

GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT
Geauga County

Annual Report 1999

MISSION STATEMENT The Geauga County Health District is dedicated to providing public health services by **detecting, educating, and preventing** personal and environmental health problems in our community.

Financial Report - 1999 - All Funds - Board of Health, State Mandated, and Grants

Receipts

Fees	\$875,720.57
Subdivision Assessments	426,659.00
State Subsidy	29,904.66
Other	581,298.39
Grant Reimbursements	215,040.29
TOTAL	\$2,128,622.91

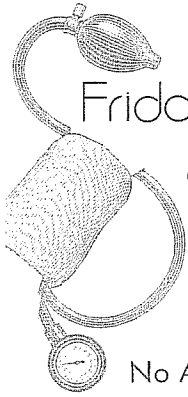
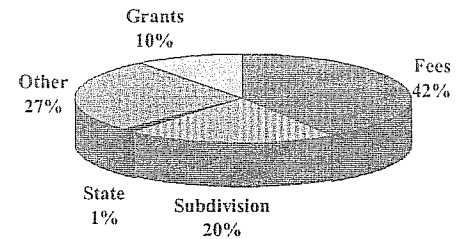
Employees By Division

Personal Health Services	12
Administration - Vital Statistics	4
Environmental Health	13
Women, Infants, Children	4
TOTAL	33

Expenditures

Personnel Costs	\$1,330,905.33
Supplies	30,688.14
Vaccine	9,924.90
Equipment	24,849.09
Maintenance Contracts	15,947.54
Travel & Training	40,299.47
Other	119,885.04
TOTAL	\$1,572,499.51

Grant Revenues	\$350,950.36
Grant Expenditures	\$282,419.46



Friday Morning Clinic

8:30 am to 11:00 am
 Walk-in Clinic
 No Appointments Necessary
 for
Adult Immunizations
TB Testing
Blood Pressure Screening
 at
 Geauga County Health District
 470 Center Street
 Building 8
 Chardon, Ohio

440-285-2222
 440-564-7131
 440-834-1856
 Extension 6577

2000 Immunization Clinics

Chardon

Geauga County Health District
 470 Center St., Bldg. 8
 2nd Wednesday - 9:00 am to 11:30 am

Chardon Evening Clinic

Geauga County Health District
 470 Center St., Bldg. 8
 3rd Tuesday - 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Middlefield

First United Methodist Church
 14999 S. State St., South of Rt 87
 2nd & 4th Monday - 9:00 am - 11:30 am

Middlefield Evening Clinic

First United Methodist Church
 14999 S. State St., South of Rt 87
 3rd Thursday - 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Parkman

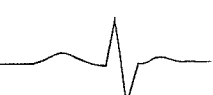
Parkman Community Center
 16295 Main Market, East of Rt 528
 3rd Monday - 9:00 am to 11:30 am

Russell

Ledgewood Christian Church
 8261 Kinsman Rd, West of Rt 306
 1st Thursday - 9:00 am to 11:30 am

Troy

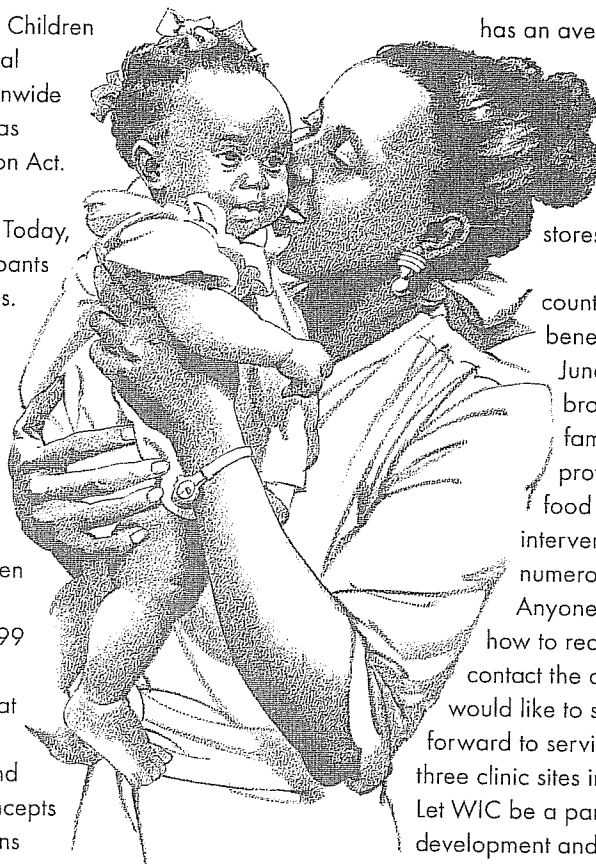
Troy Community Center
 13950 Main Market, East of Rt 700
 3rd Monday - 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm



