

# MASSILLON CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2024



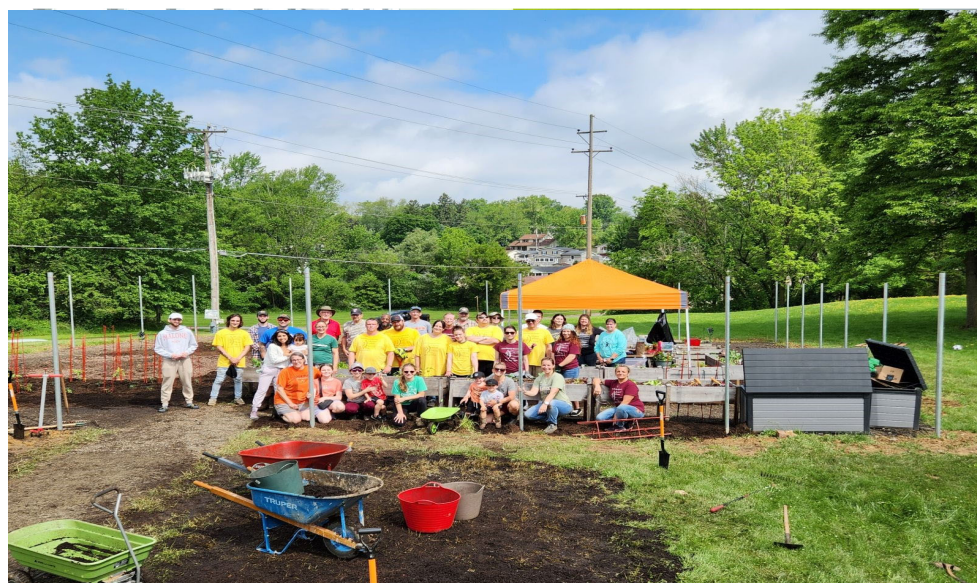
“The mission of the Health Department is to promote and protect the health and well-being of the citizens of the Massillon Community. To achieve our mission, Health Department staff participate in more than 17 different outreach events throughout the spring, summer, and fall.”

“We hope to reach as many people as we can, connecting them with our services and resources they need. Follow us on Facebook to see when and where the events are- we would love to meet you!” - Terri Argent  
Health Commissioner



“Thank you for more than 25 years of friendship and personal, professional public service”

- Michael J. Bachtel  
Funeral Director with Atkinson  
Feucht Hare



## In This Issue

- Greetings From Our Health Commissioner
- Community Garden Update
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- Swimming Pool Safety
- Kid's Wellness Days



Our new eight foot fence thanks to generous donations



This year's garden has greatly increased in size

## Did you know?

Massillon Health Garden at RiverTree Massillon is on its second planting season. Staff as well as volunteers, regularly tend to this labor of love, cultivation crops for our community.

Thanks to various donations from local residents and businesses, we were able to make this planting season bigger and better. Additions include creating more handicap accessible pathways, as well as erecting an eight foot fence to deter wildlife.

On May 18th we planted our 2024 garden. We had 36 people there, this included our staff committee and community members. We planted 24 varieties of fruits, vegetables and flowers, 171 from seedlings and 5 varieties from seed. Our goals for 2024 are to continue incorporating more youth in the garden and double our harvest from last year. We hope to do a few farm to table videos/ seminars to help people learn more about the use and benefits of fresh produce. With our greenhouse we plan to grow all throughout the year.



## WIC Farmers' Market

Summer time is here, and at the WIC office this includes additional funds for fruits and vegetables! Thanks in part to the new USDA food rule as well as other federal initiatives, monthly fruit and vegetable allotments have been increased through the end of the WIC fiscal year. All eligible participants will receive additional benefits to be spent on fresh fruits and vegetables. This amount varies based upon category, pregnant women will receive \$47, breastfeeding women will receive \$52, and children receive \$26.

In addition to monthly benefits, WIC eligible participants have a Farmers' Market Nutrition Program to look forward to July- September. With this program, all participants over the age of six months are eligible to receive thirty dollars worth of coupons to shop at various local farmers markets. Last year the Massillon WIC office was able to have an exclusive farmers market directly on site. This allowed for participants to pick up their benefits and shop- all at the same time! Over 96 booklets of coupons were distributed through the Massillon WIC program last year which is the equivalent of almost \$ 3,000.00 dollars in support to our local farmers!

