



Barrington Area Council of Governments

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PRESS RELEASE

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Barrington Area Council of Governments Facilitates Private Well Water Testing for Bacteria and Nitrates - March 2012

The Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG) will hold its fourth bacteria and nitrates water quality testing event during Groundwater Awareness Week on Tuesday March 13th, 2012, at The Garlands of Barrington. Water testing kits will be available for purchase the week before. An informational presentation about groundwater will be presented at 6:30 p.m.

On March 13th BACOG, with their partner the Lake County Health Department, will offer local access to water testing and informational sessions for residents with private wells. This program will analyze residents' water samples for contaminants such as nitrates and bacteria, including E. coli. The test is recommended on an annual basis for private wells. At the Fall 2011 event, nine (9) samples tested positive for bacteria. Do you know what's in your water?

Private well owners are responsible for testing their wells to ensure the safety of their drinking water. Residents from the BACOG communities, regardless of county of residence, are welcome to participate in this local testing program. The BACOG communities with private wells are the Villages of Barrington Hills, Deer Park, Lake Barrington, North Barrington, South Barrington, Barrington Township, and Cuba Township. Barrington and Tower Lakes provide municipal water to residents, which is regularly tested by the villages.

Because it is Groundwater Awareness Week, the county is making test kits available to residents at a special low rate of \$10.00 (exact change or check only) at participating village or township offices March 5-9th. For a list of pick-up locations and directions, visit www.bacog.org/level1event.html.

The BACOG program makes water testing easy and convenient for residents. Residents can pick up a test kit from their local village or township office and return the sample to a central location in the Barrington area. Refrigeration and transportation of water samples to the county lab is handled by BACOG. BACOG eliminates the need for multiple trips to a county office to complete one water test.

Drinking water samples must be dropped off on Tuesday, March 13th, at The Garlands of Barrington, 1000 Garlands Lane, Barrington, between 3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. A short presentation and Q&A regarding groundwater and wells will be held at 6:30 p.m. Details will follow soon about speakers and topics for the presentation.

For more information, please visit the BACOG website at www.bacog.org, "Water Resources" page, or call (847) 381-7871.