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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department Encourages Well and Septic Maintenance
to Protect Groundwater***

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department (BLDHD), together with the Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance (NMPHA), is proud to recognize National Groundwater Awareness Week, taking place March 9–15, 2025. This annual observance highlights the importance of safeguarding one of Michigan's most vital resources—groundwater.

In Michigan, 45% of residents rely on groundwater for drinking water, with rural communities especially dependent on private wells. Proper well and septic maintenance is essential to ensure water safety, prevent contamination, and protect the health of families and the environment.

“Groundwater plays a critical role in our health and economy, particularly in northern Michigan,” said Eric Johnston, BLDHD Director of Environmental Health. “By taking simple steps like testing well water annually and maintaining septic systems, residents can help preserve this valuable resource.”

Tips for Well and Septic Maintenance:

- **Annual Well Testing:** Test your well annually for bacteria, nitrates, and other potential contaminants.
- **Septic System Care:** Have your septic tank inspected every 3-5 years and pumped as recommended. Avoid flushing harmful substances.
- **Proper Disposal:** Dispose of chemicals, paints, and medications at designated hazardous waste sites to prevent seepage into groundwater.

BLDHD and NMPHA are committed to protecting the health of our communities and the environment. To learn more about well and septic maintenance or water testing, visit www.bldhd.org/environmental-services/.

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Proud member of the [Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance](http://www.nmpaha.org): 7 local health departments advocating for public health.