

theadvertiser.com

April 17, 2009

Fluoridation is safe, effective in water

As of late, one can't help but notice the anti-flouridation fear-mongering articles, local forums and AOC programs cropping up in response to local efforts in finally fluoridating our community water systems. Junk science from the Internet, anecdotal remarks and studies are being utilized to instill doubt and fear into the minds of our local citizens on this very important issue.

Water fluoridation's goal is to prevent a chronic disease whose burdens particularly fall on children and on the poor. The aim of anti-"documents" is to create the illusion of scientific controversy. Often they quote statements that are out of date or out of context. Quotes from obscure or hard-to-locate journals are often used.

There are, of course, a few dentists and physicians who oppose fluoridation. Some of them object to fluoridation as a form of government intrusion, even though they know it is safe and effective. Some of the basic facts on this issue are as follows: The fluoridation of drinking water is endorsed by the American Dental Association, the American Medical Association and the U.S. Public Health Service. North American water systems have added fluoride, a naturally occurring element, to their water supplies since 1945. Since that time, child cavity rates have been reduced substantially where fluoridation has been implemented.

For more information, go to www.ada.org/public/topics/fluoride/facts/fluoridation_facts.pdf.

Jerome Smith, DDS

Lafayette
