



THE RIPPLE EFFECT

A Monthly Update Highlighting One Committee's Progress

DECEMBER 2025

**EXPLORING EVERY IMPACT
EMPOWERING EVERY VOICE
ENSURING A HEALTHIER HIGGINS LAKE**

HOH-lake.org or HOHL@gerrishtownship.org

AT A GLANCE

"The Purple Dot" Project

- HOHL Septic Committee is partnering with Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) to digitize historic paper records related to wells and septic systems in our community.
- These records are being uploaded into the CMDHD FetchGIS System. Properties with available historical data are marked in the system with a purple dot - hence the name the "Purple Dot" project. This dot indicates well and septic information exists for that property.

Septic Committee Partners with Central Michigan Health Department

The "Purple Dot" Project

What Is the "Purple Dot" Project?

- Historic records—including permits, septic system details, drain field types, well locations, replacement information, and installation dates—are digitized and entered into FetchGIS.
- CMDHD staff and trained volunteers review aerial maps to mark the location of septic tanks, drain fields, and wells when information is available.
- Each purple dot provides data that improves assessments of wells, septic systems, and supports watershed protection for Higgins Lake.

What Is the FetchGIS System?

- FetchGIS is a web- and mobile-based Geographic Information System (GIS) platform that allows authorized users to view, search, and interact with maps, data, and historical records.
- CMDHD hosts and maintains the FetchGIS system, eliminating the need for additional hardware or specialized software for users and enabling easy, centralized access to information.

What's Next...



How HOHL and Gerrish Township Will Use FetchGIS and the Purple Dot Project

- Identify and track septic systems that are at risk of failing.
- Produce a clear understanding of the condition of all septic systems within the township.
- Enable CMDHD and Gerrish Township to evaluate potential impacts on water quality and make informed decisions that safeguard public health, the environment, and Higgins Lake.
- Pinpoint properties with incomplete historical records and outline steps to correct those gaps.
- Support the development, enforcement, and long-term implementation of an effective septic ordinance.

The next Steering Committee meeting is Tuesday, January 20, 7 PM at the hall.

Plan to attend and participate! For more information, go to the website or on Facebook at Gerrish Township Health of Higgins Lake.