WIC - An Opportunity For A Lifetime

The Geauga County Women, Infant's and Children program celebrated 15 years of service to local residents in 1999. WIC was established nationwide in 1972 under the Public Law #92-433 and was added to Section 17 of the 1966 Child Nutrition Act. In 1974 in Pineville, Kentucky the first WIC participant, a pregnant woman, was served. Today, WIC serves nationally, over 7.4 billion participants in 1800 projects and has over 9000 clinic sites. The annual federal budget is over four billion dollars. Ohio has a budget of 119 million dollars with 76 programs and 245 clinic sites. Geauga County, in fiscal year 1999, has an operating budget of \$117,572.00 with three clinic sites and serves 749 participants. 52% of our clients are children ages 1-5, 25% are infants from birth to one year of age and women who are either pregnant, postpartum or breast feeding comprise the remaining 23% of the 1999 caseload statistics.

WIC is a supplemental feeding program that provides an opportunity for families to receive nutrition education significant for pregnancy and childhood nutrition issues. The educational concepts are reinforced with the issuance of food coupons that are redeemed by local grocers. Geauga County



has an average of 2600 coupons redeemed in our local contracted vendors and over \$34,000.00 a month in food coupons are redeemed. Geauga County has two contracted pharmacies for special formula issuance and seven grocery stores accepting WIC coupons.

Gauga County was the very last county in the State of Ohio to receive WIC benefits and did not establish a clinic until June 1984. Fifteen years of service has brought many positive changes for many families. Referrals to other health providers, referrals to Human Services, food pantries, nursing services and speech intervention has helped to improve the lives of numerous children and families.

Anyone who would like more information on how to receive the many benefits of WIC please contact the office at 285-2222 x6357 or if you would like to schedule an appointment. We look forward to serving you and your family at one of our three clinic sites in Chardon, Middlefield or Bainbridge. Let WIC be a part of your child's early childhood development and you will make an impression that will last a lifetime.

Residential Sewage Disposal Systems

Gauga County continues to grow at a rapid pace and requires the rigorous enforcement of the sewage disposal system program. The health district has taken steps to assure that all residential sewage disposal systems are installed and inspected properly. This department issued 499 sewage permits in 1999.

There appears to be an emerging trend which indicates that more and more homeowners are updating their sewage disposal systems. The health district initiated a new free service to homeowners for the price of a phone call. This free service is an attempt to educate the homeowner about the functional and maintenance aspects of their newly installed sewage system.

The health district is in the process of proposing additional sewage disposal system regulations that will provide even better protection of the rural lifestyle we have come to know and love.

Scrap Tires In Our Community

While insects are notorious carriers of diseases, and the environment is constantly being disrupted due to residential and urban growth, changes are continually occurring in vector borne diseases within the environment.

In Ohio, mosquitoes are the common carriers of three types of encephalitis, a disease that occurs in Ohio more than any other state. Since 1989, 173 cases of La Cross encephalitis have been reported in the state.

