



Local News

Meetings feature Galien River watershed

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NEW TROY - The Galien River Watershed Project is hosting two events in coming months to help residents in the watershed understand and comment on important matters in the area, the organization announced.

The July 27 and Aug. 3 events are hosted by The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission in partnership with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, The Berrien County Health Department and other partners. The goal is to improve water quality.

The July 27 meeting is 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the New Troy Community Center at 13372 California Road. Participants can discover and share special places they know about in the Galien River watershed. The meeting is free and open to everyone. Refreshments will be provided.

The July 27 event will feature interactive presentations and mapping exercises for participants to identify and prioritize areas important for maintaining benefits, which the natural areas provide.

Chikaming Open Lands will present options available to property and homeowners on different types of land protection, which will preserve land and potentially provide tax benefits.

Well Water Testing Night will be 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 3 in the New Troy Community Center.

The event is to raise awareness of the harm an improperly maintained septic system can have on the environment.

Admission and water testing are free. Refreshments will be provided. There is also a chance to win a free water inspection from the health department.

The Aug. 3 event will offer a free test for drinking water and a question-and-answer session about septic systems.

Attendees who wish to have their water tested need to bring a small sample of tap water in a clean, sealed container. The health department, along with several representatives from licensed septic companies, will be available to answer questions and schedule inspections and/or pumpings.

The event will feature presentations by Peg Kohring, the Midwest Regional Director of The Conservation Fund, and Ken Priest, a health inspector for the health department.

The Galien River watershed is about 82,200 acres in southwestern Berrien County and empties from the Galien River into Lake Michigan in New Buffalo. The watershed includes New Buffalo, Three Oaks, Galien, New Troy and the surrounding area.

Public comment is needed in order to help develop a citizen-led vision for natural and rural lands in the watershed, the watershed organization reports.

For more information on the Galien River watershed and the programs, visit www.swmpc.org/grw.asp or contact Wesley Rieth (wrieth@swmpc.org) or Kris Martin (kmartin@swmpc.org) or by phone at 925-1137, Ext. 21.

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