

APRIL 2015

## Points of Interest...

- St Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) Nursing division in collaboration with Dr. Doss will participate in upcoming sports physicals at Marysville, Port Huron, and Port Huron Northern High Schools. Sports physicals are free and available to all who attend and cover the student for the upcoming athletic seasons in 2015-16' year. Historically over 300 students take advantage of this service!
- The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has approved the Environmental Health Division's self-assessment of its *Non-community Water Supply program*. The quality assurance guidelines in the evaluations included extensive record reviews of numerous components. According to the findings, all minimum program requirements are being met. This self-assessment option is only offered to local health departments that have historically displayed compliance status and have established ongoing internal quality assurance procedures. The DEQ acknowledged the efforts of the staff in assuring safe drinking water supplies to the community.
- Recently Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) released data on the cost savings or return on investment to Medicaid from the Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) due to a reduction in preterm birth rates. For every \$1.00 spent on prenatal services for MIHP participant mothers, Medicaid saves \$1.38 in the costs associated with preterm birth in the first month of life. SCCHD continues to support and provide MIHP services to Medicaid eligible mothers, which offers care coordination and intervention services focusing on both the mother and infant.
- The Environmental Health Division has submitted the *Belle River Watershed Plan* for DEQ approval. The 1,000+ page document assesses the present state of the Belle River Watershed, the historical changes it has undergone, and the challenges it faces in the future. As a result of this assessment, the *Belle River Watershed Management Plan* aims to identify priority projects and recommend actions that are needed to restore, enhance and protect the Belle River, its tributaries, and its headwaters.
- The 13th annual *Earth Fair* was held April 24 and 25 at Goodells County Park. Sheri Faust, SCCHD Environmental Health Educator, is the lead organizer of the event. Members of other county agencies, non-profit organizations, and local schools are also involved in planning. This event is possible because of the successful partnership with SCC Parks & Recreation letting *Earth Fair* use the park facilities for free. This year 1,200 school children attended on field trips and 10,000 visitors attended the two-day event – the highest in *Earth Fair* history! School districts can request a transportation *Earth Fair* grant and have their busing transportation costs for the trip paid. It is because of generous corporate sponsorships that *Earth Fair* is free to families and schools. For more information visit [www.EarthDayFair.com](http://www.EarthDayFair.com).
- The St Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) is in the process of developing a 2015 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) seeking solid input from community stakeholders. This CHNA will include a prescription drug component. The State recently granted a joint award between St Clair County and Sanilac County to share this project, with Sanilac as the fiduciary. Sanilac County has not done a county wide assessment since 2002. More details to come!