Between 1963 and 1998 13 cases of encephalitis have been reported in Geauga County, with no cases reported for 1999. La Cross encephalitis can have severe symptoms and can cause death in children, the elderly and people with weakened immune systems. In our

environment, mosquito breeding is preventable in man-made items including scrap tires. In 1999, 8,848 scrap tires were collected in Geauga County during two collection events which occurred in April and November. These scrap tire recovery events take place through the combined efforts of the private and public health sectors.

55 businesses in Geauga County continually generate scrap tires. This is an extremely large amount of tires. Quarterly inspections by the Geauga County Health District assures that these scrap tires are being legally transported and disposed of at E.P.A. approved landfills, monocells and recycling facilities.

Vital Statistics

The Geauga County Health District's Vital Statistics Office houses the birth and death records beginning in 1908 to the present. Certificates are available in person or by mail request and are \$8.00. Certified copies are required for passports, driver's license and school registration. Our Medical Director researches all of the death certificates filed in Geauga County to compile the mortality statistics listed.

Resident's birth and deaths occurring outside the county are not reflected in the following numbers.

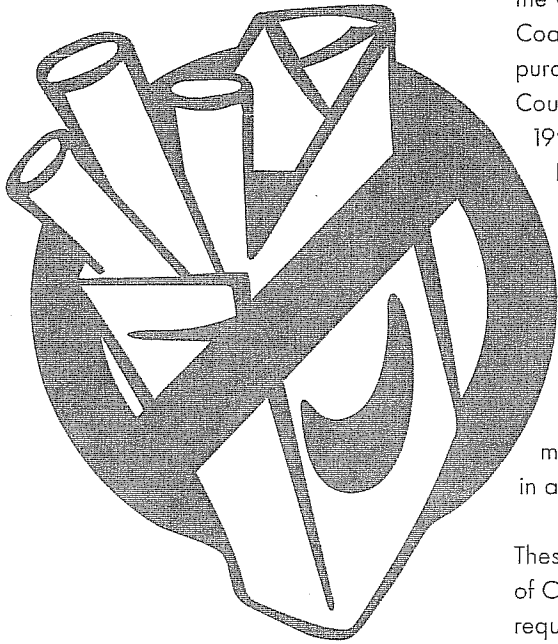
Births (844)	Boys468
	Girls376
Deaths (636)	
Heart Disease	190
Cancer	141
Infection	95
Vascular Death	68
Dementia	34
Blood Cancer	15
Old Age	18
Kidney Disease	16
Suicide	2
Misc. Other	57



Geauga County

Tobacco Reduction Coalition

conducts under age youth tobacco purchases in Geauga County



The Geauga County Health District and the Geauga County Tobacco Reduction Coalition conducted vendor tobacco purchases to underage youth in Geauga County on Presidents Day, February 15, 1999.

Nine girls and one boy - ages ranging from 15 to 17 - were sent out with seven adult drivers to try to buy tobacco products from 34 vendors throughout Geauga County. Twelve of the 34 vendors sold tobacco products to the teens. Of those, two purchases were made from vending machines. One in three attempts resulted in a sale to an underage youth.

These compliance inspections were a part of Ohio's effort to meet federal requirements for reducing youth access to tobacco products. If the state does not meet federal standards, Ohio could lose up to 40 percent of anticipated federal dollars for

substance abuse programs over the next four years.

The Geauga County Health District conducted the inspections in cooperation with the Geauga County Tobacco Reduction Coalition and knowledge of local law enforcement agencies.

Although Ohio law provides penalties for the sale of tobacco products to persons under 18 years of age, merchants found selling to minors received only a warning this time. Vendor education was emphasized following our first tobacco compliance check for the county.

Inspections of tobacco vendors will be ongoing. Federal law requires that all states make a substantial effort to reduce youth access to tobacco products or lose up to 40 percent of their federal funds for substance abuse programs. One requirement of the federal law is "random, unannounced inspections" of tobacco sellers.

Solid Waste

Collections Events for 1999

There were two solid waste collection events held in Geauga County that addressed the following areas: Scrap tires, appliances and hazardous waste material. These collections events helped to reduce the amount of solid and hazardous waste material that may have been discarded illegally throughout the county.

