



A Slice of News

from



City of
BRAHAM

"Building A Better Tomorrow"

FREEDOM PARK USA

IN HONOR OF ALL VETERANS
WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE ARMED
FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

VFW POST 1731
BRAHAM, MINNESOTA

Photo credit: Tayla Fletcher



Winter Readiness

No parking is permitted from November 1 to April 1 on any City street or public way within the City of Braham between 2 a.m. and 7 a.m.

Before & after November 1 to April 1 parking restrictions, no parking on any City Street or public way between 2 a.m. and 7 a.m. when there is an average of 2 or more inches of snow on City

WINTER PARKING RESTRICTIONS



SNOW REMOVAL

Property owners cannot put snow on City streets. This becomes a danger on the roadway to snowplow drivers and the traveling public.

Now is a good time for residents to take a look at your mailboxes and posts. Check for obvious damage, such as cracked or rotting boards or post, missing screws, etc. The Public Works department can not be responsible for mailboxes knocked down as a result of snow thrown off a plow onto a weak post.



MAILBOXES

SIDEWALKS

It shall be the duty of the owner or occupant of property fronting on any sidewalk within the City of Braham to keep the sidewalk on which their property fronts clear of snow and ice, and to remove all snow within 24 hours after each snowfall. This includes any snow plowed from public streets onto the sidewalk.

Snow is a kid magnet, and as fun and tempting as those big snow piles are, children should never play on snow in the boulevard (City Right-of-Way) area. Not only is this where the City plows push the snow, but children could slip and fall into the path of a

SNOWBANKS



When snow flies, the Public Works department asks residents to refrain from putting trash cans in or right next to the street during plow season. Snowplow drivers want to clear the streets for your safety and obstacles such as trash cans need to be out of the way.



Put Snow in its Place

Braham’s Public Works department’s equipment and drivers make sure the streets of our city are safe. But we need property owners to help by blowing, shoveling, or plowing their snow onto their own property, not into the street. Property owners shall not put their snow in the street because snow deposited in the street becomes compacted and can freeze into large lumps of ice on the roadway. If a truck with its plow down catches these unexpected lumps of ice, it can spin the truck around, break the plow off the truck, or send the truck out of control— all dangerous situations. Large mounds of ice on the roadway can also be a hazard for the traveling public, so please help us out by keeping it out of the street.



The City of Braham will be electing a Mayor, which is a two-year term, and two City Council positions which are four-year terms. These terms will start January 2021.

The polling place in Braham, located in City Hall, will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election day for eligible residents to cast their vote.

REGISTERING TO VOTE

The last day to pre-register for the General Election is October 13, 2020. You may register to vote by completing a Voter Registration Application available at County Offices or the Secretary of State’s website. You can also complete your registration [online](#).

Your registration remains current until you move, change your name, or don’t vote for four consecutive years. To update your information you must complete a Voter Registration Application.

After you have registered, you will receive a postcard with information about where you vote and your name will appear on the list of voters at your polling place. If you are unable to register at least 21 days before Election Day you can register on Election Day at the polling place.

VOTE EARLY (ABSENTEE)

In Minnesota, you can vote early with an absentee ballot starting 46 days before Election Day. You can [request an absentee ballot online](#). Read about other options and more information about absentee voting at the links below or by visiting <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/>.

Braham Water/Sewer Customers:

The City of Braham is committed to providing the highest quality sewer service to its customers. From time to time, we experience a problem with the City sewer line which, if not detected early, can result in a backup of raw sewage into a residence. The City requests all residents to report any change in their sewer immediately. Toilets flushing slowly or water coming up through a basement drain may be a sign of a sewer problem. A quick, friendly check by a City worker will determine if there is a problem in the City line. The City also wants to remind residents not to flush diapers, towels and rags down the toilet.

