



November 13, 2013
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Barrington Area Council of Governments Private Well Water Testing for Bacteria and Nitrates - October 2013

The private well water sample collection event was held Monday, October 28, at The Garlands of Barrington. BACOG villages and townships sold 353 test kits the week before, and water samples from 327 households were collected. Tests were conducted the next day by our partner, Lake County Environmental Health Department, on 326 samples. (Four samples were invalidated for the presence of chlorine and two broken bottles needed replacement.)

The lab reported that 41 water samples had coliform bacteria, which is nearly 13% of the total tests. Coliform bacteria were found in water samples from North Barrington, South Barrington, Lake Barrington, Barrington Hills and Deer Park. Those homeowners were contacted within 24 hours by Lake County staff with instructions for chlorinating and re-testing their wells. None of the 321 water samples contained E. coli bacteria or tested high for nitrate.

At the last event (March 2013), just over 6% of the test samples tested positive for bacteria, and other of BACOG’s five water testing events have found even higher percentages of bacteria in the sampled water.

	Oct., 2013	March, 2013
Kits Sold	353	354
Kits Tested	326	325
Satisfactory	285 (87.4%)	304 (93.5%)
Unsatisfactory	41 (12.6%)	21 (6.5%)

This event included a presentation at 6:30 PM by Kathy Papp from Lake County on salting practices & chlorides which was followed by a Q & A session with Arnie Rapa from Lake County and Kurt Thomsen from KOT Environmental on a variety of other groundwater topics. The program drew approximately fifteen attendees at the sample collection site at The Garlands. As in the past, the Garlands was an excellent facility for hosting the water testing event. BACOG hopes to continue to hold the event at the Garlands in the future. Ryan Adamovich from the Barrington High School video department was present to film a part of the event for our on-going 4th grade groundwater project.

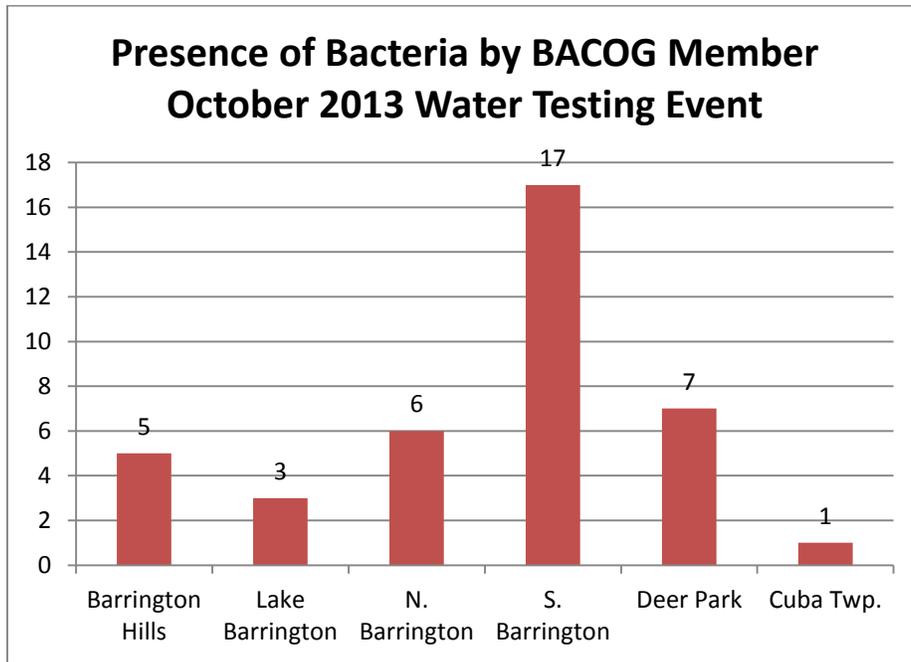
Gloria Grillo, Supervisor, Lake County Environmental Laboratory, included the following note in her report: “I marvel at the effectiveness of the BACOG outreach to get so many people to care about the safety of their drinking water and to take action. We are happy to be a part of it.”

Residents from the BACOG communities, regardless of county of residence, are encouraged to participate in this local testing program. The BACOG communities with private wells are the Villages of Barrington Hills, Deer Park, Lake Barrington, North Barrington and South Barrington, and Barrington Township and Cuba Township. Barrington and Tower Lakes provide municipal water to

residents. South Barrington provides municipal water to one residential subdivision. The villages supplying municipal water regularly test their water supplies.

A breakdown of test kits purchased by residents from BACOG member governments is not yet available, but should be compiled by the next Water Committee meeting.

As noted above, test results included 41 samples that contained bacteria. This represented 39 actual addresses. (Two addresses with bacteria present submitted two samples.) The distribution of the samples that tested positive for bacteria follows:



Barrington Hills	5
Lake Barrington	3
N. Barrington	6
S. Barrington	17
Deer Park	7
Cuba Twp.	<u>1</u>
Total Addresses	39*

*2 addresses had 2 tests; total tests = 41

Event participation overall was on par with previous events. More detailed analysis of participation will be forthcoming.

A positive result in Level 1 testing for bacteria and nitrate *usually* indicates a problem within the property’s well or well system, not the aquifer. To assess bacterial safety, drinking water is tested for a group of "indicator bacteria" called *coliform bacteria*. These bacteria do not usually cause disease themselves, but their presence indicates that surface contamination, generally from human or animal waste, has found its way into the well and disease organisms may also be present. Water that has become contaminated in this way can transmit a variety of infectious diseases, including dysentery, salmonellosis, hepatitis, and giardiasis. When coliform bacteria are found in well water, the water should be boiled before being used for drinking or cooking, and the well should be disinfected, usually with a chlorine treatment.