

CASSOPOLIS WELL FIELD WHPA PROPERTY OWNER NOTIFICATION LETTER

Dear Property Owner:

Cassopolis's Department of Public Works and the Wellhead Protection Local Planning Team, in accordance with the Michigan Department Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE), has defined a Wellhead Protection Area around the Village's two public water supply wells. The attached map shows the established wellhead protection area for these wells. Based on our records, the Wellhead Protection Area includes your property, residence, farm or business.

Within the wellhead protection area, the Village's wells and most of the area residential and/or farmstead wells are completed within the same aquifer. The steps that we take to protect this groundwater resource will benefit not only us and our families but help assure a safe drinking water supply for future generations.

To help protect our source of groundwater and wells from contamination, the Village and Local Planning Team seek your participation in the proper use and disposal of chemicals in the area. If you are engaged in farming, please follow all regulations and guidelines for the use, storage, disposal, application, mixing and transportation of fuel, fertilizers, restricted use pesticides, and manure waste within the protection area. Report agricultural related chemical and petroleum spills promptly to the Michigan Department of Agriculture at the 24-hour hotline (1-800-405-0101) and clean up spills as soon as they occur. If you lease farm ground located within the protection area, please provide this notification to the tenant farmer.

Homeowners should follow all label directions for the proper use and disposal of household, automotive and lawn chemicals. For the disposal of household hazardous waste, Cassopolis residents can contact the Cass County MSU Extension office at 269-445-4438 for upcoming hazardous waste collection locations and dates.

Private septic systems can also contribute to groundwater contamination. Regular maintenance of your septic tank and leach field will keep your system working efficiently. Inspections can save you money by preventing unnecessary pump-outs, and a well-maintained system helps protect water quality. For more information on your septic system operation and maintenance, please contact the Van Buren and Cass County Health Department at 269-445-5280.

Another way you can help protect the local drinking water aquifer is to properly seal abandoned water wells that are no longer in use. This prevents chemicals from entering the groundwater through the well. Plugging abandoned residential and farmstead water wells can be completed by the property owner. Additional information on abandoned wells and plugging

procedures can be obtained from the Van Buren and Cass County Health Department at 269-445-5280.

We have enclosed educational materials for your consideration and thank you for your cooperation in helping protect our groundwater resource for our families and future generations. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Cassopolis Village Hall 269-445-8648. You may also review a copy of the Wellhead Protection Plan during normal business hours at the Village Hall located at 117 Broadway, Suite 100, at the Cass District Library located at 319 M-62, or at the Cass County Conservation District offices at 1127 East State Street, Cassopolis, Michigan.

Sincerely,

Ron Bass,
Village Water Superintendent