Also, it is important to know that the City’s insurance will not pay sewer backup damage claims if the City’s insurance adjuster determines that the City was not negligent. In most cases, this has been the outcome of claims, so **it is important for residents to make sure they have sewer backup coverage included in their homeowner’s policy. Especially for those with finished basements.**



Liquor Store News:

Jacque Nordby, Manager 320-396-2381

If you're looking for big store selection and small town nice - stop by Home Town Liquor! We have a vast selection of (craft) Beer, Liquor, Wine and Tobacco. Our friendly and helpful staff keeps your health in mind by providing hand sanitizer stations and wearing masks and cleaning on a regular basis. We value our customers and want everyone to be safe.

Our hours are:

Mon. - Thurs. 9am to 9pm
Friday & Saturday 9am to 10pm
Sunday 11am to 5pm

Like us on Facebook to keep up to date on all the latest new products and upcoming holiday hours.

Come say "HI" and check out the beer cave. Looking for something special? - Let us know, we would be happy to help.



Orange-Cider Punch

5 oranges, sliced
3 1/2 ounces orange-flavored liqueur
2 cups orange juice
4 bottles cider

Cut each slice of orange into 4 pieces, put them in a punch bowl, and drizzle the liqueur over them. Cover them for at least 2 hours, preferable overnight. Before serving, add the orange juice and cider. Enjoy!

DID YOU KNOW...

the City of Braham requires all buildings to display the address number?

Per City Ordinance 165, all dwellings and structures used for residential and/or business purposes are required to keep and maintain a number at or near the main entrance.

Numbers shall be clear, precise, accurate, and permanent. Self-adhesive number should not be used. Numbers should be no less than four (4) inches in height and easily legible from the street.

Failure to comply could not only result in a delayed response from Police & Fire, it is also a petty misdemeanor subject to a fine of up to \$200.

Household Hazardous Waste Program

With a completed voucher from the Isanti County Zoning Office, the Isanti County Board of Commissioners have authorized Isanti County residents to utilize the Chisago County Household Hazardous Waste facility free of charge, once per year.

Please download the Household Hazardous Waste Voucher at <https://www.co.isanti.mn.us/666/County-Household-Hazardous-Waste-Program>. Complete your name, address, and month you plan to visit the CCHHW facility. Also, please list the acceptable items you plan to bring (note the quantity, container size(s), and contents. Scan & email it to the Isanti County Zoning Office for authorization before you visit the facility. You may email to: michelle.coop@co.isanti.mn.us



WELLHEAD PROTECTION 2019 PROGRESS REPORT

- Continue to check for new wells within a one-mile radius of the DWSMA. (Action 1)
- Monitor and maintain the 200' radius around the wells to insure that setback distances for new potential contaminant sources are met. (Action 10)
- Identify resource needs of adjoining property owners to meet setback distances and/or manage potential contaminate sources. (Action 11)
- The City continues to be aware of the DWSMA and water quality with Planning and Zoning issues. (Action 13)
- Marshall Lind has attended the Isanti County Local Water Management Committee (Action 14)
- Update current City Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinances and Subdivision Ordinance to include references to the DWSMA and water quality concerns (Action 15)
- Contract MPCA Tanks & Remediation Unit and/or US EPA to determine status of past cleanup projects on LPS and Bulk Plant properties. Maintain contact with the MPCA to ensure that all ground water quality issues are addressed. (Action 16)
- Locate and notify MDH and/or DNR of any new or proposed High capacity wells within 2 miles of the DWSMA. (Action 19)
- Request that MDH & DNR inform the City of Braham when permits are granted for new wells, maintenance of existing wells, when existing wells are disclosed during property transfer, or when private wells are sealed. (Action 20)
- Prepared 2019 annual summary of WHP activities for City website, newsletters, and City Hall. (Action 26) – Completed 9/12/19
- Prepare and distribute handout describing WHP activities and the status of plan implementation, through website, welcome packets, and City Hall. (Action 28)
- Develop accurate costs for each WHP measures and budget for them. (Action 33)
- Started Wellhead Protection Plan amendment – Part 1 has been approved

Respectfully Submitted,

Marshall Lind
Wellhead Protection Manager



Sealing Unused Wells

Protecting the Groundwater is Everybody's Business

What is an unused well and why is it a problem?

