



LaSalle County Health Department News Releases 2005



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STATE OF ILLINOIS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
Proclamation

WHEREAS, every year, approximately 10,500 women in the United States are diagnosed with cervical cancer, and there are approximately 3,500 deaths from the disease; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, an estimated 630 women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer in just the State of Illinois, and it is estimated that Illinois women will die from the disease; and

WHEREAS, a sexually transmitted virus causes most cases of cervical cancer, which begins in the cervix, the part of the uterus or vagina that opens to the vagina; and

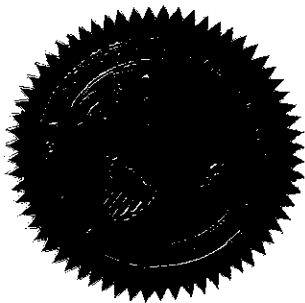
WHEREAS, before doctors started using the Pap test in the 1950s, cervical cancer was the leading cause of death from cancer in women. Today, 70 percent of women diagnosed with cervical cancer who take the Pap test survive the disease; and

WHEREAS, recent advances in screening and work on a vaccine will also help prevent cervical cancer death. Until then, however, it is so important to get regular Pap tests because cervical cancer often has no signs or symptoms; and

WHEREAS, throughout January, organizations all across the country will promote education about cervical cancer screenings, tests, and causes;

THEREFORE I, Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim January 2006 as CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH in Illinois to raise awareness about cervical cancer, and to encourage all women to get tested regularly before they fall victim to the disease.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
 this SIXTEENTH day of DECEMBER, in
 the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
FIVE, and of the State of Illinois
 the one hundred and EIGHTY-SEVENTH

Deese White
 SECRETARY OF STATE

Rod Blagojevich
 GOVERNOR

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 6350
433-3366**

December 1, 2005

NEWS RELEASE

“Last Chance Flu Clinic”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366.

OTTAWA ,IL – LaSalle County Health Department is pleased to announce that it has acquired some additional flu vaccine and will be holding a “last chance” flu clinic on Wednesday, December 7th at the Ottawa Knight’s of Columbus Hall. The clinic will run from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm or until vaccine is gone.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Rd.
Ottawa, IL 61350**

November 15, 2005

NEWS RELEASE

“IEPA, IDPH, and Local Health Departments Launch Private Water Well Testing Initiative”

OTTAWA, IL – The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Illinois Department of Public Health, and local health departments are launching a new campaign to encourage the estimated 400,000 Illinois households served by their own private drinking water wells in both urban and rural areas to get them tested for potential contamination.

LaSalle County Health Department has a Water Well program. The goal of this program is to assure water systems are properly located, constructed, and provide water safe for consumption. Prior to construction of a new home, a permit from the Health Department is required to help ensure protection of the consumer, as well as the surrounding groundwater. Surveys and sampling of water well supplies are conducted upon suspected illness of waterborne diseases. Biennial surveys and routine sampling are performed on non-community public water supplies.

It is important to remember, public and community water systems are tested regularly by the State for a variety of contaminants. Regular testing of private well water is the owner’s responsibility. “Drinking water in Illinois is much cleaner and safer today than in the past, but private well water can become contaminated by bacteria or manmade chemicals,” said Illinois EPA Director Doug Scott. “The only way to ensure that your well water is safe is to test it. This is especially important for wells located near a current or former commercial or industrial area, gas station, or landfill.”

According to Ted Pumo, Director of Environmental Health, “it is recommended that an annual test for bacteria and nitrate be conducted.” The presence of bacteria in well water indicates contamination by animal or human waste that can cause infectious diseases. Nitrate contamination can be caused by faulty septic systems or agriculture runoff and is especially dangerous for infants. LaSalle County Health Department refers all water testing to local certified laboratories. For a limited time, some certified laboratories are offering discounted rates to coincide with the education campaign. For further questions, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org/hd.

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**LASALLE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
717 ETNA ROAD
OTTAWA, IL 61350
433-3366**

NOVEMBER 14, 2005

N E W S R E L E A S E

“ GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT ”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty or Jenny Barrie at 433-3366.

OTTAWA, IL -- The LaSalle County Health Department would like to announce that Thursday, November 17th is the Great American Smokeout. This year marks the 29th annual Great American Smokeout sponsored by the American Cancer Society (ACS) and celebrated the third Thursday each November.

The LaSalle County Health department would like to encourage everyone to join in on the campaign against smoking, which is the most preventable cause of death in the United States today. This year alone, approximately 172,570 new cases of lung cancer will be diagnosed in the U.S., and an estimated 163,510 people will die from the disease. Smoking is also associated with increased risk for cancers of the mouth, nasal cavities, pharynx, larynx, esophagus, stomach, pancreas, liver, cervix, kidney, bladder, and myeloid leukemia. Over 400,000 deaths annually in the U.S. are directly related to smoking according to the ACS. One of every six deaths is attributed to the effects of smoking.

The Great American Smokeout is an upbeat effort to encourage smokers to give up cigarettes for 24 hours, if only to prove to themselves that they can. Nonsmokers are encouraged to participate as well. By adopting a smoker you can give them the support they may need to help them be successful. Everyday thousands are leaving the pack behind. Now it is your turn to do the same.