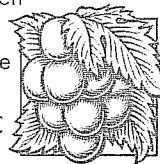
Scrap Tires	8,488
Oils	1,822
Old Batteries	360
Paints	7,215 gallons
Mercury	.55 lbs.
Appliances	116 Units
Antifreeze	225 gallons
Pesticides	250 gallons
Propane Tanks	30 tanks
Other Misc	1,628 lbs.

There was a total of 82,302 pounds of material that was processed at these events. The availability of these events have had a positive effect on protecting the environment.

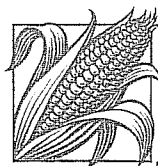
Farmers Market Nutrition Program

It Grows On You

Geauga County WIC has been the proud recipient of the Farmer's Market Nutrition Program for seven years. The current program is a collaborative effort with local Geauga County Farmers and WIC participants to promote greater consumption of fresh locally grown fruits and vegetables.



Each eligible WIC participant receives six \$3.00 coupons, which can only be redeemed at local, contract Farmer's Market stands. The selections include potatoes,



apples, strawberries, melons, tomatoes, peppers, pears, grapes and other locally grown produce items.

The program is designed to encourage greater fresh fruit and vegetable consumption in pre-school children. It also targets families to incorporate more nutrient dense fruits and vegetables into their home meal planning and snack options.

The farmers love the program because they have better opportunities to promote their fruits and vegetables and find that most WIC families return without the FMNP coupons to purchase additional fruits and vegetables. WIC families are especially pleased not only with the field fresh quality but the prices at the market stands. FMNP serves as an educational opportunity for children to be involved in the fruit and vegetable selections. Farmers encourage new fruits and vegetables to the children by offering very generous samples for the little consumers.



Any local farmer who would like to participate in the Farmers Market Nutrition Program can call the health district and ask for extension 6468 for more information.



Geauga County Health District Services

Personal Health Extension 6577

Adult Immunization Clinics
 BCMH Visits
 Child Immunization Clinics
 Communicable Disease Investigations
 Flu Clinics
 Health Promotion & Education
 HIV Testing & AIDS Education
 Maternal & Infant Home Visits
 Prenatal Clinics
 Rabies Prevention Education
 Senior Clinics
 Speciality Clinics (Ortho & Neuro)
 TB Testing
 Well Child Clinics
 Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

Vital Statistics Extension 6407

Birth Certificates
 Death Certificates

Environmental Health Extension 6578

Animal Bite Investigations
 County Camp Inspections
 Food Establishment Inspections
 Nuisance Complaint Investigations
 Plumbing Permits & Inspections
 Private Water Well Permits & Inspections
 Restaurant/Food Service Inspections
 School Environmental Inspections
 Semi-Public Sewage Certificates/Inspections
 Septage Land Application Site Inspections
 Septic Tank Cleaner Truck Inspections
 Sewage System Permits & Inspections
 Solid/Infectious Waste Inspections
 Swimming Pool Inspections
 Trailer Park & Camp Inspections
 Vending Machine Inspections
 Waste Hauler Truck Inspections
 Water Hauler Truck Inspections

Environmental Health Division (EH)

The county is continuing to go through an intense growth period which extends back for approximately ten plus years. We have seen an average of 500+ sewage disposal system installations and water wells on a yearly basis. In addition, there is an increasing demand on ground water supply. Ground water contamination is a growing concern since 90% of the county relies on our underground water supply. The environment is changing and we must make good quality public health and safety decisions to protect the rural lifestyle and not have a detrimental effect on the environment and health of residents. One of the biggest campaigns that must be waged is the need for education that addresses environmental concerns.