A well that is not in use, sometimes referred to as an "abandoned" well, can be a potential threat to health, safety, and the environment. Wells that are no longer used may be buried or forgotten. Often they have not been sealed properly. Sealing is the process of clearing an unused well of debris and filling the well with a special material called *grout*. A licensed well contractor must do the sealing. Unused wells that have not been properly sealed can be a source of groundwater contamination, potentially affecting nearby drinking water wells. They may threaten the quality of water in the city water wells, your neighbor's well, or even your own well. *Groundwater is the main source of drinking water for three of out every four Minnesotans. Protecting groundwater is everyone's business.* As wells age, the casing may rust, joints may leak, the pump may become stuck in the well, or the well may fill with debris. If the well is covered with boards or concrete, the cover will eventually decay and break open. Surface water runoff, debris, and other contaminants can then enter the well. A well may be taken out of service for a variety of reasons. It may no longer provide enough water. It may not have been repaired when it needed to be. It may have become contaminated. A well may be "lost" or abandoned when property changes hands, or when use of the land changes from agricultural to industrial or residential. *Old, unused wells are easily forgotten.*

How do unused wells threaten the groundwater?

Groundwater is found in underground geologic formations called *aquifers*. The layers of rock and soil that lie between an aquifer and the surface, or between aquifers, typically act as a natural barrier against the spread of contamination. However, an unused, unsealed well can provide an open channel between the surface and an aquifer or between a shallow aquifer and a deeper aquifer. An unused well can act as a drain allowing surface water runoff, contaminated water, or improperly disposed waste to reach an uncontaminated aquifer.

Do unused wells pose any other problems?

If unsealed large diameter wells are not covered or otherwise protected, the open well hole can be a safety hazard, especially for children and animals.

What does the law require?

By law, a well must be in use, be under a *maintenance permit*, or be sealed by a licensed well contractor. A well must be sealed if 1) the well is not in use, 2) the well is contaminated, 3) the well has not been properly sealed in the past, 4) the well threatens the quality of groundwater, or 5) the well otherwise poses a threat to health or safety. If you have an unused well and wish to keep the well for future use, you must apply for a special *maintenance permit* from the Minnesota Department of Health. The permit requires an annual fee, and is only issued if the well meets minimum sanitary requirements.

How can I find out if I have a well on my property that is not in use and not sealed?

Whether you live in the country or in town, you could have one or more wells on your property, which are not in use and not sealed. If you live in town, there may be one or more wells that were used before city water became available, or a well that was used for watering lawns and gardens. If you live in the country, wells may have served current or former houses and barns. To locate old wells, it may help to:

- Find out when your home was built and when public water was first available in your area. If the house was built before public water was available, there was likely a well on your property.
- Look for any physical evidence of a well on your property such as a well casing, pipe, or water pump; water pipes which may indicate the presence of a well; a small room, often in the basement, that may have housed a well or a small building located away from the house; a windmill or water pump; or a depression in the yard.
- Consult former owners of your property, or people who have lived in the area a long time. They may remember the locations of old wells.
- Look at old photos of your property. They may show windmills, houses, barns, or outbuildings where a well may have been located.
- Consult city and county records of building and land use permits.
- Consult the *Well Disclosure Certificate* available from the MDH, required for all property transfers in Minnesota since November 1, 1990 to obtain specific information about the location and status of wells on your property. Minnesota law requires any owner of property, which is sold or transferred, to disclose to the buyer the status of all wells on the property.

