



ALEXANDRIA TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

A New Threat to Our Well Water



To protect your family's health, it is important for all Alexandria Township residents to test their well water on a regular basis. At a minimum, your well should be tested for Coliform Bacteria and, for those south of Rt. 519, it is also recommended that you test for arsenic. However, a new threat has been found in the area around Delaware Valley High School, where the water has tested positive for PFAs (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances).

PFAs are a group of manmade chemicals, used for industrial and commercial applications. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, PFAs accumulate in the body and are believed to cause cancer, impede the immune system, affect infant birth weights, and disrupt thyroid function, among other harms (<https://www.app.com/story/news/local/land-environment/2019/12/02/pfas-cancer-nj-water-pallone/4158197002/>). Boiling your water does NOT remove PFAs.

This year, we have added a test for PFAs to our Community Well Test Day. If you live near the high school, you may want to add this test.

We'd love you to join us!

Interested in finding out more about the Alexandria Township Environmental Commission? Contact Jay Arancio at jmarancio@gmail.com

Know what your family is drinking! Community Well Test Day

WATER KIT PICKUP

Please reserve a kit by contacting Jay Arancio at jmarancio@gmail.com or call/text: 908-797-8484

Saturday, April 25, 2020 from 9am to 12 noon
Alexandria Township Municipal Building
(Arrangements can be made to pick up your kit earlier in the week, if necessary. Please make arrangements with Jay.)

Make checks payable to **RHA**
(CASH CANNOT BE ACCEPTED)

WATER KIT DROP-OFF

Monday, April 27, 2020 from 7am until 10am
Alexandria Township Municipal Building

Basic Kit - tests for Coliform Bacteria \$ **60.00**
with Fecal Coliform Confirmation
and Nitrates.

Additional testing:

Iron	\$ 15.00	Water testing is performed by Garden State Laboratories (a New Jersey Certified lab).
Manganese	\$ 15.00	
Lead	\$ 25.00	
Copper	\$ 20.00	
Arsenic	\$ 35.00	
Volatile Organics	\$ 95.00	
Pesticides	\$135.00	All test results are reported directly and confidentially to the resident.
Radon	\$ 50.00	
Gross Alpha	\$ 80.00	

Residents who wish to test their private wells for the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) such as PFNA and PFOA, may order a test kit (\$300), however special arrangements must be made for sample collection by an RHA representative. For more information, please contact the RHA Well Testing office at 908-234-1852 ext. 401

Remember, you must reserve ahead of time to guarantee that you'll get a kit.



Raritan Headwaters Association, a non-profit conservation organization, is co-sponsor of this program.
www.raritanheadwaters.org

For more information about Well Testing, contact Mara Tippet (908) 234-1852 ext 401 • welltesting@raritanheadwaters.org



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Trees and Crops

Last year, we were notified that the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an invasive beetle that targets ash trees, had made its way across the county from Detroit to Alexandria Township. While we are still monitoring and fighting the EAB, another invasive insect species has been documented in our area. The spotted lanternfly, also called the Asian plant hopper, was accidentally released in Berks County, Pennsylvania, in September of 2014. Despite quarantine efforts, the spotted lanternfly has spread to nearby areas, including our own.



Emerald Ash Borer



Adult Spotted Lanternfly with Nymphs

Unique and colorful in appearance, the spotted lanternfly poses a huge threat to our trees and crops. These insects feed on more than seventy plant species, including cultivated grapes, fruit trees, hardwood trees, willows, maples, poplars and birch. They lay their eggs on their favorite plant, the Tree of Heaven, and their egg masses look like patches of mud. Feeding in large groups, the insects quickly destroy vegetation. The Rutgers Cooperative Extension estimates that the spotted lanternfly can diminish grape harvest by 75-90 percent.

The situation in Pennsylvania is quite serious but there are things we can do to prevent the spread of this insect. ANJEC (Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions) recommends:

- Inspecting your vehicle for hitchhiking spotted lanternflies before traveling, especially between Pennsylvania and New Jersey.
- Inspecting outdoor items (i.e. firewood, paving stones, lawn equipment) for egg masses.
- If you discover egg masses, scrape them off, double bag them, and throw them away or place them in alcohol, bleach or hand sanitizer to exterminate them.
- Closely monitor highly infested and vulnerable areas.
- Do not attempt to eradicate the insects with insecticides.



Adult Spotted Lanternflies with various wing spreads

(Spotted lanternfly information from: Madsen, Jillian. "The spotted lanternfly has arrived in NJ: What you need to know." ANJEC Report. Autumn 2018 ANJEC Web 1 Jan. 2019. Photos from U.S. Department of Agriculture)

Attention Homeowner Associations!

NJ DEP is getting strict about Stormwater Management. ATEC will be working to provide education on what you need to know. More information and resources will be coming.

Just three hours
can make a big difference!

Join us for
STREAM CLEAN-UP

on April 18, 2020 from 9am – noon

Registration begins in March.

Photos from 2019 Stream Clean-Up along Creek Rd.



If you would like to help with
Stream Clean-Up or are interested in
sponsorship/vendor opportunities for
AutumnFEST, please contact Jay Arancio,
jmarancio@gmail.com,
or call/text: 908-797-8484

A large photograph of a field of green crops, likely corn, under a vibrant sunset sky with orange and yellow hues. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow.

Save the date
for our fall family, fun,
food, and fireworks festival!
October 10, 2020

Alexandria
AutumnFEST

Stay tuned...
AlexandriaAutumnFest.com
Sponsored by Alexandria Township PTO