

The Air You Breathe

Free Quarterly Newsletter from Akron Regional Air Quality Management District
May 2018



Air Quality Awareness Week 2018 Recap

Air Quality Where You Are

April 30th through May 4th 2018 was Air Quality Awareness Week. The theme of the week was Air Quality Where You Are. Each day there was a different focal point revolving around air quality issues.

Monday: AirNow.gov 20th anniversary! AirNow.gov is a great resource to get information on the current and forecast air quality conditions anywhere in the United States. You can even download an app for your phone!

Tuesday: Health...with the specific focus of how air quality impacts asthma as May 1st was World Asthma Day. Poor air quality negatively effects our health, and people with asthma know this all too well. Clean air helps everyone breathe easier!

Wednesday: Wildfires. So, we don't really have wildfires here in NE Ohio, but we do have a pretty laid back attitude about open burning. The bottom line is smoke from voluntary burning is not healthy. Just because we *can* burn, doesn't mean we *should* burn.

Thursday: Citizen science brings some ideas from Star Trek to life!! Well, not really, but there are tools available now that individuals can use to get a decent idea of what the air quality is like right where they are.

Friday: Air Quality around the World. Because the Clean Air Act has been and IS WORKING, we enjoy much cleaner air than many people around the globe. We are, and should be, global leaders in how air gets cleaner while an economy grows. We have the ingenuity!!

Learn more about 2018 AQA Week here: <https://www3.epa.gov/airnow/airaware/>



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Get Digital!

This new format newsletter looks **GREAT** in color. Can't see it in color? Still getting a paper copy?

It's time to **GET DIGITAL!**

Our emailed version is the way to go. You can share the newsletter with your entire organization or friends to help them stay air aware with a few clicks of a mouse.

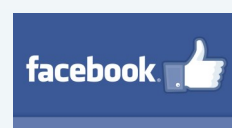
Send an email to dmeyers@schd.org to get started. Let us know what name/business the paper copy is currently mailed to and we'll remove that address from our paper mailing!

Help us reach our goal to cut paper distribution in **HALF** by 2019!

We're social, too!

We post the Air Quality Index and pollen count twice each weekday on our Facebook page. We also post articles about air quality...and share posts from other organizations that promote clean air, too!

Join us!



Welcome Back Colonel LaClair!

On May 7th we welcomed home Colonel LaClair, known in our office and to the regulated community as simply Duane, who spent this January through the end of April on active duty with the US Army. Many readers may not realize that Duane has served our country in the military while also serving here by working for cleaner air.

Duane joined the military, entering the Air Force for four years. After those initial four years, he then signed up with the Army Reserves and began his degree in engineering. During the first Gulf War in the 90's Duane's unit was activated, but was literally called off the tarmac while they were loading the plane to be deployed because the conflict was deescalating and their unit would not be needed. (That's the story I've heard!)

After 9/11, Duane would be deployed not once, but twice to serve in the Middle East. We were (and still are) extremely proud of Duane's service and the sacrifices he made to serve during those long and dangerous deployments.



His final activation was a very fitting end to a long and distinguished military career. Colonel LaClair worked on an extremely large scale, domestic training exercise that spanned several months to plan, prepare and execute. This training exercise sharpened the skills of our next generation of soldiers and their leaders. It was a fitting activation because Duane's dedication to excellence, teaching and mentoring was highlighted one **LAST** time as he is scheduled to **retire** from the military on July 1, 2018 after 37 years of service! Congratulations, Duane. Thank you for your service.



Invoices, Invoices, Invoices!

ARAQMD recently sent out invoices to some regulated facilities and also to asbestos contractors who have done work in our service area in the 1st quarter of 2018. Here is an explanation of those invoices.

If you received an invoice and it starts with the letters "OAG" this is a final notice invoice. ARAQMD has an annual fee for our permitted facilities and this invoice is in response to one or more years of unpaid fees. If these invoices remain unpaid, they will be forwarded to the Ohio Attorney General's office for servicing.

