

# Update on the April 30 Community Meeting on the Battlefield Golf Club attended by the City of Chesapeake, Chesapeake Health Department, and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

This latest update from the City of Chesapeake will focus on the questions asked at the April 30, community meeting. City representatives answered the ones that could be answered that night, and when representatives didn't know, they promised to find out.

## Your Questions

### When will you have a plan for resolving this issue?

At recent meetings with City staff, several people requested extension of City water to the neighborhood. Our engineers and fly ash experts are reviewing the information we have, and more importantly, what we will get from the site testing for surface water, ground water and soil, and we will use that to assist in the decision making. Barring any unforeseen difficulties, we will have a plan in the next 3-4 months. Citizens have asked who will pay for the work and the implementation of the plan. According to City Manager William E. Harrell, "Public health is our primary concern, and the City will address that first."

### What if we have problems with our wells after the June 20th deadline?

The City is well aware of citizens' concerns about this deadline. In response, City Manager William E. Harrell sent a letter to Mike Waugh of MJM Golf, LLC, informing him that "on behalf of the affected residents, the City hereby gives notice of claim for each potable well serving a home within a 2,000 foot radius of the outer boundaries of the golf course. In the event that test results show well replacement to be necessary or prudent, the City will expect the owner to honor its obligation to the community." In other words, pursuant to stipulation number 10, the City has given notice of a claim on behalf of all residents within the 2000 foot radius.

*see reverse for more questions & answers*

#### Frequently Asked Question:

#### What does "<" mean in my results?

The amount of the element was too small for the equipment to measure. According to EPA guidelines, the result cannot be zero.

#### Find Out More

[www.CityofChesapeake.net/BattlefieldGolfClub](http://www.CityofChesapeake.net/BattlefieldGolfClub)

a growing resource of documents related to the development of Battlefield Golf Club

**Not online?** Go to any Chesapeake Public Library Reference Desk and ask for assistance.

## About Your Water

*Health Department Director Dr. Nancy Welch*

A certain amount of trace metals are required in order for us to live and for our bodies to function properly. Just like vitamins, there are Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) guidelines. If you look on food products where it tells you what is in the food and the number of calories, you will usually see some trace metals (like zinc, selenium or manganese) and their percent noted. We get most of our trace metals from foods and then some from naturally occurring metals in water. Just like vitamins, though, too much of trace metals is not healthy or good for you. This is why drinking water standards tell us the maximum acceptable level in water (the MCL number in your far right column on your test results). All test results were within a perfectly normal and healthy level. You probably also noticed the presence of Boron in the water. By itself, it does not pose a health risk and is tested as a tracer. It's like putting dye in water going through a pipe to help you find a leak. Boron can come from pesticides, fertilizers and other substances used on agricultural land as well as, yes, fly ash. It is very frequently a natural component of underground water. Boron was not one of the substances included in the tests from 2001 so there is no way to know if the current level of Boron is the same or more than what existed in 2001. A comparison would have been helpful but does not exist. The water is very safe to drink, bathe in, water gardens or use for cooking. There are no restrictions. Of course, this does not tell us if there will be any changes in the future. Work in this area continues.

### Important Information

At the meeting, well test results with a comparison to EPA Safe Drinking Water Standards and previous well tests if available were distributed and explained. If you weren't there, you should have received yours in the mail. For those of you concerned that you received a copy of your results rather than the original, note that these results are the originals.

### This information is provided by the City of Chesapeake for residents living near Battlefield Golf Club

Please direct questions to Lizz Gunnufsen, Public Comm. Coordinator, 757-382-6241.

**Chesapeake**  
VIRGINIA

## Your Questions, continued

### **Will the City be testing residents' well water for any other elements?**

The City is aware that some citizens have received a letter suggesting that the City test for additional elements. The City is conducting additional work which may or may not require additional testing of the wells. If additional testing is needed, it will be done. At this time, there is no information to suggest additional testing of the wells is warranted.

### **What will you do if the fly ash is leaching?**

This will depend on results of testing, constituents found and in what concentrations. Further consultation with DEQ and other interested parties will be necessary to form the appropriate course of action. Currently, there is no evidence which suggests the drinking water is a threat to human health associated with the fly ash. However, additional testing at the site is being conducted.

### **What tests are being done on the site?**

Surface water samples have been taken to test for the presence or absence of contaminants associated with fly ash. Samples are compared with DEQ and EPA standards. Samples of the fly-ash are being tested. Shallow ground water testing and further soil testing are also elements of the sampling program.

### **Are the tests and their evaluation considered reliable science?**

The City is securing technical assistance from fly ash and toxicology experts. Samples are being drawn and tests are being conducted by an environmental engineering firm and tests run by certified laboratories.

### **What about erosion on the site?**

Both DEQ and Public Works staff have inspected the site and the erosion has been repaired. The owner is required to comply with the erosion and sediment control plan until the site is entirely vegetated and an erosion permit released. Per the DEQ closure plan, the owner is required to maintain the 18" soil cap over the fly ash.

### **What will you do if there are erosion issues on site?**

There is an active land disturbing permit, and there is a procedure in place to correct violations if any are detected. The permit requires repairs to eroded areas. The City also has the right to require repairs one year after the land disturbing permit is closed. The owner is obligated under his DEQ closure plan to maintain and promptly repair the 18" soil cap over the fly ash areas. DEQ inspected the site and did not find any erosion areas of concern. The City has also checked the site. When the City sees problems during inspections we promptly notify the owner to address them and follow up to make sure its done.

### **Does the newspaper have copies of residents' well test results?**

Yes. The results were requested by Bob McCabe of the Virginian-Pilot under the Freedom of Information Act.

### **How do I learn more about aquifers?**

Basic primer on aquifers from the U.S. Geological Survey: <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/earthgwaquifer.html>

U.S. Geological Survey: <http://www.usgs.gov/>

U.S. Geological Survey paper on eastern Virginia aquifers, includes maps of aquifers: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/pp/2006/1731>

Information Specific to Virginia: <http://va.water.usgs.gov/>

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## Other Questions about Your Neighborhood

### **What are you going to do about flooding on Murray Drive?**

The City is committing \$2.1 million in stormwater utility fee revenue in the proposed FY 2009-2013 Capital Improvement Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 for Murray Drive / Greenhaven Area Outfall Improvements. Public Works is completing a Master Drainage Study of the area which identifies the improvements necessary to help with drainage from the neighboring farm fields and the Etheridge Lakes subdivision. The project to widen outfall ditch(s) and upgrade downstream culverts will begin design later this summer with construction planned for later. As project plans are developed, a citizen information meeting will be held to review the design. The project includes the re-grading and widening of the drainage outfall (20' wide ditch) and the upgrade of several pipes within the system as shown on the attached map ( the existing culverts under Whittamore Rd. are adequate). It is anticipated that the project will go to bid next summer (2009).

### **Why was the City doing a traffic count on Centerville Turnpike?**

Public Works reports that they had received a request for a no-passing zone in front of Murray Drive on Centerville Turnpike. While the intersection does not meet the criteria at this time, a no passing zone that is part of a future project north of the intersection will be extended to include this intersection.

### **Why was a representative from the Real Estate Office in our neighborhood just after the article was in the Virginian Pilot?**

Shortly after the initial Virginian-Pilot story about the Battlefield Golf Club, the City Assessor conducted drive by inspections of property in close proximity to the Golf Club. This action by the City Assessor was in no way driven by the publication of the article, this was a routine update process. It has been some time since these neighborhoods were inspected for assessment purposes and the timing was purely coincidental.