



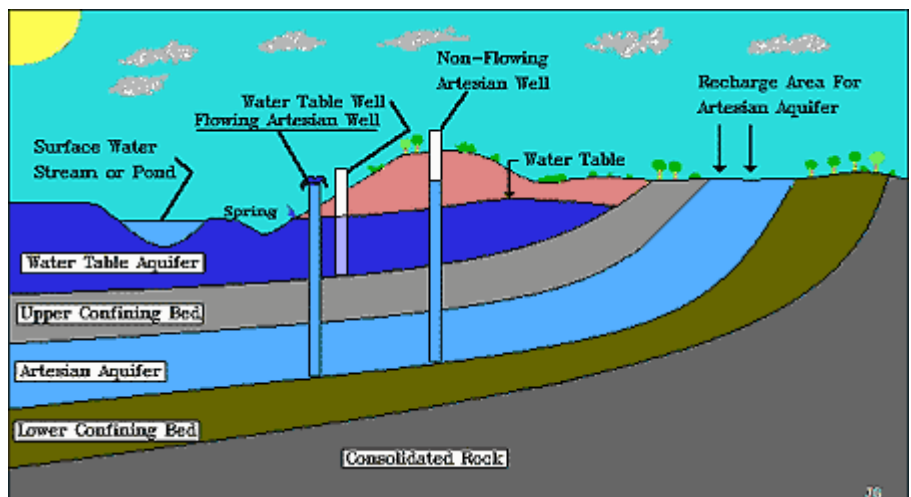
About Drugs In The Drinking Water

Again, I start my newsletter with a headline: “Associated Press (AP) probe finds drugs in drinking water.” This was an interesting subject for me to research as I was preparing for this months newsletter. The AP probe found the drinking water of 41 million Americans had trace amounts of many different prescription and over-the-counter medicines, like Acetaminophen, Ibuprofen and antibiotics, medications for cholesterol, epilepsy, heart, and asthma, just to name a few. By trace amounts, they are talking in the parts per billion or trillion. 24 major metropolitan areas across the nation have trace amounts of these drugs in their water supplies, according to the AP.

You may be asking “How do the drugs get into the water supplies?” Simple, we put it there. When we take medications our bodies only absorb some of it, the rest gets flushed down the toilet. Wastewater treatment plants do a wonderful job of removing all sorts of nasties from the water being discharged into rivers and lakes. Most are not designed to remove chemicals like those found in medications. That brings up one more question. What do you do with your expired or unwanted medications? Many people dump the unwanted medication in the toilet, flush and forget. Check with your pharmacy for more information on how to properly dispose of unwanted medications properly.

Let’s get back to Delano. Could there be drugs in our drinking water? No. Our water does not come from surface water sources. Our water comes from 4 wells. It would be very difficult for any kind of man-made chemicals, except those that are mandated by the State of Minnesota, to get into our water supply. We have four wells ranging in depths of 123 feet to 185 feet. The Minnesota Department of Health has determined that these wells are not particularly susceptible to contamination.

Here comes the science. According to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) our aquifer is Quaternary Buried Artesian also known as a sand and gravel aquifer. Quaternary refers to the geologic period, roughly 1.8 million years to present day. Artesian refers to a general type of confined aquifer. Buried artesian aquifers are often composed of glacially deposited sands and gravels, over which a confining layer of clay or clay till was deposited. When an aquifer is separated from the ground surface by a material of low permeability, like clay, the aquifer is confined. The water in a confined aquifer is under pressure and thus, when a well is installed in a confined aquifer, the water level in the well casing rises above the top of the aquifer. If the pressure was great enough to cause water to flow out the top of the well, the well would be called a flowing artesian well, like Dickinson Spring on Hwy 55 between Rockford and Buffalo. Our wells do not have enough pressure to cause the water to flow out the top of the casing, but it does rise part way making it easier to pump.



What does all this mean? It means our water supply is safe. Next month we will include our Delano Consumer Confidence Report in our bills. It highlights the testing done by the Minnesota Department of Health. We are required to test our water for over 100 various kinds of contaminants. Of those, only a few naturally occurring contaminants are found in our water. All were well below the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State of Minnesota minimum requirements.

Our water supply has been confined in this aquifer for somewhere around 10,000 years. The biggest threat to our water supply is uncapped and abandoned wells, but these wells would have to be deep wells to cause any problems. Many cities along the Mississippi River use the river for their water supply and then discharge the treated water back into the river, so that by the time you get down to New Orleans the water they are drinking may have passed through up to 14 people. I'll take the 10,000 year old water any day!

Delano: **OPEN** for Business

During the Hwy 12 Construction every effort is being made by the city, state and construction crews to ensure that all businesses will have some form of access during construction. As with any project this size, sometimes it won't be easy. We will need to use creative ways to visit our favorite business in town. As residents, learn the back roads of Delano. Most businesses on Hwy 12 can be accessed from these back roads in one way or another. Downtown businesses will need your support as well. With the detour many people may want to avoid the downtown area, but this is a perfect opportunity to come downtown and see what is there. Instead of just buzzing into your one shop and buzzing back out, park a block or two away and explore the downtown area. Now, more then ever, Delano's businesses need our patronage. Keep visiting your favorite places and go to some you never have visited before.

Delano Municipal Utility crews worked throughout the winter burying distribution lines, at times under three feet of frost. Many meetings have taken place trying to ensure that all preparations have been made before construction started. City crews, utility crews from several utilities, and construction crews are all trying to do their best to make this project as painless as possible, however, there will be problems. We have already had one outage due to construction. Let's hope that it is the last one. I guess the point I am trying to make is have patience. It will be aggravating at times, but let's look forward. When the project is done, getting from one end of town to the other will be much easier and safer for everybody.

Delano businesses are relying on us now more then ever.
Let's continue to support them as they continue to support us.

Delano: **OPEN** for Business