



News Update



HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Caring today for a healthy tomorrow

October 20, 2017

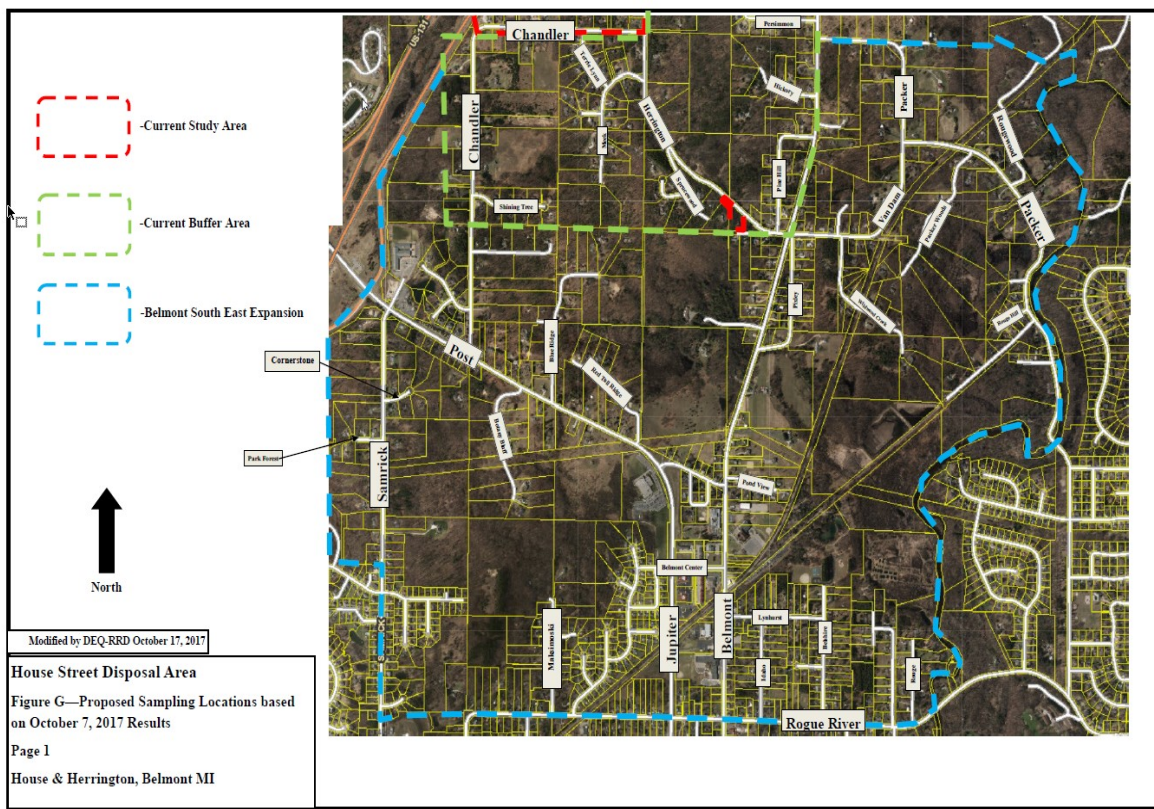
Update on Groundwater near House Street in Belmont



Investigation Area Expands Again
Rockford Public Schools Seeks Precautionary Testing
Reports of Potential Scams Increase

House Street Disposal Area Investigation Expanded—News Release from MDEQ

On Wednesday October 18, 2017 the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) greatly expanded its investigation area. This is the news release issued by the DEQ. The House Street Disposal investigation area has been expanded. The Southeast Expansion Area will include another approximately 300 homes with residential wells in an approximate area bounded by Samrick Road to the west, Rogue River Road to the south, and the Rogue River to the east. The wells will be tested for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), sometimes called PFCs. DEQ Geologist Mark Worrall, notes “The expansion of the investigation was a result of further study of the geological formations of the area, analysis of the results to date and further understanding of the behavior of the PFAS.” Wolverine World Wide will be contacting residents to gather necessary information to sample their residential water well, provide bottle water, and answer questions. Many of the residents of Belmont are already served by Plainfield Township municipal water which is regularly tested and monitored for PFAS, this includes many homes in the Southeast Expansion Area. Wolverine will only be sampling those residents who are served by private drinking water wells. Sampling results from a few wells sampled in the Current Study Area as well as the Current Buffer Area around the House Street Disposal site are still pending and will be used to further guide the investigation. If residents within the Southeast Expansion Area would like to sign up for testing, please call GZA at 616-258-7234 or House-Street@gza.com. If residents would like further information on the House Street Disposal site investigation, please visit the DEQ website at www.michigan.gov/Belmont or contact the Environmental Assistance Center at 800-662-9278.



A larger map is available is available [here](#).

Rockford Public Schools Expands Testing While Waiting on Middle School Results

The DEQ and Rockford Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Michael Shibler are working together to test three additional schools in the district while waiting for the test result from Rockford East Middle School. The three elementary schools, Cannonsburg, Crestwood and Lakes are the only other schools in the district that use well water. Dr. Shibler sent the following letter to parents who have children at the three schools on Friday October 20, 2017

Dear Elementary Parents and Staff:
As communicated to you last week, I requested the MDEQ test the well water at Cannonsburg/Crestwood/Lakes Elementary as a precautionary measure because of the recent concerns regarding the quality of well water in several areas within our school district. Test samples were taken this morning and are being sent to a laboratory for evaluation. We are told we will receive the results in a couple of weeks. As soon as I receive those findings, I will promptly notify you.
Again, we greatly appreciate your patience while the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Kent County Health Department, and Rockford Public Schools continue to work together to ensure the safety of staff and students.
Sincerely,
Dr. Michael Shibler
Superintendent of Schools

Potential Scammer Reports Continue to Surface

The Kent County Health Department (KCHD), Rose and Westra GZA and the DEQ have all received separate reports this week from residents who were approached by door to door salesperson who promised to test their water at no cost. This person then completed a “test” in a matter of minutes, while still in the home. The subject then told residents that the water was “poisoned” and could be fixed by installing a \$5000 water filter. 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

Kent County Park Exempts Drinking Water—Statement from the Kent County Parks Department

We learned of the expansion of the buffer zone from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality this week. Out of an abundance of caution, the Kent County Parks Department immediately shut off drinking water at Rogue River Park; only water used to wash hands and flush toilets is available until further notice. Notices regarding water are being posted in the restrooms there as well. We will follow any recommendations from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Kent County Health Department as the DEQ completes its investigation. At this time, Parks Department staff have not found any tanning, hides or sludge dumped on the site. We believe that there was previously a dock in the gravel pit. While the dock is no longer in place, we believe that the old barrels used to hold the dock in place are still located in the water of the gravel pit.

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

Plainfield Township Assessing Department
Jeff Miller (616) 726-8880

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<https://www.facebook.com/kentcountyhealth/>