

To: Readington Township Community Members
From: Readington Township Environmental Commission
September 1, 2016

October Well Water Testing Available to Readington Residents

Readington Township, NJ – What’s in your water? If your drinking water comes from a private well, you won’t know if it’s free from contaminants until you take the initiative to have it tested.

Again this fall, in an effort to protect community health, the Readington Township Environmental Commission will partner with nonprofit clean water advocate Raritan Headwaters Association to offer a full range of well water testing to residents and businesses at substantial savings over commercial rates.

Sample collection kits will be available at the **Readington Municipal Building** on Route 523 from **October 3rd to October 21st, Mondays through Thursdays 9 am-1 and 2-4:00 pm**. Test Kits will also be available in the evening on **October 11th and 18th from 5-8pm** at the Municipal Building and on Wednesdays October 12th and 19th between 5 and 7 pm at the Three Bridges Library on main Street in Three Bridges. Water samples must be dropped off at the Municipal Building on **October 24, 26, or 28th between 6:30 and 9:00 a.m.** Test results will be available about two weeks later.

“We’re pleased to partner with Readington, and we strongly encourage everyone with a private well to have their water tested,” said Cindy Ehrenclou, executive director of Raritan Headwaters. “It’s better to know what’s in your drinking water than not know. If a contaminant is detected, measures can then be taken to appropriately address the issue.”

Raritan Headwaters is the “watershed watchdog” for a 470-square-mile area in Hunterdon, Somerset and Morris counties, comprising the drainage area for the North and South Branches of the Raritan River. Eighty percent of the residents of this region – about 320,000 people - obtain their drinking water through wells. About 80% of Readington depends upon water from private wells. In 2015 more than 200 wells were tested during the Readington Community Well Test Days.

Well water pollutants found in the region are coliform bacteria, nitrate, arsenic, lead, iron, radon and volatile organic compounds. Sources of contamination include failing septic systems; chemicals like fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides; and naturally-occurring contaminants.

A “basic test kit” for coliform bacteria and nitrate is available for \$60. Basic Test purchasers may select from additional contaminant tests for additional, reduced fees.

Raritan Headwaters recently completed a 30-year analysis of well water tests in the region. The data showed an increase in arsenic levels and increased concentrations of nitrates being reported over that time. While these are naturally occurring materials knowing the concentration levels in one’s own well water is an important step to take.

- Kits may be paid for with cash or check or using PayPal by registering online at www.TestMyWell.org .

For more information on the Community Well Test Program and the list of available tests please visit www.readingtontwp.org or www.raritanheadwaters.org/protect/well-testing/community-well-testing or contact Mara Tippet, Raritan Headwaters’ Well Test Manager at 908-234-1852, ext. 401.