



# News Update



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

October 27, 2017

## Update on Groundwater near House Street in Belmont



Middle School results are Good News  
New Mapping Tool  
Find Your Well Records

### Rockford East Middle School Test Results Show No PFAS

On Wednesday October 25, 2017 test results from Wolverine and Rose and Westra/GZA were returned to Rockford Middle School. All of the samples from the school showed no detectable level of PFAS. Rockford Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Michael Shibler was able to return the drinking fountains and other water spigots used for food preparation back to their normal operating positions and suspend the mandated use of bottled water for students and staff. Test results from Cannonsburg, Crestwood and Lakes elementary schools are still pending. Shibler issued the following letter to the parents and guardians who have children attending Rockford East Middle.

Dear RPS Parents and Staff:

I have received the analytical report from Rose & Westra, the laboratory assigned to test the water quality at East Rockford Middle School. I am happy to report that there were **no PFAS detected in the water at ERMS**. This is great news!

Beginning Wednesday morning, the water at ERMS will be reinstated and there will be no need to continue the use of bottled water.

As a precautionary measure, we have had samples of water from Cannonsburg, Crestwood, and Lakes elementary schools sent in for testing. The reason being, like ERMS, those three schools also use wells for water. I will notify you as soon as I receive those test results.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Shibler

Superintendent of Schools

You can read the news release from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) [here](#).

You can read the news release from Wolverine World Wide [here](#).

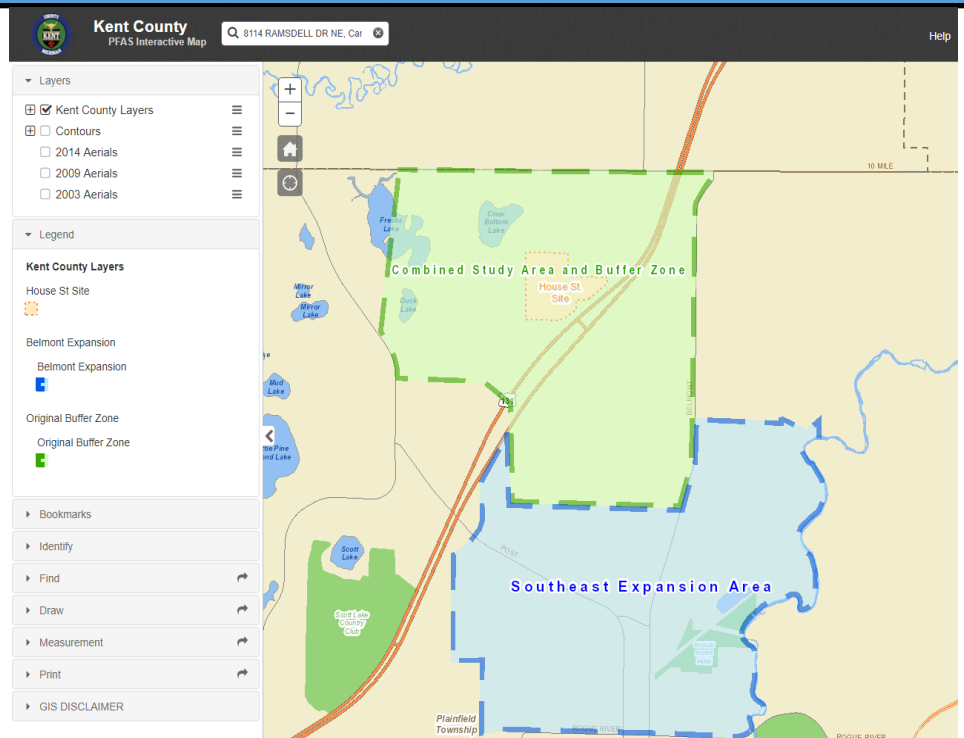
### New PFAS Mapping Tool

Using the resources of the Kent County Information Technologies GIS mapping division, the Kent County Health Department (KCHD) launched this new interactive map this week on the KCHD [webpage](#) dedicated to the PFAS groundwater contamination issue.

The map, which can be found by clicking [here](#), allows people to enter any address in the top center box and know instantly where that address lies in relationship to the established testing areas. The area in green combines the "Study Area" with the original "Buffer Zone". The area in blue represents the boundaries of the "Southeast Expansion Zone."

Because the map was built and will be maintained using in-house resources, the areas can be quickly modified to reflect any expansion or contraction of the areas.

The map will be updated anytime MDEQ provides additional information.



### Mental Health Help is Available

If you are experiencing increased stress or other symptoms related to mental health there are resources in the community to help you.

Resources include:

- Call Network 180's Access line at 616-336-3909 to talk about emotional concerns. It is free to call and the staff can help connect you with a variety of other treatment resources.
- As mental health coverage varies by insurance company, call the number on the back of your insurance card to find out what is covered by your insurance.
- If you are experiencing physical symptoms, such as sleeplessness, fatigue, or appetite loss, please contact your primary care physician for assistance.

### Call 2-1-1

The Kent County Health Department and The Heart of West Michigan United Way's 2-1-1 have teamed up to get you information fast. The two agencies have entered an agreement to answer your calls. Simply call 2-1-1 from your home phone or cell phone and let the person answering why you are calling. In most cases, they will be able to answer your question quickly. KCHD is hopeful that this system results in a better experience for you.

### Access Your own Well Records

Are you looking for specific historical information about your well? You can easily find construction information like the depth of your well, the date it was installed, casing size and soil formation information as well as a host of other valuable information all for free.

By clicking this link [www.deq.state.mi.us/well-logs](http://www.deq.state.mi.us/well-logs) you will be led to the scanned water well record retrieval system. You will find step by step instructions that will provide access to nearly one million wells. You will need Adobe Acrobat to view the information. You can download Adobe Acrobat for free [here](#). While the well water record retrieval system is a great tool, there maybe wells that have not been loaded into the database. You may also complete a Freedom of Information Act Request for well records directly from Kent County here <https://www.accesskent.com/Health/PFAS/>

## 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

### 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/>