

Wellhead Protection Plan Part II has been approved by the Minnesota Department of Health. Our next step is implementing this plan.

One of the first requirements on the implementation of our WHPP Part II is having old, unused wells sealed especially within its DWMSA, or drinking water management supply area. The DWMSA is the area that is approved surface and subsurface area surrounding a public water supply well.

Groundwater is found in underground geologic formations called aquifers. An unused, unsealed well can provide an open channel between the surface and an aquifer - or between a shallow aquifer and a deeper aquifer. An unused well can act as a drain - allowing surface water runoff, contaminated water, or improperly disposed waste to reach an uncontaminated aquifer.

If you have a well that is not being used, it should be sealed. State law requires that well sealing be done by a licensed well contractor. When the job is done, the contractor will submit a well and boring sealing record to the Minnesota Department of Health. Empire would apply for a Source Water Protection Grant that would help with the cost of sealing your well if it qualifies for the grant. If you have a well that should be sealed, please let us know. The wells that are in our DWMSA, would be our high priority wells and would be the ones that we look at first.

Fire Permits: A burning permit is required if you are going to burn. Recreational Fire Permits are good for one year and must be renewed each year at a small fee of \$10.00. You may purchase your recreational fire permit at Empire Town Hall. All other fire permits need to be purchased at Farmington City Hall.

Compost Permits: RRT, 16454 Blaine Ave., has offered to process Empire Township's resident's compost for free. **Stop at the Town Hall for a free permit which is good for one year.**

Mark your calendar:

Street Sweeping is being scheduled at this time. Watch for signs that will be posted. Please do not park on the streets on these days.

Hydrant Flushing will be the week of April 15th if the weather cooperates. While the hydrants are being flushed, you may notice a change in water pressure and clarity. This change should only occur during the flushing cycle. Try not to do laundry during this time. But, if you should notice rusty water in your laundry, do not dry the clothes. If this happens, stop by the Town Hall and pick up some rust remover.

Summer Entertainment is being planned at this time. There will be Sunday evening entertainment at the Town Hall Park along with other programs, the puppet wagon and the swim bus throughout the week for the children will be available. Watch for the flyer and the website will be updated as the events are planned.