

## **FIFTY YEARS OF FLUORIDATION AWARD**

The City of Belpre (Washington County) and Ohio American (OH/AM) Water Company-Tiffin District (Seneca County) celebrated their golden anniversaries of community water fluoridation by receiving National Fluoridation "Fifty Year Awards" in April. According to records kept by the Ohio Department of Health, Belpre and OH/AM Tiffin began adjusting fluoride levels in their water systems in 1966.

The Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD), the American Dental Association (ADA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) annually recognize hundreds of U.S. water systems that have continuously fluoridated for 50 years. The National Fluoridation "Fifty Year Awards" are announced every year at the National Oral Health Conference, sponsored by the ASTDD.

The effectiveness of water fluoridation has been documented in the scientific literature for more than 65 years. Even before the first public water system began to adjust the natural fluoride level to the optimum amount—which occurred in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1945—data from the 1930s and 1940s revealed 50-60 percent lower tooth decay rates in children who drank water containing fluoride. Studies prove water fluoridation continues to be effective in reducing tooth decay by 20-40 percent, even in an era with widespread availability of fluoride from other sources, such as fluoride toothpaste or fluoride varnish.

In 1952, the cities of Westerville (Franklin County) and Avon Lake (Lorain County) were the first Ohio communities to fluoridate. Below is a list of the community water systems that have previously received this award.

### **Past Recipients of Fifty Years of Fluoridation Award**

#### **2015 Awards**

No Ohio communities began fluoridating in 1964; therefore, there was no 2015 award.

#### **2014 Awards**

Logan

Upper Sandusky

#### **2013 Award**

Marietta

#### **2012 Awards**

City of Wellston

Bowling Green

Indian Hill

