

## Do You Have an Unused Groundwater Well On Your Property?

Did you know that the Marion, Howell, Oceola, and Genoa Sewer & Water Authority (MHOG) provides drinking water and fire protection to over 20,000 residents in homes and businesses in the four townships? To protect this very important public health and safety resource, MHOG has a Wellhead Protection (WHP) Area in portions of Howell and Marion Townships that has been developed to assist with managing and protecting our drinking water. Whether you obtain your drinking water from the MHOG Municipal Water System or a private household well, groundwater is the only source of drinking water in Howell and Marion Townships. MHOG's WHP Committee is working to assure our residents and businesses have a clean, safe, reliable, and secure drinking water source by promoting the protection of the resource through public awareness and education.

Within the wellhead area, unused and unplugged groundwater wells are one of the greatest threats of contamination to our local groundwater resource as contamination can quickly move into aquifers from the old casings. Therefore, MHOG's WHP Committee is creating an inventory of unused wells for future consideration for proper abandonment to protect our valuable groundwater resource. MHOG is exploring future funding possibilities to assist with any potential costs with proper abandonment of any unused wells.

If you live in the WHP Area depicted on the accompanying map or are aware of an unused well on a property within the wellhead area, please email or call Deputy Director - Water Treatment Division - Alex Chimpouras at alex@mhog.org / (517)545-5098. MHOG will inspect and categorize the abandoned well for future proper abandonment.

Please note, that there is no cost, enforcement or fine associated with reporting a well. We are simply trying to obtain an inventory to be able to fund the future abandonment of these unused wells.

