

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RECOGNITION

The Environmental Health Department is small but mighty. This past year, we inspected 54 pools, six tattoo parlors, and 20 tanning beds. We designed, permitted and inspected 82 septic systems, oversaw 23 septic repairs, reviewed 93 time of transfer inspections, and inspected three septic pumper company's trucks and records. Twenty-one well permits were issued for geothermal and water wells, and 113 well water samples were collected. In efforts to protect local aquifers, we administered the Grant-to-Counties program, plugging 15 and rehabilitating three wells. We contracted with Schneider to add septic and well information to Story County's Beacon website. After many meetings with concerned citizens and a hearing before the Iowa Environmental Protection Council, we worked with the Department of Natural Resources to oversee the construction of three hog confinements in Richland Township. Environmental Health participates in the County Watershed Assessment Workgroup, and is involved in surface water sampling of our streams and rivers. We distributed 49 radon kits, and answered umpteen calls on mold, bedbugs, roaches, landlord tenant issues, manure management, sewage, odors, water quality, and trailer park complaints. We work with Planning & Development, reviewing subdivision proposals, home business permits, variances and zoning applications. We review the Recorder's requests for parcel splits and surveys. The Department partners with Emergency Management to prepare for the possibility of African Swine Flu, and also participates in the EOC training. For December, there will be a stakeholders meeting for proposed septic regulations and a presentation to DNR regarding Story County case studies. With over 50 combined years of Story County employment for Stephanie Jones, Matt Cory, Cathy Bazylnski, and Margaret Jaynes, it is no wonder we are frequently called upon to advise sanitarians, realtors, and attorneys from central Iowa and provide training to the new Boone County Code Enforcer and the Hamilton County Sanitarian.

We look forward to working with the Board of Health and the Board of Supervisors in 2020 to protect and enhance environmental quality for our community.