



Galion City Board of Health Environmental Division Monthly Report for October 2022

Food Safety

Food inspections are being completed regularly, and follow-up inspections are being done as needed. One retail Food Establishment has been lacking in compliance, and I likely will begin enforcement proceedings according to the GCHD enforcement procedures.

I attended the northwest Ohio Environmental Health Association Conference for two days in October. There were a few good sessions on food safety, pools and body art. It was nice to get with the other REHS's in the area in person for training and networking once again.

Public Health Nuisances

There were 11 nuisance complaints during the month of October. Seven of the complaints were solid waste, Two of the complaints were food operations/establishments and two were other nuisances. Most complaints were addressed by giving written orders to abate the nuisance and/or educational information to come into compliance with regulations.

General Environmental Health

The GCHD continues to give out mosquito control products that were purchased via the Ohio EPA mosquito control grant. Money will still be spent on mosquito prevention education and adulticide for the city to spray next season. The 2022 MCG is a grant that ends in April of 2023.

Mosquito surveillance was completed through the end of September. The mosquitoes collected have been submitted to the Ohio Department of Health for testing and identification. GCHD has submitted 1,213 mosquitoes for the season with two pools of mosquitoes testing positive for West Nile Virus in August and September.

Body Art renewals went out the last day of October. The annual license fee for 2023 is reduced by \$25, making it \$250 from a cost analysis.

Accreditation

I know we can do this. We still have quite a bit until we demonstrate some of the measures sufficiently for PHAB but we will get there. I plan to work on this much more when things slow down a bit.

COVID Grants

I have been working diligently on the covid grants and budget justifications with Olivia and Lynn. These take a lot of planning and discussion. We are pulling together and making it work to strengthen GCHD not only for our COVID response but also for the future.

I also received an invitation from the Community Foundation for Crawford County along with Kate Seifert to give this year's philanthropy award to the new winner on November 3, 2022. I plan to attend this at the Copper Irons in Bucyrus. The Galion City Health Department, along with CCPH was awarded the philanthropy award in 2021 at the Community Foundation for our efforts in the pandemic response.

Rabies

Galion received 2 dog bite reports in October. A letter was sent explaining the quarantine process as well as the follow-up for rabies vaccinations for one dog. Unfortunately, one dog was a mastiff that attacked its owner twice. It was an unusual circumstance where the dog warden called me after hours because the vet clinic in Ontario did not know how to handle the case. I informed them that they would need to remove the head for rabies analysis but the vet said she had no way of doing it and their responsibility is only to euthanize the animal and give it to the presiding local health department. Luckily, we have such a good partnership with our local vets that Dr. Shuler graciously helped me out at no cost to take the specimen so that I could then submit it to ODHL for testing. The dog was negative for rabies, but that is the protocol we must follow. I personally sent a thank you card to Horizon for their help.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Barnes, REHS
Director of Environmental Health