We send out our annual invoices in July (take note: there will be a *different* invoice coming in July) which is the fee for the previous calendar year. So, this July we will be billing for 2017. It may get confusing for the facilities that received an "OAG" invoice in the past few weeks to then get another invoice (with a different number) in July. Please feel free to contact our office with any questions.

If you received an invoice that starts with the letters "ASB" this is a NEW invoicing system established this year. With the asbestos notification forms submittal changes that happened at the state this year, the way we used to process our local asbestos fees was upended. Previously, anyone doing regulated asbestos demolition/renovation work would submit notification forms to our office with the local fee. Now, those forms are submitted directly to the state and we now have to collect our fees after the fact. Thus the quarterly invoices are being sent. It's the same fee we have always collected for asbestos projects, just processed in a different manner. If you have a question about your asbestos invoice, please contact Julie Brown at: 330.926.5625.



Pollen in the Air

For many people, the beauty pictured above is the signal that their pollen allergy season is either underway or about to get started!

We don't have a set day when we start measuring pollen. It's usually weather driven. We've started as early as February, or as late as mid-April. This year we started, and then it snowed. So, it can be an up and down thing until our weather settles down a bit.

We measure and report pollen every weekday morning. There are three ways you can find out what the pollen count is from our office.

1. Our information line:
330-375.2545
2. On our website:
<http://araqmd.org/>
3. Follow us on **Facebook**

We have stored the pollen counts for a loooooong time and use those to create categories of good, moderate, high or very high, for the greater Akron area. We understand that conditions may be somewhat better or worse in your exact location, but this gives us a pretty good indication of what is happening.

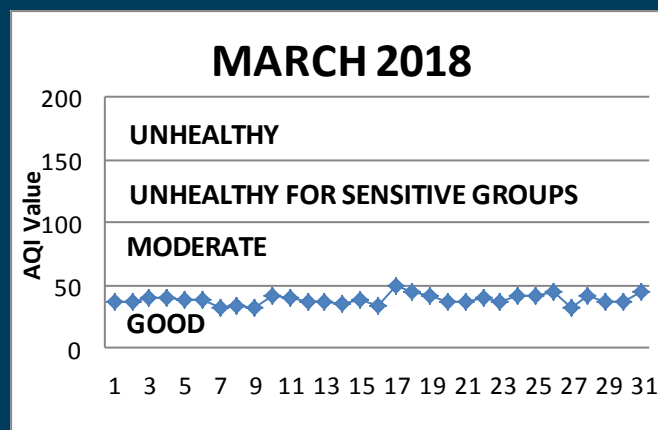
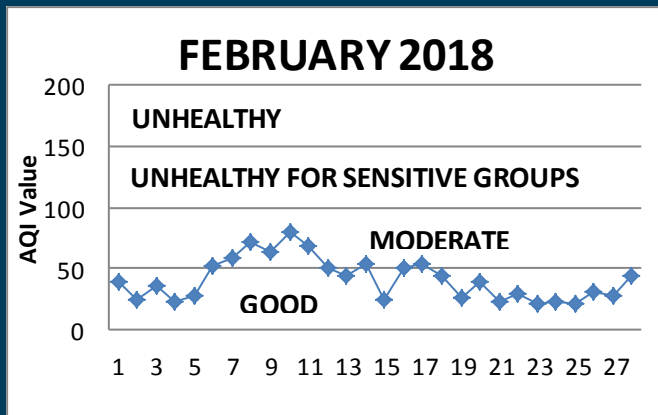
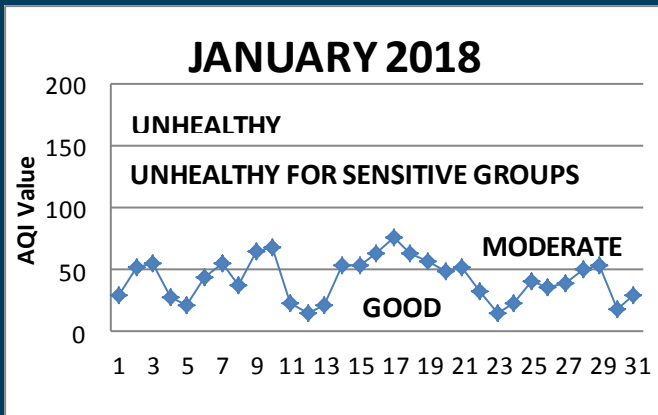
Tree pollen leads the way in the spring followed up by grass in the summer and then the ever dreaded ragweed by mid to late August.