Plumbing Permits	899	Food Service Operation Inspections	1,186
Plumbing Inspections	3,060	Vending Machine Inspections	46
Sewage Permits	498	Food Establishment Inspections	209
Sewage Inspections and Lot Evaluations	1,804	Trailer Park and Camp Inspections	39
Private Water System Permits	527	Swimming Pool Inspections	167
Private Water System Samples & Insp.	1,740	County Camp Inspections	16
Semi-Public Sewage Certificates	104	Nuisance Complaint Inspections	593
Semi-Public Sewage System Inspections	427	Positive Rabies Case Reported (bat)	1
Solid/Infectious Waste Inspections	683	School Inspections	160
Animal Bite Investigations	256		

Personal Health Services Division (PHS)

Communicable Disease Investigations	107	Adult Immunizations	3,414
Tuberculosis Tests Administered (Positive-5)	420	School Site Visits	121
Maternal/Newborn Home Visit	455	WIC Total Caseload	2,370
Genetic Screenings	225	Senior Clinic Participants	539
HIV Tests Administered	22	Well Child Clinics Held	37
BCMh Visit	329	Well Child Visits	373
Specialty Clinic Visits (Ortho/Neuro)	263	Prenatal Clinics Held	28
Children's Immunizations	9,144	Prenatal Visits	85
Children Attending	5,270		

Geauga County Health District
 470 Center Street, Build 8
 Chardon, Ohio 44024

Health Commissioner/
 Personal Health Services Director
 Lawrence Fergus, R.N., M.B.A.
 Registrar/Fiscal Coordinator
 Robert K. Weisdock, R.S., MA, M.P.H.
 Medical Director
 Sandra K. Gerzeny
 J. Bradley Moritz, M.D.

Geauga County Board of Health

Dan McDermott, President
 Newbury Township . . . Exp. 2003
 Bonita Clemson, Pres. Pro-Tem
 Hamden Township . . . Exp. 2002
 David W. Hudge, M.D.
 Chardon Township . . . Exp. 2000
 Richard Lang
 Hamden Township . . . Exp. 2004
 Leslie Sabo
 Bainbridge Township . . . Exp. 2001

One board member is appointed yearly for a five year term. Board members serve as advocates for public health services and programs. This board is a quasi-judicial, policy development body tasked with determining, setting, and monitoring public health policy. They are responsible for adopting the annual budget and ensuring adequate funding for the agency.

Nursing Services

Communicable Disease Investigation

Nursing Services ensures effective surveillance/epidemiology of communicable diseases in Geauga County by promoting compliance with the communicable disease reporting requirements of Ohio law.

Tuberculosis Control

As directed by Ohio law, Nursing Services promotes tuberculosis containment in Geauga County by screening high risk populations, contact investigation, maintenance of a register of reactors and of tuberculosis cases, and by advocacy with the Geauga County Commissioners to ascertain appropriate treatment for positive reactors and for persons with tuberculosis. (Total Tests Administered - 420)

Maternal/Newborn/Welcome Home Visits

Nursing Services provides home visits to mothers and their newborn children who are residents of Geauga County. Home visits are conducted with permission of the mother. Activities which can occur during the home visit include evaluation of the mother's health and recovery following delivery, assessment of the infant's health and early growth and development, completion of genetic screening tests, provision of preventive health education for the family, and referral to appropriate community resources for the family. There is no fee charged to the family for the service. (Total Home Visits - 455)

Children's Immunization Services

Nursing Services conducts and staffs a published schedule of monthly children's immunization clinics throughout the county. Clinics are conducted on a walk-in basis with no appointments necessary. Vaccines that are available at children's immunization clinics are those supplied to the Geauga County General Health District by the Ohio Department of Health. Immunizations are available to Geauga County families at no charge. No child is denied immunization for inability to pay or failure to pay. (Total Number of Immunizations - 8,657)

School Services

Nursing Services assists school nurses employed in Geauga County schools by administering immunizations in the school setting for vaccine preventable diseases. Immunizations that are administered by public health nurses are those which are recommended and supplied by the Ohio Department of Health for that population after the child has completed the required immunizations prior to school admission. In addition, the public health nurses assist school nurses employed in Geauga County schools by providing information pertinent to children's health issues.

