Testing Begins at Rockford East Middle School  
Funds Authorized to Improve Response  
Plainfield Twp. Continues Work

### Discovery of Disposal Site Leads to Testing at Rockford East Middle School

Steve Kelso Kent County Health Department

Rockford East Middle School students, staff and faculty are now drinking bottled water as well as cooking at school while officials await test results taken from two wells there on October 11, 2017. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) was contacted on Tuesday October 10, 2017 by a property owner in the area of Ramsdell between 9 and 10 mile roads who reported to have evidence of historical waste disposal on their property. DEQ staff inspected the property on Wednesday morning and confirmed the presence of waste materials including leather scraps. Because the area is close to Rockford East Middle School the DEQ wanted the school's wells tested immediately.

Rockford Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Michael Shibler was contacted Wednesday afternoon by the DEQ and the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) regarding the development. KCHD recommended to Dr. Shibler that drinking fountains at the school be taken out of service and that bottled water should be provided until test results confirm that the water meets proper standards. Wolverine Worldwide began delivering water late Wednesday evening and has agreed to provide drinking water until it is no longer necessary.

### DEQ Funding Authorized for Further Investigation

David O'Donnell DEQ

The DEQ's Grand Rapids District Office, Remediation and Redevelopment Division has received authorization to spend \$100,000 to investigate locations in northern Kent County that are alleged to have received waste from Wolverine Worldwide operations. District staff are currently evaluating potential contractors who will be able to research, perform limited environmental investigations and assess risks posed by any contamination discovered. Hiring a consultant to perform this work will free DEQ staff to concentrate efforts on the House Street Area investigations and the consultant may also supplement DEQ oversight activities at House Street.

### Plainfield Township Crews Take to the Streets

Rick Solle Plainfield Charter Township

In the coming weeks along Pine Island Drive, House Street, Herrington Ave. and Chandler Dr. you may see utility crews installing MISS DIG flags to locate existing utilities (gas, electric, telephone, etc). This is in preparation for soil borings, which will be completed to determine the types of soil in the area. In addition, you may see survey crews gathering topographic data within the road rights-of-way. The soil borings and topographic survey will be conducted by Prein&Newhof, our engineering consultant. Prein&Newhof will not be conducting well water sampling or testing.

If you have any questions or concerns about the project, please contact Mr. Rick Solle, P.E. at the Plainfield Water Department (616) 363-9660 or Mr. Kevin Gritters, P.E., with Prein&Newhof at (616) 364-8491.

### Waste Removal from Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Property Begins

Abigail Hendershott DEQ

Efforts began this week by Wolverine to prepare the MDOT property to use equipment to remove the waste materials that were discovered earlier this fall. So far 21 partially buried drums and one buried waste drum have been removed. In addition approximately 40 yards of leather scraps and waste materials were excavated and placed into roll offs for disposal. The removal work is expected to take several more days to complete. DEQ staff were on site to oversee the removal efforts by Wolverine.

## Resources

### Wolverine Worldwide

[HouseStreet@wwwinc.com](mailto:HouseStreet@wwwinc.com)

(616) 866-5627

### For information regarding possible health effects of PFAS and PFOA

The Kent County Health Department

616-632-7100

[KCPFAS@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:KCPFAS@kentcountymi.gov)

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)

1-800-648-6942

### For information about the status of the investigation and water sampling

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Environmental Assistance Center via their online form [HERE](#)

or call 800-662-9278

### For House Street specific site information

Rose and Westra, a Division of GZA

Mark Westra/Lori Powers

<mailto:House-Street@gza.com>

(616) 258-7234

### For information about the Plainfield municipal water system

Plainfield Water Department

(616) 363-9660

### For questions about tax/property values

Plainfield Township Assessing Department

Jeff Miller (616) 726-8880

### Next Newsletter

You will receive this newsletter every Friday. If you have question about the content of this newsletter or if there are things that you would like to see covered, please email us at [KCPFAS@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:KCPFAS@kentcountymi.gov).

### Like KCHD on Facebook

Facebook is one of the fastest most efficient ways to get information into your hands. This newsletter will post on the Kent County Health Department Facebook page as will other timely information about the House Street site. When you like or share content from the page, you help ensure the delivery of accurate and timely information to your friends.  
<https://www.facebook.com/kentcountyhealth/>

