

Bridgewater Township Newsletter

July 2021

Dust Control

In an effort to keep our gravel roads in the best shape possible, we are continuing with our three-year rotation of adding gravel to select township roads. The gravel is placed on the roads and then after sufficient rainfall, the gravel is shaped and compacted. By waiting for rainfall, we are better able to work with the gravel with minimal loss. When the road is compacted, we contract with a company to place dust control on the road. If dust control is placed prior to the gravel being laid or compacted, the dust control will be ineffective. The drought conditions this year have made this process challenging. We will endeavor to complete the process as quickly as possible.

Septic Maintenance

As a rural township resident, you have a septic system to treat wastewater. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain that system to ensure years of service. One of the most important parts of maintaining a septic system is getting it pumped on a regular basis. There are numerous licensed pumpers in the area willing to assist. Maintaining the system prevents unnecessary repairs and protects our groundwater.

The website listed below contains information on how to get the most out of your system.

https://www3.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/homeowner_guide_long.pdf

Radon Testing

Radon is a colorless, odorless gas that naturally occurs in the soil and is common in Minnesota. Exposure to high levels of radon gas over time can lead to lung cancer. Rice County provides testing kits at the Rice County Government Center, 320 Third Street Northwest, Faribault. While testing can be done anytime during the year, they suggest the best time is when the home is being heated.

Well Water Testing

Water test kits to test well water are available to purchase through the Rice County Environmental Services department located in the Government Center at 320 Third Street Northwest, Faribault. Basic Water Test and Partial Test kits are available. For more information regarding water testing, please call the Environmental Services at 507-332-6113 or 507-645-9576.

Building Permits in the Township

Permits for roofing, siding, and window replacement are available over the counter at the Bridgewater Town Hall Office. Permits for maintenance, remodeling and new building are required in the township. Permit applications are available online at our website: bridgewaterwp.org. Building inspections are

handled by Inspectron. If you need an inspection for a current building project, please call 651-322-6626 to set up an inspection time.

Septic: Darrel Gilmer – 651-775-6118 (or dgilmerexc@yahoo.com).

Bridgewater Town Hall is located at 500 Railway Street, Dundas.

Office hours are Monday through Thursday 8:00 am to noon.

Bridgewater Township Road Right-of-Way

Along all Bridgewater Township roads is a strip of land legally established for public road purposes. This road right-of-way is much wider than the top of the road and includes ditches and cleared space to allow for safety and visibility. This space on both sides of the road separates the resident's property from the road and provides space for utilities, drainage, road construction and maintenance.

Bridgewater Township's Road right-of-way exists to facilitate safe transportation. On most roads, this right-of-way extends 33 feet from the center line on both sides of the road. By having a clear right-of-way, the driving public is protected from striking close stationary objects when they leave the roadway. According to state statute, the right of way may be used by motorists, bicyclists, ATV's, snowmobiles, and pedestrians. Placement of barricades that prevent safe passage is not permitted.

In Bridgewater Township, the following are permitted in the road right-of-way:

- Your legal mailbox setting
- Permitted drainage culverts and driveways
- Permitted utilities (public or private)
- Signage to keep the highway safe

The following are not permitted:

- Over-designed mailbox settings such as stone pillars
- Constructing or reconstructing an access without a permit
- Plowing snow across the roadway
- Constructing landscape retaining walls
- Placing fences, boulders, posts, trees and shrubbery within the right of way
- Unpermitted signs

The Township has the right and obligation to remove any items that may constitute a potential safety hazard. Safety hazards includes trees and brush. The Township will be taking steps to mitigate these hazards. Overhanging large branches and dead trees have been responsible for damage to trucks, vehicles, and in some instances, have prevented emergency vehicles from providing timely assistance. When possible, the Township will notify residents of plantings that need to be moved.

Bridgewater Contact Information

Email: board@bridgewatertp.org

Township Website: www.bridgewatertp.org

Email: clerk@bridgewatertp.org

Phone: 507-645-1656