**What does a well look like?**

You can often see the casing of an unused well sticking up out of the ground. Look for a metal pipe, typically from 1¼ inch to 6 inches in diameter. Wells that were dug rather than drilled may appear as a ring made of concrete, tile, bricks, or rocks in the ground or pit. The ring could be anywhere from 12 inches to 36 inches in diameter, or even larger. A windmill, an old shed that was used as a well house, or an old pump may mark the locations of a well. A metal or concrete cover or manhole may mark the location of a well pit. A depression in the ground may indicate a buried well that hasn't been sealed. If you had a well inside your home, a pipe sticking up out of the floor, possibly stuffed with rags, could be a well casing. Wells were often housed in a "basement offset", a small room attached to the basement, often located under exterior concrete steps. A glass block fitted into a step or concrete patch could be another clue.

How are wells sealed?

State law requires that a licensed well contractor must do well sealing. *Don't try to do it yourself.* A licensed well contractor has the necessary equipment and expertise to seal your well properly. The contractor can also handle all the necessary paperwork. To find a contractor, look in the Yellow Pages under *Well Drilling and Service*. The MDH also has a list of licensed contractors on the MDH Well Management section website at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells/lwc

How much does it cost?

The cost of sealing a well can vary considerably. For shallow, small diameter wells like those found at some homes and many lake cabins, the cost typically ranges from \$300 to \$600. Deeper, larger wells will cost more to seal. Things like access to the well, special geological conditions, debris in the well, and depth & diameter of the well will affect the cost of well sealing. Also, if a contractor is already on the site drilling a new well, the cost of sealing an old well will often be less because a special trip to the site is avoided. The same is true when people get together and arrange to have a number of old wells in a community sealed at the same time. It is always a good idea to get several estimates on costs. Some local governments offer cost share programs to help pay for part of the cost of sealing wells. Please contact the MDH or the local Soil and Water Conservation District for details.

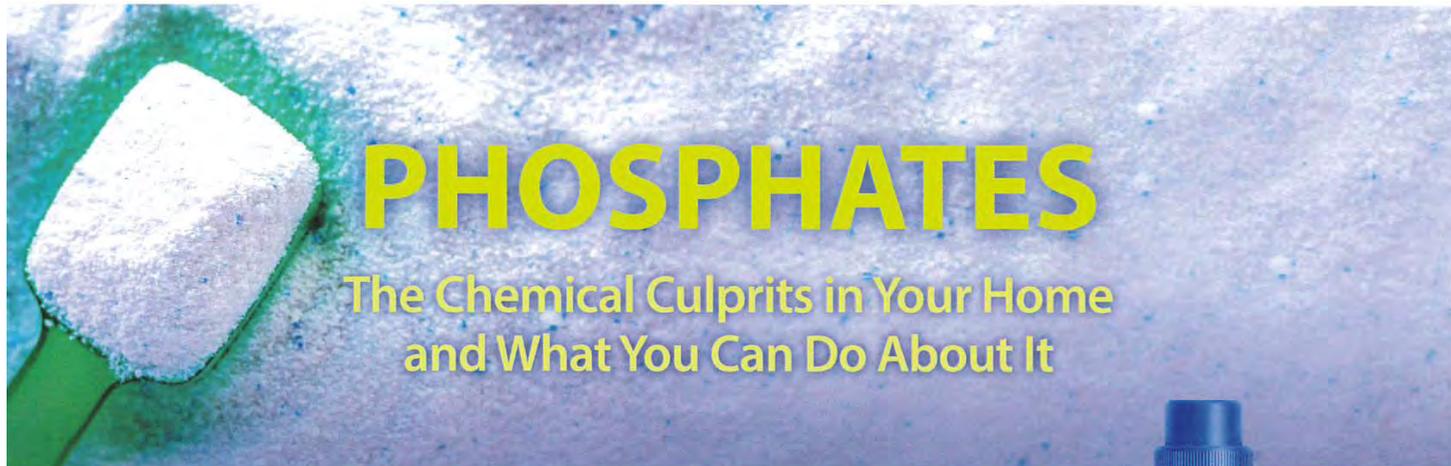
What if I have an old well on my property and I only use it for watering my yard or garden, do I have to seal it?

