

A²H₂O

Quality Water Matters

Brought to you by the City of Ann Arbor
Volume 2, Issue 17 | September 2020



As university students return to campus and school begins – virtually, in-person, or hybrid – I want to remind everyone of the importance of flushing water in buildings or residences that have been un- or under-occupied for longer than a month. You can find more guidance at www.qualitywatermatters.org.

www.qualitywatermatters.org

This month, as the Drinking Water Quality Manager, I want to introduce the new Michigan regulations for PFAS in drinking water. The State of Michigan adopted new maximum contaminant limits (MCLs) for seven PFAS on Aug. 3. An MCL is a limit above which there is a risk to public health. The city was involved as a stakeholder in the development of these rules, which are among the most stringent in the country.

The new limits and current concentrations in the city's drinking water are summarized in the table below. As you can see, the city is well-positioned to comply with these limits, in part due to the work we have done during the past two years upgrading the carbon in our filters and increasing the frequency that we replace carbon. In fact, the city's water quality goal of less than 10 parts per trillion (ppt) combined PFOS and PFOA is more stringent than the adopted MCLs.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)	Michigan Maximum Contaminant Limit (MCL; ppt)	Current Drinking Water Concentration (ppt)
HFPA-DA	370	Not detected
PFBS	420	1.9
PFHxS	51	Not detected
PFHxA	400,000	3.0
PFNA	6	Not detected
PFOS	16	Not detected
PFOA	8	Not detected

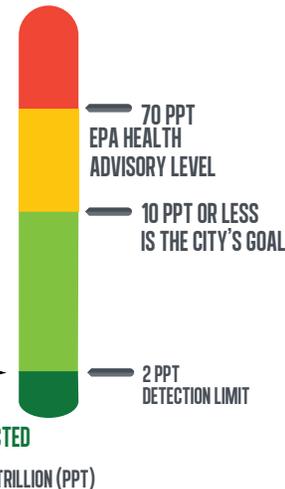
We wouldn't be in such a good position if it weren't for the support of City Council, the community, and staff who have put in the hard work to replace carbon more frequently, change filter operations, upgrade our backwash system, participate in research projects, apply and receive grants, and communicate with a variety of stakeholders. It has been a huge effort, and we are seeing the benefits of this work now. I want to thank you for your support

..... continued on page 2

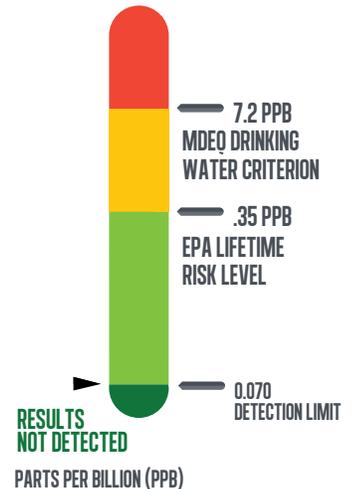
MONTHLY WATER QUALITY DASHBOARD



PFOS/PFOA

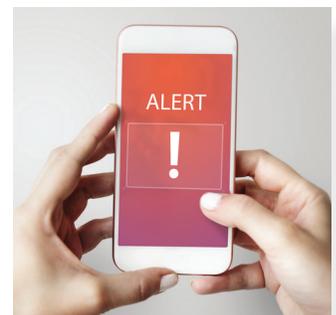


1,4-DIOXANE



Emergency Alerts

Your safety is our top concern – that's why the City of Ann Arbor wants to make sure you know about emergencies and incidents as they happen, including emergency water notifications. Beginning in August, the City of Ann Arbor will begin to use Washtenaw County's emergency notification system powered by Everbridge to make sure you know about issues that may affect your safety.



This system allows the City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County to contact thousands of residents in seconds via phone, email or text. The success of this service relies on YOU. Having your latest contact information is the only way to ensure that we can contact you in an emergency. Please sign up for emergency notifications from the City of Ann Arbor at www.washtenaw.org/alerts. It only takes a minute to enroll!

..... continued from page 1

and advocacy, and our staff for their hard work and contributions towards addressing PFAS and ensuring that we provide high quality water. I'm very proud of what we've accomplished together.

The PFAS story doesn't end here. The city is committed to continuing research related to PFAS treatment. We are studying our treatment processes to optimize both PFAS removal and water quality in general. We also continue to work with North Carolina State on a Water Research Foundation project focusing on treatment of short-chain PFAS compounds using various types of carbon and ion exchange resins. Short-chain PFAS compounds are currently not regulated and the scientific community is just beginning to study these compounds and their potential health impacts. As we learn more, we will continue to provide updates. More information about PFAS can be found at www.qualitywatermatters.org.

Next month we will provide an update on the Gelman Plume and the status of negotiations with Gelman, the State of Michigan, and local government intervenors, and the proposed Fourth Amended and Restated Consent Judgment.

Sarah Page

Drinking Quality Water Manager
Sarah Page, PhD

Pratt Appointed To APWA Government Affairs Committee

Congratulations to Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner, **Evan Pratt**, who accepted a two year term serving as part of the Government Affairs Committee for the American Public Works Association (APWA). This committee is responsible for identifying and informing the US Congress, along with other federal agencies, of priorities within the public works sector. This group raises awareness to the important issues and challenges surrounding clean water- including drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater as well as transportation.



Left to right: APWA President Bill Spearman, Executive Director Scott Grayson, Evan Pratt and Water Resources Committee Chair Barry Sheff.

SEPTEMBER WATER CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to our September Water Champions, **Nugget Burkhart, Doug Scales and Kate Maddox**, who are stewards at the Zamboni rain garden in Veterans Memorial Park. They volunteer nearly every week during the growing season and over the years have restored the garden to be nearly free of weeds, and full of native plants. Thank you for making this rain garden not only beautiful but a benefit to our environment.



Above: Nugget Burkhart, Doug Scales and Kate Maddox.

"Flushable" Wipes



They 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. To keep it flowing, only flush ...



Wipes and other products aren't the only things that can cause clogs. Fats, oils and greases do the same. Dispose of these in the trash, never down the drain.