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## Quality Water Matters

Brought to you by the City of Ann Arbor  
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OK, so the football season could be going better, and for that matter so could the pandemic. It seems like this is a predictable end to a generally tough year. Each month, I mention the risks of COVID infections

and the necessity for the community to follow guidance from the Washtenaw County Health Department. Unfortunately, the incidence of infections continue to rise. On Sunday, Nov. 15, the Governor announced a new public health order issued by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services that provides additional restrictions on several activities susceptible to the spread of the virus. While the scientific community appears to have reached consensus that mask wearing can reduce the transmission of the virus and the public health order mandates mask wearing, it is incumbent on all of us to do our part. #MaskUpMichigan.

Our efforts in March and April to solidify our business continuity plan have paid dividends as we prepare for an uncertain winter season. There have been no cases of COVID transmission among Water Treatment Plant employees, reinforcing the safety procedures that we have implemented. Because we provide a critical community service, it is important that our staff remain healthy and available to work regardless of the level of infection in the community. I am honored to work with such a professional and committed team who continue to show an admirable commitment to their jobs while balancing challenging conditions at home with their families.

Since the October issue of Quality Water Matters, there are a few updates on the Gelman Plume litigation. Two of the interveners (Scio Township Board and the Huron River Watershed Council) voted to conditionally approve the 4th Amendment to the Consent Judgment, while Washtenaw County Commissioners and Ann Arbor's City Council voted against the Amendment. On Thursday, Nov. 19, these decisions were presented to Judge Connors at the Washtenaw County Circuit Court. The next milestone will be a hearing on the case scheduled for January 11 through 13. As I learn more about the content of this hearing, I will be sure to share with you.

Be well.

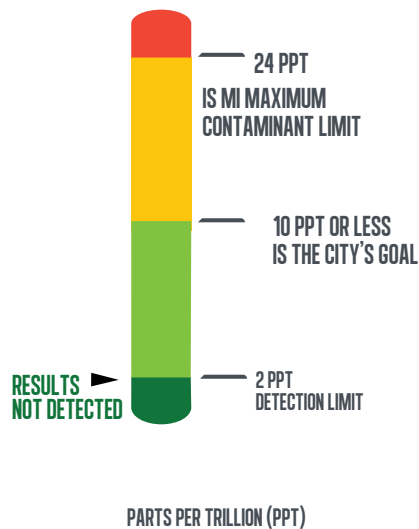
*Brian Steglitz*

Brian Steglitz, P.E., Drinking Water  
License F-1, Water Treatment Plant Manager, Ann Arbor resident

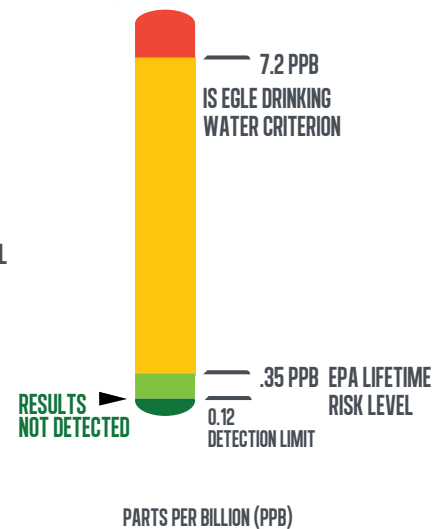
### MONTHLY WATER QUALITY DASHBOARD



#### PFOS/PFOA



#### 1,4-DIOXANE



The city's monthly water quality dashboard has been updated to better illustrate the city's goals and the new Michigan PFAS regulations.

## Water Meter Upgrades

The City of Ann Arbor water meter upgrade project is underway. Letters to homeowners have begun to go out with information on how to schedule the replacement of water meters with newer equipment that utilizes the latest metering technology and longer battery life.



Once installed, these upgraded meters will provide more accurate readings and thus make billing more accurate.

We understand the trepidation some might feel letting contractors into your place of business or residence. The city wants to assure you that our contractor, UMS, is taking every precaution to keep you, your employees and residents safe by following strict COVID-19 safety procedures.

These steps include:

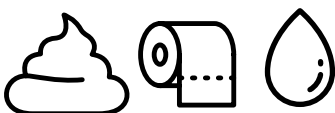
- physical distancing
- face coverings
- use of gloves and foot booties
- routine cleaning and disinfecting of equipment
- daily temperature checks and screening

For more details, including an informational video, homeowners should visit [www.a2gov.org/meterupgrade](http://www.a2gov.org/meterupgrade).

## “Flushable” wipes + grease clog the pipes

Things like “flushable” wipes, feminine hygiene products and paper towels do not break down like toilet paper. They cause blockages in your home and in sewer pipes. Fats, oils and greases do the same. Dispose of these in the trash, **never** down the drain.

To keep it flowing, only flush . . .



[a2gov.org/wipesandfog](http://a2gov.org/wipesandfog)

## DECEMBER WATER CHAMPIONS

Public Services Unit Manager **Molly Maciejewski** is being recognized as December’s Water Champion due to her recently being elected as a trustee for the Michigan Section American Water Works Association (MI-AWWA). MI-AWWA is a section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA), the largest nonprofit, scientific and educational association dedicated to managing and treating water. MI-AWWA consists of nearly 1,700 water professionals in Michigan leading the advancement of water knowledge and improving the value and quality of water.



Congratulations to Molly. We thank her for her service as a trustee and her dedication to advancing water quality for Michigan.

## Water Assistance Program brings \$18,000 in bill credits to Ann Arbor customers

Through funding from the federal CARES Act and a state appropriations bill, the City of Ann Arbor secured funding to pay off nearly \$18,000 in Ann Arbor water and sewer customer bills that are past due. Through a partnership with the Washtenaw County Office of Economic and Community Development, the city identified eligible customers and will be providing direct payments for families in need of assistance. The eligible participants were identified through customer billing data that was securely transferred through the county to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services food assistance program records. Customers with unpaid bills who also qualify for state aid will see a credit on their next bill and do not need to take any additional action.



If you believe you qualify and have not received a credit, please reach out to the Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development at 734.544.6748. The city also partners with the County on the Barrier Busters for emergency needs, so if you are in crisis, we may be able to help. More information can be found at: <https://www.washtenaw.org/588/Barrier-Busters>.