For more information on how to quit smoking or for some quit tips please contact the LaSalle County Health Department's Health Education Division at 433-3366 or 1 (800) 247-5243. Or visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org/hd.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Rd
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

November 10, 2005

NEWS RELEASE

“LaSalle County Health Department Reschedules Clinics”

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department has received their additional shipment of vaccine. The following flu clinics have been scheduled:

- Knight’s of Columbus in Streator on Thursday, November 17th from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Knight’s of Columbus in Ottawa on Tuesday, November 22nd from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The Health Department is co-sponsoring the clinic in Ottawa with Maxim Health Care Systems. The Health Department felt it was necessary to contract with Maxim Health Care Systems to help ensure adequate vaccine be provided for LaSalle County residents.

The fee for a flu vaccination is \$20. Medicare will be billed for Medicare part B eligible clients and Public Aid will be billed for eligible clients receiving the vaccine. A doctor’s order is required for pregnant women and children aged 6 months through 17 years. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Pneumonia shots will also be available at the flu clinic sites. A physician’s order is required. There will be a \$30 fee for the shot. Medicare will be billed for Medicare part B eligible clients. A receipt can be given upon request for those of you who would like to submit it to their insurance company.

We appreciate your patience during this delay. For further questions, please contact the Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org/hd.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 6350
433-3366**

October 27, 2005

NEWS RELEASE

“LaSalle County Flu Clinics Postponed NOT Cancelled”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366.

OTTAWA, IL – LaSalle County Health Department is postponing three public flu clinics due to delay in shipping from the pharmaceutical distributor. The three clinics to be postponed include;

- Knight’s of Columbus in Streator on Tuesday, November 1st
- Knight’s of Columbus in Ottawa on Thursday, November 3rd
- Wildwood Communities in Sandwich on Monday, November 7th

We would like to stress to the public that according to the CDC there is no vaccine shortage. We are only experiencing a shipment delay. Health Officials from the CDC have stated that at least 70 million doses of influenza vaccine is available for the U.S. market. The flu season typically lasts from October to May, often peaking in February, so there is plenty of time to get vaccinated. We anticipate receiving the vaccine on November 8th and clinics will be scheduled immediately following receipt of vaccine.

The Health Department has to date received three of their ordered flu vaccine shipments and has given approximately 1,200 flu shots to high risk individuals. The next shipment of flu vaccine was to arrive this week, however the Health Department received word that the shipment would be delayed one week and would not be sent until the week of November 7th. “We have been targeting our high risk population thus far and want to stress that the three remaining public flu clinics are not cancelled, only postponed to a later date. We also would like to remind everyone again that there is plenty of time to get vaccinated,” according to Cathy Larsen, Director of Personal Health.

We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your patience during this delay. Please check our website at www.lasallecounty.org/hd and your local media for future updates.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Rd.
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

October 24, 2005

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366 or Allen Erbrederis

“The Need for this Department Stays Healthy”

By Allen Erbrederis

Printed in the Valley Free Press on September 20, 2005

“Why does LaSalle County need to have a Health Department?” That seems to be one of the most frequently asked questions of the county board. In this installment of Updates, we’ll profile the LaSalle County Health Department, and hopefully, you’ll have a better understanding of what they do and why they are needed.

The Health Department is governed by the LaSalle County Board of Health, an independent group of nurses, doctors, dentists and citizens that are appointed by the county board, to oversee the operation of the Health Department. This board reports to, but is not controlled by the LaSalle County Board. The Health Department is divided into three divisions – Administrative, Environmental Health and Personal Health. With 37 employees, Public Health Administrator Julie Kerestes, B.S., LEHP is Administrator in charge of the Health Department. Her responsibilities include administrative operation, fiscal management, adherence to laws, personnel management, statistical data analysis, and media relations. The Division services are provided by a Public Health Administrator, two Division Directors, and a team of professional Support Staff that direct and coordinate the assessment of community health needs, develop program plans, implement programs and evaluate health concerns.

The Environmental Health Division is led by Ted Pumo, B.S., LEHP, Director of Environmental Health. This division handles the food sanitation program, water well program, private sewage disposal, tanning inspections, nuisance control, vector control and environmental health education. Vector control is a grant funded program which provides education and identification of mosquitoes and potential breeding sites within LaSalle County. Identified sites are monitored and, as needed, corrected. Presentations are given to students throughout the county about mosquitoes, West Nile virus, St. Louis Encephalitis and other potentially life threatening diseases they may carry. Let’s examine what the Environmental Health Division accomplished last year: Reviewed 7 preliminary plats and 7 final plats of proposed subdivisions for the availability and utilization of private water wells and private sewage disposal areas. Inspected 733

food service establishments; did 909 routine food surveys and 125 follow-up surveys; 2,795 food safety consultations; conducted 52 pre-operational inspections; investigated 31 food complaints; and conducted food safety training for 1,293 participants. Issued permits for 360 private sewage disposal systems; investigated 31 sewage complaints and provided 5,581 sewage consultations. They issued 244 permits for potable water; conducted 227 private water well samples; conducted 89 non-community public water supply inspections; investigated 15 water well complaints and conducted 3,669 water consultations. 31 tanning facilities were inspected, 32 vector complaints were investigated, 293 participants attended vector presentations and 684 vector consultations were conducted.

