



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
 LANSING

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August 26, 2014

Albert Sodman  
 Water Supervisor  
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 100 State St.  
 PO Box 477  
 St. Johns, MI 48879-0477

Mr. Sodman,

The Michigan Department of Community Health is pleased to present you with the 2013 Water Fluoridation Quality Award. (These are a bit late this year as we just received them from CDC).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identifies community water fluoridation as one of the 10 great public health achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and presents this award to your community water system for maintaining a consistent level for 11-12 consecutive months of optimally fluoridated water for the 2013 calendar year.

In Michigan, statistics demonstrate that children, as well as adults, receiving the benefits of community water fluoridation have less dental cavities. The benefits of optimal community water fluoridation last throughout the life span. The Michigan Oral Health Program and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality commend you on maintaining optimal levels of fluoride in your water system.

We urge your community to promote this prestigious award, so we are including a press release example for media use.

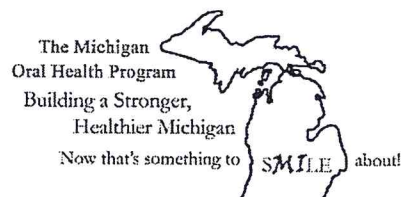
Sincerely,

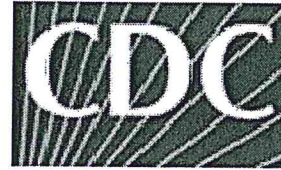
*Christine M. Farrell*

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**August 2014**

**The Michigan Department of Community Health** announces that the **City of St. Johns** has been awarded a 2013 Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Fluoridation is the adjustment of fluoride in drinking water to a level that is effective for preventing tooth decay. The award recognizes those communities that achieved excellence in community water fluoridation by maintaining a consistent level of optimally fluoridated water throughout 2013. A total of 2,184 public water systems in 33 states received these awards, including 95 in Michigan.

“Community water fluoridation continues to be proven to prevent tooth decay throughout people’s lives,” stated Dr. Katherine Weno, DDS, JD, director, CDC Division of Oral Health. “Since CDC began our fluoridation awards program in 2002, an increasing number of states have worked closely with their community water systems to ensure proper management of their fluoridation programs.”

Community water fluoridation has been recognized by CDC as one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th Century. Currently, nearly three-quarters (74.6 percent)—or 210 million people—served by community water systems have access to optimally fluoridated tap water. CDC recommends water fluoridation as a safe, effective, and inexpensive method of preventing decay. In fact, every \$1 invested in fluoridation saves at least \$38 in costs for dental treatment.

*“Michigan consistently exceeds the CDC recommendations for community water supplies by having 90% of our population on community water systems accessing fluoridated water. These awards demonstrate the commitment to quality by these community water systems. Water fluoridation benefits all residents of a community and it has demonstrated its effectiveness in preventing tooth decay throughout one’s lifetime,” states Christine Farrell, RDH, BSDH, MPA, Oral Health Program Director of Michigan.*

