

## Ben Fulmer

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**From:** Nathan Ramsey <nathan@landofsky.org> on behalf of Nathan Ramsey  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2017 7:03 PM  
**To:** Nathan Ramsey  
**Cc:** Nathan Ramsey; Barbara Darby; Zia Rifkin; Kim Cox  
**Subject:** NC Department of Commerce SYNC October 31, 2017: 47 New Jobs at Advanced Superabrasives in Madison County

### Good news for our region! Congratulations to Madison County and the team at Advanced Superabrasives (ASI) for making this expansion possible.

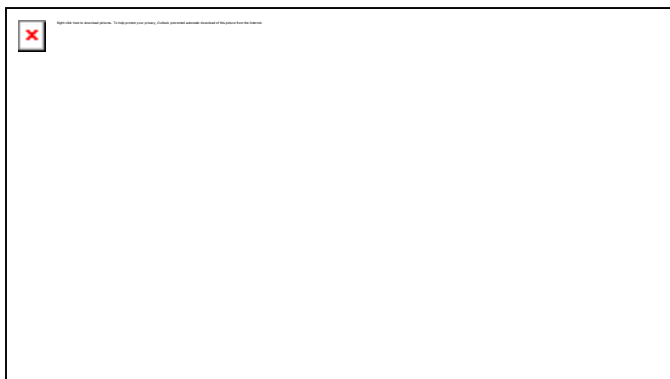
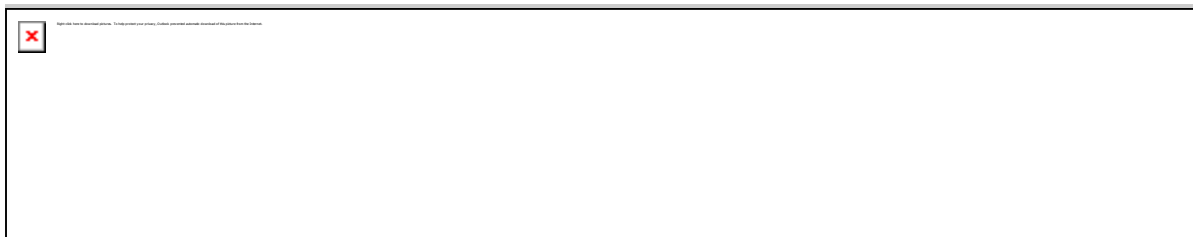
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**From:** SYNC - N.C. Department of Commerce [mailto:feedback@nc-sync.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2017 6:03 PM  
**To:** Nathan Ramsey <nathan@landofsky.org>  
**Subject:** [SYNC] October 31, 2017: 47 New Jobs at Advanced Superabrasives in Madison County

October 31, 2017



[Email the Editor](#)



*Workers at the Siemens plant in Charlotte (file photo).*

*A 'selfie' taken by the Curiosity Rover on the planet Mars.  
Equipment from Advanced Superabrasives in Madison County,  
N.C. is included in the mobile lab's scientific instrument package.*

## Gov. Cooper Announces 47 New Jobs at Advanced

### North Carolina Joins National Academy on Work-Based Learning

North Carolina has been selected to take part in a national project to create and expand work-based learning opportunities to connect young people with career opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math

# Superabrasives in Madison County

Advanced Superabrasives, Inc., a manufacturer of premium high performance grinding wheels and equipment, will expand operations at its existing facility in Mars Hill, creating 47 full-time jobs over four years, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced October 25. The company will invest \$26 million in its expansion in Madison County.

"North Carolina's top-flight manufacturing workforce makes our state the right choice for companies looking to grow into the future," **Governor Cooper** said. "Advanced Superabrasives' expansion is just the latest example that top manufacturers have confidence in our state and our workers."

Advanced Superabrasives manufactures industrial grinding machines and has won international respect for its superabrasive grinding wheels, used by the automotive, aerospace, medical and wood working industries, among others. One of the company's grinding wheels is currently in use on the planet Mars, part of the scientific package aboard the Curiosity Rover. All Advanced Superabrasives products are manufactured and distributed worldwide from their facility in Mars Hill.

"Companies with experience in North Carolina understand the advantages of doing business here," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "It's wonderful to see another manufacturer choose to expand their operations in our state."

"North Carolina values its manufacturing companies, both large and small," said **Jonathan Szucs, General Manager for Advanced Superabrasives**. "Our company is proud to do business here and we look forward to growing in the state for many years to come."

Salaries for the new jobs will vary by position but will average \$33,829 annually. Madison County's average wage is \$31,560.

A performance-based grant of \$100,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate Advanced Superabrasives' expansion in Madison County. Companies receive no money upfront and must meet job creation and capital investment targets to qualify for payment. All One NC grants require a matching grant from local governments and any award is contingent upon that condition being met.

(STEM), **Governor Roy Cooper** announced today (October 31).

North Carolina is one of six states selected by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices to participate in a policy academy focused on increasing high-quality work-based learning. Work-based learning blends work experience and applied learning to develop students' and young adults' foundational and technical skills so they can take advantage of education, career and employment opportunities.

"By linking education with business, North Carolina will develop a workforce with the right skills for the right jobs," **Governor Cooper** said. "This national effort will help us identify and harness the best ways to give young people in our state real-world knowledge and exposure to successful careers."

Funded by the Siemens Foundation, the policy academy will help states develop and grow work-based learning opportunities for people ages 16 to 29. The effort will focus on connecting young people with careers in industries where STEM skills are needed most, such as advanced manufacturing, health care, information technology and energy.

Along with North Carolina, Alabama, Idaho, Illinois, Nevada, and Rhode Island were selected to participate in the policy academy.

North Carolina's team includes membership from the Governor's office, North Carolina Business Committee for Education, Department of Commerce, Department of Public Instruction, and NC Community College System.

In addition to [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Madison County](#), the [Town of Mars Hill](#), and [Madison County Economic Development](#).

[Read more.](#)



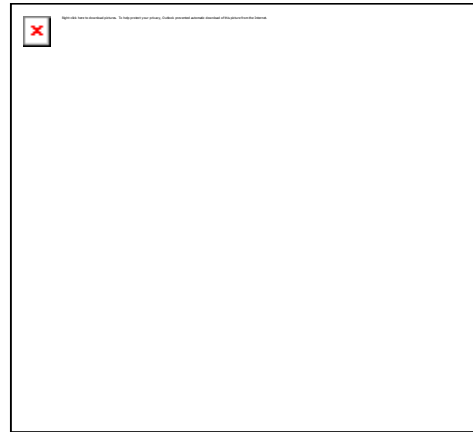
*(Left-right) Japanese Ambassador to the United States Kenichiro Sasae; Bob Rolfe, Economic & Community Development Commissioner for Tennessee; Governor Cooper; Minor Shaw, Chair of the Southeast's association; Teruo Asada, Chairman of the Japanese association, and Governor Phil Bryant of Mississippi.*

## Governor Cooper Leads State's Delegation to SEUS/Japan

North Carolina strengthened relationships and economic ties with Japan last week as state economic development and business officials represented the state at the 40th Annual Southeast U.S./Japan Conference, held in Greenville, South Carolina. Nearly 470 delegates from seven Southeast states and the nation of Japan attended the meeting. Governor Roy Cooper led the state's delegation to the conference.

The SEUS/Japan Conference, operating since 1976, remains one of the highest-potential opportunities to engage top Japanese business and government officials.

The conference, which rotates each year between Japan and southeast locations, will next convene in Tokyo, October 18-20, 2018.



## Secretary Copeland and Commissioner Troxler Discuss Ag Topics

With the 150th edition of the North Carolina State Fair as a backdrop, N.C. Commerce Secretary Tony Copeland and N.C. Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler met recently to discuss agriculture and its importance to the state's economy.

Agriculture represents a significant portion of the North Carolina economy. Farm cash receipts topped \$11.6 billion in 2015, according to statistics published by the N.C. Department of Agriculture.



## Veterans Life Center To Open in Butner

Both of North Carolina's United States Senators attended a ground breaking ceremony on October 27 for the the 100-bed Veterans Life Center (VLC) in Butner. The VLC will provide transitional housing, medical care and job training to veterans who are having a hard time transitioning back to civilian life when it opens in early 2019.

## Rural Communities Receive \$3.97 Million in Grants, Attracting 386 New Jobs

The North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) approved 12 grant requests on October 20, totaling \$3,977,855. The requests include commitments to create a total of 386 new jobs. An additional 145 new jobs associated with these grants had been previously announced.

"Infrastructure enhancements are a key ingredient to help our rural communities prepare for and compete for business," said **Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "The Rural Infrastructure Authority, supported by the Rural Economic Development team here at Commerce, provides the support and expertise that makes a real difference for people's economic future."

In the latest round of grants, the RIA approved two requests from the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account program in the City of Claremont and in Lenoir County.

The RIA approved two requests under the state's federally-funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - Economic Development program. Funds will go to the City of Raeford in Hoke County and the City of Asheboro in Randolph County.

The RIA also approved eight grants under the state's Building Reuse program, in locations statewide.

Details on each of the RIA awarded projects is [available online](#).

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## British Business Group to Address Multi-Generational Talent Issues

The Triangle chapter of the British-American Business Council will host an information and networking event on Tuesday, November 14 at the Research Triangle Park headquarters. The evening event, titled "Playing the Generation Game - Does Your Company Have a Winning Strategy," will bring together a panel of experts to explore the challenges that organizations can anticipate in recruiting, retaining, and developing multi-generational workers.

To register for the event, [visit the council's website](#).

Senator Thom Tillis and Senator Richard Burr offered remarks during the event.

The state's NCWorks system, supported in part by Commerce's Workforce Solutions team provides a variety of career services customized to meet the needs of the state's veterans.



All of us at Commerce wish you and your family a safe and happy Halloween!

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## On Our Radar

[A New Study from MIT on Potential Job Loss Due to Automation](#) [additional reporting from [WRALTechwire about the MIT Study](#)]

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## N.C. in the News

[Raleigh and Charlotte are among the best cities in America to live, report says](#) (*News & Observer* - Oct. 31)

[\\$15 Million Program Available to Help Small Businesses Affected by Hurricane Matthew](#) (*Daily Reflector* - Greenville - Oct. 30)

[Triad community college opens \\$5M+ advanced manufacturing center](#) (*Triad Business Journal* - Oct. 30)

[Locally, optimism remains high among small business owners](#) (*Courier-Tribune* - Asheboro - Oct. 28)

[Eastern NC gains grant money to help infrastructure](#) (WNCT-TV - Greenville - Oct. 20)

[Gov. Cooper visits Continental facility](#) (The News Herald - Morganton - Oct. 18)

### *About Us*

SYNC is North Carolina Commerce's electronic newsletter for local government officials, private-sector allies, state policy makers, and other economic development leaders. We offer unfiltered details about new economic development projects and events, useful news about your peers, and opportunities to synchronize with statewide programs and tools in order to advance economic development in your community. [Send your story ideas to the editor.](#)

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## Ben Fulmer

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**From:** Wilensky, Julie <julie.wilensky@cco.sccgov.org> on behalf of Wilensky, Julie  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 11:59 AM  
**To:** Wilensky, Julie  
**Cc:** Miner, Lynnette; Amy Mello  
**Subject:** Copy of filed amicus brief in Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission  
**Attachments:** 16-111 bsac County of Santa Clara.pdf

Dear all,

Thanks to everyone – cities, towns, counties, and mayors – who joined the amicus brief drafted by the Santa Clara County Counsel's Office, LA City Attorney's Office, and NYC Law Department in *Masterpiece Cakeshop*. There are 70 jurisdictions and 80 mayors, as well as the U.S. Conference of Mayors, on the final brief.

A copy of the brief filed this morning is attached.

The nonprofit group Freedom for All Americans, which runs the Mayors Against LGBT Discrimination program and has been coordinating outreach to mayors' offices, will be doing press and social media outreach about the brief. Freedom for All Americans will be following up with materials that interested jurisdictions and mayors can use if they wish to publicize joining the brief.

Thank you again for your support in this important case!

Julie Wilensky

**Julie Wilensky** | Deputy County Counsel  
Office of the County Counsel, County of Santa Clara  
70 West Hedding Street, East Wing, 9th Floor  
San José, California 95110  
(408) 299-5955 | julie.wilensky@cco.sccgov.org

## Ben Fulmer

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**From:** Sarah Terwilliger <sterwilliger@ashevillenc.gov> on behalf of Sarah Terwilliger  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 07, 2017 10:18 AM  
**To:** councilgroup  
**Subject:** P&Z Interviews-- please respond  
**Attachments:** P&Z Final Packet.pdf

Mayor and Council members,

Attached please find the application packet with essay responses for the current P&Z vacancies. There are 3 eligible seats, in which one member, Laura Berner Hudson is eligible and interested in reappointment.