Minnesota law does not require a well, which is in use, to be sealed unless it is causing, or has the potential to cause, a health problem or contamination of the groundwater. Your well is considered to be "in use" if you use it on a regular basis. If you sell or transfer the property, the well will have to be disclosed to the buyer at that time.

Where can I get more information?

If you have any questions, please contact a licensed well contractor or the well specialist at your local MDH district office.

**MDH District Office
625 North Robert Street
PO Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-201-4600 or 800-383-9808**



PHOSPHATES

The Chemical Culprits in Your Home and What You Can Do About It

Phosphates are in most detergents and fertilizers today. When we use them they impact water quality.



Why Are Phosphates Such a Problem?

Phosphates are an inorganic chemical found in agricultural fertilizers, manure and organic wastes found in sewage and industrial discharges. Too many phosphates in lakes, rivers and streams cause algae to grow. Algae-covered water is less attractive for fishing and swimming and other forms of aquatic recreation.

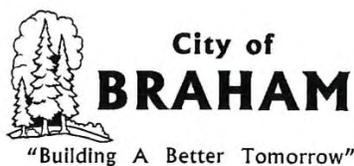


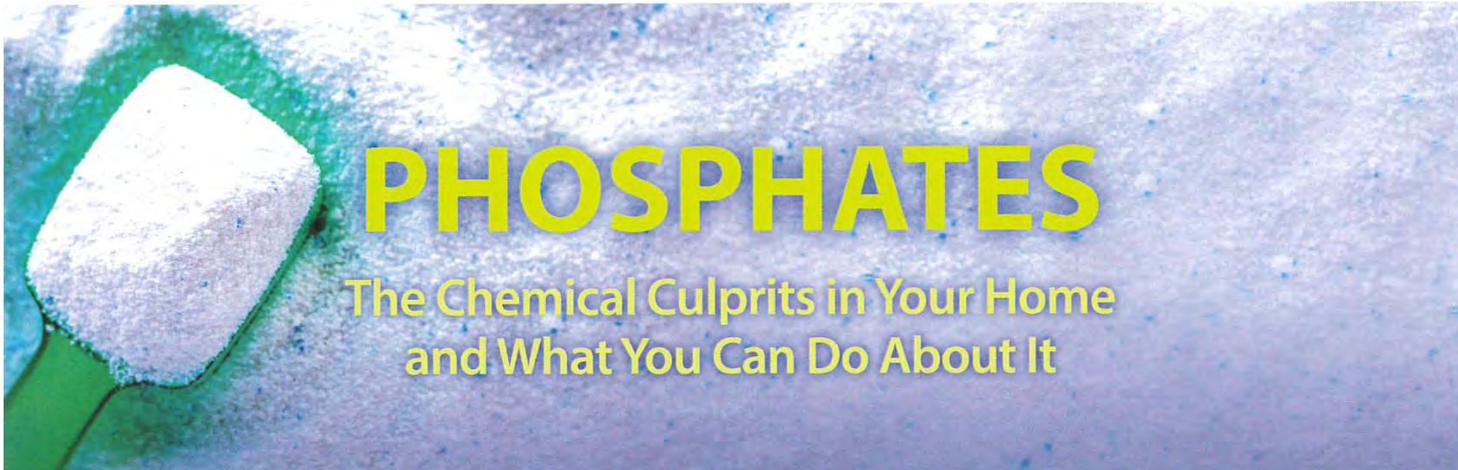
Phosphates can feed the growth of toxic- blue-green algal blooms, which are harmful to people, pets and wildlife. Phosphates spur the excessive growth of nuisance algae. When there is too much algae in surface water and the algae dies, the rotting algae can deplete the oxygen in the water and result in fish kills. Severe algal blooms may directly poison animals that consume the algae or cause allergic reactions in people who swim in the polluted water.

Read the reverse for three areas where you can make a positive impact on your community's water and the environment.

