

# The Intelligencer

## Ambler art gallery sheds light on toxic chemicals in drinking water

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HORSHAM WATER AND  
SEWER AUTHORITY

The Cellini Studio Gallery in Ambler is putting on an art display in order to show residents of Bucks County the human consequences that have come from the Navy not being careful with their waste.

A statement about human consequences will be put on display this week in the form of art.

The Cellini Studio Gallery in Ambler will be presenting the exhibit, *The Weight Of Water*, through Friday. The exhibit will attempt to add a human element to the issues regarding the groundwater in and around Warminster.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, had been found in nationally high levels in the water supplies in Horsham, Warminster and Warrington. The chemicals were used for decades in firefighting foams at a trio of current and former military bases there.

Activists Hope Grosse and Yvonne Love hope the art exhibit will bring awareness towards the problems they have faced when trying to get the government to act on the contamination. On opening night of the exhibit last week, the pair were joined by Lora Werner, a regional director for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and state Sen. Maria Collett, D-12, Lower Gwynedd, on a panel answering residents' questions.

"I've been concerned about the water problem ever since I heard about it in 2015," said Lisa Cellini, owner of Cellini Studio Gallery. "I never thought I'd be giving my kids poisoned water."

Cellini is a small business owner, a nurse, and also raised her kids in Horsham, where one of the airbases is located.

The chemicals found in the water are manmade, and according to Werner, some health concerns are known, including liver problems, cholesterol, and hypertension in pregnant women. These chemicals have a long half-life, and can stay in a person's body for years at a time.

"There are so many unknowns," said Grosse. "We're finding it everywhere and it could be anywhere."

Collett spoke about some of the bills she has introduced to keep drinking water safe, and clean up contamination. The first bill, SB-581, would create a drinking water standard of 10 parts per trillion for PFAS chemicals. Currently, the EPA has a 70 ppt drinking water advisory for the chemicals.

Companion legislation would list PFAS chemicals as hazardous materials.

A third bill, SB 709, would give the state's Attorney General ability to prosecute people and businesses for environmental crimes under the state's Solid Waste Management Act, Clean Streams Law and Safe Water Drinking Act.

The women spoke about the difficulties being faced because the polluter isn't a private business, it's the Department of Defense. According to Collett, they are finding still finding areas with high level of PFAS and says the situation is getting worse. Although negative, she hopes that this will open eyes and gain support from people who might not live in the area and aren't effected by the contamination.

"We're not trying to make things harder, we're trying to make things safer," said Collett. "The worse things get, the more and more likely we are to get attention and support."