

# *Important news from the* **Shelby Township Supervisor's Office**

## **Teamwork Essential To Successful Efforts To Resolve Water Issues For Residents**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **For information contact:**

Supervisor Rick Stathakis  
(586) 731-5154

Shelby Township's work to reduce groundwater encroachment facing township residents is having a desired effect, and while there is still more work yet to be done the commitment to teamwork by the township, developer and residents has produced a plan which will, over time, effectively address this issue.

Township residents living near Quarry Lake and the lake at the old Four Bears Waterpark approached the township weeks ago with water problems. Issues outlined included flooded backyards to waterlogged basements, both posing hardship for residents living in Section 31 in Southwest Shelby Township.

"Residents called and came to the township wanting to know what we are going to do to help," Supervisor Rick Stathakis said. "My response to the phone calls and e-mails I have received has been that the township will do everything we can to help facilitate a solution. Unfortunately, while some newspapers have reported this as a battle between the township and our residents, the truth is that the township and the residents have been working diligently together to find and fix the source of this problem. The only real battle here is against a common enemy: water."

Stathakis said that it is clear that the high water table is a serious threat to residents. He said the township wanted to develop an effective solution before the spring and summer storms arrive and exacerbate this situation.

"I have been out to visit residents many times to discuss their concerns and see for myself how high water is impacting them and their overall quality of life," he said. "We will leave no stone unturned to bring relief to residents in this area of the township, just as we would for residents living anywhere within Shelby Township."

Below is a summary of the township's activities related to water issues for residents living in Section 31:

### **QUARRY LAKE \***

- Supervisor Rick Stathakis requested that officials from Shelby's Department of Public Works and the township engineer walk Section 31 to survey storm pipes and outlets connected to the Clinton River. Two pipes were located.
- Supervisor Stathakis asked the township engineer to discuss the drain with property owner of Ken's Lake. Pipes were found to be full of debris. As a result of cleaning out the two pipe outlets the lake has receded two feet.
- Supervisor requested AEW to contact the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and other agencies regarding records associated with the underground drain systems.
- After it was discovered that ground water and sump-pump issues were encompassing a larger area than originally thought, Supervisor Stathakis scheduled a special informational meeting on Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss specifics about helping resolve the major problem areas.
- Supervisor Stathakis called special meeting to highlight objectives with township engineer and DPW. As discussed with residents, these objectives were:
  - Improve the existing outlet to the Clinton River
  - Provide a new outlet to Clinton River, including a new 12" outlet to existing system within three weeks and a new 36" pipe connected directly to the Clinton River - work on this new drain began today, June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Township updated residents about what is being done during a special May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Supervisor Stathakis ordered a halt to the filling of Quarry Lake until further notice.
- Supervisor Stathakis scheduled a special meeting to take place on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> for an update.

## **FOUR BEARS LAKE \***

- At the April 21<sup>st</sup> Board of Trustees meeting, residents on Erma Street began contacting the township saying that high water was threatening their basements.
- Supervisor Stathakis called a meeting with township engineer and officials from the DPW the very next day to review the situation and identify possible solutions. Township would meet with property owners to develop an action plan.
- Township DPW met with developer to discuss what can be done to alleviate the high water table.
- Township officials met with the Macomb County Road Commission about a proposed lake outlet along Brookland Ct.
- DPW officials met with Macomb County Road Commission about storm sewer outlet for the lake. The Road Commission approved the township's proposal for a new storm sewer outlet.
- Township officials met onsite with the Michigan Department of Environment Quality to review the situation with the lake and the Greens Ditch, and to discuss the possibility of obtaining an emergency construction permit for a new storm water outlet. MDEQ representatives tell the township that a permit could likely not be processed on an emergency basis.
- At the Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup> Board of Trustees meeting, a resolution was passed urging the MDEQ to recognize this as an emergency situation requiring immediate action.
- DPW representatives and the township engineer met with 40 residents in separate meeting concurrent with the Board of Trustees' meeting to discuss their ground water and sump-pump concerns.
- On May 18<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Stathakis, DPW officials, the township engineer and Wetland Consultant met with the MDEQ at their Warren office and **successfully** convinced them to immediately issue an emergency permit.
- The township subsequently received construction approval from the Macomb County Soil Erosion Department.
- Supervisor Stathakis, Clerk Terri Kowal, Trustee Paula Filar and DPW officials facilitated a meeting with the Louis Lake Estates Homeowners' Association for their funding of this improvement. Homeowners have agreed to fund the project.
- At the request of County Commissioner Ed Szczepanski (11<sup>th</sup> District) Shelby Township applied for emergency use of County funds. Supervisor Stathakis and township officials attended the May 21<sup>st</sup> Macomb County Board of Commissioner's meeting to formally make the request. The County Commission denied the township's request.
- Construction of the new drain outlet from Four Bears Lake to the Greens Ditch will commence soon.

Supervisor Rick Stathakis said that developing a plan and coordinating with various organizations has been a tough challenge. However, given the urgency of this problem, and the impact it is having on residents, township officials came together and worked tirelessly to identify the problem, develop a solution and implement an action plan.

"My message to residents is that Shelby Township is committed to helping resolve this issue as best we can," Stathakis said. "Since we don't own the drains or the lakes that are causing such concern, we have to coordinate with others to get the desired result. Taxpayers are looking for leadership, and as Township Supervisor I am determined to give residents the leadership they want and need to get things done. Our Board of Trustees and our township team of experts has worked skillfully to bring about an effective resolution. I commend everyone involved for their time and expertise."

Stathakis said the township will provide residents with as much information as necessary, as often as possible, so that residents understand the scope of the problem and how the township is working everyday to help bring about a successful resolution.

***Residents living near Quarry and Four Bears lakes can get a detailed rundown of the township's ongoing efforts to help combat water issues impacting homeowners by logging on to the township's website [www.shelbytp.org](http://www.shelbytp.org) and then clicking on the blue link text "Update On Water Issues."***

# # #

**\* NOTE: This is meant as an general overview of activities related to the water issues impacting residents. A comprehensive rundown of how Shelby Township is working to improve water conditions for residents can be found on the Shelby Township website: <http://shelbytp.org/updates.htm>**