Water now deemed unsafe by EPA has Navy reacting

By KYLA BAJERIEN

The Environmental Protection Agency acted on per-illuminated compounds, and now the military arts it will follow the agency’s new recommendations while cleaning up contamination in Bucks and Montgomery counties.

Last week, the EPA updated its own guidance on public health implications of per-illuminated compounds (PFCs), and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). The update greatly reduced the amount considered toxic in drinking water. In the worst case scenario, water containing the chemicals at an amount previously deemed safe would now be more than eight times over the recommended limits.

A Navy spokesman said Thursday that the depart- ment recognized the EPA’s updated and would be matching its response to contaminated drinking water around military facilities in Bucks and Montgomery counties.

“Public health and safety is our primary concern,” said Navy public affairs officer Bill Franklin. "It represents something very important." Navy public affairs officer Bill Franklin.

Experience the Best in Skin Care

Skin Smart Dermatology
www.skinsmartderm.com
Watch your email for FATHER’S DAY special and more.

Don’t forget to stock up on sunscreen before you hit the beach this Memorial Day weekend!

By CARRIE MUNDEN-HERVEY

Musician Michael J. Fox has Parkinson’s disease, a movement disorder that affects more than 1 million Americans. He turned 58 this year, but his situation was by no means unique. In May, Fox announced that his condition was now in a remission stage.

It’s no place for a 28-year-old,” said Brown. “But it’s better than living in the sewer. You had to do what you had to do.”

Brown stood out at the nursing home because of his youth, but his situation was not by no means unique. While the majority of nursing home residents are over 65, the number of young adults living in such facilities is on the rise. In 2014, 13 percent of nursing home residents were between the ages of 11 and 64, up from 10 percent in 2000, according to data from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

In Bucks County, roughly 7 percent of nursing home residents were in that age group as of February 2016, a number that has remained fairly steady over the years, according to data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. But in Montgomery County, the percentage of younger residents has jumped from 5 percent in 2010 to 14 percent this year.

Younger patients end up in nursing care often because they have no other options. Many have low-paying jobs or no jobs. Family members can’t or won’t take them in, because of financial difficulties, or arrangement or the fact their homes aren’t handicapped accessible.

“Primarily, the reason we see younger adults in nursing homes is there’s been a lack of available options for them to receive services in the community,” said Lori Smolnitsky, executive director of the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, a Washington, D.C., consumer advocacy group. “What is available is very expensive, usually, in nursing homes. What we’ve seen is that younger adults with disabilities have needed to enter a nursing home in order to receive the care that services they have not been able to get in other places, rather due to cost prohibitions or because there’s just not the availability in less restrictive settings.”

The needs of the elderly who wish to age out of a nursing home often find the odds stacked against them, Brown said, because affordable housing is scarce. And affordable housing that is handicapped accessible is even harder to find.

“If you are so young you’re disabled, to these apartment managers, when you mention the word ‘veterans,’ they say, ‘slick, can’t help you,’” said Brown. See HOME, Page A8
While they get the care they need in a nursing home, which are geared toward older residents.

Continued from Page A1

h
ga to visit after I move out.”

I love the help, too. It’s very nice. I might

“Let’s put it this way, he’s very nice

and birth certificate, which makes applying

“Things are changing in the way long-

More than 85

According to a Consumer Voice study, more than 85

“Nursing homes are really set up for

in a way to live independently.

wouldn’t do so much.”

of the people here,”

and others facing socioeconomic hardships.

By 2013, more than 40,000 individuals

in a way to live independently. Those who say

“Eichenhofer has visited every one

While Williams turns 61 in June and will

What a joy of the people here,”

Brown found his apartment at Edgely

He was that person.”

social worker’s help.

to independent living. Helping her will be

take orders from another person when you’re

“Nursing homes are really set up for

Jeff Eichenhofer, community outreach and

too old for the

“things we do so much.”

A former Levittown resident, Hopkins

for a young person to live in a nursing home,

Because she is a nurse, she said she was used to an active lifestyle, and

the property that straddles Abington and

Brown’s voucher, for instance, is good only

is, like, 85, and you’re 28. They’re not set up to deal with that.

“Why do you keep trying to live independently.

independent living.

When I was 60, I moved in with my

For independent living.

while living independently.

her own. “I didn’t like people taking care

needed to help “break the ice.”

hea, it’s hard to

her group right leg was amputated due to complications from diabetes.

To me, it’s not the place for them.

a young person to live in a nursing home,

saying that the aides are for.

“Emma and Bailey

they found someone who would give him a home.

Second time as a resident. While she lived

Eichenhofer said that a recent study about

making a transition from

independent living.

With a help of the people here,”

the aides are for. But I can do my own

“Even though I have

While Williams turns 61 in June

in a nursing home, which

independent living. For those who say

“Eichenhofer said that a recent study about

For independent living.

of the people here,”

Tomatoes and “there are

her apartment at Edgely

mental health

are no elevators.

“Eichenhofer said that a recent study about

she has a need

her property that straddles Abington and

she found someone who would give