The Personal Health Division is led by Cathy Larsen, RN, Director of Personal Health. This division breaks down its services into Family Health, Communicable Disease Control, Health Promotion/Disease Prevention and Personal Health Education.

The Family Health Division offers Family Case Management (FCM) and WIC (Women, Infant, and Children) services to clients in four clinics located around the county. These programs offer case management services to pregnant women and children and nutritional evaluations, counseling and education. The average FCM caseload was 1,398 per month in 2004 with 5,540 face to face meetings conducted. The average WIC caseload was 2,287 per month. 4,295 WIC clients were certified and 5,295 participated in nutrition/education classes in 2004. Other family health programs include Teen Parent Services (TPS) and Healthworks. TPS provides case management services for pregnant teens and parents needing to complete their high school education. Healthworks provides medical case management for foster children; the average Healthworks caseload per month was 99 and the average TPS caseload was 11 per month. Genetics clinics were held quarterly and provided genetics counseling and services to 25 clients.

The Communicable Disease Division which encompasses the Bio-Terrorism Grant is responsible for the electronic surveillance of reportable communicable diseases in LaSalle County. In the state of Illinois, there are 78 mandated reportable diseases. In 2004, 28 of the 78 reportable diseases were tracked in LaSalle County with Chlamydia (174), Hepatitis C (83), Gonorrhea (44), Chicken Pox (37) leading the 475 cases reported. 3,836 childhood immunizations, 37 adult immunizations, and 1,195 Influenza immunizations were administered. 957 clients were tested for tuberculosis (32 were positive reactions) and 131 anonymous HIV tests were conducted.

Health Promotion: 1,555 clients have been enrolled in the LaSalle County Breast and Cervical Cancer Program. 207 vouchers were issued for the Prostate and Testicular Cancer Awareness Program. 39 Blood Pressure visits were recorded. Additional presentations included Tobacco Prevention Education, HIV/STD, blood borne pathogens, childhood illness, and summer safety in which 775 clients participated.

The referendum that created the LaSalle County Health Department in 1986 allows the tax rate to go to a maximum of 10 cents per 100 dollars of assessed valuation. Currently, the tax rate that the Health Department is operating on is set at 3 ½ cents.

Exactly \$2,047,447 (67% of operating budget) is brought into LaSalle County through federal and state

grants that provide a variety of services to all county residents; from environmental, disease surveillance, disease prevention, and maternal and child health. Service fees account for \$263,195 (9%), the tax levy averages \$650,000 (22%) and interest on funds, brings in \$26,899 (1%). When you compare this to 1994, when the tax levy accounted for 46% of its operational budget, you can see where the LaSalle County Health Department not only provides a vital service to the residents of the county, they are doing it in a continuing cost-effective manner for the benefit of the tax payers.

The Health Department is located across from the Governmental Complex in Ottawa, at 717 Etna Road. If you would like any further information on programs or services available, please call them at (815) 433-3366.

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LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
433-3366

October 7, 2005

NEWS RELEASE

“Two Additional Birds in LaSalle County Test Positive For West Nile Virus”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS, contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department reported that a crow found September 30th in Peru and a blue jay found October 4th in Oglesby have tested positive for West Nile virus by the Illinois Department of Agriculture Laboratory in Galesburg. So far this year, a total of four (4) birds in LaSalle County have tested positive for the virus.

On September 22nd the first human case of West Nile virus was confirmed in a 60 year old male by county health officials. The following precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of any mosquito-borne disease.

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wears shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and apply insect repellent that includes DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus according to label instructions. Consult a physician before using repellents on infants.
- Repair or replace any tears in residential screens, including porches and patios.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding, including water in bird baths, ponds, flower pots, wading pools, old tires, and any other receptacles.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the general public to report any potential mosquito breeding sites to the Environmental Division at the Health Department. In addition, please report any recently deceased crows, blue jays, and robins to the Health Department at 815-433-3366. Please note, the Illinois Department of Public Health will end testing for the 2005 season of dead crows, blue jays, and robins for West Nile virus on October 15, 2005. A complete listing of the positive birds, mosquito batches, horses, and humans identified in the county is available on the LaSalle County Health Department’s web

site at www.lasallecounty.org/hd . A state-wide listing is available at the Illinois Department of Public Health's web site at www.idph.state.il.us. Go to the West Nile virus page and select "2005" under surveillance.

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LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
433-3366

September 30, 2005

NEWS RELEASE

“Crow in LaSalle County Tests Positive For West Nile Virus”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS, contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department reported that a crow found September 27th in LaSalle has tested positive for West Nile virus by the Illinois Department of Agriculture Laboratory in Galesburg. So far this year, a total of two (2) birds in LaSalle County have tested positive for the virus.

On September 22nd the first human case of West Nile virus was confirmed in a 60 year old male by county health officials. Ted Pumo, Environmental Health Director, said “this is the time of the year we would expect to see both human and avian cases occurring.” The following precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of any mosquito-borne disease.