In those schools with less than 100 pupils public health nurses assist the schools by health record management, vision screening in accordance with Ohio Department of Health protocols, hearing screening referrals on request of classroom teachers, immunization administration as recommended and provided by the Ohio Department of Health for that population, and provision of information pertinent to children's health issues.

Well Child Services

Well Child clinics are held in Chardon and Middlefield. A visit to the clinic includes preventive care, such as developmental, hearing, vision, nutrition, and dental screens, a physical examination, health education, and immunizations. Appointments are necessary. (Total Well Child Visits - 373)

BCMh (Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps) Services

Nursing Services provides public health nurse home visits for Geauga County families who request early identification, evaluation, referral, treatment, coordination of care, and re-evaluation of children with handicapping conditions from birth to 21 years of age. Home visits are family centered and culturally competent. Public health nurses represent Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh) to families and children and provide assessments of care in home environments, development of care plans, coordination of community services, health promotion, and

advocacy to the families. Public health nurses are the liaison between the family and child, providers, and BCMh. Families have no fees for participation in the BCMh program.

(Total BCMh Visits - 329)

Specialty Clinics (Orthopedic and Scoliosis)

Nursing Services manages Neurology and Orthopedic clinics in Geauga County for children from birth to 21 years. The public health nurses provides planning, management, staffing, documentation, and data reporting to the Ohio Department of Health. The scheduling of clinics and financial support for physician staffing is provided as a cooperative effort between the Ohio Department of Health and Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital of Cleveland. There is no fee charged to the family for their child's attendance at clinics. Any fees incurred for ancillary services are the responsibility of the family.

(Total Clinic Visits - 263)

Adult Immunization Services

Nursing Services conducts and staffs weekly adult immunization and hypertension screening clinics in the Personal Health Services office and at the Department on Aging. In addition, adult immunizations are given throughout the year in occupational settings and special clinics. The fee schedule for adult immunizations is determined by the Board of Health.

(Total Immunizations Administered - 3,414)

Senior Services (including Adult Day Care)

Nursing Services provides the services of a registered nurse for health promotion to the Adult Day Care clients who gather at the central Geauga Senior Center. Participants who receive public health nurse services are selected by the Department on Aging. Services of the public health nurse are funded by the Title III/Community Block Grant procured by the Department on Aging and supported, in kind, by the Geauga County General Health District.

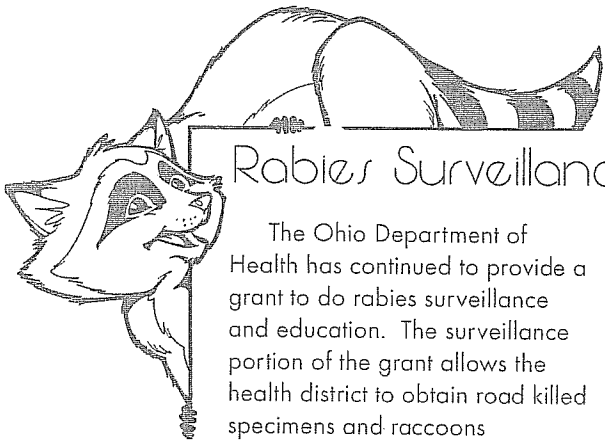


Take F.I.V.E.

Five-A-Day That Is

All Geauga County Public School 4th grade children were the recipient of Ohio Department of Health grant monies through the Bureau of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction, the Geauga County Health District and local Giant Eagle stores in Chardon and Middlefield. Each child received a F.I.V.E. CARD (an acronym for Five Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Everyday) to take to either grocer and redeem for a monthly fresh fruit or vegetable selection. In-store information on childhood nutrition is provided to each child using the card to help in successful completion of the 4th grade proficiency tests. The intention is for the children to familiarize themselves with local produce departments, try new fruits and vegetables and eat more healthy food selections rather than fast food or high fat food selections.