There are 7 candidates, including Ms. Hudson. Please send me your top THREE recommendations for interviews to be conducted prior to the 10/3 Council Meeting by next **Monday, 9/11 at 5:00**. I will then compile the results for the Bds/Comm review and recommendation at the upcoming 9/12 meeting. Also, because Ms. Hudson is an incumbent she will automatically get an interview, please do not include her in your top 3.

Please let me know if you should have any questions.

Thanks!  
Sarah

Sarah Terwilliger  
Deputy City Clerk  
City of Asheville  
(828) 259-5839

**Ben Fulmer**

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**From:** Maggie Burleson <MBurleson@ashevillenc.gov> on behalf of Maggie Burleson  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 24, 2017 3:51 PM  
**To:** Brian Haynes; Cecil Bothwell; Esther Manheimer; Gordon Smith; Gwen Wisler; Julie Mayfield; Keith Young  
**Subject:** Draft 8-22-17 Minutes  
**Attachments:** Minutes 2017-AUG-22.pdf

Please feel free to e-mail me any changes by Noon on Wednesday, September 6.

Thanks!  
Maggie

Maggie Burleson, MMC, NCCMC  
City Clerk  
City of Asheville  
Post Office Box 7148  
Asheville, N.C. 28802  
828-259-5601 (phone)  
828-259-5499 (fax)



## Ben Fulmer

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**From:** Cecil Bothwell <cecilbothwell@gmail.com> on behalf of Cecil Bothwell  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 18, 2017 11:02 PM  
**To:** Peter Landis  
**Cc:** councilgroup  
**Subject:** Re: Attempted hijacking

Oh my.

I've composed a group willing to enlist others, at no expense to the City, to create the "quick, light, cheap" events that the Project for Public Spaces suggested in May 2016 ...

While the Downtown Association and LEAF and the Asheville Arts Council and others create events THAT COST THE CITY MONEY.

But my suggestions are suspect?

You are really completely either uninformed or nuts.

-C

On Jul 18, 2017, at 5:02 PM, Peter Landis <[peterlandis1949@gmail.com](mailto:peterlandis1949@gmail.com)> wrote:

A well-crafted reply, Councilman, but not a response.

Let's take this point by point.

First, most of those who replied to the survey seeking input on the future of the Haywood Street location indicated they favored some sort of "mixed use" applications for the site. "Mixed use". Not "exclusive use". Like most others, I would also like to see "plein air painting, yoga, history talks" even hopscotch competitions (how about you vs me?) and other outdoor activities. I suppose that puts me into the subversive camp as well.

Second, are you really saying that the only way for the public to enjoy city-owned property is by creating a park and nothing else? Not very imaginative. How about green space AND a low-rise, LEED certified green *building* that could serve as a center for environmental studies (your professors might like that idea) along with, perhaps, rental space for environmentally-oriented businesses and non profits. The public might like that, too.

Third, while I have great respect for the people you've chosen for your foundation, it does smack of FDR-style court packing. No need for diversity of opinion, just shared vision. Isn't that a charge you flung at the Haywood Visioning team?

And as I mentioned before, your vision is not as widely shared as you would have everyone believe. When you made "St. Lawrence Green" the election rallying cry, you succeeded--if that's the word--in attracting fewer than one out of five registered voters to the polls. Not exactly the overwhelming support you claim.

As you know from previous email exchanges, I do share your view on at least one critical issue facing Asheville--the affordable housing crisis.

But you're using the park issue as a tool to try to further your power in the Council. I find that unfortunate. No. Make that...disheartening.

--Peter

On Tue, Jul 18, 2017 at 3:24 PM, Cecil Bothwell <[cecilbothwell@gmail.com](mailto:cecilbothwell@gmail.com)> wrote:  
Mr. Landis

For my non-profit to recruit a yoga instructor, a tai chi leader, a local knitting club to knit in public, some local professors to present popular science, natural history and Asheville history talks, a children's education expert to work on reading in public and a kid's activity group to do hopscotch competitions, talking with buskers to organize some music ....

All seems so evil and manipulative. Oh, yes. Taking over a public space.

Oh, dear, working with the Asheville Artists Yahoo group to suggest plein air painting. Subversive as can be. And I admit, the idea that Asheville folks might do coloring in public, as groups do in many other cities ... terribly scary.

Clearly an effort to seduce the public into enjoying city owned property. Dastardly as heck.

Guilty as charged.

-C

On Jul 18, 2017, at 9:20 AM, Peter Landis <[peterlandis1949@gmail.com](mailto:peterlandis1949@gmail.com)> wrote:

Mr. Bothwell,

Whether stated specifically or implied, in permitting outside organizations to plan activities for (do you mean "at"?) the Haywood location, it would seem the Council's objective was to encourage *non-governmental* entities to play a role. Not for a current member of said Council to--I'll say again--attempt to hijack the process by forming his own hand-picked "NGO".

As you say, "anyone can meet with anyone in the U.S. to discuss anything at anytime". But (as we've seen in the case of Donald Trump Jr). that doesn't necessarily mean those meetings are wise or helpful in forwarding the common good.

And isn't it "astonishingly stupid" to push for *only* a park for the Haywood site, when a majority of survey respondents indicated they are open to other possibilities as well?

With your push-poll and selective interpretation of election results (in which only about 10% of registered voters bothered to cast ballots when you made the Haywood site a rallying cry) you've already shown a proclivity for manipulation. Your People's Park Foundation is just another example.

Regards,

--Peter Landis

On Tue, Jul 18, 2017 at 5:21 AM, Cecil Bothwell <[cecilbothwell@gmail.com](mailto:cecilbothwell@gmail.com)> wrote:

Mr. Landis,

Council has approved a process of permitting organizations to plan activities for 68 Haywood. Forming a non-profit organization that will qualify for partnership with the City is the legal way that is done. Just as the Downtown Association, LEAF and other non-profits contract with the City to offer events, PPF and a dozen other entities have put in bids to activate 68 Haywood St.

As for meeting with a landscape architecture firm to explore possibilities ... it is my distinct impression that anyone can meet with anyone in the U.S. to discuss anything at anytime. In our case, we are seriously considering a fundraising campaign to garner private dollars for redevelopment of the vacant land. With a possible goal of raising millions of dollars, I think it would be astonishingly stupid not to get some idea of what is possible and what it might cost.

Thanks for your concern,

-c

On Jul 17, 2017, at 11:27 PM, Peter Landis  
<[peterlandis1949@gmail.com](mailto:peterlandis1949@gmail.com)> wrote:

To the Council (including Mr. Bothwell):

As you can see from his own press release, Councilman Bothwell is attempting to hijack the duties of legitimate governmental authorities to determine the future of the Haywood Street property by insinuating his own so-called "foundation" into the process. And by misrepresenting the findings of the Haywood Visioning panel.

I would call it an attempted coup.

I call on the Council to censure Councilman Bothwell for interfering with your regulatory duties.

--Peter Landis  
(Enclosure)

Press Release: People's Park Foundation/Nelson Byrd Woltz collaboration

ASHEVILLE - On Saturday, July 15th, Members of the board of the People's Park Foundation (PPF) met with landscape architects Thomas L. Woltz and Ian Quate to discuss design options for the future park at the intersection of Haywood Street and Page Avenue

in downtown Asheville. Woltz and Quate grew up in Waynesville and Asheville respectively, but currently work at Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects (NBWLA) in New York City and Charlottesville, VA.

The firm has designed prize winning public parks in 25 states, New Zealand and Australia, and embraces a relatively unique approach to their work. Woltz explained that they design based on site history and local soil, and create self contained projects that capture and use stormwater to support interconnected tree planting wells that permit the growth of an urban forest. They emphasize native plants and even urban agriculture if a site's size and setting are appropriate.

The People's Park Foundation was formed by Asheville City Councilman Cecil Bothwell earlier this summer to move ahead with activation of the space across from the Civic Center and the Basilica of St. Lawrence – a goal announced in May 2016 at the outset of the Haywood Visioning Process, but never pursued during that effort. Bothwell notes, "PPF is modeled on The Friends of Congress Square, a Portland, Maine, organization that has created hundreds of public events in a similar fledgling park without any demand for municipal funds."

During the meeting Woltz observed that in his experience cities don't remove buildings to create parks, so the fact that Asheville owns the vacant Haywood/Page properties offers a very special opportunity to create a new public space.

Coupled with the historic use of a site, NBWLA appraises the current expectations of local residents and then creates a public space that significantly engages a city's population. A core ethic of their company is to create public spaces that address environmental issues as well as public uses. You can check out the company philosophy here. <http://www.nbwla.com/firm/philosophy>

One very helpful piece of advice Woltz offered during a second informal site meeting on Sunday, July 16th, was that the City of Asheville would do well to put a hold on planned stormwater improvements on Haywood Street in the Pack Library/Civic Center area until the park is created. An environmentally sensitive design should handle, on site, all of the stormwater on the Haywood/Page property. Woltz suggested, "Why send it to the river if there's a way to use the water where it falls?"

"This meeting between the People's Park Foundation and NBWLA to advance this project makes me hopeful about the progress we're making," Bothwell observed. He added, "A short list of near term activities we're considering includes yoga, tai chi, knitting in public, popular science and local history lectures, story telling, hopscotch competitions, reading for kids, music performance, plein air painting and slam poetry. We have submitted a formal proposal to the City of Asheville to begin programming the park this August."

PPF Board members include; John Russell, Director of the Montford Park Players; Ellie Richard, founder of Education for Engaged Citizens and organizer of the annual Americans Who Tell the Truth project at the YMI Cultural Center; Ron Ogle, a local portraitist and landscape painter; Elaine Lite, publisher of Critter Magazine and founding member of Mountain Voices Alliance; Jay Fields, who currently serves as a member of Asheville's Public Art and Culture Commission, and has previously served as a board member of the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, and

Stories on Asheville's Front Porch; and Asheville City Councilman Cecil Bothwell, who is up for re-election this November, and who also serves on the boards of Proyecto de las Escuelas Guatemaltecas and [Biblioworks.org](http://Biblioworks.org) building libraries and schools in Guatemala and Bolivia.

## Ben Fulmer

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**From:** Peter Landis <peterlandis1949@gmail.com> on behalf of Peter Landis  
**Sent:** Monday, July 17, 2017 11:28 PM  
**To:** councilgroup  
**Subject:** Attempted hijacking

To the Council (including Mr. Bothwell):

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includes yoga, tai chi, knitting in public, popular science and local history lectures, story telling, hopscotch competitions, reading for kids, music performance, plein air painting and slam poetry. We have submitted a formal proposal to the City of Asheville to begin programming the park this August.”

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## Ben Fulmer

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**From:** Roger Smith <rogersmithone@gmail.com> on behalf of Roger Smith  
**Sent:** Friday, July 07, 2017 9:08 AM  
**To:** Cecil Bothwell  
**Cc:** Clare Hanrahan;esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com;Douglas Hecker  
**Subject:** Re: Battery Park Residents' Committee Petition Signatures

Dear Councilman Bothwell,

I write to thank you for your thoughtful response to the issues I have presented. Thank you also for contacting the responsible person at [stlawrencegreen.org](http://stlawrencegreen.org) about the oversight I brought to your attention. (In my opinion, a significant Civic Plaza like the one we envision really needs to reflect more upon the broader secular world and not so specifically to the nonsecular entity we all have concern and pride for, the Basilica itself. That is why I enthusiastically suggest the name, **The Thomas Wolfe Civic Plaza and Basilica Gardens**).

I wonder if you will address my request with regard to a statement I have asked for from you about the binder of petition signatures you were very kind to accept from me in 2012. As a concerned citizens, and as a representative from the Battery Park Senior Apartments community and of the thousands of Ashevilleians who endorsed our petition, I feel a personal need to account for the record you received as a representative of the Asheville City Council.

As a senior citizen and resident of the city, and as a man who is educated in the visual arts with experience as an activist against world hunger and for civil liberties, I remain cognizant and concerned about matters that affect us here and around the world. I am also very sensitive to the abuses and negative mischaracterizations that some have committed against our members as a means of dismissing us for political expediency, or for apparent self-serving purposes. Such hurtfulness is not so easy to address or qualify, but it is there nonetheless. This kind of abuse serves to thwart honest participation and it impedes progress. I am actually appalled by certain "progressive" elements in the local political arena who exercise in measures that remind me more of the kind of intrigues practiced by the enemies of liberal democratic societies.

I shall make the effort to become more active with the People's Park Foundation going forward, and I am grateful for the representation you bring to our shared concerns. It is not easy to be so active as I would otherwise choose to be when I have a major book project and an immense manuscript I am working hard at revising to final form.

I hope to see you again in the near future and to work together for the good of our community.

