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**Shelby Source
Under pressure
By Chris Williams
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Jay James wants to keep the pressure on Shelby Township.

James, associate owner of Giffels-Webster Engineers, is currently studying the township's water system to determine whether or not the community's infrastructure can meet residents' needs. The Macomb Township firm was contracted by Shelby Township last December to conduct the water reliability study.

"It basically entails going through the existing water main system, and seeing if the pressure and flow of the current system meets the needs of Shelby Township residents and system users," said James. "We want to make sure that if someone goes into the shower that they're getting the proper pressure that they need."

James said water reliability studies are conducted every few years to ensure that communities are properly meeting residents' needs. In areas like Macomb County, with populations rapidly growing, the studies ensure that system users continue to get quality water flow when they do dishes, take a shower or water their lawns.

"For people, it comes down to a quality of life issue," James said. "I think everybody tends to take water for granted. When you turn on the shower and the pressure's just right, there's a lot of work that goes into ensuring that."

The \$36,000 study began in late December and consists of studying the water as it cycles through the current system. James and his teams study it closely, monitoring the pressure and flow, and whether it's strong enough to properly serve the needs of township residents.

James said Giffels-Webster has done several similar studies in communities across the metro-Detroit area. He said the results for Shelby Township's study should be available in a few months, once results come back into his office.

"This is a study that the DEQ likes to see done every five years or so. So far we haven't found any problems," he said. "Right now we're just waiting for all the information to come back so we can compile our report."

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