

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

The Department of Public Health protects and enhances the quality of life for people and animals throughout St. Charles County. Through staff among three divisions, the department provides a wide range of services that have a profound impact on this community. The Division of Environmental Health and Protection promotes healthy conditions through the inspection and licensing of public service providers, a robust recycling program, and the implementation of mosquito and other nuisance pest control measures. Encompassing seven programs, the Division of Health Services furthers the physical, mental and social welfare of all residents from unborn babies to older adults. In addition to having placed thousands of adopted animals into loving homes since first opening its Pet Adoption Center in 1999, the Division of Humane Services ensures the proper treatment of animals around the community by educating pet owners, enforcing county ordinances, and investigating incidences of neglect or cruelty.

A region's health is the by-product of its character. With a strong economy, an active population and a network of support, St. Charles County is recognized as an excellent location to raise a family. Extending its commitment to a community that has placed at the top of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation ranking for Missouri's healthiest counties for the past seven years, the Department has enhanced the well-being of St. Charles County residents and businesses in many ways.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that for every dollar invested in public health, there is a return of \$5.60 in value. Here are a few things that SCC Public Health did with your investment in 2016:

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

To better reflect an ever-expanding operational focus, the County Council enacted an ordinance on January 1, 2016, to change the name of the organization to the Department of Public Health (previously the Department of Community Health and the Environment). The Communicable Disease staff introduced the first Electronic Direct Observed Therapy (eDOT) program in the state to modernize treatment of tuberculosis patients and improve efficiency. In response to the global threat of the Zika virus, the Division of Environmental Health and Protection improved and expanded its mosquito control and surveillance operations — becoming more user-friendly through an online request service and more unified through improved cooperation with various county municipalities. To prepare St. Charles County organizations for a response to a case of Ebola or another highly infectious disease, the Emergency Preparedness Command Staff hosted a table top discussion exercise involving 52 representatives from 24 county-wide response agencies. In June, the department was approved to become an approved Passport Acceptance Facility, where U.S. citizens can come to apply for passports and take necessary photos in one convenient visit. Also in the summer, Sara Evers was promoted to become the new director for the freshly named Division of Health Services and assistant director of the overall department. A few months later, Katie Willis became director for the Division of Humane Services and introduced several new programs to enhance animal welfare, including: a Tailgate Special that promoted cat adoptions during the busy fall months and a Pet Food Pantry that assists families in need.

- Investigated approximately 1,700 potentially threatening illness cases (communicable disease and foodborne illness investigation) and managed 7 widespread outbreaks in the region.
- Received 1,415 reports of influenza cases from January through December (reflective of the national trend of a limited flu season).
- Presented more than 500 educational classes and events, reaching more than 11,000 residents (daycares, school classrooms, adults and senior centers).
- Treated more than 8,000 individuals for services through the Immunizations and STD clinics.
- Administered nearly 16,000 vaccinations to individuals in various age populations.
 - Hosted vaccination clinics for area schools to prevent the spread of the illness among students and faculty – issuing 5,000 vaccinations during July and August.
- Began passport services in July and assisted citizens with nearly 500 applications and 500 photos in just 6 months! Also issued more than 32,000 birth and death record certificates for Missouri residents, generating nearly \$400,000 in revenue for the county.
- Served approximately 1,900 mothers and children each month with food supplements and nutrition education through the WIC program.
- Conducted nearly 300 eDOT and more than 100 Direct Observed Therapy appointments to aid patients and prevent the spread of tuberculosis.
- Enrolled 16 participants in the Care Trak program, a joint venture with the County Police Department that can locate individuals suffering from specific developmental disorders who may roam from their caregivers. In 2016, the team successfully resolved two incidences of participants who were reported missing and returned both cases to their families within minutes of notification.
- Participated in 17 emergency preparedness exercises on a local, regional, state or national level to better develop the county's response plan. Assisted in the county's response operations and long-term recovery of residents affected by Winter 2015/2016 flooding along the Mississippi River and several area waterways.
- Collected more than 1.6 million pounds of recyclable material at Recycle Works Central and Recycle Works West. This included more than 36,000 pounds of potentially hazardous material collected.
- Partnered with the Parks Department to host the Second Annual County Earth Day celebration, attracting more than 200 participants to Broemmelsiek Park and collecting more 5 tons of electronics through a special recycling effort.
- Inspected more than 3,500 food service providers (permanent, temporary and mobile establishments) to ensure safe practices.
- Recognized 5 county food establishments with 24 Carrot Gold Food Safety Excellence Awards, distinguishing these facilities for emphasis on food safety and stewardship.
- Responded to more than 600 requests for mosquito control services, as well as contracted with 9 area municipalities for season-long control assistance.
- Responded to more than 5,600 animal welfare/service calls and returned more than 800 lost/missing pets to their families.

- Adopted more than 2,100 pets into new homes (including nearly 1,000 dogs and more than 1,100 cats)
- Treated more than 500 dogs and cats through a low-cost spay and neuter program or the Operation Sterile Feral program that cares for feral and barn cats.
- Issued nearly 61,000 rabies vaccination certificate tags, resulting in more than \$300,000 in revenue for the county.
- Received more than 8,500 hours of volunteer service (an in-kind value of more than \$200,000 - based on the estimated value calculated by *Independent Sector* of \$23.56 per volunteer hour)
- Generated more than \$2.8 million in general revenue for the county.