

Letter to the Editor,

For the past eight years I have been the Medical Director of the Zanesville Muskingum County Health Department. As part of my orientation to the job, I spent time with all the various people who provide the services of the Health Department to our county. I saw swimming pools and plumbing in new buildings inspected. Health issues were addressed at businesses that provide food to us along with licensing of restaurants and food stands. Even tattoo parlors are inspected and licensed by a public health nurse to be sure certain standards of safety are met before they open to the public. Before that I thought the Health Department was just a place to get children their shots (immunizations) or get a birth or death certificate.

It is amazing to me what Public Health does for our community and since 9/11, even more responsibilities have been assumed to help protect and promote our health. As the Medical Director, I have become involved in many community projects and issues. I still remember the day it dawned on me that all I was doing in some way promoted or supported good health for the citizens in our county. The collaboration and support that our Health Department does with their community partners is all towards the goal of HEALTHY and PROTECTED PEOPLE in Muskingum County.

Help your Health Department continue to do preventive services and promote and protect your health by voting yes for the replacement levy this March 4th election.

Sincerely,

Vicki Ann Whitacre, M.D.
Medical Director of ZMCHD