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and apply insect repellent that includes DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus according to label instructions. Consult a physician before using repellents on infants.
- Repair or replace any tears in residential screens, including porches and patios.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding, including water in bird baths, ponds, flower pots, wading pools, old tires, and any other receptacles.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the general public to report any potential mosquito breeding sites to the Environmental Division at the Health Department. In addition, please report any recently deceased crows, blue jays, and robins to the Health Department at 815-433-3366. A complete listing of the positive birds, mosquito batches, horses, and humans identified in the county is available on the LaSalle County Health Department’s web site at www.lasallecounty.org/hd. A state-wide listing is available at the Illinois Department of Public Health’s web site at www.idph.state.il.us. Go to the West

Nile virus page and select “2005” under surveillance.

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LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350

433-3366

September 28, 2005

NEWS RELEASE

“Blue Jay in LaSalle County Tests Positive For West Nile Virus”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS, contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department reported that a blue jay found September 23rd in Streator has tested positive for West Nile virus by the Illinois Department of Agriculture Laboratory in Galesburg.

Ted Pumo, Environmental Health Director, said “this is the time of the year we would expect to see both human and avian cases occurring.” The following precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of any mosquito-borne disease.

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wears shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and apply insect repellent that includes DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus according to label instructions. Consult a physician before using repellents on infants.
- Repair or replace any tears in residential screens, including porches and patios.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding, including water in bird baths, ponds, flower pots, wading pools, old tires, and any other receptacles.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the general public to report any potential mosquito breeding sites to the Environmental Division at the Health Department. In addition, please report any recently deceased crows, blue jays, and robins to the Health Department at 815-433-3366. A complete listing of the positive birds, mosquito batches, horses, and humans identified in the county is available on the LaSalle County Health Department’s web site at www.lasallecounty.org/hd. A state-wide listing is available at the Illinois Department of Public Health’s web site at www.idph.state.il.us. Go to the West

Nile virus page and select “2005” under surveillance.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

September 22, 2005

NEWS RELEASE

“LaSalle County Health Department Confirms First Case of West Nile Virus in LaSalle County”

OTTAWA, IL – A confirmed case of West Nile virus has been identified in LaSalle County. The confirmed case is a 60-year old male who was hospitalized with West Nile neuroinvasive disease, but has since been released.

Neuroinvasive disease is the most severe form of the West Nile virus and affects a person’s nervous system. Specific types of neuroinvasive disease include: West Nile encephalitis, West Nile meningitis or West Nile meningoencephalitis. Encephalitis refers to an inflammation of the brain, meningitis is an inflammation of the membrane around the brain and the spinal cord, and meningoencephalitis refers to inflammation of the brain and the membrane surrounding it. Persons older than 50 years of age have the highest risk of severe disease.

Mild symptoms associated with the virus include fever, head and body aches, often with swollen lymph nodes. More severe infection is marked by headache, high fever and neck stiffness, which can progress to stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, occasional convulsions, paralysis and in relatively rare instances, death. Treatment involves intensive supportive therapy for more severe cases. Most people who get infected with West Nile virus have either no symptoms or mild symptoms. If you are experiencing symptoms stated above, please contact your physician for testing. There is no vaccine to prevent contraction of the disease.

West Nile virus is transmitted through the bite of a mosquito that has picked up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. Most people with the virus have no clinical symptoms of illness, but some may become ill three to 14 days after the bite of an infected mosquito.

So far this year, nine birds and over 1900 mosquitoes have tested negative for the virus. The birds and mosquitoes were collected from various locations throughout the County. Ted Pumo, Environmental Health Director, said “this is the time of the year we would expect to see human cases occurring throughout the nation as well as in Illinois. I encourage individuals to take precautions to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes.”

The following precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of any mosquito-borne disease.

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Loose-fitting, light colored clothing is best.
- Use mosquito repellent containing 10 percent to 25 percent DEET when it is necessary to be outdoors, applied sparingly to exposed skin or clothing, as indicated on the repellent label. Consult physician before using

repellents on young children.

- Check for and repair any tears in residential screens, including porches and patios.
- Eliminate stagnant water in bird baths, ponds, flower pots, wading pools, old tires, and any other receptacles in which mosquitoes might breed.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind the general public to report any potential mosquito breeding sites to the Environmental Division at the Health Department. In addition, please report any recently deceased crows, blue jays, and robins to the Health Department at 815-433-3366. Should additional West Nile virus activity occur the complete listing of the positive birds, mosquito batches, horses, and humans identified in the county is available on the LaSalle County Health Department's web site at www.lasallecounty.org/hd. A state-wide listing is available at the Illinois Department of Public Health's web site at www.idph.state.il.us. Go to the West Nile virus page and select "2005" under surveillance.

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LASALLE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
717 ETNA ROAD
OTTAWA, IL 61350
815-433-3366

September 7, 2005

N E W S R E L E A S E

“ PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS”

Prostate Cancer Screening Clinic Schedule

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty or Jenny Barrie at 433-3366.

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department would like to remind everyone that September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. The Health Department supports awareness, screening, and early detection of prostate cancer among men.