Roger

On Fri, Jul 7, 2017 at 8:04 AM, Cecil Bothwell <[cecilbothwell@avlcouncil.com](mailto:cecilbothwell@avlcouncil.com)> wrote:  
Hi Roger,

I just took a look at the [stlawrencegreen.org](http://stlawrencegreen.org) page and see that no mention of the multiple petitions is made. Will tell the responsible person that we ought to add it.

I agree that Council should act to make this a great park - unfortunately we only have 3 votes for that at present. This year's election will determine the result of a dozen years of effort.



We have formed the People's Park Foundation to start programming 68 Haywood St. in August. It will be great to finally have some public events happening there.

Thanks for weighing in (again) and for your efforts some years ago.

-c

***"The whole art of government consists in the art of being honest. Only aim to do your duty and mankind will give you credit where you fail."***

- Thomas Jefferson (A Summary View of the Rights of British America, 1774)

Cecil Bothwell  
@cecilbothwell  
[828-713-8840](tel:828-713-8840)

On Jul 7, 2017, at 6:02 AM, Roger Smith <[rogersmithone@gmail.com](mailto:rogersmithone@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Councilman Bothwell,

You will recall our contact in 2005 when I sat in your office at Mountain Express to discuss the Battery Park Residents' Committee petition drive to advocate for a Civic Plaza at Battle Square instead of a 650-space parking deck that had been planned. You will also recall our contact in 2012 when I presented you with a copy of the 368 petition pages of signatures our committee collected to defeat that plan.

I write to request that you provide a written statement of your receipt of the Petition Signatures (more than 3,300 of them) that the Residents' Committee collected by action it initiated to defeat the City's plan for that monstrous deck, and which collective action helped to accomplish.

In review of the online site for "St. Lawrence Green," I noted that there is no acknowledgment whatsoever of the tremendous effort our Residents' Committee took to initiate the drive that brought defeat for the City's misguided plan and the opportunity it created for the vision of an appropriate civic plaza our campaign sought to bring about. In my view, that civic plaza should be named "The Thomas Wolfe Civic Plaza and Gardens." (It does not reflect well upon our City if it ignores its duty to recognize a native son and literary genius from the Start of North Carolina).

I have written to Douglas Hecker at Clemson University to acknowledge the excellent contribution he and his students have made to forward the vision our Committee initiated for such a plaza. "I write to request that you schedule some time for a meeting in the near future to share some thoughts about aspects I have concern for that include the possibility of a public/private campaign to expand your design to include an underground thoroughway for traffic so that a surface avenue can be eliminated at the site, which would make the design you have presented [with the large fountain opposite the Basilica's front doors that also aligns with the Wolfe Auditorium's entrance] a choice plan going forward. If the plan is approached boldly, it might encourage the Basilica and the Archdiocese in Charlotte to engage creatively with public and private entities so that the parking area behind Battle Park Apartments could become an integrated part of a grand plan [for multi-level parking below and above the surface], a design that could attract international appreciation and acclaim."

I believe that what the mayor and council members must consider is that the area in question must be seriously and thoughtfully reconsidered as to the appropriate use of the space since what is done now will impact the reputation of our City for decades to come. It would be a shame to advocate for an inappropriate vision for this important quadrant as there are infrastructure issues involved that must be dealt with no matter what plan is decided upon. The appearance and the reputation of Asheville as a progressive municipal entity is at stake.

Roger Smith  
1 Battle Square #1107  
Asheville, NC 28801



## Ben Fulmer

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**From:** Maggie Burleson <MBurleson@ashevillenc.gov> on behalf of Maggie Burleson  
**Sent:** Friday, January 13, 2017 1:29 PM  
**To:** Brian Haynes; Cecil Bothwell - Email; Esther Manheimer; Gordon Smith; Gwen Wisler; Julie Mayfield; Keith Young  
**Subject:** Draft Jan 10 Minutes  
**Attachments:** m170110.pdf

Please let me know if you'd like any changes by Wed. January 18 at Noon.

Thanks!  
Maggie

Maggie Burleson, MMC, NCCMC  
City Clerk  
City of Asheville  
Post Office Box 7148  
Asheville, N.C. 28802  
828-259-5601 (phone)  
828-259-5499 (fax)

## Ben Fulmer

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**From:** Gary Jackson <GJackson@ashevillenc.gov> on behalf of Gary Jackson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2016 10:11 AM  
**To:** Pamela (Pam) Baldwin - Asheville City Schools (pamela.baldwin@acsgmail.net)  
**Cc:** Esther Manheimer;Gwen Wisler;Ken Putnam  
**Subject:** FW: Asheville Equity  
**Attachments:** Equity and Diversity Office Framework 8-9-16 Governance Comm.docx; City Equity Programs Inventory Attachment A 8-09-16.docx; Equity case studies Attachment B 8-09-16.docx

Pam:

I thought you might be interested in the latest City of Asheville update on racial, social and economic equity initiatives.

On Tuesday, August 9 at 3:00 p.m., the Governance subcommittee of Council met to review a draft of Council's 2016-17 strategic goals, including the multiple goals aimed at improving equity in operations, policy and community. Attached are the city staff reports prepared to facilitate the committee's planning:

1. An outline for a new Equity Office, including action plans related to proposed City Council strategic goals
2. An inventory of ongoing city equity programming and community partnerships
3. A summary of initiatives from benchmarked municipalities

The role of the committee (Mayor Manheimer, Gwen Wisler, and Keith Young) was to review where we have been as a municipal organization, where we are now and where we want to go in the next two to three years. Based on a positive review, with minor edits, the strategic goals of Council will now be scheduled for full City Council adoption on September 6.

Look for a complete set of the Council strategic goals and action plans to arrive via a separate email; the level of detail is significant and the size of file is substantial. I hope this is helpful information and updates you on the positive, proactive steps being taken by the City of Asheville. Please let me know if you or your board would like additional information.

Gary

## Ben Fulmer

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**From:** Kit Cramer <kcramer@ashevillechamber.org> on behalf of Kit Cramer  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2016 2:33 PM  
**To:** Esther Manheimer (esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com); Gwen Wisler (gwenwisler@avlcouncil.com); Sam Powers (SPowers@ashevillenc.gov); bmills@ashevillenc.gov  
**Cc:** Stephanie Moore (smoore@craftcreativitydesign.org); Mike Marcus  
**Subject:** FW: Follow-up RE: Artspace, update on stakeholder engagement  
**Attachments:** Memo\_Artspace CCCD Stakeholder Engagement 031516 REV.pdf

Esther, Gwen, Sam and Brenda, as a follow up to the meeting we held at the Center for Craft Creativity and Design about the possibility of engaging ArtSpace, I wanted to share with you the follow up work that has been occurring. The attached memo will give you a good sense of who has been consulted and how things are developing. Yesterday we had a great meeting with a number of leaders in the River Arts District who were very enthusiastic about the prospect of bringing ArtSpace to Asheville.

Esther and Gwen, you had a number of questions about the organization in our first meeting. In an effort to give you more background there are documents attached. ArtSpace is open to a conference call or meeting. We were thinking that it might make the most sense to hold that after the NEA grants announcement has been made in April.

Please let me know if you have questions. We appreciate your involvement thus far and are excited about the potential of this project.

Kit Cramer, President & CEO  
Phone: (828) 258- 6123  
Email: [kcramer@ashevillechamber.org](mailto:kcramer@ashevillechamber.org)  
On Twitter: @kitcramer



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[AVL 5x5 Vision 2020](#) – Uniting our community for higher-wage jobs and a healthy local economy

[Visit Spain with the Chamber! – Nov. 2016](#)

## Ben Fulmer

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**From:** Pat Kelly <Pk@patkelly.co> on behalf of Pat Kelly  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 06, 2016 11:15 AM  
**To:** Esther Manheimer  
**Cc:** 'Gary Jackson'; 'Jeff Staudinger'; 'Gordon Smith'; Leah Ferguson  
**Subject:** Re: Invest Health Grant Opportunity

Thank you Mayor for the rapid response.

With regards my request to other council members, my outreach to council was limited to posing the question "If elected, will you prioritize poverty reduction?" at the all-candidates meeting hosted by Children First/Communities in School. There was unanimous agreement to do so.

My other efforts to mobilize support have focused on one-on-one meetings with senior staff at Buncombe County Public Health, Pisgah Legal Services, Green opportunities and Rural Partners. Leah Ferguson, formerly with Asheville City Schools Foundation, now with Rural Partners, introduced me to the Invest Health opportunity because of her close working relationship with RWJF.

Additionally, I met with Gibbie Harris, former Health Director for Buncombe County, who led the work that resulted in Buncombe County being named one of six winners of the 2014 Culture of Health Prize awarded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The prize honors communities that are "harnessing the collective power of leaders, partners, and stakeholders to help residents live healthier lives." Asheville would be smart to include Gibbie in building culture change. She explored Blue Zones a few years ago as a potential movement to follow, and determined that Asheville has the local knowledge, talent and networks to move forward without the big price tag of becoming a franchisee.

With regards the challenges mentioned in Jeff's note – Buncombe County Health Dept. is well positioned to inform and participate in community development efforts, especially in view of their work in systems thinking and culture change that incorporates a deep knowledge of the community and the issues and evidence-based approach to interventions. As you know, they have tracked the rising rate of child poverty for over a decade, as a priority health issue for the county. I believe they could provide substantial support in terms of research and knowledge transfer.

Equally important will be to ensure the leadership and rich engagement of black leaders in Asheville from non-health sectors. There is a deep culture of both generational poverty and anger and mistrust between black citizens of Asheville and city government.

Political science professor Dwight Mullen and history professor Darin Waters, both from UNC-Asheville, were brilliant in their recent debate at Asheville High on these same issues, within the context of the debate "Resolved: Asheville has Disenfranchised its African-American Population," Invite them to participate. And hope they agree to lead along with you Mayor.

Additionally, you might draw on youth leaders (with appropriate training and capacity-building) from the Hood Talk project who initiated recent community conversations in public housing projects. Lets embolden the young leaders who are seeking to make systemic change in their lives and their futures and their communities. You can't do it without them.

Finally, lets also consider the talent of local leaders like Marilyn Ball, who recently published the book, "The Rise of Asheville: An Exceptional History of Community Building," published by The History Press/Arcadia Publishing. Marilyn teaches fundriasing and non-profit leadership thru Duke, and she and others like her, can help lead powerful storytelling efforts that capture public and media attention and help drive energy for change.

Invest Health will provide us the opportunity to be among the new leaders in social change – Asheville will learn and grow with other cities in ways that will be critical to addressing the equality gap across America.

The community conversations that will need to take place thru the Invest Health grant, will happen next summer, during the critical period leading up to fall elections, enabling public conversations that can inform state candidates about the concerns of local citizens and provide an important platform for discussions about affordable housing and fair wages,

If I can be of any further help to you or Council or staff, I want to help make this happen.

And just in case it might be helpful, I've attached here a recent document entitled "How Municipal Government Can Reduce Poverty". It comes from the Province of Ontario and as a consultant, I have been involved in similar systems change efforts.

Mayor, lets say yes.

If we wait until next year, Asheville will continue to follow not lead and child mobility will again be a sad headline about the race to the bottom not a turnaround story about a smart City Council.

Let me know if I can help.

Pat

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**From:** Esther Manheimer <[esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com](mailto:esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com)>  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 10:15 AM  
**To:** Microsoft Office User <[pk@patkelly.co](mailto:pk@patkelly.co)>  
**Cc:** 'Gary Jackson' <[GJackson@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:GJackson@ashevillenc.gov)>, Jeff Staudinger <[JStaudinger@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:JStaudinger@ashevillenc.gov)>, 'Gordon Smith' <[gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com](mailto:gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com)>  
**Subject:** FW: Invest Health Grant Opportunity

Pat – thank you for your email. I assume you’ve asked the same of other councilmember already because staff recently provided the below analysis. What are your thoughts?

Thank you,  
Esther

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**From:** Gary Jackson [<mailto:GJackson@ashevillenc.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 05, 2016 2:34 PM  
**To:** councilgroup  
**Cc:** Jeff Staudinger; Cathy Ball  
**Subject:** FW: Invest Health Grant Opportunity

Mayor and Council Members:

Please see the following staff response to your request to review and evaluate this opportunity.

Candidly, I do not think it is practical to pursue this in the given timeframe just to qualify for the assistance.

If the idea of a health partnership like this resonates with Council however, it could be prioritized during the upcoming Council retreat and serve to mobilize efforts in 2016.

Gary

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**From:** Jeff Staudinger  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 30, 2015 3:29 PM  
**To:** Gary Jackson; Cathy Ball  
**Subject:** Invest Health Grant Opportunity

Gary, Cathy-

I have had the opportunity to further explore the letter of intent requirements and the examples of the kind of projects that appear to the outcomes ought by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the Invest Health program.