Ready. Set. **SNEEZE!!!**

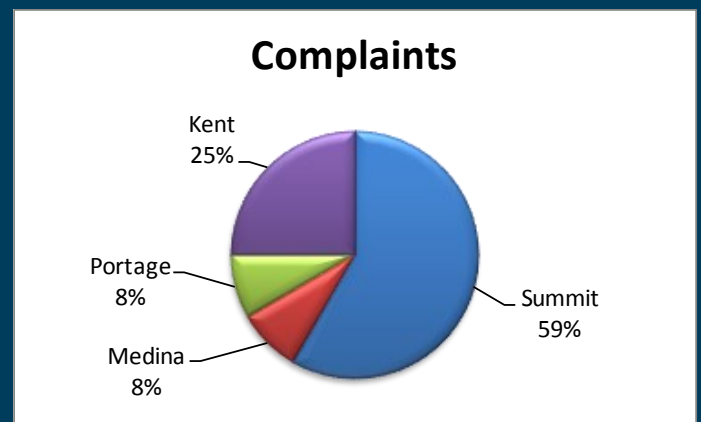
AQ by the Numbers: First Quarter 2018

Air Quality Index

Complaints & Inspections



Area/ Health District	Commercial/ Industrial	Residential	Total
Summit County	3	4	7
Medina County	1	0	1
Portage County	0	1	1
Kent	3	0	3



Site Visits	1st Quarter 2018
FEPTIO	2
Title V	3
Non Title V	2
GDF	0
Full Compliance Evaluations	3

Additional Stats

Permits Issued							
1st Quarter	PTI		PTIO		TV		PBR
	Draft	Final	Draft	Final	Draft**	Final	Total
1st Q 2018	0	2	1	11	3	1	6

Asbestos	
1st Q—Notifications	71
1st Q—Inspections	34



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A service of Summit County Public Health

The Clean Air Act is Working!

Evidence is mounting that the Clean Air Act (CAA) has and is still improving the air we breathe! To put it simply, the Clean Air Act WORKS!! Looking at the slide to the right (a screen shot from the Lung Association's *State of the Air 2018* report), you can see that ozone has improved dramatically in Summit County since 1996. Meaningful regulations have made breathing much safer for folks! But, to see more further air quality improvements, we're going to have to start looking beyond the CAA and start looking at our own personal choices and behaviors.

Changes every single person can make that will have positive impacts on air quality are:

- Investing in energy efficient upgrades at home. Whether it's lighting or appliances, when it's time to replace them, choose the most efficient option you can afford!
- Personal vehicles....how we drive them, how we maintain them, and even IF we continue to use them. Replacing passenger vehicles with a more efficient vehicle may not be in your immediate future, but you could check out public transportation or maybe carpooling a day or two a week with a coworker. Also, keeping your vehicle in good mechanical shape will help lower emissions. Even your tires being a little low will cause you to burn more fuel per mile and emit more pollution!

Small personal changes will reap large air quality rewards. We will continue to enforce the regulations from the CAA to make sure industry operates in compliance. But, without help from individuals, further clean air gains will be hard to come by. Learn about the progress that has been made here: <https://www.epa.gov/clean-air-act-overview/progress-cleaning-air-and-improving-peoples-health>.