## Programs & Services

- Birth and Death certificates
- Nuisance complaints
- Food and pool inspections
- Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC)
- Childhood and COVID Immunizations
- Cribs for Kids
- Car seat installation checks
- Project Dawn Naloxone Kits
- HIV testing
- Fentanyl and Xylazine test Strips
- Anytime CPR Kits
- Gun locks

### Closings

Independence Day

July 4, 2024

Labor Day

September 2, 2024



**Emergency Preparation-** While enjoying the pool this summer, make sure there is a phone nearby to call emergency services if needed. To better understand safety around water you could take a water safety class. Water safety classes are offered at various locations to review how to stay safe around the water and what to do if a possible emergency arises.



**Supervision-** Stay vigilant and aware of your surroundings with close, constant, and capable adult supervision from a designated water watcher or lifeguard anytime children are in or around the water. Cell-phone usage should be at a minimum when around water, all your focus should be on watching children in the water. No matter the age, you should **NEVER** swim alone.



**Safe Handling of Pool Chemicals-** Pool chemicals, like chlorine, are needed to protect swimmers' health. However, mishandling pool chemicals can cause serious injuries. Pool chemical injuries lead to about 4,500 U.S. emergency department visits each year. **If you store and use pool chemicals at your home, take the following steps to prevent pool chemical injuries:** Read & follow all directions on product labels, wear safety equipment such as masks, gloves, and goggles when handling chemicals. Keep chemicals secure and away from children and pets.



**Diarrhea + Swimming-** While enjoying your pool with loved ones, it's important to make sure not to swim or let others swim if sick with diarrhea. Just one diarrheal incident in the water can release millions of diarrhea-causing germs like *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia*, *Shigella*, norovirus, and *E. coli*. These germs can make swimmers sick if they swallow just a mouthful of contaminated water. Although most germs are killed within minutes of chlorine or bromine at the recommended levels. *Cryptosporidium*, is a germ that can survive in properly treated water for more than 7 days. Here are a few tips to protect us from those germs at the pool: Don't swim or let others swim if sick with diarrhea. Shower for at least 1 minute before you get into the water. Don't swallow the water. Don't pee or poop in the water. Take kids on bathroom breaks and check diapers every hour. Change diapers away from the poolside to keep germs from getting in the water.

## New Nursing program announcement!

New this summer - High School sports physicals for \$10.

Must have parent or guardian present if under 18. Call (330) 830-1714 to schedule.

Our Nursing department also offers back to school vaccinations on Tuesdays & Thursdays by appointment only.

Feel free to call 330-830-1714 for more information

# Kid's Wellness Days

This summer the Massillon City Health Department is having a Kid's Wellness Series at several of the Massillon City Schools Summer Food Distribution locations. Each time you see us we will have a fun activity for kids like **FREE** bike helmets with stickers to decorate them, kid friendly make & take recipes, arts & crafts projects, kids vision boards, Prize Wheel, and kids YouTube dance party.

We will also have special visitors like Safe Kids Stark County, Akron Children's Hospital, and Jackson Bear Hugs. Check our Facebook page for our dates and specific locations. We will also be promoting Back to School Vaccinations, WIC, and providing education on the Ohio Department of Health's program "Be Tick Smart." Come join the fun!

Here are the locations you can find us this summer from 12:00pm-1:00pm

- **June 14 Reservoir Park:** Partnering with Safe Kids Stark County. We will be fitting kids with FREE bike helmets to decorate and take home.
- **June 24 Walnut Hills:** Partnering with Akron Children's Hospital. We have a prize wheel as well as a dance party. Spanish- speaking interpreters will be present.
- **July 8 Walnut Hills:** Partnering with Jackson Bear Hugs. Fun kids activities.
- **July 17 Corner of Tremont & 8th St:** Arts & Crafts.
- **July 22 Walnut Hills:** Partnering with Akron Children's Hospital.
- **August 2 Reservoir Park:** Make and Take fruit kabobs.

*Any suggestions or ideas for the newsletter can be submitted to [medwards@massillonohio.gov](mailto:medwards@massillonohio.gov)*



## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services.

Front Desk/ Vital Stats  
(330) 830-1710

Health Commissioner  
(330) 830-1712

Environmental  
(330) 830-1795

Nursing  
(330) 830-1714

WIC  
(330) 830-1715

Location  
611 Erie St S  
Massillon, OH 44646

Hours of operation  
Monday– Friday  
8:30am-4:30pm

Visit us on the web at  
[massillonohio.gov/health](http://massillonohio.gov/health)

**Vision: A community where all residents have access to services to achieve a healthy lifestyle both mentally and physically.**