The LaSalle County Health Department’s goal is to improve the length and quality of men’s lives by early detection. According to the American Cancer Society, prostate cancer affects 1 in 9 men and is most common in African Americans, men over 50, and men with a family history. When prostate cancer is in its earliest stages, it usually causes no pain or other symptoms. Sometimes men with prostate cancer may have trouble urinating.

The risk of developing prostate cancer increases greatly with age. It causes roughly 37,000 deaths a year. Annual testing is the best way to detect prostate cancer and can greatly improve your chance for a complete recovery. The earlier prostate cancer is found, the better the chances are that it can be treated effectively.

During September, local hospitals will be providing a prostate cancer screening day. Those men who need to be screened should contact their local hospital to register. The LaSalle County Health Department feels strongly about the importance of mens’ health and will pay for those men who have **no** insurance and are **not** on Medicare but would like to be screened.

For more information on prostate cancer, or to receive an educational pamphlet on screenings for men, contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 433-3366 or 1-800-247-5243 or our website at www.lasallecounty.org.

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(CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT)

**Wednesday, September 21,
2005**

St. Margaret's Hospital
Spring Valley, IL
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Community Hospital of
Ottawa
Ottawa, IL
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Thursday, September 29,
2005**

Dr. Frye's Office
104 W. 6th Street
Streator, IL
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 22, 2005

Mendota Community Hospital
Mendota, IL
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Illinois Valley Community Hospital
Peru, IL
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Rd.
Ottawa, IL 61350
(815) 433-3366**

August 29, 2005

NEWS RELEASE

“Thirteenth Annual Food Service Seminar”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS: contact Jenny Barrie 815-433-3366

Ottawa, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department will be sponsoring their Thirteenth Annual Food Service Seminar on September 12, 2005. The seminar will be held at Pitstick Pavilion, Rt. 23, Ottawa. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Registration is from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. The seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude at approximately 12:15 p.m. Speakers include Linda Joh from the American Red Cross who will discuss First Aid and CPR/AED, Steve Kerby from Ecolab Pest Control Division will present information on Fruit Flies, and Connie Brooks from the LaSalle County Health Department will provide information on Foodborne Investigations. For more information or to pre-register, call the LaSalle County Health Department at (815) 433-3366.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

August 18, 2005

News Release

“LaSalle County Health Department Collecting American Robins”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366.

Ottawa, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department is now collecting American robins, in addition to crows and blue jays for West Nile virus testing. Testing began on May 1, 2005 and will continue through October 15, 2005. The American robin has been added as an eligible bird due to the high level of West Nile virus activity in northern Illinois. During the past three years, West Nile virus activity has been documented throughout LaSalle County. LaSalle County citizens should report any deceased crow, blue jay, or robin to the Environmental Division at 815-433-3366.

Birds submitted for testing should be “eligible birds” that have no obvious cause of death such as being found crushed in a roadway and most likely killed by a motor vehicle, or birds killed by a gunshot. Birds submitted should be believed to be dead for less than 48 hours. Birds should only be submitted if they are not decomposed and if they have not been damaged by scavenging animals. Decomposed animals can be recognized as having a strong odor present, eyes deflated or dried, maggots present or have bloating from decomposition gases.

The following precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne diseases:

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and apply insect repellent that includes DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus according to label instructions. Consult a physician before using repellents on infants.
- Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or other openings. Try to keep doors and windows shut, especially at night.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding, including water in bird baths, ponds, flowerpots, wading pools, old tires and any other receptacles. In communities where there are organized mosquito control programs, contact your municipal government to report areas of stagnant water in roadside ditches, flooded yards and similar locations that may produce mosquitoes.

For more information on West Nile virus, access the Health Department’s website at

www.lasallecounty.org. A complete listing of Illinois statistics is available on the Illinois Department of Public Health's website at www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/wnv.htm or people can call the West Nile Virus Hotline at 866-369-9710 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

August 11, 2005

News Release

“LaSalle County Health Department Testing Mosquitoes”

Ottawa, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department has begun testing mosquitoes, the vector for West Nile virus and St Louis encephalitis. The mosquito collection and testing equipment was purchased with grant money received in early spring. Also, with the grant money the health department was able to purchase a large quantity of mosquito larvicide. Larvicide is used to treat potential mosquito breeding sites, and was distributed to licensed mosquito control applicators from local municipalities and villages throughout the county.

Environmental Health staff have been collecting mosquitoes by placing Gravid traps in various areas of the county over the past few weeks. These traps generally collect female mosquitoes that have recently had a blood meal, and are ready to lay their eggs. At this time, no mosquito batches have tested positive in LaSalle County. However, the State of Illinois has started to see an increase of positive mosquito pools in the northern region of the state.

According to Jenny Barrie, health educator, “Once mosquitoes are collected, they are frozen and sorted out by gender. The vector test kits allow for up to 50 mosquitoes to be tested at one time. The female mosquitoes are then placed into an activating solution and are ground up. The solution is designed to draw out the presence of the viruses as the mosquitoes disintegrate. The final process involves taking a portion of the mosquito solution and placing a testing stick into the solution. The test results are available in 15 minutes and will detect West Nile virus and St. Louis encephalitis.”

Health Department staff are still collecting dead crows and blue jays. Dead crows and blue jays are important sentinels for early detection of West Nile virus activity. LaSalle County citizens should report any deceased crow or blue jay to the Environmental Division at 815-433-3366.

