



News Update



HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Caring today for a healthy tomorrow

November 9, 2017

Update on Groundwater near House Street in Belmont



**Town Hall Meeting Scheduled
New Video Explains Role of KCHD**

Town Hall Meeting Set for November 29th

The second Town Hall style meeting will be held at the Rockford Freshman Center located at 4500 Kroes Street, Rockford, MI. 49341. [MAP](#) Beginning at 4:30 residents who have concerns about groundwater contamination will be able to have their questions answered individually by various experts. Agencies represented will include the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Wolverine Worldwide, Rose and Westra GZA, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Kent County Health Department (KCHD). At 6:00 P.M. the town hall meeting will begin in the gymnasium. More information will be coming soon regarding the format of the meeting.

New Video Explains Role of KCHD

The Administrative Health Officer of the Kent County Health Department, Adam London sat down on Thursday November 9, with KCHD's Marketing and Communications Director, Steve Kelso to discuss the role that KCHD will play in the ongoing groundwater contamination issue in Belmont. London says issue represents a challenge to the traditional role of public health. He says that new tools will have to be built to ensure the public continues to be served and he admits that the situation has placed stressors upon staff and the capacity of the department. London, however, is steadfast in his belief that KCHD has the right people in the right positions to get the job done. You can see the video by clicking [here](#).



Potential Scammer Reports Continue to Surface

In past issues of this newsletter the Kent County Health Department has warned of potential scammers who may try to sell products that don't work or are over priced. Since we continue to receive occasional reports about this type of activity the message is worth repeating. Keep in mind that tests for PFAS are not possible "while you wait." Please be very cautious regarding door to door salespeople. Both Cannon and Plainfield Townships require solicitors to have a permit. It is recommended that you not deal with any solicitor who cannot produce a permit. Ask questions. PFAS testing must meet rigorous standards. Is the test this solicitor wants to do certified to US EPA 537 standards? If it is, they can prove it. Is the filter they are trying to sell you compliant with NSF P473 standards? If it is, they can prove it. See the October 6th newsletter [here](#) for more helpful tips on avoiding a scam. If you suspect a scam artist contact the Kent County Sheriff's Department at 616-632-6100

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.

Webpage Reminder

KCHD staff reports that they have been in conversations recently with residents who did not know about the website that has been built and dedicated to the current PFAS situation. Please feel free to share the information with your neighbors and friends. Staff has dedicated much time and effort to guarantee you the access to the latest and most accurate information possible. You can visit the website by clicking [here](#).

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 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
(616) 866-5627

For information regarding possible health effects of PFAS and PFOA

The Kent County Health Department
616-632-7100
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

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