



## Chairman's Corner

### PFCs, PFAs, PFOs, PFBs, PFHS, PFBA, PFNA, VOCs, TCE, MDH, MPCA...what do all these acronyms mean??

Boy, with the recent flood of acronyms that have come our way, it's no wonder why our residents are confused about what's going on with our groundwater. Simply put, we have two forms of contamination polluting our township groundwater.



**The first pollutant is Trichloroethylene (TCE), a Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) which is an industrial solvent.** The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) believes the problem to have originated at a former metal working facility near the location of Hagberg's Meats in Lake Elmo. The TCE plume is fairly well-defined and flows underground towards the St Croix River contaminating approximately the northern third of the township. When necessary, steps are being taken to ensure residents are offered safe drinking water options. Most of the affected homes have already been identified and contacted. Please refer to our township website for interactive maps as well as additional information.

**The second pollutant, Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), also referred to as Perfluorochemicals (PFCs), are a family of manmade chemicals used to make products such as nonstick cookware and stain resistant fabrics.** PFC-bearing wastes produced by 3M were dumped into landfills in Oakdale and Lake Elmo back in the 50s to early 70s and have since leaked into the groundwater. Those underground plumes are moving southwest toward the Mississippi River, but some of the PFCs got into the surface water in those cities and were carried into the southwest corner of West Lakeland Township (through Horseshoe Lake), likely sometime in the mid-80s to early 90s. The PFCs then infiltrated into the groundwater in the township and created an underground plume that is heading toward the St Croix River. Water sampling is currently underway in parts of our community to determine the size and scope of the plume. To date, PFCs have been detected mostly in the southern half of the township (south of 20<sup>th</sup> St. N.). The plume is well defined west of Oakgreen Ave. N., but still being defined to the east of that street. When necessary, steps are being taken to ensure residents are offered safe drinking water options. Please refer to our township website for interactive maps as well as additional information.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), which is responsible for safe drinking water, along with the MPCA, are working together to inform our community of the contaminants and any associated health concerns. Together they held a very well-attended open house presentation last October at Oakland Middle School. They will also be offering at least two dates for

open office hours early in 2019 for residents to get answers about their specific situations (see invitation included in newsletter). If you are still confused about this issue, I strongly suggest you attend one of these dates. MDH and MPCA staff are also available for individual phone consultations.

### What's happening with the \$850 million 3M Settlement?

Since July, members representing communities named in the \$850 million MN State PFC Settlement with 3M have been meeting monthly at the Cottage Grove City Hall. This includes representation from West Lakeland Township. The 3M Settlement Commission, or Workgroup, as it is referred to, has been discussing the legalities, goals and implementation of the settlement. After expenses, the remaining \$720 million of the settlement is to pay for administration and implementation of projects, (i.e., individual water filters) with the ultimate goal of providing safe drinking water to our residents. Presently, if your well water tests above the recommended "health advisory level" for PFAS, you are given bottled water until a Granulated Activated Charcoal (GAC) filter can be installed in your home. The state is continuing to test residential wells according to the direction the plume appears to be taking. This process of administering the settlement and installing water treatment projects may take years to implement. The Town Board will continue to represent our residents' interests at these meetings and update our community periodically on the progress. We have a link on the front page of our township website which allows you to check your home address in relation to the two contamination issues.

### Great Balls of Fire!!

If you happened to be driving on 10<sup>th</sup> St between Oakgreen Ave. and Stagecoach Trail on the evening of Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, you would have noticed a spectacularly, bright glow in the sky up on a hill on the north side of 10<sup>th</sup> St. Don't worry, it wasn't some unfortunate resident's house on fire! Instead, it was the Bayport Fire Department conducting a controlled burn on an abandoned house for training purposes. Spectators were lined up on 10<sup>th</sup> St. and Omaha Ave. to watch the sensational blaze. Most of the surrounding neighbors were informed of the controlled burn, but there were a few concerned passersby who did report the fire to the Sheriff's Dept. The fire department may do controlled house burns like this in the future, when the opportunity arises to help train firefighters. The township sincerely appreciates Chief Al Eisinger, and his committed volunteers, for all their hard work and dedication.

Remember winter is upon us, so please drive safely.

Chairman, Daniel Kylo

## A Santa Story

West Lakeland Township mourns the loss of Guy Glover who passed away on December 19, 2018. For 20 years, Guy faithfully served as our own local “Santa” at an annual party prior to each December township board meeting. He was first approached with the idea by his good friend, and former board Chairman, John McPherson. Guy looked every bit the part—with his thick, well-groomed, white beard—yet also had the friendly, gentle personality to go with it. The town board arranged a special seating area in the middle school cafeteria for Santa to meet with his young visitors complete with a backdrop, special chair and a Christmas tree. At its peak, it is estimated 100 families came to participate in the fun which at times even delayed the start of the board meetings. John reported one particularly busy year when he told Guy “we’ve got to get things moving here” to which Guy responded “but we can’t turn these kids away”.

The annual event was a great way for people in our semi-rural community to come together. Families visited and enjoyed treats while waiting for their turn to see Santa. Upon moving to the area, Nick and Meagan Weber recall looking for a place to take their newborn son, Owen, to visit Santa in 2011. When they heard about this unique opportunity right down the road, they began to make it an annual tradition for their family. Of their experiences with Guy, Meagan fondly recalls “he was so patient and kind, and took the time to talk with us”. Their family was greatly disappointed when Guy had to step back from the position in 2016 due to health issues.