The following precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne diseases:

- Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, especially between dusk and dawn.
- When outdoors, wear shoes and socks, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, and apply insect repellent that includes DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus according to label instructions. Consult a physician before using repellents on infants.
- Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or other openings. Try to keep doors and windows shut, especially at night.

- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can support mosquito breeding, including water in bird baths, ponds, flowerpots, wading pools, old tires and any other receptacles. In communities where there are organized mosquito control programs, contact your municipal government to report areas of stagnant water in roadside ditches, flooded yards and similar locations that may produce mosquitoes.

For more information on West Nile virus, access the Health Department's website at www.lasallecounty.org. A complete listing of Illinois statistics is available on the Illinois Department of Public Health's website at www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/wnv.htm or people can call the West Nile Virus Hotline at 866-369-9710 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

August 11, 2005

The LaSalle and Grundy Counties Breast and Cervical Cancer Coalition has graciously accepted this beautiful quilt constructed by the members of the Illinois Valley Quilter Guild to raffle off on October 9, 2005 at 3:00 PM at the Utica Burgoo Festival. Coalition members will be selling tickets now through October 9, 2005 and also at the Burgoo until 3:00 in the afternoon. Tickets for this quilt are being sold at 6 for \$5.00 or \$1.00 each. Proceeds from this raffle are donated to the LaSalle County Health Department Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP) to fund Mammograms and Cervical services for low-income women. If you would like to know more about the quilt or where to purchase tickets, you may call LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366.



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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

June 27, 2005

NEWS RELEASE

“Area Restaurants Added to the Illinois Smoke-free Restaurant Recognition Program”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS: contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366.

Ottawa, IL -- The LaSalle County Health Department has, through the Illinois Smoke-Free Restaurant Identification Program, identified nine area establishments that classify themselves as “smoke-free”. Court Street Café, Genie’s Café, La Mexicana, and South Side Pizza, located in Ottawa, have been identified as “smoke-free”. In Streator, McDonald’s, Jeremiah Joe’s, and Scoops ‘N More have been identified as “smoke-free”. In addition, Viva Italia Pizzeria in Peru and Great Wall in Mendota have also been identified as “smoke-free” establishments.

The LaSalle County Health Department would like to offer our congratulations to these restaurants, and will be presenting each establishment with a framed certificate from the Illinois Department of Public Health. To view a complete listing of smoke-free restaurants in LaSalle County, visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org. To qualify, restaurants must not allow smoking in any part of the facility. To request pamphlets on smoke-free dining or for more information on the Illinois Smoke-Free Restaurant Recognition Program, please contact the Health Department at (815) 433-3366.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Rd
Ottawa, IL 61350**

815-433-3366

May 4, 2005

UPDATED NEWS RELEASE

“Skunks Identified with Rabies in LaSalle County”

LaSalle County Residents Urged to be on Alert for Rabid Skunks

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty or Jenny Barrie at 433-3366.

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department and LaSalle County Animal Control in conjunction with the Illinois Departments of Public Health, Agriculture and Natural Resources are advising LaSalle County residents to beware of skunks that may be carrying the rabies virus. The area we are particularly focusing on includes the following townships: Dimmick, Earl, Freedom, Mendota, Meriden, Ophir, Troy Grove, Wallace, and Waltham.

On May 2, 2005, the Illinois Department of Public Health laboratory in Springfield reported that a second skunk trapped in LaSalle County tested positive for rabies. The skunk was trapped as part of an increased surveillance program by the United States Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services to assist in evaluating skunk rabies in the northwestern corner of LaSalle County. The skunk was trapped in Ophir Township.

On May 3, 2005, the Illinois Department of Public Health laboratory in Springfield reported that a third skunk trapped in LaSalle County tested positive for rabies. LaSalle County Animal Control submitted this skunk after a Freedom Township resident informed the Animal Control Office that the skunk was displaying abnormal behaviors. No human or animal exposures to rabies occurred as a result of these rabid animals.

The identification of the these skunks with rabies in this area of LaSalle County is of great concern. Previously three other mammals in this area have tested positive for the rabies virus, including a horse in December 2004, a cow in January 2005, and a skunk in April 2005. The three mammals tested positive for the north central skunk strain of rabies. Brain tissue from these skunks will be sent for strain typing.

To avoid exposure to rabies, citizens should avoid contact with wild, unfamiliar or stray animals and report animals that are acting abnormally to their local animal control. If bitten by an animal, citizens

should report the bite to animal control and seek medical attention. Dogs and cats should not be allowed to roam free. Pets and valuable livestock should be kept up-to-date on their rabies vaccinations, especially in areas near the northwestern corner of LaSalle County.

LaSalle County agencies are enhancing their public education and animal control efforts. The U.S. Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services is assisting in enhanced skunk surveillance activities in LaSalle County. Information on animal rabies and on rabid animals identified in the state is on the LaSalle County Health Department’s website, www.lasallecounty.org. For further questions and additional information, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815- 433-3366 or LaSalle County Animal Control at 815-434-8661.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Rd
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

May 3, 2005

NEWS RELEASE

“Second Skunk Identified with Rabies in LaSalle County”

LaSalle County Residents Urged to be on Alert for Rabid Skunks

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty or Jenny Barrie at 433-3366.

