

## **Edgewood Continues to Work on Wellhead Protection**

The Town of Edgewood has developed a Wellhead Protection (WHP) Plan, which was approved by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) on April 1, 2002. Since then, the Local Planning Team (LPT) has met annually to update the Plan and implement management strategies to protect Edgewood's drinking water source. The WHP LPT held its annual meeting on March 13, 2019. A complete copy of the WHP Plan and educational materials are available for public viewing at the Edgewood Town Hall (3405 Nichol Avenue).

April is Storm Water Awareness Month throughout Madison County. Storm water run-off occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks and streets prevent storm water from naturally soaking into the ground. Storm water can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland or coastal water. This can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals and people.

Below are some tips to help protect our drinking water supply and improve storm water quality in our community:

- Participate in local community clean-up activities.
- Limit your use of chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides, and other hazardous products. Buy only what you need, reducing the amount to be later discarded. Be sure to follow label directions.
- Recycle used oil, automotive fluids, batteries and other chemical products. Do not dispose of these hazardous products in toilets, storm drains, wastewater systems, creeks, alleys or the ground. These actions pollute the water supply.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle and other machinery for leaks and spills. Collect leaks with a drip pan until repairs can be made. Clean up spills by absorbing the spill. Do not rinse with water or allow it to soak into the ground.
- If you have a septic system, have it inspected and serviced every three years.
- Plug abandoned wells on your property as these old wells provide a direct route for surface contamination to reach groundwater supplies. Contact a licensed well driller for assistance.
- Keep in mind that groundwater aquifers collect and store rainwater and snowmelt that soaks into the ground.

WHP is a program focused on protecting drinking water from potential contamination. Groundwater protection is critical as it supplies drinking water to residents within Edgewood. It is also important to understand that a sound pollution prevention strategy is far more effective and less expensive than remediating or replacing a contaminated water source. Public support depends on public awareness, so citizens should be aware that many routine activities can affect water quality. Through cooperation between the citizens in the community, local businesses and the water utility, a collective approach will lead to a dependable water supply for current and future generations.