The Letter of intent would require the following (to not exceed two pages):

### 1. *Local Health Challenges*

Municipalities that participate in Invest Health initiative will approach community development activities with the intent to improve health outcomes. What are the greatest barriers to positive health outcomes for your residents? In shaping your answer, please consider how the existing state of core community assets—*e.g.*, safety and environment, food production and systems, education and training, housing, transportation—currently influence health outcomes.

### 2. *Proposed Team*

Through participation in Invest Health, cities will solidify partnerships that can assess local challenges, as well as champion and implement complex change. Each applicant should assemble a five-member Invest Health Team. Teams must demonstrate a commitment to authentic community engagement. Each team must include at least one:

- Representative from city government (executive, or legislative branch of government; redevelopment authorities, related agencies, boards and commissions);
- Representative from an anchor institution (health or academic); and
- Representative of the community development sector. Applicants are encouraged to include a member with expertise in community development finance, either for - or non-for profit.

Who would comprise your city's Invest Health Planning Team? Please include brief biographies of proposed team members.

### 3. *Vision of Success*

If your city is selected to participate in Invest Health, what might success look like? How might your city's Invest Health plan address long-standing inequities in health outcomes? For inspiration in this regard, we encourage you to visit the following websites that describe some of the exciting reform efforts taking place in this space nationally:

<http://www.rwjf.org/en/library/collections/coh-prize-winners.html>

<http://www.buildhealthyplaces.org/stories/>

I think that I could help pull an application together, if directed. Challenges:

- Whose sense of local health challenges would be most directly be incorporated into our community development planning? In the spring, we completed our 5 year Consolidated Plan and, for better or worse, our community development challenges were not considered in the context of "health." This would, therefore, be new ground for us, without any precedent research on our part. This is not to say we couldn't postulate about this, and with some time, call together community partners who had already done some inventory.
- While many people from key partners (Mission, the County, Non-profit community) are engaged in community development and community health issues, I am not aware of a focused effort that would easily define the champions who would be the best to participate in an 18 month program.
- While we could easily suggest some visions of success, I don't know if it is advisable to commit those visions to paper without some process.

I will participate in a webinar about this opportunity on January 7. However, even though the grant is to support a planning process, the timeframe and lack of prior planning make it difficult for me to recommend moving forward with this at this time.

Jeff

Jeff Staudinger, Assistant Director  
Community and Economic Development Department  
City of Asheville  
828-259-5723  
828-280-1726 (cell)



## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Gary Jackson <GJackson@ashevillenc.gov> on behalf of Gary Jackson  
**Sent:** Friday, October 03, 2014 11:38 AM  
**To:** Greg Shuler  
**Cc:** Jaime Matthews;'eliz@purlsyarnemporium.com';councilgroup  
**Subject:** RE: Yarn Installation coming to Wall Street  
**Attachments:** Yarn bombing - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.htm

Greg:

Here's an attached link to give you a general idea.

Gary

---

**From:** Greg Shuler  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 02, 2014 5:50 PM  
**To:** Gary Jackson; Cecil Bothwell - Email  
**Cc:** Jaime Matthews; 'eliz@purlsyarnemporium.com'; councilgroup  
**Subject:** RE: Yarn Installation coming to Wall Street

Good afternoon,

I would happy to meet with Elizabeth to get a better idea of exactly what we're talking about.

Elizabeth, please call me at your convenience to schedule a time that works for you, or feel free to email me. If I'm not the appropriate person, I can help steer you to who is. My number is 271-6146.

Thanks

---

**From:** Gary Jackson  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 02, 2014 4:59 PM  
**To:** Cecil Bothwell - Email  
**Cc:** Jaime Matthews; 'eliz@purlsyarnemporium.com'; councilgroup; Greg Shuler  
**Subject:** RE: Yarn Installation coming to Wall Street

Cecil:

We will check into it and let them/you know the considerations and decision making process. I think the signs, banners, pots, etc. hung on poles are regulated by our public works staff, so I am starting with the director, Greg Shuler.

Gary

---

**From:** Cecil Bothwell [<mailto:cecil@braveulysses.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 02, 2014 10:23 AM  
**To:** Gary Jackson  
**Subject:** Fwd: Yarn Installation coming to Wall Street

Gary,

I'm not sure who ought to get this request. Several knitters want to do a "yarn bombing" of Wall Street. They note that other art installations have been permitted to stand for quite a while, but previous yarn bombings have been removed very quickly.

Who should they contact?

Thanks,

-c

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Eliz@Purls" <[eliz@purlsyarnemporium.com](mailto:eliz@purlsyarnemporium.com)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Yarn Installation coming to Wall Street  
**Date:** October 1, 2014 at 5:34:12 PM EDT  
**To:** Cecil Bothwell <[cecil@braveulysses.com](mailto:cecil@braveulysses.com)>

Cecil,  
Hello there, sir. This is Elizabeth, owner of Purl's Yarn Emporium downstairs.  
We are planning to do a yarn installation/"yarn bombing" on Wall Street later this month and are hoping it can stay up for 2 weeks. A dozen or more knitters and crocheters are involved in this project. We'll be creating pieces for at least a dozen of the pedestals on Wall Street (the 8 ones that have parking meters on the top and several at the top of the block) as well as the bench in front of Purl's, our bike, and perhaps the 4 larger trees across the street. No parking meter will be infringed upon at all, nor any city signage. We have outreached to Downtown Association (see below) in an attempt to find a way to communicate with police and/or the city to assure that the work is not taken down right away (as most yarn bombings downtown have been in the past). Our hope is to keep it up for 2 weeks and then take it down ourselves. If you have any suggestions for people to talk to or ways to go about calming the waters so that this project will see the light of day for more than one day (!) we'd greatly appreciate it. Thanks so much for ALL you do for Asheville.  
Elizabeth Schell

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Meghan Rogers <[meghan@ashevilledowntown.org](mailto:meghan@ashevilledowntown.org)>

**Date:** October 1, 2014 2:27:51 PM EDT

**To:** [purl@purlsyarnemporium.com](mailto:purl@purlsyarnemporium.com)

**Subject:** Re: Fwd: FW: Yarn Installation coming to Wall Street

Hi, sorry I missed you yesterday when I popped by. So, technically, it's against city ordinance to affix anything to public property (trees, utility poles, etc...), but as you've seen, it's arbitrarily enforced. I chatted with one of our board members about it, he has lots of connections. If it's okay with you, he can put out a few feelers and see if there's a way for you to be issued a temporary permit of some kind, let me know.

Meghan

Meghan Rogers  
Interim Executive Director  
828.251.9973 (office) 828.777.1183 (mobile)  
[Asheville Downtown Association](#)  
[meghan@ashevilledowntown.org](mailto:meghan@ashevilledowntown.org)  
[Find us on Facebook](#)  
[Follow us on Twitter](#)  
On 9/29/14 2:33 PM, Purl wrote:

We have not yet talked to the city. We were hoping to obtain general support from the Downtown Association before approaching the city. It's always been interesting to me that installations like the flower artist does are left up for extended period (thankfully as they are so lovely and evocative) while yarn bombings are often taken down right away. This is why we wanted to communicate about it ahead of time so that everyone would understand that it was intended as a temporary installation and that we would be responsible for taking it down.

Would you recommend contacting individual council members? (I know Cecil is supportive of yarn bombings as he was previously dismayed to hear that the police had removed something done on Wall Street previously by a yarn bombing visitor). I do not intend to do any kind of formal presentation or request for permission since this is technically intended to be a form of guerilla art with no permanent impact. Just thought it would be nice to be able to communicate about it so as to keep it up for several weeks and better benefit Wall Street businesses while also bringing smiles to downtown visitors.

Purl's Yarn Emporium  
10 Wall Street, Asheville, NC 28801  
828-253-2750  
[eliz@purlsyarnemporium.com](mailto:eliz@purlsyarnemporium.com)  
[www.purlsyarnemporium.com](http://www.purlsyarnemporium.com)

On 9/29/2014 1:18 PM, Meghan Rogers wrote:

Hi Elizabeth. I think this is a fun idea and have always enjoyed stumbling upon yarn bombings. Have you already talked with the city? And if so, what was their response? It would be important to have that info before I can say whether our board/committee would support. Again, love the idea, just need a bit more info.

Thanks, Meghan

Meghan Rogers  
Interim Executive Director  
828.251.9973 (office) 828.777.1183 (mobile)  
[Asheville Downtown Association](http://AshevilleDowntownAssociation.org)  
[meghan@ashevilledowntown.org](mailto:meghan@ashevilledowntown.org)  
[Find us on Facebook](#)  
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----- Original Message -----

**Subject:**FW: Yarn Installation coming to Wall Street  
**Date:**Mon, 29 Sep 2014 12:42:54 -0400  
**From:**Asheville Downtown Association <[info@ashevilledowntown.org](mailto:info@ashevilledowntown.org)>  
**To:**Meghan Rogers <[Meghan@ashevilledowntown.org](mailto:Meghan@ashevilledowntown.org)>

Jamie Carpenter  
Event and Operations Manager  
[Asheville Downtown Association](http://AshevilleDowntownAssociation.org)  
29 Haywood Street  
Asheville, NC 28801  
p. 828.251.9973  
f. 828.348.4277

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**From:** Purl's Yarn Emporium [<mailto:purl@purlsyarnemporium.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2014 11:38 AM  
**To:** Jamie Carpenter  
**Subject:** Yarn Installation coming to Wall Street

Hello there, Downtown Association. This is Elizabeth, co-owner of Purl's Yarn Emporium, writing to you about an installation we are planning to do on Wall Street and hoping for your support in this creative endeavor.

Purl's Yarn Emporium, along with knitters and crocheters who frequent downtown Asheville, have organized to create a temporary yarn installation (also known as a yarn bombing) on Wall Street.

What is "yarn bombing"? It is a form of public art where stitchers create decorative swatches of knit or crochet and temporarily attach them to a common public object. This public art form began in the Netherlands in 2004. "The beauty of yarn-bombing is that it is temporary. It can easily be

removed...and the thrill of unexpected color and coziness in an urban setting puts a smile on most people's faces." (Craftsy blog 2013)

The goal of our installation is to do just that . We also hope to contribute to the overall creative flavor of downtown Asheville while helping bring some attention to Wall Street and therefore to its many awesome businesses. Our intention is to have our pieces prepared for installation on or about Wednesday, October 15 such that it would be up in time for the Craft Fair of the Southern Highlands which draws many crafts people to downtown Asheville. We would like to keep the installation up for about 2 weeks, but especially through the following weekend (Oct. 24-26) when the Southeastern Animal Fiber Festival happens at the Ag Center, an event which also attracts many fiber enthusiasts to the Asheville area, including downtown. We plan to remove the installation by November 1 at the latest. The nice thing about this kind of public art is that "removal" only involves cutting a few knots and pulling out a few connecting seams.

Asheville is no stranger to yarn bombing installations like this. Several visiting yarn bombers have added their yarn creations to signs and statues downtown over the years. The Mobile Art Lab, part of the City of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts has hosted Yarnstorming events when people of all ages have gathered to add knit and crochet creations to park settings. Operation Color Storm, a yarnbombing group in Asheville, has also done installations at Fiber Day at the Folk Art Center and elsewhere. Several of the members of this group are assisting with our installation on Wall Street.

The reason we are writing this letter of intention is to communicate our plan in hopes that city officials and police will not feel the need to immediately remove our creation, but instead leave it up for the time period of October 15-November 1 at which time we will remove it ourselves. If there is any way that the Downtown Association can help communicate our positive intent to police and other officials such that the installation is not removed prematurely, we'd greatly appreciate it. If anyone (business owner, police, or city official) has questions or concerns about the installation, they can contact us at Purl's Yarn Emporium (828-253-2750, [purl@purlsyarnemporium.com](mailto:purl@purlsyarnemporium.com)).

We hope that our little crafty installation will add to the creative vibe of our awesome downtown community. Thanks for all you do to encourage and support downtown tourism and business.

When I contact the city about this, I'd love to let them know that we have the Downtown Association's support on this project.

Elizabeth Lain Schell  
co-owner, Purl's Yarn Emporium  
10 Wall Street, Asheville, NC 28801  
828-253-2750  
[purl@purlsyarnemporium.com](mailto:purl@purlsyarnemporium.com)



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

## Ben Fulmer

---

**From:** Jacob Biba <jacobbiba@gmail.com> on behalf of Jacob Biba  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 22, 2014 9:56 AM  
**To:** Esther Manheimer  
**Cc:** Jaime Matthews; Tom Downing  
**Subject:** Re: Hendersonville Times-News | Distinguished Women of WNC  
**Attachments:** w04\_hendersonvilletimesnews.pdf; w03\_hendersonvilletimesnews.pdf; w02\_hendersonvilletimesnews.pdf; ATT00004.txt

Absolutely. Here's a link to last year's section:

<http://hendersonvilletimesnews.nc.newsmemory.com/special.php?date=20130630>

It took me a minute to figure out how to navigate it. If you click on the "next" arrow next to "Times-News" it will scroll through the articles. If you click on the copy below, the article can be read on the right column.