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department and LaSalle County Animal Control in conjunction with the Illinois Departments of Public Health, Agriculture and Natural Resources are advising LaSalle County residents to beware of skunks that may be carrying the rabies virus. On May 2, 2005, the Illinois Department of Public Health laboratory in Springfield reported that a second skunk trapped in LaSalle County tested positive for rabies. The skunk was trapped as part of an increased surveillance program by the United States Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services to assist in evaluating skunk rabies in the northwestern corner of LaSalle County. The skunk was trapped in Ophir Township, which is one of the nine townships being focused on for increased surveillance. The townships included in the focus area are: Dimmick, Earl, Freedom, Mendota, Meriden, Ophir, Troy Grove, Wallace, and Waltham. No human or animal exposures to rabies occurred as a result of this rabid animal.

The identification of the second skunk with rabies in this area of LaSalle County is of great concern. Previously three other mammals in this area have tested positive for the rabies virus, including a horse in December 2004, a cow in January 2005, and a skunk in April 2005. The three mammals tested positive for the north central skunk strain of rabies. Brain tissue from the second skunk will be sent for strain typing.

To avoid exposure to rabies, citizens should avoid contact with wild, unfamiliar or stray animals and report animals that are acting abnormally to their local animal control. If bitten by an animal, citizens should report the bite to animal control and seek medical attention. Dogs and cats should not be allowed to roam free. Pets and valuable livestock should be kept up-to-date on their rabies vaccinations, especially in areas near the northwestern corner of LaSalle County.

LaSalle County agencies are enhancing their public education and animal control efforts. The U.S. Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services is assisting in enhanced skunk surveillance activities in LaSalle County. Information on animal rabies and on rabid animals identified in the state is on the LaSalle County Health Department’s website, www.lasallecounty.org. For further questions and additional

information, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815- 433-3366 or LaSalle County Animal Control at 815-434-8661.

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Road
Ottawa, IL 61350
815-433-3366**

April 28, 2005

News Release

“LaSalle County Health Department Begins Dead Bird Surveillance”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366.

Ottawa, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department will begin collecting deceased crows and blue jays on May 1, 2005 and will continue through October 15, 2005. Dead crows and blue jays are important sentinels for early detection of West Nile virus activity. During the past three years, West Nile virus activity has been documented throughout LaSalle County. LaSalle County citizens should report any deceased crow or blue jay to the Environmental Division at 815-433-3366.

Birds submitted for testing should be “eligible birds” that have no obvious cause of death such as being found crushed in a roadway and most likely killed by a motor vehicle, or birds killed by a gunshot. Birds submitted should be believed to be dead for less than 48 hours. Birds should only be submitted if they are not decomposed and if they have not been damaged by scavenging animals. Decomposed animals can be recognized as having a strong odor present, eyes deflated or dried, maggots present or have bloating from decomposition gases.

Useful information for distinguishing crows from other birds with black feathers include:

Crows can be confused with other birds with black feathers such as grackles and starlings. Adult crows are about 17-21 inches in length, while juvenile crows are about 10 inches in length, or about the length of a person’s forearm. Juvenile crows have brownish-black feathers. Crows are all black including feathers, beak, legs and feet. The crow’s nostrils are covered with bristles. Grackles are also all black, smaller than crows, but are larger than a robin (11 inches to 13 inches). The head has a purple (or green) iridescent sheen; the rest of the body is black or brown-black. The eyes are yellow, but this may be missing after death. They can also be distinguished from crows because their tail feathers are nearly as long as the bird’s body.

Starlings are robin-size birds with black spotted feathers, yellow beaks and yellow feet.

Also, during the spring and summer months, Health Department staff extend outreach efforts to all city, municipal, village, and township officials in the county. Information packets will be distributed to local hospitals, medical centers, nursing homes, pharmacies, veterinary clinics, pet shelters, campgrounds,

daycares, libraries, and pool supply companies.

For additional information on West Nile virus, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org.

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***Note: If you are interested in including a picture of a crow or blue jay, please contact the Health Department. We would be happy to send the pictures over email.**

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**LaSalle County Health Department
717 Etna Rd
Ottawa, IL 61350**

815-433-3366

April 22, 2005

NEWS RELEASE

“Skunk Identified with Rabies in LaSalle County”

LaSalle County Residents Urged to be on Alert for Rabid Skunks

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty or Jenny Barrie at 433-3366.

OTTAWA, IL – The LaSalle County Health Department and LaSalle County Animal Control in conjunction with the Illinois Departments of Public Health, Agriculture and Natural Resources are advising LaSalle County residents to beware of skunks that may be carrying the rabies virus. On April 20, 2005, the Illinois Department of Public Health laboratory in Springfield reported that a skunk trapped in LaSalle County tested positive for rabies. The skunk was trapped as part of an increased surveillance program by the United States Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services to assist in evaluating skunk rabies in the northwestern corner of LaSalle County. The animal was trapped on April 19 in Ophir Township. No human or animal exposures to rabies occurred as a result of this rabid animal. This is the first skunk testing positive for rabies in Illinois since 1998.

