

March 2014



### *Points of Interest...*

- St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) partnered with St. Clair County (SCC) Parks and Recreation Department to prepare an application for the “Michigan Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Habitat” grant program. Environmental Health will provide in-kind services for public education and outreach. If this grant is approved it will support the goals of the Belle River Watershed Management Plan and be one of its first implementation projects. The project proposes to restore over 500 feet of shoreline along the Belle River at Columbus County Park.
- Clients enrolled in the SCCHD Women, Infants and Children program (WIC) spent a total dollar amount of \$2,617,928.96 for nutritious food and dairy products in FY 2013. This represents a significant community impact (in dollar terms) by the SCCHD WIC program.
- SCCHD Clinic Services program continues to improve efficiencies and client service by moving toward a paperless clinic. Multiple assessment forms and consents are being completed electronically. In addition signature pads are being utilized. Within the next two months all documentation will be done exclusively within the Electronic Medical Records (EMR).
- A stakeholders meeting was recently held to develop a St. Clair River water quality monitoring program at St. Clair County Community College. The College is an excellent host for the proposed monitoring program due to its close vicinity to St. Clair River, well-equipped laboratory, and available student technicians. This program will significantly enhance the current drinking water monitoring system by performing surface water analyses that will provide timely chemical identification and quantification.
- Although SCC Immunization rates have ranked the highest in the SE region within the last year, recent assessment changes at the state level which include two doses of Hepatitis A vaccine in children 19-36 months old, move SCC to the bottom of the list. Strategies to address the poor uptake of Hepatitis A vaccine by private providers in this area are being developed and discussed.
- Health Education program staff, also member of the SCC Wellness Committee team, assisted in the planning and delivery of the successful Wellness Center Open House on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Free health screenings, chair massages and refreshments were offered to SCC, CMH and DHS employees, including SCC retirees. 55 people attended.
- Health Education team is gearing up for National Public Health Week April 7-11. This year’s theme is “Public Health: Start Here”. Marketing begins the week of March 24. SCCHD will work to raise awareness of the critical roles that public health and prevention play in keeping our community healthy.