I've also attached a couple PDFs as well.

Shadowing the meetings would be ideal. And also coming along with you to Mitchell County to capture that facet of your professional life would be great too. I understand there may be some privacy concerns on both the city and attorney ends. I don't take it personally when I'm told to get lost. My deadline is June 6th.

Thanks!

Jacob

**Ben Fulmer**

---

**From:** Michael D Ivey <mivey67@charter.net> on behalf of Michael D Ivey  
**Sent:** Friday, December 06, 2013 3:29 PM  
**To:** MDI's  
List;jandavis@avlcouncil.com;gordonsmith@avlcouncil.com;chrispelly@avlcouncil.com;cecil@braveulysses.com;marchunt@avlcouncil.com;Esther Manheimer;TerryBellamy@avlcouncil.com  
**Cc:** Steve Shoaf;Florie Presnell;gibbie.harris@buncombecounty.org;Fluoride Free Asheville  
**Subject:** Fluoride: Killing Us Softly - Dr. Gary Null

Dear Asheville City Council and Water Dept. Personnel:

I was recently encouraged by the news that we may be able to put the issue of "water fluoridation" before the people for a referendum this coming June, 2014.

I would hope that each of you will educate yourself on this issue and become an advocate for truth, the health of the citizens of Asheville and real science. In that effort, you will be well served to differentiate real science from the false indoctrination on this issue that most dentists have been subjected to over their training and years of practice.

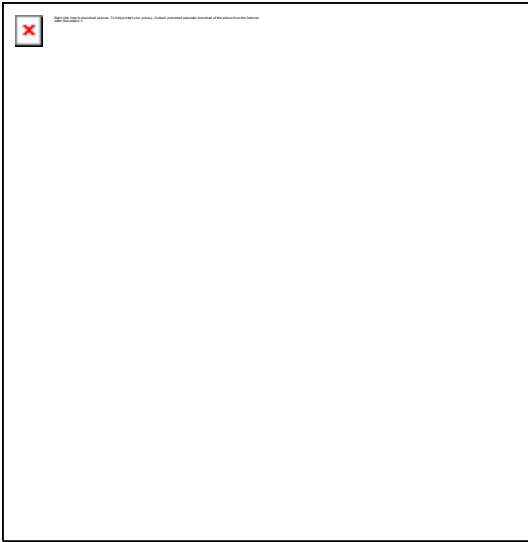
The article below is a very good overview of the subject by Dr, Gary Null. If you'd prefer to print it out, attached is the same article as a Word file:

## Fluoride: Killing Us Softly

By [Dr. Gary Null](#)

Global Research, December 05, 2013

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/fluoride-killing-us-softly/5360397>



*There's nothing like a glass of cool, clear water to quench one's thirst. But the next time you or your child reaches for one, you might want to question whether that water is in fact, too toxic to drink. If your water is fluoridated, the answer may well be yes.*

For decades, we have been told a lie, a lie that has led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Americans and the weakening of the immune systems of tens of millions more. This lie is called fluoridation. A process we were led to believe was a safe and effective method of protecting teeth from decay is in fact a fraud. For decades it's been shown that fluoridation is neither essential for good health nor protective of teeth. What it does is poison the body. We should all at this point be asking how and why public health policy and the American media continue to live with and perpetuate this scientific sham.

### **The Latest in Fluoride News**

Today more than ever, evidence of fluoride's toxicity is entering the public sphere. The summer of 2012 saw the publication of a systematic review and meta-analysis by researchers at Harvard University that explored the link between exposure to fluoride and neurological and cognitive function among children. The report pooled data from over 27 studies - many of them from China, carried out over the course of 22 years. The results, which were published in the journal *Environmental Health Sciences* showed a strong connection between exposure to fluoride in drinking water and decreased IQ scores in children. The team concluded that:

“the results suggest that fluoride may be a developmental neurotoxicant that affects brain development at exposures much below those that can cause toxicity in adults.” [1]

The newest scientific data suggest that the damaging effects of fluoride extend to reproductive health as well. A 2013 study published in the journal *Archives of Toxicology*



showed a link between fluoride exposure and male infertility in mice. The study's findings suggest that sodium fluoride impairs the ability of sperm cells in mice to normally fertilize the egg through a process known as chemotaxis.<sup>[2]</sup> This is the latest in more than 60 scientific studies on animals that have identified an association between male infertility and fluoride exposure.[3]

Adding more fuel to the fluoride controversy is a recent investigative report by NaturalNews exposing how the chemicals used to fluoridate United States' water systems today are commonly purchased from Chinese chemical plants looking to discard surplus stores of this form of industrial waste. Disturbingly, the report details that some Chinese vendors of fluoride advertise on their website that their product can be used as an "adhesive preservative", an "insecticide" as well as a "flux for soldering and welding".[4] One Chinese manufacturer, Shanghai Polymet Commodities Ltd., which produces fluoride destined for municipal water reserves in the United States, notes on their website that their fluoride is "highly corrosive to human skin and harmful to people's respiratory organs".<sup>[5]</sup>

### **The Fluoride Phase Out at Home and Abroad**

There are many signs in recent years that indicate growing skepticism over fluoridation. The New York Times reported in October 2011 that in the previous four years, about 200 jurisdictions across the USA moved to cease water fluoridation. A panel composed of scientists and health professionals in Fairbanks, Alaska recently recommended ceasing fluoridation of the county water supply after concluding that the addition of fluoride to already naturally-fluoridated reserves could pose health risks to 700,000 residents. The move to end fluoridation would save the county an estimated \$205,000 annually.<sup>[6]</sup>

The city of Portland made headlines in 2013 when it voted down a measure to fluoridate its water supply. The citizens of Portland have rejected introducing the chemical to drinking water on three separate occasions since the 1950's. Portland remains the largest city in the United States to shun fluoridation.[7]

The movement against fluoridation has gained traction overseas as well. In 2013, Israel's Ministry of Health committed to a countrywide phase-out of fluoridation. The decision came after Israel's Supreme Court deemed the existing health regulations requiring fluoridation to be based on science that is "outdated" and "no longer widely accepted." [8]

Also this year, the government of the Australian state of Queensland eliminated \$14 million in funding for its state-wide fluoridation campaign. The decision, which was executed by the Liberal National Party (LNP) government, forced local councils to vote on whether or not to introduce fluoride to their water supplies. Less than two months after

the decision came down, several communities including the town of Cairns halted fluoridation. As a result, nearly 200,000 Australians will no longer be exposed to fluoride in their drinking water.[9]

An ever-growing number of institutions and individuals are questioning the wisdom of fluoridation. At the fore of the movement are thousands of scientific authorities and health care professionals who are speaking out about the hazards of this damaging additive. As of November 2013, a group of over 4549 professionals including 361 dentists and 562 medical doctors have added their names to a petition aimed at ending fluoridation started by the Fluoride Action Network. Among the prominent signatories are Nobel Laureate Arvid Carlsson and William Marcus, PhD who served as the chief toxicologist of the EPA Water Division.[10]

The above sampling of recent news items on fluoride brings into sharp focus just how urgent it is to carry out a critical reassessment of the mass fluoridation campaign that currently affects hundreds of millions of Americans. In order to better understand the massive deception surrounding this toxic chemical, we must look back to the sordid history of how fluoride was first introduced.

### **How to Market a Toxic Waste**

“We would not purposely add arsenic to the water supply. And we would not purposely add lead. But we do add fluoride. The fact is that fluoride is more toxic than lead and just slightly less toxic than arsenic.”<sup>[11]</sup>

These words of Dr. John Yiamouyiannis may come as a shock to you because, if you're like most Americans, you have positive associations with fluoride. You may envision tooth protection, strong bones, and a [government](#) that cares about your dental needs. What you've probably never been told is that the fluoride added to drinking water and toothpaste is a crude industrial waste product of the aluminum and fertilizer industries, and a substance toxic enough to be used as rat poison. How is it that Americans have learned to love an environmental hazard? This phenomenon can be attributed to a carefully planned marketing program begun even before Grand Rapids, Michigan, became the first community to officially fluoridate its drinking water in 1945.<sup>[12]</sup> As a result of this ongoing campaign, nearly two-thirds of the nation has enthusiastically followed Grand Rapids' example. But this push for fluoridation has less to do with a concern for America's health than with industry's penchant to expand at the expense of our nation's well-being.

The first thing you have to understand about fluoride is that it's the problem child of industry. Its toxicity was recognized at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, when, in the 1850s iron and copper factories discharged it into the air and poisoned plants, animals, and people.[13] The problem was exacerbated in the 1920s when rapid industrial growth

meant massive pollution. Medical writer Joel Griffiths explains that “it was abundantly clear to both industry and [government](#) that spectacular U.S. industrial expansion – and the economic and military power and vast profits it promised – would necessitate releasing millions of tons of waste fluoride into the [environment](#).”[14] Their biggest fear was that “if serious injury to people were established, lawsuits alone could prove devastating to companies, while public outcry could force industry-wide government regulations, billions in pollution-control costs, and even mandatory changes in high-fluoride raw materials and profitable technologies.” [15]

At first, industry could dispose of fluoride legally only in small amounts by selling it to insecticide and rat poison manufacturers.<sup>[16]</sup> Then a commercial outlet was devised in the 1930s when a connection was made between water supplies bearing traces of fluoride and lower rates of tooth decay. Griffiths writes that this was not a scientific breakthrough, but rather part of a “public disinformation campaign” by the aluminum industry “to convince the public that fluoride was safe and good.” Industry’s need prompted Alcoa-funded scientist Gerald J. Cox to announce that “The present trend toward complete removal of fluoride from water may need some reversal.” [17] Griffiths writes:

“The big news in Cox’s announcement was that this ‘apparently worthless by-product’ had not only been proved safe (in low doses), but actually beneficial; it might reduce cavities in children. A proposal was in the air to add fluoride to the entire nation’s drinking water. While the dose to each individual would be low, ‘fluoridation’ on a national scale would require the annual addition of hundreds of thousands of tons of fluoride to the country’s drinking water.

“Government and industry – especially Alcoa – strongly supported intentional water fluoridation... [it] made possible a master public relations stroke – one that could keep scientists and the public off fluoride’s case for years to come. If the leaders of dentistry, medicine, and public health could be persuaded to endorse fluoride in the public’s drinking water, proclaiming to the nation that there was a ‘wide margin of safety,’ how were they going to turn around later and say industry’s fluoride pollution was dangerous?”

“As for the public, if fluoride could be introduced as a health enhancing substance that should be added to the [environment](#) for the children’s sake, those opposing it would look like quacks and lunatics....

“Back at the Mellon Institute, Alcoa’s Pittsburgh Industrial research lab, this news was galvanic. Alcoa-sponsored biochemist Gerald J. Cox immediately fluoridated some lab rats in a study and concluded that fluoride reduced cavities and that,

‘The case should be regarded as proved.’ In a historic moment in 1939, the first public proposal that the U.S. should fluoridate its water supplies was made

- not by a doctor, or dentist, but by Cox, an industry scientist working for a company threatened by fluoride damage claims.”<sup>[18]</sup>

Once the plan was put into action, industry was buoyant. They had finally found the channel for fluoride that they were looking for, and they were even cheered on by dentists, government agencies, and the public. Chemical Week, a publication for the chemical industry, described the tenor of the times:

“All over the country, slide rules are getting warm as waterworks engineers figure the cost of adding fluoride to their water supplies.” They are riding a trend urged upon them, by the U.S. Public Health Service, the American Dental Association, the State Dental Health Directors, various state and local health bodies, and vocal women’s clubs from coast to coast. It adds up to a nice piece of business on all sides and many firms are cheering the PHS and similar groups as they plump for increasing adoption of fluoridation.”<sup>[19]</sup>

Such overwhelming acceptance allowed government and industry to proceed hastily, albeit irresponsibly. The Grand Rapids experiment was supposed to take 15 years, during which time health benefits and hazards were to be studied. In 1946, however, just one year into the experiment, six more U.S. cities adopted the process. By 1947, 87 more communities were treated; popular demand was the official reason for this unscientific haste.

