



Galion City Board of Health Environmental Division/HC Monthly Report for January 2024

Food Safety

The food license renewal applications were all mailed on or before February 1, 2024 with the exception of Schwan's RFE mobiles that deliver frozen meals. The Ohio Department of Agriculture told all local health departments that on February 12th, 2024 that a new rule will become effective allowing a new low risk mobile category with a fee that is 50% of the local fee that was established. Needless to say, this is causing frustration for the local health department EH staff. On January 29, 2024, Jennifer Frazier, REHS started in the Director of Environmental Health role.

Public Health Nuisances

There were 10 nuisance complaints during the month of January. Four of these were retail food establishment complaints, one was a food service operation complaint (unjustified), 2 were solid waste complaints, and 2 were landlord/tenant issues. Six of the complaints are closed and four of the complaints are in progress.

Rabies

Galion received 0 animal bite reports in January. The Ohio Department of Health did send the LHD's an annual animal bite survey for the rabies program that needs to be completed prior to March 1st annually by all local health departments. I will complete this on February 8th.

General Health

Application was made for the 2024 Mosquito Control Grant prior to the submission deadline on January 26, 2024. I requested \$13,500 which is \$500 more than the previous year. The grant year is typically from May 1st through April 30th of the following year. The Ohio EPA usually lets each applicant know if they are awarded by the end of March. The 2023 MCG still has money to be spent prior to April 30, 2024.

On January 19th, an Ohio EPA representative made a visit with me to explain what they want us to accomplish with timeframes for the Scrap Tire education grant. I will get this started in February.

There are two new applicants for Body Art licenses that are in the process of getting licenses for micro blading (at Spicy Nails) and permanent make-up at a previously licensed facility behind Clayton's.

Staff Meetings

A staff meeting was held on January 11, 2024. We had a roundtable and welcome to the newer employees. Tina did an excellent overview of the HIV/ST Grant work and program. We discussed issues and clarifications with CureMD and Medicaid vs. private insurance. We discussed documenting your work (and how important it is in public health) and completing HDIS daily code entries. We discussed updating the website, using social media to get messages out to the community, using resources wisely, and lastly, posed the question "How can we improve our services to the citizens of Galion?" We will continue to address that question as time goes on this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Barnes, REHS
Health Commissioner, Director of Environmental Health