

**On January 16, 2020 I attended an information session and public hearing on PFAS. Here are the highlights of that informational seminar--- John**

### **WHAT ARE PFAS?**

PFAS are a large family of man-made chemicals that are fire resistant, and repel oil, stains, grease and water. They are used in fire-fighting foam, stain repellents, nonstick cookware, waterproof clothing and shoes, fast food wrappers, personal care products, and many other consumer goods. These chemicals are very persistent, meaning that they do not break down easily in the environment.

These chemicals are widely used and move in groundwater as well as lakes, rivers and streams. Groundwater is water found underground in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand, and rock. Most private wells and some public water supplies use groundwater.

### **HOW CAN EXPOSURE TO HIGH AMOUNT OF PFAS AFFECT MY HEALTH?**

Research is ongoing to understand the effects PFAS might have on health. Having PFAS exposure or PFAS in your body does not mean that you will necessarily have health problems now or in the future. Most people in health studies do not have health effects, even when exposed to high amounts of PFAS.

Some health studies have found health effects linked to some PFAS such as:

- Decreased chance of women getting pregnant
- Increased chance of high blood pressure in pregnant women
- Increased chance of thyroid disease
- Changed immune response
- Increased Cholesterol levels
- Increased chance of cancer, especially kidney and testicular cancers

In April 2018 the State of Michigan implemented a statewide program to test Michigan's public water supplies for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

These public water supplies include, but were not limited to:

- Regional suppliers of water
- Municipalities
- Smaller suppliers of water
- Schools on their own well(s)

### **(YES CHA WAS TESTED AND NO PFAS WERE FOUND)**

- Childcare providers on their own well(s)
- Suppliers serving sensitive populations

### **IN MOST CASES PRIVATE HOUSEHOLD WELLS WERE NOT TESTED!**

In the almost 11,000 water systems in the state of Michigan were tested - 91% did not detect PFAS. In the future these water systems with previously undetected PFAS will be tested yearly.

### **THERE WERE NO PFAS DETECTED IN THE ST. HELEN/RICHFIELD TOWNSHIP AREA!**