The general public and its leaders did support the cause, but only after a massive government public relations campaign spearheaded by Edward L. Bernays, a nephew of Sigmund Freud. Bernays, a public relations pioneer who has been called “the original spin doctor,”<sup>[20]</sup> was a masterful PR strategist. As a result of his influence, Griffiths writes,

“Almost overnight...the popular image of fluoride - which at the time was being widely sold as rat and bug poison - became that of a beneficial provider of gleaming smiles, absolutely safe, and good for children, bestowed by a benevolent paternal government. Its opponents were permanently engraved on the public mind as crackpots and right-wing loonies.” [21]

Griffiths explains that while opposition to fluoridation is usually associated with right-wingers, this picture is not totally accurate. He provides an interesting historical perspective on the anti-fluoridation stance:

“Fluoridation attracted opponents from every point on the continuum of politics and sanity. The prospect of the government mass-medicating the water supplies with a well-known rat poison to prevent a nonlethal disease flipped the switches of delusionals across the country - as well as generating concern among responsible scientists, doctors, and citizens.

“Moreover, by a fortuitous twist of circumstances, fluoride’s natural opponents on the left were alienated from the rest of the opposition. Oscar Ewing, a Federal Security Agency administrator, was a Truman “fair dealer” who pushed many progressive programs such as nationalized medicine. Fluoridation was lumped with his proposals. Inevitably, it was attacked by conservatives as a manifestation of “creeping socialism,” while the left rallied to its support. Later during the McCarthy era, the left was further alienated from the opposition when extreme right-wing groups, including the John Birch Society and the Ku Klux Klan, raved that fluoridation was a plot by the Soviet Union and/or communists in the government to poison America’s brain cells.

“It was a simple task for promoters, under the guidance of the ‘original spin doctor,’ to paint all opponents as deranged – and they played this angle to the hilt....

“Actually, many of the strongest opponents originally started out as proponents, but changed their minds after a close look at the evidence. And many opponents came to view fluoridation not as a communist plot, but simply as a capitalist-style con job of epic proportions. Some could be termed early environmentalists, such as the physicians George L. Waldbott and Frederick B. Exner, who first documented government-industry complicity in hiding the hazards of fluoride pollution from the public. Waldbott and Exner risked their careers in a clash with fluoride defenders, only to see their cause buried in toothpaste ads.”<sup>[22]</sup>

By 1950, fluoridation’s image was a sterling one, and there was not much [science](#) could do at this point. The Public Health Service was fluoridation’s main source of funding as well as its promoter, and therefore caught in a fundamental conflict of interest.<sup>12</sup> If fluoridation were found to be unsafe and ineffective, and laws were repealed, the organization feared a loss of face, since scientists, politicians, dental groups, and physicians unanimously supported it. [23] For this reason, studies concerning its effects were not undertaken. The Oakland Tribune noted this when it stated that “public health officials have often suppressed scientific doubts” about fluoridation.[24] Waldbott sums up the situation when he says that from the beginning, the controversy over fluoridating water supplies was “a political, not a scientific health issue.”[25]

The marketing of fluoride continues. In a 1983 letter from the [Environmental Protection Agency](#), then Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water, Rebecca Hammer, writes that the [EPA](#) “regards [fluoridation] as an ideal environmental solution to a long-standing problem. By recovering by-product fluosilicic acid from fertilizer manufacturing, water and air pollution are minimized and water utilities have a low-cost source of fluoride available to them.”<sup>[26]</sup> A 1992 policy statement from the Department of Health and Human Services says, “A recent comprehensive PHS review of the benefits and potential health risks of fluoride has concluded that the practice of fluoridating community water supplies is safe and effective.” [27]

According to the [CDC](#) website, about 200 million Americans in 16,500 communities are exposed to fluoridated water. Out of the 50 largest cities in the US, 43 have fluoridated water.<sup>[28]</sup>

To help celebrate fluoride's widespread use, the media recently reported on the 50th anniversary of fluoridation in Grand Rapids. Newspaper articles titled "Fluoridation: a shining public health success"<sup>[29]</sup> and "After 50 years, fluoride still works with a smile"<sup>[30]</sup> painted glowing pictures of the practice. Had investigators looked more closely, though, they might have learned that children in Muskegon, Michigan, an unfluoridated "control" city, had equal drops in dental decay. They might also have learned of the other studies that dispute the supposed wonders of fluoride.

## **The Fluoride Myth Doesn't Hold Water**

The big hope for fluoride was its ability to immunize children's developing teeth against cavities. Rates of dental caries were supposed to plummet in areas where water was treated. Yet decades of experience and worldwide research have contradicted this expectation numerous times. Here are just a few examples:

In British Columbia, only 11% of the population drinks fluoridated water, as opposed to 40-70% in other Canadian regions. Yet British Columbia has the lowest rate of tooth decay in Canada. In addition, the lowest rates of dental caries within the province are found in areas that do not have their water supplies fluoridated.<sup>[31]</sup>

According to a [Sierra Club](#) study, people in unfluoridated developing nations have fewer dental caries than those living in industrialized nations. As a result, they conclude that "fluoride is not essential to dental health."<sup>[32]</sup>

In 1986-87, the largest study on fluoridation and tooth decay ever was performed. The subjects were 39,000 school children between 5 and 17 living in 84 areas around the country. A third of the places were fluoridated, a third were partially fluoridated, and a third were not. Results indicate no statistically significant differences in dental decay between fluoridated and unfluoridated cities.<sup>[33]</sup>

A World Health Organization survey reports a decline of dental decay in western Europe, which is 98% unfluoridated. They state that western Europe's declining dental decay rates are equal to and sometimes better than those in the U.S.<sup>[34]</sup>

A 1992 University of Arizona study yielded surprising results when they found that "the more fluoride a child drinks, the more cavities appear in the teeth."<sup>[35]</sup>

Although all Native American reservations are fluoridated, children living there have much higher incidences of dental decay and other oral health problems than do children living in other U.S. communities. [36]

In light of all the evidence, fluoride proponents now make more modest claims. For example, in 1988, the ADA professed that a 40-to-60% cavity reduction could be achieved with the help of fluoride. Now they claim an 18-to-25% reduction. Other promoters mention a 12% decline in tooth decay.

And some former supporters are even beginning to question the need for fluoridation altogether. In 1990, a National Institute for Dental Research report stated that “it is likely that if caries in children remain at low levels or decline further, the necessity of continuing the current variety and extent of fluoride-based prevention programs will be questioned.” [37]

Most government agencies, however, continue to ignore the scientific evidence and to market fluoridation by making fictional claims about its benefits and pushing for its expansion. For instance, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,

“National surveys of oral health dating back several decades document continuing decreases in tooth decay in children, adults and senior citizens. Nevertheless, there are parts of the country and particular populations that remain without protection. For these reasons, the U.S. PHS ... has set a national goal for the year 2000 that 75% of persons served by community water systems will have access to optimally fluoridated drinking water; currently this figure is just about 60%. The year 2000 target goal is both desirable and yet challenging, based on past progress and continuing evidence of effectiveness and safety of this public health measure.” [38]

This statement is flawed on several accounts. First, as we’ve seen, research does not support the effectiveness of fluoridation for preventing tooth disease. Second, purported benefits are supposedly for children, not adults and senior citizens. At about age 13, any advantage fluoridation might offer comes to an end, and less than 1% of the fluoridated water supply reaches this population. And third, fluoridation has never been proven safe. On the contrary, several studies directly link fluoridation to skeletal fluorosis, dental fluorosis, and several rare forms of cancer. This alone should frighten us away from its use.

## **Biological Safety Concerns**

Only a small margin separates supposedly beneficial fluoride levels from amounts that are known to cause adverse effects. Dr. James Patrick, a former antibiotics research scientist at the National Institutes of Health, describes the predicament:

“[There is] a very low margin of safety involved in fluoridating water. A concentration of about 1 ppm is recommended...in several countries, severe fluorosis has been documented from water supplies containing only 2 or 3 ppm. In the development of drugs...we generally insist on a therapeutic index (margin of safety) of the order of 100; a therapeutic index of 2 or 3 is totally unacceptable, yet that is what has been proposed for public water supplies.”[39]

Other countries argue that even 1 ppm is not a safe concentration. Canadian studies, for example, imply that children under three should have no fluoride whatsoever. The Journal of the Canadian Dental Association states that “Fluoride supplements should not be recommended for children less than 3 years old.”<sup>[40]</sup> Since these supplements contain the same amount of fluoride as water does, they are basically saying that children under the age of three shouldn’t be drinking fluoridated water at all, under any circumstances. Japan has reduced the amount of fluoride in their drinking water to one-eighth of what is recommended in the U.S. Instead of 1 milligram per liter, they use less than 15 hundredths of a milligram per liter as the upper limit allowed. [41]

Even supposing that low concentrations are safe, there is no way to control how much fluoride different people consume, as some take in a lot more than others. For example, laborers, athletes, diabetics, and those living in hot or dry regions can all be expected to drink more water, and therefore more fluoride (in fluoridated areas) than others.<sup>[42]</sup> Due to such wide variations in water consumption, it is impossible to scientifically control what dosage of fluoride a person receives via the water supply.[43]

Another concern is that fluoride is not found only in drinking water; it is everywhere. Fluoride is found in foods that are processed with it, which, in the United States, include nearly all bottled drinks and canned foods.<sup>[44]</sup> Researchers writing in The Journal of Clinical Pediatric Dentistry have found that fruit juices, in particular, contain significant amounts of fluoride. In one study, a variety of popular juices and juice blends were analyzed and it was discovered that 42% of the samples examined had more than 1 ppm of fluoride, with some brands of grape juice containing much higher levels – up to 6.8 ppm! The authors cite the common practice of using fluoride-containing insecticide in growing grapes as a factor in these high levels, and they suggest that the fluoride content of beverages be printed on their labels, as is other nutritional information. [45] Considering how much juice some children ingest, and the fact that youngsters often insist on particular brands that they consume day after day, labeling seems like a prudent idea. But beyond this is the larger issue that this study brings up: Is it wise to subject children and others who are heavy juice drinkers to additional fluoride in their water?

Here’s a little-publicized reality: Cooking can greatly increase a food’s fluoride content. Peas, for example, contain 12 micrograms of fluoride when raw and 1500 micrograms after



they are cooked in fluoridated water, which is a tremendous difference. Also, we should keep in mind that fluoride is an ingredient in pharmaceuticals, aerosols, insecticides, and pesticides.

And of course, toothpastes. It's interesting to note that in the 1950s, fluoridated toothpastes were required to carry warnings on their labels saying that they were not to be used in areas where water was already fluoridated. Crest toothpaste went so far as to write: "Caution: Children under 6 should not use Crest." These regulations were dropped in 1958, although no new research was available to prove that the overdose hazard no longer existed.<sup>[46]</sup>

Today, common fluoride levels in toothpaste are 1000 ppm. Research chemist Woodfun Ligon notes that swallowing a small amount adds substantially to fluoride intake.<sup>[47]</sup> Dentists say that children commonly ingest up to 0.5 mg of fluoride a day from toothpaste. [48]

This inevitably raises another issue: How safe is all this fluoride? According to scientists and informed doctors, such as Dr. John Lee, it is not safe at all. Dr. Lee first took an anti-fluoridation stance back in 1972, when as chairman of an environmental health committee for a local medical society, he was asked to state their position on the subject. He stated that after investigating the references given by both pro- and anti-fluoridationists, the group discovered three important things:

"One, the claims of benefit of fluoride, the 60% reduction of cavities, was not established by any of these studies. Two, we found that the investigations into the toxic side effects of fluoride have not been done in any way that was acceptable. And three, we discovered that the estimate of the amount of fluoride in the food chain, in the total daily fluoride intake, had been measured in 1943, and not since then. By adding the amount of fluoride that we now have in the food chain, which comes from food processing with fluoridated water, plus all the fluoridated toothpaste that was not present in 1943, we found that the daily intake of fluoride was far in excess of what was considered optimal."<sup>[49]</sup>

What happens when fluoride intake exceeds the optimal? The inescapable fact is that this substance has been associated with severe health problems, ranging from skeletal and dental fluorosis to bone fractures, to fluoride poisoning, and even to cancer.

## **Skeletal Fluorosis**

When fluoride is ingested, approximately 93% of it is absorbed into the bloodstream. A good part of the material is excreted, but the rest is deposited in the bones and teeth, and is capable of causing a crippling skeletal fluorosis. This is a condition that can damage the

musculoskeletal and nervous systems and result in muscle wasting, limited joint motion, spine deformities, and calcification of the ligaments, as well as neurological deficits.