John and Harriet McPherson cherished their friendship with Guy and his wife, Ginny. They shared many good times and laughs together over the years. Harriet described Guy as “smart and humble” adding “it was never about him, always about others.” Our current Board Chairman, Dan Kylo, remembers him as “an entertaining Santa...telling the kids stories to make them feel comfortable”. West Lakeland Township is most grateful for Guy Glover’s years of service to our local community. He will not soon be forgotten.



*West Lakeland residents, Owen Weber and Santa (Guy Glover) smile for photo opportunity.*

## TRANSPORTATION

### Snow Plowing Reminder

Just a reminder, it is unlawful by state statute Minnesota Statute 160.2715 (A) (1) and township ordinance to plow snow across or into any street or right-of-way. Piles of snow left on or near the road can freeze into a solid mass creating a hazardous situation for vehicles and snowplows. Piles of snow increase the chance of drifting snow onto the roadway. Accidents and damages caused by piles of snow placed in the roadway may result in liability to the property owner. Frozen piles of snow have the potential to damage the plow which in turn costs the township extra expense. There were a number of areas that were particularly troublesome in previous years, so residents please remind your plowing contractor of this law. They should already be aware of this. If you have questions regarding the township snow plowing policy, it can be viewed on our website.

*As a side note, I want to pass along a thank you from our plow operators to those of you that placed reflective markers along the edge of the road. It sure helps them know where the pavement edge is, especially on curves.*

### Oakgreen Avenue (County Road 65)

As you read this, Washington County held a second open house on Thursday December 6th at the Baytown Community Center regarding safety and pavement improvements to Oakgreen Avenue. Washington County is looking to reconstruct Oakgreen Avenue in 2021 between 10th Street (CR 10) and 40th Street (CR 14) in Baytown. Improvements consist of adding turn lanes at key intersections, improved drainage along the corridor, and accident reduction by increasing sight lines and maintaining wide shoulders to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists. Watch our township website for updates or go to <https://www.co.washington.mn.us/County65> for more information.

Have a Safe New Year.

Dave Schultz , Road Supervisor (651/436-6816)

## **Groundwater Contamination Open Office Hours, hosted by MDH & MPCA**

Any residents with specific concerns about groundwater contamination issues are invited to attend one of the open office hour sessions being offered in February and March. Due to the increased private well sampling activities in the area, staff from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) will be available at the West Lakeland Township office to talk one-on-one about your situation. Information about current sampling activities and health will also be available.

**Where: West Lakeland Township office in the Joshua Taylor Building in downtown Lake Elmo at  
3394 Lake Elmo Ave**

**When: Thursday, February 28th from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm and Thursday, March 21st from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm**

For more information about PFCs (PFAS)/Well Advisory Areas for TCE, visit the West Lakeland website at <https://westlakeland.govoffice2.com>.

## **Minnesota Refrigerator Recycling Rebates**

*Earn rebates for recycling an old, working refrigerator or freezer*

Try a safer, more helpful way to get rid of that old, still-functional fridge or freezer—and pick up a nice rebate! To participate in the program, you must:

1. Be an Xcel Energy residential electric customer
2. Have a valid account number
3. Own an operational 10-30 cubic foot refrigerator/freezer to be picked up from the residential address listed on the billing account ('Operational' is defined as being capable of cooling/freezing)



### **How it Works**

1. Make an appointment with Xcel Energy for your FREE refrigerator pickup: call 1-800-599-5795 or schedule online. Rebate is a \$35 check.
2. Plug in your fridge or freezer the night before the pickup date. Please note that the unit must demonstrate full operational capability when inspected at the time of pickup.
3. Xcel will pick up the refrigerator or freezer and recycle it at no cost to you.
4. They will also throw in two free LED light bulbs for you to use in your home.
5. The rebate check will be mailed to you within four weeks after pickup.

Primary (kitchen) and secondary (garage/basement/other) refrigerators/freezers are accepted; units must have been operating in your home for at least six months.

You could receive \$50 or more in annual energy savings while helping reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and ozone-depleting chemicals. Residents may also be surprised to know there are rebate programs offered by Xcel Energy for replacement of other old appliances, including water heaters and heating/cooling units. See their website at [www.xcelenergy.com](http://www.xcelenergy.com) for more information.



P.O. Box 447, Lake Elmo, Minnesota 55042

[www.westlakeland.govoffice2.com](http://www.westlakeland.govoffice2.com)

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## TOWNSHIP INFORMATION

**Office Hours** — 8:00 a.m. to Noon

**Phone** — 651-436-4773

Mailing Address—

P.O. Box 447

Lake Elmo, MN 55042

[www.westlakeland.govoffice2.com](http://www.westlakeland.govoffice2.com)

Town Board meetings are held the second Monday of each month in the Oak-Land Middle School Auditorium, 820 Manning Avenue, Lake Elmo .

Changes to this schedule can be viewed on the Township website calendar or posting board located at 10th Street and Stagecoach Trail.

West Lakeland contracts with Tennis Sanitation for recycling services every other Monday. Call Town Office 651-436-4773 with questions.

### Town Board

Dan Kyllo, Chairman	651-436-1134
Dave Schultz, Supervisor	651-436-6816
Steve Ebner, Supervisor	651-436-6482
Carrie Seifert, Town Clerk	651-436-4773
Jennifer Samec, Deputy Clerk	651-436-4773
Marsha Olson, Treasurer	651-998-9178

### Building Official (building permits & inspections)

Duane Stensland— 651-436-7669

### Animal Control

Kathi Pelnar— 715-386-7789