

# **Delaware General Health District**

## ***Dedicated to your health***

# NEWS RELEASE

## **RESIDENTS' ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PRIORITIES TO BE STUDIED**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For further information contact Jesse Carter, public information officer, at 740-203-2085.

**DELAWARE, Oh., June 18, 2009** – The Delaware General Health District is launching an 18-month study of local residents' environmental health concerns and priorities.

The Health District's new PACE-EH committee will kick off the process Thursday, June 25 at 9 a.m. at the ODNR Division of Watercraft office, 3305 S. Old State Road, Lewis Center. PACE-EH stands for Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health, a process promoted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The local Health District was among 10 U.S. communities which piloted PACE for the CDC in 1998. That project identified four priorities for local residents – green space, litter prevention and recycling, surface water quality, and environmental education for youth. The Health District and community partners have worked ever since then to address those concerns. Followup work has included creation of the Delaware Environmental Education Partnership, inspections of thousands of home sewage treatment systems in cooperation with the Ohio EPA, and creation of a litter reporting hotline at the Delaware County Sheriff's Office.

Environmental Health Assessment Coordinator Susan Sutherland R.S. of the Health District staff will facilitate the PACE project. Sutherland has become known as one of the nation's experts on the PACE process, and has appeared on a CDC satellite broadcast to share her expertise.

The new PACE committee includes Preservation Parks Director Rita Au, Powell Development Director Dave Betz, Deputy County Engineer and Board of Health member Patrick Blayney, Delaware County Recorder Andrew Brenner, Grady Memorial Hospital Engineer David Brown, farmer Larry Cline, Ohio State University Assistant Professor Rosemary Chaudry, People In Need Director Kevin James Crowley, a representative of Sheriff Walter Davis, Delaware County Auditor's Office GIS Coordinator Shoreh Elhami, local realtor Martin Forman, Delaware County Code Compliance Officer Fred Fowler, Delaware County Commissioner Todd Hanks, Delaware City Parks Director Darren Hurley, Recreation Unlimited

Director Paul Huttlin, Nature Conservancy representative Julie Lapp, OSU Extension Agent Rob Leeds, Columbus Zoo representative Barbara Revard, State Parks Regional Manager Victor Ricks, Olentangy Environmental Control Center operator Ken Rosenbaum, Ohio EPA Enforcement Officer Mike Sapp, Realtor Carolyn Slone, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission representative Leslie Strader, Scioto Township Trustee Sandra Stults, Delaware County Regional Planning Commission Executive Director Scott Sanders, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning commission representative Leslie Strader, Retired Teacher Dick Tuttle, Delaware Soil & Water Conservation representative Larry Ufferman, social media strategist Kelley Bell-Wenzlaff, and PPG Industries representative Tom Yurick.