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## Quality Water Matters

Brought to you by the City of Ann Arbor  
Volume 1, Issue 7 | November 2019



As cold weather arrives and you begin preparing for winter, we wanted to highlight some important winter maintenance tips that are necessary when cold weather arrives.

### Cloudy cold water tips

When the weather gets cold, people often ask us why the water coming out of their faucets is cloudy or milky. The cloudiness is caused by dissolved oxygen gas in the water. Once the water is no longer under pressure, while it is in the distribution pipes underground and in the pipes in your homes and businesses, this gas is released from the water into the air. If you let the water sit for just a minute you will see it begin to clear. This process is similar to the carbon dioxide gas that is released from a soda can once it is opened. If the water is cloudy it is completely safe to drink and should not have any noticeable taste or odor.

### In-home pipe protection steps

Cold weather, especially extreme cold, is more likely to cause water pipes to freeze and break in your house. Here are some steps you can take to prevent your home water pipes from freezing:



Here are some steps you can take to prevent your home water pipes from freezing:

- For pipes located within cabinets, open the doors to allow warm air to circulate. If you have young children, move chemicals or cleaners so they remain out of reach.
- Set your thermostat to the same temperature day and night. A slightly higher heating bill is far less expensive than the expense of a broken pipe and possible flooding.
- If you will be away from home, set your thermostat no lower than 55 degrees.
- Insulate any spigots or pipes on the outside of your home.
- In the long-term, consider moving exposed pipes inside and adding insulation to pipes in crawl spaces and attics.

### Water emergency contact information

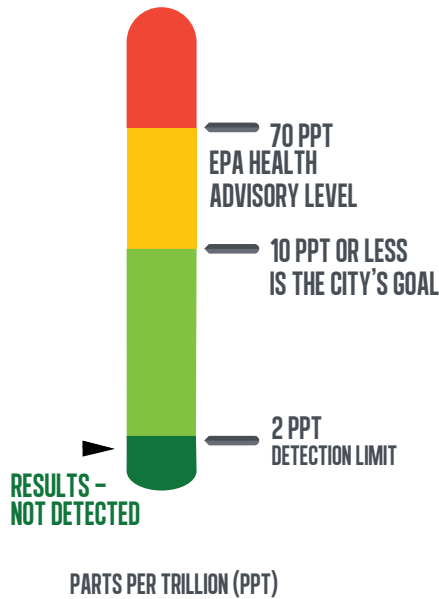
It is common for extreme cold to cause underground water pipes to burst. If you see pools of water or areas of ice that seem to get larger with no visible leak, please contact the city. For water emergencies or to report a water main break, basement flooding, sanitary sewer back up, rusty water or a plugged storm drain, please call the city Monday-Friday

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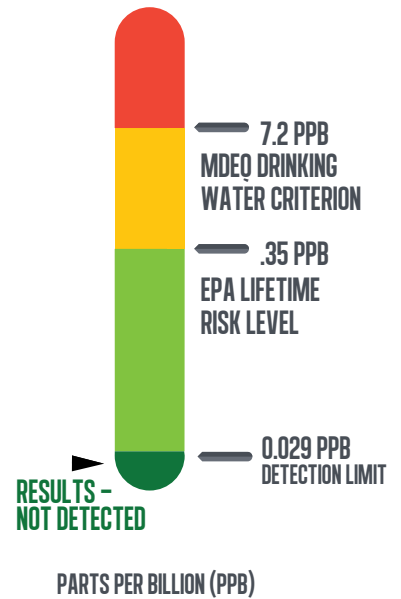
## MONTHLY WATER QUALITY DASHBOARD



### PFOS/PFOA



### 1,4-DIOXANE



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8 a.m.–5 p.m. at 734.794.6320. At all other times, please call 734.994.2840. For any other water-related, non-emergency, issues please use the “Report a Problem” link at [www.a2gov.org](http://www.a2gov.org) or download the A2 Fix It app.

Stay tuned for next month’s topic which will include more information about the city’s water meter replacement project which will begin in early 2020.



*Brian Steglitz*

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

### NOVEMBER WATER CHAMPION

**Michael Culpepper** has served the Ann Arbor community for the past 20 years as an Operator and Supervisor at the city’s Water Treatment Plant. He says there are many things he enjoys about his job, but his favorite activity is conducting plant tours and speaking about the importance of safe and sustainable drinking water.

“I feel a genuine sense of pride to be a part of the team here that provides such an important product to our community,” said Michael. “During my tours, I always try to work in the following question, “What are the three things you absolutely need to live?”

Hint: Hold your breath. Answer: Air, food and water. And how much food can you make without water?” Thank you Michael for your dedication to public service and protecting Ann Arbor’s water!

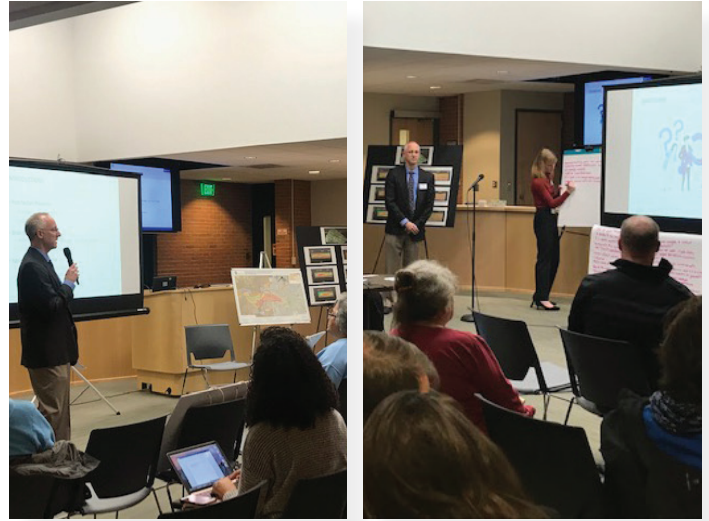


Michael Culpepper

## Public meeting: Gelman Plume Monitoring Well Location Update

On Oct. 28, city staff held an informational public meeting with the city’s contractor Tetra Tech to present recommended monitoring well locations between the north edge of the contaminant 1,4-dioxane plume prohibition zone and Barton Pond. After the presentation presenters answered questions from the audience.

The meeting is available online at <https://a2ctn.viebit.com>. The presentation is available at <http://www.QualityWaterMatters.org>.



An informational public meeting with the city’s contractor Tetra Tech was held Oct. 28 in the Ann Arbor City Council Chambers.

## Imagine a Day Without Water

Did you “Imagine a Day Without Water?” Thank you to everyone who shared their stories via social media channels about what no water would be like for Ann Arbor.

Watch the video to learn more: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fYnqtYTFYDI>



**Imagine a Day Without Water**  
October 23, 2019