



St. Charles County Department of Community Health and the Environment Health E-News

MARCH 2005

1650 BOONE'S LICK ROAD, ST. CHARLES, MO 63301
COMHEALTH@SAINTCHARLESCOUNTY.ORG

PHONE 636-949-7400
WWW.SCCHEALTH.ORG

Helpful Phone Numbers

Division of Public Health
636-949-7400

Health Education
636-949-7401

Vital Records
636-949-7558

STD Prevention/Treatment
636-949-7401

Environmental Health
636-949-7404

WIC
(Women Infants Children)
636-949-7402

Division of Emergency
Management
636-949-3023

Division of Environmental
Services
Recycling Services
636-949-7415

Division of Humane
Services
636-949-7387 (PETS)

Animal Control
636-949-7347

Warm Hearts Make For Warm Animals at the Pet Adoption Center

It may be chilly outside, but the dogs and cats at the St. Charles County Pet Adoption Center are a little warmer these days thanks to the warm hearts of the clients at Community Living, Inc.

The clients crafted and donated hand-made, polar fleece blankets which will be used to keep the dogs and cats warm in their kennels and cages while they wait to be adopted.

Each year, Community Living, Inc. serves approximately 300 individuals and families. The agency offers support that promotes growth and independence through programs that assist people in becoming active, contributing members of their community while leading lives filled with dignity and purpose.



You Are Invited



To the 4th Annual
Earth Day Extravaganza

The event is being organized by the Parks and Recreation Department and Division of Environmental Services. Held outside on the grounds of the County Executive Building, this event celebrates products, organizations and local projects that use environmentally-friendly practices. Enjoy the spring day, a BBQ lunch fundraiser, win a free t-shirt, or even test your environmental knowledge with the scavenger hunt! Over 20 booths will showcase ideas from green construction and energy conservation to outdoor recreation opportunities and recycled art displays.

Wednesday, April 20th
On the grounds of the County Executive Building
at the corner of 2nd St. and Jefferson St.
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Recycle at the St. Charles County Recycling Center or Recycle Works during the month of April and get a ticket to receive a special Earth Day native tree at the Extravaganza! Have an environmental success story? Send it to us! E-mail jsalvo@saintcharlescounty.org

**St. Charles County
Department of
Community Health
& the Environment**

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www.scchealth.org

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St Charles County Emergency Management Gears Up For Spring

Local, State, and Federal Agencies Hold Annual State-Wide Drill

Spring is approaching.

Outdoor warning sirens wail, warnings crawl across the bottom of television screens, telephones ring, faxes whine, and alert receivers squeal. Could there be a disaster brewing?

Not this time. Each spring during Severe Weather Awareness Week, government agencies, public facilities, and private organizations test warning systems, equipment, and procedures. This year on March 15, 2005 they will be at it again. It's called the Statewide Severe Weather Exercise. During a simulated severe weather event, coordination and communications across the state, public alert systems, and emergency plans are tested to find flaws without endangering lives.

This cooperative effort will include the National Weather Service, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, local law enforcement and dispatch centers, state and local emergency management, schools, amateur radio organizations, and many more.

Though tornadoes, as well as severe thunderstorms, are more frequent in spring and the public is more aware of the risk, severe weather and tornadoes happen in every month of the year. The public is encouraged to participate in this exercise also by reviewing what to do, making emergency plans, and actually taking shelter when the alert goes out. Practice is important for everyone, not just professionals.

Exercises are kept as realistic as possible, according to Ina McCaine-Obenland, Public Information Officer for St Charles County Division of Emergency Management. "That's the only way to prepare. Anyone who thinks 'I'll do this for now, but if it was for real, I'd do this,' is in for an unpleasant if not downright dangerous shock. Under stress, people do what they've practiced, whether it's good or bad."

So whether it's practice or the real thing, keep in mind that the danger from tornadoes is two-fold; devastating winds *and* the debris in them. And remember to practice as if it *was* the real thing! To locate the best refuge area available, look for:

- The basement or lowest level
- Interior locations, away from external walls
- Small rooms without windows

"You want protection on all sides," says McCaine-Obenland. "Think 'the more walls the better' between you and the weather outside. It's bad grammar, but really good advice."

Emergency managers also recommend buying a NOAA Weather Radio. It's a direct link to warnings from the National Weather Service, day or night. Look under Weather Safety at www.crh.noaa.gov/lxx for more information about weather radios.



The St. Charles County Department of Community Health and the Environment encourages smoke-free lifestyles. To make it easier for those dining in St. Charles County to find a smoke-free restaurant, citizens can now view a list of smoke-free establishments located in St. Charles County. Citizens with health concerns related to second-hand smoke or those who simply prefer not to smell tobacco smoke while dining can patronize one of the listed businesses. The list, updated weekly, can be viewed at www.scchealth.org. The list does not include restaurants located in St. Peters, as St. Peters administers its own restaurant inspection program.