The identification of a skunk with rabies in an area in LaSalle County close to where a horse in December 2004 and a cow in January 2005 tested positive is of great concern. Both the horse and cow tested positive for the north central skunk strain of rabies. The skunk brain tissue will be sent for strain typing.

Circulation of terrestrial animal rabies determines actions that need to be taken in regards to rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) after bites from domestic animals that escape and cannot be rabies tested or cannot be confined for 10 days. When rabies virus is not circulating in terrestrial animals, rabies PEP is usually not recommended for these types of bites. However, when rabies is circulating in terrestrial animals, rabies PEP may need to be recommended when domestic animals bite persons and cannot be observed or tested. Therefore, the Illinois Department of Public Health is recommending that residents within a nine township area report any animal bites, including domestic dogs and cats, to the LaSalle County Health Department for further evaluation. The following townships are included in the recommendation: Dimmick, Earl, Freedom, Mendota, Meriden, Ophir, Troy Grove, Wallace, and Waltham.

To avoid exposure to rabies, citizens should avoid contact with wild, unfamiliar or stray animals

and report animals that are acting abnormally to their local animal control. If bitten by an animal, citizens should report the bite to animal control and seek medical attention. Dogs and cats should not be allowed to roam free. Pets and valuable livestock should be kept up-to-date on their rabies vaccinations, especially in areas near the northwestern corner of LaSalle County. According to Dr. Dell Brodd, LaSalle County Animal Control Administrator, “The State of Illinois requires that all dogs, greater than 4 months of age, have current rabies vaccinations administered by a licensed veterinarian. Failure to vaccinate your dog could result in fines.” When your animal is vaccinated you may receive a rabies tag from your veterinarian. This tag includes the County registration and fee. If you do not receive a rabies tag, you should contact the LaSalle County Animal Control Office at 434-8661. LaSalle County is enhancing their public education and animal control efforts. The U.S. Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services is assisting in enhanced skunk surveillance activities in LaSalle County. Information on animal rabies and on rabid animals identified in the state is on the LaSalle County Health Department’s website, www.lasallecounty.org. For further questions and additional information, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or LaSalle County Animal Control at 815-434-8661.

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**LASALLE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
717 ETNA ROAD
OTTAWA, IL 61350
433-3366**

APRIL 5, 2005

N E W S R E L E A S E

“ KICK BUTTS DAY ”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Leslie Dougherty or Jenny Barrie at 433-3366.

OTTAWA, IL -- The LaSalle County Health Department would like to announce that Wednesday, April 13th is National Kick Butts Day. This years theme is “Stand out, Speak up, Seize Control.” Young people across America are turning the tables on Big Tobacco by exposing their lies and manipulations. The tobacco industry addicts more than 2,000 youth everyday and one in three of them will die prematurely because of tobacco. And while millions of people are dying, Big Tobacco is raking in billions and billions of dollars. Kids are working hard to save their friends and peers from a deadly addiction to tobacco that kills more than 400,000 Americans each year.

The LaSalle County Health department would like to encourage everyone to join in on the campaign against smoking, which is the most preventable cause of death in the United States today. Over 400,000 deaths annually in the U.S. are directly related to smoking according to the ACS. One of every six deaths is attributed to the effects of smoking.

For more information on how to quit smoking, Kick Butts Day or for some quit tips please stop in the Health Department or contact the Health Education Division at 433-3366 or 1 (800) 247-5243. You can also visit our website at www.lasallecounty.org.

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**LASALLE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
717 ETNA ROAD
OTTAWA, IL 61350
433-3366
March 31, 2005**

NEWS RELEASE

"LaSalle County Health Department Celebrates National Public Health Week"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FOR INFORMATION OR INTERVIEWS; contact Jenny Barrie or Leslie Dougherty at 433-3366.

OTTAWA, IL - The LaSalle County Health Department would like to announce National Public Health Week is April 4-10th, 2005. "Empowering Americans to Live Stronger, Longer" is the theme of this year's National Public Health Week. In celebration of National Public Health Week, the LaSalle County Health Department will be offering free blood pressure screenings, along with a height and weight assessment at the Health Department on Wednesday, April 6th, 2005 from 8am-4:30pm. Health Department staff is also encouraging the public to pick up educational materials focusing on healthy behaviors, such as: nutrition, fitness, health screenings, injury prevention, and tobacco prevention, which will be available in the lobby. In addition, an informational display will be available for viewing at the Peru Mall during the month of April. The display will highlight programs available at the health department.

The LaSalle County Health Department was created in November of 1986 with the passage of a referendum by the voters of LaSalle County. In 1987, the Health Department began offering programs in three areas: environmental health, personal health, and health education. Programs available at the Health Department focus on the prevention of the spread of disease and foodborne illness, elimination of potentially harmful environmental situations, protection of groundwater from contamination, prevention of injuries, promotion of healthy behaviors, preparedness to respond to bioterrorism issues, and assurance of access to quality health services. For further questions and additional information, please contact the LaSalle County Health Department at 815-433-3366 or 1-800-247-5243. The department's website can be accessed at www.lasallecounty.org/hd, and contains beneficial health information, including a life expectancy calculator.

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