Benefits to Reducing Phosphate Use:

- Helps the community keep water treatment costs down.
- Aquatic recreation remains as an attraction for tourists and the local community.
- Supports the environment in its natural state.





PHOSPHATES

The Chemical Culprits in Your Home and What You Can Do About It

EASY WAYS TO REDUCE PHOSPHATES



In Your HOME

Read labels to find phosphate-free soaps, detergents and household cleaners when possible.

Select the proper load size when using your washing machine.

Try to just run full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine.

Use the correct amount of detergent.



For Your LAWN

Choose natural fertilizers.

Sweep up to prevent runoff.

Mulch when mowing to reduce need for fertilizer application.



For Your VEHICLE

Use a commercial car wash when possible. Many filter and recycle their water.

If washing your car at home, use phosphate-free soaps and don't park on concrete so water is filtered before reaching drainage systems.

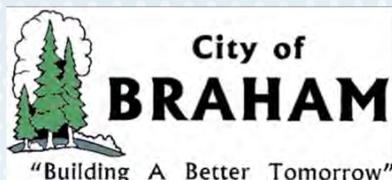


City of **BRAHAM**

"Building A Better Tomorrow"



PeopleService INC.
Water & Wastewater Professionals



PO Box 521 • 201 Broadway Ave S
Braham, MN 55006
320-396-3383
320-396-3478—Fax

City Administration 320-396-3383

City Administrator—Angela Grafstrom agrafstrom@braham.com
Account Clerk—Sue Hasser shasser@braham.com
Office Specialist—Stephanie White swhite@braham.com
Building & Zoning—Marshall Lind mlind@braham.com

Public Works 320-396-2129

Supervisor—Dan Eklund deklund@braham.com
Jeff Jones jjones@braham.com
George Rowe growe@braham.com
Victor Fanth vfanth@braham.com

Home Town Liquor 320-396-2381
Manager—Jacque Nordby hometown@braham.com

Police Department 320-396-3383
Police Administration
Chief of Police/EM Director—Eric Baumgart ebaumgart@braham.com
Deputy Chief/Internal Affairs—Lance Olson lolson3603@braham.com

Criminal Investigations
Lieutenant/Criminal Investigations—Kevin Stahl kstahl@braham.com

Patrol Officers
Kevin Lease klease@braham.com
Jesse Zajac jzajac@braham.com
Jill Verke jverke@braham.com
Tyler Johnson tjohnson@braham.com
Chad Meyer cmeyer@braham.com
Tanner Hagen thagen@braham.com
Shawn Machin smachin@braham.com
Scott Berg sberg@braham.com
Keith Justen kjusten@braham.com

City Council Directory
Mayor Patricia (Tish) Carlson (2020) pcarlson@braham.com
Councilmember Jeremy Kunshier (2020) jkunshier@braham.com
Councilmember Shawn Sullivan (2020) ssullivan@braham.com
Councilmember Vicky Ethen (2022) vethen@braham.com
Councilmember Robert Knowles (2022) rpknowles@braham.com

City Council meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month.

City Council Agendas,
Administrator’s Reports and
Minutes can be found on our
website: www.braham.com

Braham Photographers

The City of Braham is seeking
photographers to submit images in
consideration for the City
publications.

The City will incorporate a select
number of images into the
newsletters, website, Facebook
page, and potentially displayed in
City Hall. All images selected for
use in City of Braham publications
will be properly accredited to the
submitting photographer. Images
shall be provided to the City at no
cost.

The City is specifically seeking
photos taken within the city, by
local photographers. It is ideal that
the digital image files be a
minimum of 2,000 pixels wide.

Please contact Stephanie White at
City Hall via email at
swhite@braham.com with any
questions, or for additional
information.

**Did you know....the City has a
Compost Site?**

It is available for **City residents
only**, located on 8th St SW across
from the Braham Event Center.
Residents can bring grass clippings
& leaves, brush & branches.
Please note there are two separate
areas for grass clippings & leaves
and brush & branches.

*No household garbage allowed.