Large numbers of people in Japan, China, India, the Middle East, and Africa have been diagnosed with skeletal fluorosis from drinking naturally fluoridated water. In India alone, nearly a million people suffer from the affliction.<sup>39</sup> While only a dozen cases of skeletal fluorosis have been reported in the United States, Chemical and Engineering News states that “critics of the [EPA](#) standard speculate that there probably have been many more cases of fluorosis – even crippling fluorosis – than the few reported in the literature because most doctors in the U.S. have not studied the disease and do not know how to diagnose it.” [50]

Radiologic changes in bone occur when fluoride exposure is 5 mg/day, according to the late Dr. George Waldbott, author of Fluoridation: The Great Dilemma. While this 5 mg/day level is the amount of fluoride ingested by most people living in fluoridated areas,<sup>[51]</sup> the number increases for diabetics and laborers, who can ingest up to 20 mg of fluoride daily. In addition, a survey conducted by the Department of Agriculture shows that 3% of the U.S. population drinks 4 liters or more of water every day. If these individuals live in areas where the water contains a fluoride level of 4 ppm, allowed by the EPA, they are ingesting 16 mg/day from the consumption of water alone, and are thus at greater risk for getting skeletal fluorosis. [52]

## Dental Fluorosis

According to a 1989 National Institute for Dental Research study, 1-2% of children living in areas fluoridated at 1 ppm develop dental fluorosis, that is, permanently stained, brown mottled teeth. Up to 23% of children living in areas naturally fluoridated at 4 ppm develop severe dental fluorosis.<sup>[53]</sup> Other research gives higher figures. The publication Health Effects of Ingested Fluoride, put out by the National Academy of Sciences, reports that in areas with optimally fluoridated water (1 ppm, either natural or added), dental fluorosis levels in recent years ranged from 8 to 51%. Recently, a prevalence of slightly over 80% was reported in children 12-14 years old in Augusta, Georgia.

Fluoride is a noteworthy chemical additive in that its officially acknowledged benefit and damage levels are about the same. Writing in The Progressive, [science](#) journalist Daniel Grossman elucidates this point:

“Though many beneficial [chemicals](#) are dangerous when consumed at excessive levels, fluoride is unique because the amount that dentists recommend to prevent cavities is about the same as the amount that causes dental fluorosis.”<sup>[54]</sup>

Although the American Dental Association and the government consider dental fluorosis only a cosmetic problem, the American Journal of Public Health says that “...brittleness of moderately and severely mottled teeth may be associated with elevated caries levels.”<sup>45</sup> In other words, in these cases the fluoride is causing the exact problem that it’s supposed to prevent. Yiamouyiannis adds, “In highly naturally-fluoridated areas, the teeth actually crumble as a result. These are the first visible symptoms of fluoride poisoning.” [55]

Also, when considering dental fluorosis, there are factors beyond the physical that you can’t ignore – the negative psychological effects of having moderately to severely mottled teeth. These were recognized in a 1984 National Institute of Mental Health panel that looked into this problem.

A telling trend is that TV commercials for toothpaste, and toothpaste tubes themselves, are now downplaying fluoride content as a virtue. This was noted in an article in the Sarasota/Florida ECO Report,<sup>[56]</sup> whose author, George Glasser, feels that manufacturers are distancing themselves from the additive because of fears of lawsuits. The climate is ripe for these, and Glasser points out that such a class action suit has already been filed in England against the manufacturers of fluoride-containing products on behalf of children suffering from dental fluorosis.

## **Bone Fractures**

At one time, fluoride therapy was recommended for building denser bones and preventing fractures associated with osteoporosis. Now several articles in peer-reviewed journals suggest that fluoride actually causes more harm than good, as it is associated with bone breakage. Three studies reported in The Journal of the American Medical Association showed links between hip fractures and fluoride.<sup>[57][58][59]</sup> Findings here were, for instance, that there is “a small but significant increase in the risk of hip fractures in both men and women exposed to artificial fluoridation at 1 ppm.” In addition, the New England Journal of Medicine reports that people given fluoride to cure their osteoporosis actually wound up with an increased nonvertebral fracture rate. [60] Austrian researchers have also found that fluoride tablets make bones more susceptible to fractures.[61] The U.S. National Research Council states that the U.S. hip fracture rate is now the highest in the world. [62]

Louis V. Avioli, professor at the Washington University School of Medicine, says in a 1987 review of the subject: “Sodium fluoride therapy is accompanied by so many medical complications and side effects that it is hardly worth exploring in depth as a therapeutic mode for postmenopausal osteoporosis, since it fails to decrease the propensity for hip fractures and increases the incidence of stress fractures in the extremities.”<sup>[63]</sup>

## **Fluoride Poisoning**

In May 1992, 260 people were poisoned, and one man died, in Hooper Bay, Alaska, after drinking water contaminated with 150 ppm of fluoride. The accident was attributed to poor equipment and an unqualified operator.<sup>55</sup> Was this a fluke? Not at all. Over the years, the [CDC](#) has recorded several incidents of excessive fluoride permeating the water supply and sickening or killing people. We don't usually hear about these occurrences in news reports, but interested citizens have learned the truth from data obtained under the [Freedom](#) of Information Act. Here is a partial list of toxic spills we have not been told about:

July 1993 – Chicago, Illinois: Three dialysis patients died and five experienced toxic reactions to the fluoridated water used in the treatment process. The CDC was asked to investigate, but to date there have been no press releases.

May 1993 – Kodiak, Alaska (Old Harbor): The population was warned not to consume water due to high fluoride levels. They were also cautioned against boiling the water, since this concentrates the substance and worsens the danger. Although equipment appeared to be functioning normally, 22-24 ppm of fluoride was found in a sample.

July 1992 – Marin County, California: A pump malfunction allowed too much fluoride into the Bon Tempe treatment plant. Two million gallons of fluoridated water were diverted to Phoenix Lake, elevating the lake surface by more than two inches and forcing some water over the spillway.

December 1991 – Benton Harbor, Michigan: A faulty pump allowed approximately 900 gallons of hydrofluosilicic acid to leak into a chemical storage building at the water plant. City engineer Roland Klockow stated, “The concentrated hydrofluosilicic acid was so corrosive that it ate through more than two inches of concrete in the storage building.” This water did not reach water consumers, but fluoridation was stopped until June 1993. The original equipment was only two years old.

July 1991 – Porgate, Michigan: After a fluoride injector pump failed, fluoride levels reached 92 ppm and resulted in approximately 40 children developing abdominal pains, sickness, vomiting, and diarrhea at a school arts and crafts show.

November 1979 – Annapolis, Maryland: One patient died and eight became ill after renal dialysis treatment. Symptoms included cardiac arrest (resuscitated), hypotension, chest pain, difficulty breathing, and a whole gamut of intestinal problems. Patients not on dialysis also reported nausea, headaches, cramps, diarrhea, and dizziness. The fluoride level was later found to be 35 ppm; the problem was traced to a valve at a water plant that had been left open all night.<sup>[64]</sup>

Instead of addressing fluoridation's problematic safety record, officials have chosen to cover it up. For example, the ADA says in one booklet distributed to health agencies that "Fluoride feeders are designed to stop operating when a malfunction occurs... so prolonged over-fluoridation becomes a mechanical impossibility." In addition, the information that does reach the population after an accident is woefully inaccurate. A spill in Annapolis, Maryland, placed thousands at risk, but official reports reduced the number to eight. [65] Perhaps officials are afraid they will invite more lawsuits like the one for \$480 million by the wife of a dialysis patient who became brain-injured as the result of fluoride poisoning.

Not all fluoride poisoning is accidental. For decades, industry has knowingly released massive quantities of fluoride into the air and water. Disenfranchised communities, with people least able to fight back, are often the victims. Medical writer Joel Griffiths relays this description of what industrial pollution can do, in this case to a devastatingly poisoned Indian reservation:

"Cows crawled around the pasture on their bellies, inching along like giant snails. So crippled by bone disease they could not stand up, this was the only way they could graze. Some died kneeling, after giving birth to stunted calves. Others kept on crawling until, no longer able to chew because their teeth had crumbled down to the nerves, they began to starve...."

They were the cattle of the Mohawk Indians on the New York-Canadian St. Regis Reservation during the period 1960-1975, when industrial pollution devastated the herd – and along with it, the Mohawks' way of life....Mohawk children, too, have shown signs of damage to bones and teeth."<sup>[66]</sup>

Mohawks filed suit against the Reynolds Metals Company and the Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa) in 1960, but ended up settling out of court, where they received \$650,000 for their cows.<sup>[67]</sup>

Fluoride is one of industry's major pollutants, and no one remains immune to its effects. In 1989, 155,000 tons were being released annually into the air, and 500,000 tons a year were disposed of in our lakes, rivers, and oceans. [68]

## Cancer

Numerous studies demonstrate links between fluoridation and cancer; however, agencies promoting fluoride consistently refute or cover up these findings.

In 1977, Dr. John Yiamouyiannis and Dr. Dean Burk, former chief chemist at the National Cancer Institute, released a study that linked fluoridation to 10,000 cancer deaths

per year in the U.S. Their inquiry, which compared cancer deaths in the ten largest fluoridated American cities to those in the ten largest unfluoridated cities between 1940 and 1950, discovered a 5% greater rate in the fluoridated areas.<sup>[69]</sup> The NCI disputed these findings, since an earlier analysis of theirs apparently failed to pick up these extra deaths. Federal authorities claimed that Yiamouyiannis and Burk were in error, and that any increase was caused by statistical changes over the years in age, gender, and racial composition. [70]

In order to settle the question of whether or not fluoride is a carcinogen, a Congressional subcommittee instructed the National Toxicology Program (NTP) to perform another investigation.<sup>[71]</sup> That study, due in 1980, was not released until 1990. However, in 1986, while the study was delayed, the EPA raised the standard fluoride level in drinking water from 2.4 to 4 ppm. [72] After this step, some of the government's own employees in NFFE Local 2050 took what the Oakland Tribune termed the "remarkable step of denouncing that action as political." [73]

When the NTP study results became known in early 1990, union president Dr. Robert Carton, who works in the EPA's Toxic Substances Division, published a statement. It read, in part: "Four years ago, NFFE Local 2050, which represents all 1100 professionals at EPA headquarters, alerted then Administrator Lee Thomas to the fact that the scientific support documents for the fluoride in drinking water standard were fatally flawed. The fluoride juggernaut proceeded as it apparently had for the last 40 years - without any regard for the facts or concern for public health.

"EPA raised the allowed level of fluoride before the results of the rat/mouse study ordered by Congress in 1977 was complete. Today, we find out how irresponsible that decision was. The results reported by NTP, and explained today by Dr. Yiamouyiannis, are, as he notes, not surprising considering the vast amount of data that caused the animal study to be conducted in the first place. The results are not surprising to NFFE Local 2050 either. Four years ago we realized that the claim that there was no evidence that fluoride could cause genetic effects or cancer could not be supported by the shoddy document thrown together by the EPA contractor.

"It was apparent to us that EPA bowed to political pressure without having done an in-depth, independent analysis, using in-house experts, of the currently existing data that show fluoride causes genetic effects, promotes the growth of cancerous tissue, and is likely to cause cancer in humans. If EPA had done so, it would have been readily apparent - as it was to Congress in 1977 - that there were serious reasons to believe in a cancer threat.

"The behavior by EPA in this affair raises questions about the integrity of science at EPA and the role of professional scientists, lawyers and engineers who provide the interpretation of the available data and the judgments necessary to protect the public health and the

environment. Are scientists at EPA there to arrange facts to fit preconceived conclusions? Does the Agency have a responsibility to develop world-class experts in the risks posed by [chemicals](#) we are exposed to every day, or is it permissible for EPA to cynically shop around for contractors who will provide them the ‘correct’ answers?”<sup>[74]</sup>

What were the NTP study results? Out of 130 male rats that ingested 45 to 79 ppm of fluoride, 5 developed osteosarcoma, a rare bone cancer. There were cases, in both males and females at those doses, of squamous cell carcinoma in the mouth. [75] Both rats and mice had dose-related fluorosis of the teeth, and female rats suffered osteosclerosis of the long bones.[76]

When Yiamouyiannis analyzed the same data, he found mice with a particularly rare form of liver cancer, known as hepatocholangiocarcinoma. This cancer is so rare, according to Yiamouyiannis, that the odds of its appearance in this study by chance are 1 in 2 million in male mice and 1 in 100,000 in female mice. He also found precancerous changes in oral squamous cells, an increase in squamous cell tumors and cancers, and thyroid follicular cell tumors as a result of increasing levels of fluoride in drinking water. [77]

A March 13, 1990, New York Times article commented on the NTP findings: “Previous animal tests suggesting that water fluoridation might pose risks to humans have been widely discounted as technically flawed, but the latest investigation carefully weeded out sources of experimental or statistical error, many scientists say, and cannot be discounted.”<sup>[78]</sup> In the same article, biologist Dr. Edward Groth notes: “The importance of this study...is that it is the first fluoride bioassay giving positive results in which the latest state-of-the-art procedures have been rigorously applied. It has to be taken seriously.”<sup>71</sup>

On February 22, 1990, the Medical Tribune, an international medical news weekly received by 125,000 doctors, offered the opinion of a federal scientist who preferred to remain anonymous:

“It is difficult to see how EPA can fail to regulate fluoride as a carcinogen in light of what NTP has found. Osteosarcomas are an extremely unusual result in rat carcinogenicity tests. Toxicologists tell me that the only other substance that has produced this is radium....The fact that this is a highly atypical form of cancer implicates fluoride as the cause. Also, the osteosarcomas appeared to be dose-related, and did not occur in controls, making it a clean study.”<sup>[79]</sup>

Public health officials were quick to assure a concerned public that there was nothing to worry about! The ADA said the occurrence of cancers in the lab may not be relevant to humans since the level of fluoridation in the experimental animals’ water was so high.<sup>[80]</sup> But the Federal Register, which is the handbook of government practices, disagrees:

“The high exposure of experimental animals to toxic agents is a necessary and valid method of discovering possible carcinogenic hazards in man. To disavow the findings of this test would be to disavow those of all such tests, since they are all conducted according to this standard.”<sup>73</sup>

As a February 5, 1990, Newsweek article pointed out, “such megadosing is standard toxicological practice. It’s the only way to detect an effect without using an impossibly large number of test animals to stand in for the humans exposed to the substance.” [81] And as the Safer Water Foundation explains, higher doses are generally administered to test animals to compensate for the animals’ shorter life span and because humans are generally more vulnerable than test animals on a body-weight basis. [82]

Several other studies link fluoride to genetic damage and cancer. An article in *Mutation Research* says that a study by Proctor and Gamble, the very company that makes Crest toothpaste, did research showing that 1 ppm fluoride causes genetic damage.[83] Results were never published but Proctor and Gamble called them “clean,” meaning animals were supposedly free of malignant tumors. Not so, according to scientists who believe some of the changes observed in test animals could be interpreted as precancerous. [84] Yiamouyiannis says the Public Health Service sat on the data, which were finally released via a [Freedom](#) of Information Act request in 1989. “Since they are biased, they have tried to cover up harmful effects,” he says. “But the data speaks for itself. Half the amount of fluoride that is found in the New York City drinking water causes genetic damage.”<sup>46</sup>

A National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences publication, *Environmental and Molecular Mutagenesis*, also linked fluoride to genetic toxicity when it stated that “in cultured human and rodent cells, the weight of evidence leads to the conclusion that fluoride exposure results in increased chromosome aberrations.”<sup>[85]</sup> The result of this is not only birth defects but the mutation of normal cells into cancer cells. The *Journal of Carcinogenesis* further states that “fluoride not only has the ability to transform normal cells into cancer cells but also to enhance the cancer-causing properties of other chemicals.” [86]

Surprisingly, the PHS put out a report called *Review of fluoride: benefits and risks*, in which they showed a substantially higher incidence of bone cancer in young men exposed to fluoridated water compared to those who were not. The New Jersey Department of Health also found that the risk of bone cancer was about three times as high in fluoridated areas as in nonfluoridated areas.<sup>[87]</sup>

Despite cover-up attempts, the light of knowledge is filtering through to some enlightened scientists. Regarding animal test results, the director of the U.S. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, James Huff, does say that “the reason these animals got a



few osteosarcomas was because they were given fluoride...Bone is the target organ for fluoride.” Toxicologist William Marcus adds that “fluoride is a carcinogen by any standard we use. I believe EPA should act immediately to protect the public, not just on the cancer data, but on the evidence of bone fractures, arthritis, mutagenicity, and other effects.” [88]

## The Challenge of Eliminating Fluoride

Given all the scientific challenges to the idea of the safety of fluoride, why does it remain a protected contaminant? As Susan Pare of the Center for Health Action asks, “...even if fluoride in the water did reduce tooth decay, which it does not, how can the EPA allow a substance more toxic than Alar, red dye #3, and vinyl chloride to be injected purposely into drinking water?” [89]

This is certainly a logical question and, with all the good science that seems to exist on the subject, you would think that there would be a great deal of interest in getting fluoride out of our water supply. Unfortunately, that hasn’t been the case. As Dr. William Marcus, a senior science advisor in the EPA’s Office of Drinking Water, has found, the top governmental priority has been to sweep the facts under the rug and, if need be, to suppress truth-tellers. Marcus explains<sup>[90]</sup> that fluoride is one of the chemicals the EPA specifically regulates, and that he was following the data coming in on fluoride very carefully when a determination was going to be made on whether the levels should be changed. He discovered that the data were not being heeded. But that was only the beginning of the story for him. Marcus recounts what happened:

“The studies that were done by Botel Northwest showed that there was an increased level of bone cancer and other types of cancer in animals....in that same study, there were very rare liver cancers, according to the board-certified veterinary pathologists at the contractor, Botel. Those really were very upsetting because they were hepatocholangial carcinomas, very rare liver cancers....Then there were several other kinds of cancers that were found in the jaw and other places.

“I felt at that time that the reports were alarming. They showed that the levels of fluoride that can cause cancers in animals are actually lower than those levels ingested in people (who take lower amounts but for longer periods of time).

“I went to a meeting that was held in Research Triangle Park, in April 1990, in which the National Toxicology Program was presenting their review of the study. I went with several colleagues of mine, one of whom was a board-certified veterinary pathologist who originally reported hepatocholangial carcinoma as a separate entity in rats and mice. I asked him if he would look at the slides to see if that really was a tumor or if the pathologists at Botel had

made an error. He told me after looking at the slides that, in fact, it was correct.

“At the meeting, every one of the cancers reported by the contractor had been downgraded by the National Toxicology Program. I have been in the toxicology business looking at studies of this nature for nearly 25 years and I have never before seen every single cancer endpoint downgraded.... I found that very suspicious and went to see an investigator in the Congress at the suggestion of my friend, Bob Carton. This gentleman and his staff investigated very thoroughly and found out that the scientists at the National Toxicology Program down at Research Triangle Park had been coerced by their superiors to change their findings.”[91]

Once Dr. Marcus acted on his findings, something ominous started to happen in his life: “...I wrote an internal memorandum and gave it to my supervisors. I waited for a month without hearing anything. Usually, you get a feedback in a week or so. I wrote another memorandum to a person who was my second-line supervisor explaining that if there was even a slight chance of increased cancer in the general population, since 140 million people were potentially ingesting this material, that the deaths could be in the many thousands. Then I gave a copy of the memorandum to the Fluoride Work Group, who waited some time and then released it to the press.

“Once it got into the press all sorts of things started happening at EPA. I was getting disciplinary threats, being isolated, and all kinds of things which ultimately resulted in them firing me on March 15, 1992.”

In order to be reinstated at work, Dr. Marcus took his case to court. In the process, he learned that the government had engaged in various illegal activities, including 70 felony counts, in order to get him fired. At the same time, those who committed perjury were not held accountable for it. In fact, they were rewarded for their efforts:

“When we finally got the EPA to the courtroom...they admitted to doing several things to get me fired. We had notes of a meeting...that showed that fluoride was one of the main topics discussed and that it was agreed that they would fire me with the help of the Inspector General. When we got them on the stand and showed them the memoranda, they finally remembered and said, oh yes, we lied about that in our previous statements.

“Then...they admitted to shredding more than 70 documents that they had in hand - Freedom of Information requests. That’s a felony.... In addition, they charged me with stealing time from the government. They...tried to show...that I had been doing private work on government time and getting paid for it.

When we came to court, I was able to show that the time cards they produced were forged, and forged by the Inspector General's staff....”

For all his efforts, Dr. Marcus was rehired, but nothing else has changed: “The EPA was ordered to rehire me, which they did. They were given a whole series of requirements to be met, such as paying me my back pay, restoring my leave, privileges, and sick leave and annual leave. The only thing they’ve done is put me back to work. They haven’t given me any of those things that they were required to do.”[92]

What is at the core of such ruthless tactics? John Yiamouyiannis feels that the central concern of government is to protect industry, and that the motivating force behind fluoride use is the need of certain businesses to dump their toxic waste products somewhere. They try to be inconspicuous in the disposal process and not make waves. “As is normal, the solution to pollution is dilution. You poison everyone a little bit rather than poison a few people a lot. This way, people don’t know what’s going on.”

Since the Public Health Service has promoted the fluoride myth for over 50 years, they’re concerned about protecting their reputation. So scientists like Dr. Marcus, who know about the dangers, are intimidated into keeping silent. Otherwise, they jeopardize their careers. Dr. John Lee elaborates:

“Back in 1943, the PHS staked their professional careers on the benefits and safety of fluoride. It has since become bureaucratized. Any public health official who criticizes fluoride, or even hints that perhaps it was an unwise decision, is at risk of losing his career entirely. This has happened time and time again. Public health officials such as Dr. Gray in British Columbia and Dr. Colquhoun in New Zealand found no benefit from fluoridation. When they reported these results, they immediately lost their careers.... This is what happens – the public health officials who speak out against fluoride are at great risk of losing their careers on the spot.”

Yiamouyiannis adds that for the authorities to admit that they’re wrong would be devastating.

“It would show that their reputations really don’t mean that much.... They don’t have the scientific background. As [Ralph Nader](#) once said, if they admit they’re wrong on fluoridation, people would ask, and legitimately so, what else have they not told us right?”

Accompanying a loss in status would be a tremendous loss in revenue. Yiamouyiannis points out that “the indiscriminate careless handling of fluoride has a lot of companies, such as Exxon, U.S. Steel, and Alcoa, making tens of billions of dollars in extra profits at

our expense.... For them to go ahead now and admit that this is bad, this presents a problem, a threat, would mean tens of billions of dollars in lost profit because they would have to handle fluoride properly. Fluoride is present in everything from phosphate fertilizers to cracking agents for the petroleum industry.”

Fluoride could only be legally disposed of at a great cost to industry. As Dr. Bill Marcus explains,

“There are prescribed methods for disposal and they’re very expensive. Fluoride is a very potent poison. It’s a registered pesticide, used for killing rats or mice.... If it were to be disposed of, it would require a class-one landfill. That would cost the people who are producing aluminum or fertilizer about \$7000+ per 5000-to-6000-gallon truckload to dispose of it. It’s highly corrosive.”

Another problem is that the U.S. judicial system, even when convinced of the dangers, is powerless to change policy. Yiamouyiannis tells of his involvement in court cases in Pennsylvania and Texas in which, while the judges were convinced that fluoride was a health hazard, they did not have the jurisdiction to grant relief from fluoridation. That would have to be done, it was ultimately found, through the legislative process. Interestingly, the judiciary seems to have more power to effect change in other countries. Yiamouyiannis states that when he presented the same technical evidence in Scotland, the Scottish court outlawed fluoridation based on the evidence.

Indeed, most of Western Europe has rejected fluoridation on the grounds that it is unsafe. In 1971, after 11 years of testing, Sweden’s Nobel Medical Institute recommended against fluoridation, and the process was banned.[93] The Netherlands outlawed the practice in 1976, after 23 years of tests. France decided against it after consulting with its Pasteur Institute<sup>64</sup> and West Germany, now Germany, rejected the practice because the recommended dosage of 1 ppm was “too close to the dose at which long-term damage to the human body is to be expected.”<sup>84</sup> Dr. Lee sums it up:

“All of western Europe, except one or two test towns in Spain, has abandoned fluoride as a public health plan. It is not put in the water anywhere. They all established test cities and found that the benefits did not occur and the toxicity was evident.”[94]

Isn’t it time the United States followed Western Europe’s example? While the answer is obvious, it is also apparent that government policy is unlikely to change without public support. We therefore must communicate with legislators, and insist on one of our most precious resources – pure, unadulterated drinking water. Yiamouyiannis urges all American people to do so, pointing out that public pressure has gotten fluoride out of the

water in places like Los Angeles; Newark and Jersey City in New Jersey; and [95]Bedford, Massachusetts.<sup>46</sup> He emphasizes the immediacy of the problem:

“There is no question with regard to fluoridation of public water supplies. It is absolutely unsafe...and should be stopped immediately. This is causing more destruction to human health than any other single substance added purposely or inadvertently to the water supply. We’re talking about 35,000 excess deaths a year...10,000 cancer deaths a year...130 million people who are being chronically poisoned. We’re not talking about dropping dead after drinking a glass of fluoridated water.... It takes its toll on human health and life, glass after glass.” [96]

There is also a moral issue in the debate that has largely escaped notice. According to columnist James Kilpatrick, it is “the right of each person to control the drugs he or she takes.” Kilpatrick calls fluoridation compulsory mass medication, a procedure that violates the principles of medical ethics.<sup>[97]</sup> A New York Times editorial agrees:

“In light of the uncertainty, critics [of fluoridation] argue that administrative bodies are unjustified in imposing fluoridation on communities without obtaining public consent.... The real issue here is not just the scientific debate. The question is whether any establishment has the right to decide that benefits outweigh risks and impose involuntary medication on an entire population. In the case of fluoridation, the dental establishment has made opposition to fluoridation seem intellectually disreputable. Some people regard that as tyranny.”<sup>[98]</sup>

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