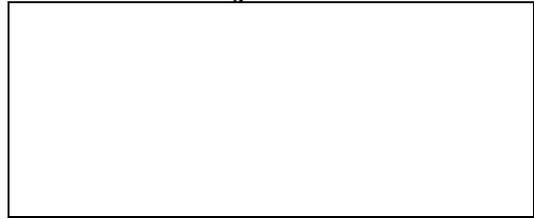


***WHP News Release – Well Management
For Information Contact:***



For Immediate Release

Well Management

The City is taking steps to protect drinking water. According to Bruce Olson, Hydrogeologist with the Minnesota Department of Health, “Improper maintenance or management of wells allows contaminants to enter into our aquifers and drinking water supplies”. Aquifers are geologic formations which contain water underground and are the storage areas for our drinking waters. Improperly managed wells provide an open channel between the land surface and an aquifer. An improperly managed well can act as a drain - allowing surface water runoff, contaminated water, or improperly disposed waste to reach an uncontaminated aquifer via cracks in the well casing or a bad cover on the well. This contaminated water can then threaten the quality of the water not only in an individual well but an entire neighborhood or city.

Well owners in the area can protect their drinking water by following a few of the suggested items:

1. When landscaping your yard, keep the top of the well at least 1 foot above the soil surface. Slope the soil away from the well casing to allow surface water to drain away from your well.
2. Do not pile snow, leaves, or other materials around the well. This will help keep insects, dirt, and other contaminants from entering your well.
3. Always follow recommended well setback rules when making changes to your property.
4. Seal unused wells.
5. When working near your well, be careful not to disturb or damage the well casing.
6. Be sure the well cover or well cap on top of the casing is properly attached and in good condition.
7. Do not mix or work with hazardous chemicals like pesticides, fertilizers, paints or motor oil, near your well.
8. Take steps to prevent back-siphonage of material into your plumbing system and well. This can occur when there is a drop in water pressure and water or liquids are sucked back into the plumbing system and into your well.

Implementing these simple tasks will help to ensure a safe drinking water supply for yourself and your neighbors. For more information on well management contact the City.