It was a cooperative effort with all of the Geauga County Public Schools, local merchants and the health district. The media-covered F.I.V.E. Card kick-off was successfully held at Burton Elementary with store managers promoting the campaign and the children having an opportunity to interact with questions about produce sources, availability and procurement.



Rabies Surveillance Prevention & Control Grant

The Ohio Department of Health has continued to provide a grant to do rabies surveillance and education. The surveillance portion of the grant allows the health district to obtain road killed specimens and raccoons exhibiting odd behavior for testing.

We have had only one documented case of rabies within the county. The documented case of rabies was found in a bat and is considered to be an isolated case.

The main theme of the educational program is to teach the children to avoid animals they are not familiar with so as to

prevent any unnecessary exposures.

In addition, an emphasis is placed on the fact that it is very important to vaccinate pets against the disease and to stay away from wild animals. The teaching tool we use involves a puppet show using wildlife models to clearly demonstrate that these animals may be cute and cuddly but could possess great danger to the child. This program is designed to increase the child's awareness about rabies and the safety precautions that need to be used. There have been over 700 children attending the puppet shows and heard this information.

Food Service Division Report

The food service operation program for the Geauga County Health District plays a vital role in protecting the public against food borne illness. This is accomplished through inspections and education. Over 300 food service operations are inspected one to three times per year according to classification. The classification is based on the type of food prepared and the risk associated with handling and preparing the food.

During an inspection, a sanitarian is able to identify problem areas with the handling, storage, and preparation of food, as well as proper sanitation.

When a problem is found within a food service operation, it is not only important to see that it is corrected, but to educate the workers. They are informed as to why it is a problem and how to correct it.

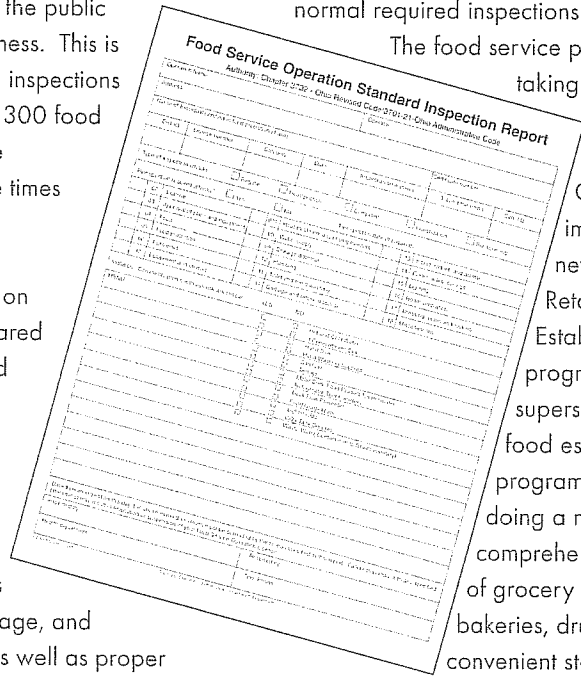
Follow up inspections are conducted as

needed to insure compliance with the regulations. These are in addition to the normal required inspections.

The food service program will be taking on additional duties in 2001.

The State of Ohio is implementing a new statewide Retail Food Establishment program. This will supersede our current food establishment program. We will be doing a more comprehensive inspection of grocery stores, bakeries, drug stores, convenient stores and similar

operations. It is estimated that this will include 150 locations. Large grocery stores are expected to take 6 to 8 hours to inspect. The statistical data is currently being compiled for this program and we are awaiting the approval of the rules.



Private Water Wells

Gauga County residents rely on groundwater for 90% of their water supply. It is estimated that 4,536,000 gallons of water are pumped from its ground water supply on a daily basis. Some areas of the county have greater water yield than others, however, it is a well known fact that no matter where we obtain our water supply from it must be safe for human consumption.

It is our goal to assure the residents that they will have a safe potable water supply for years to come. The Ohio Department of Health has revised and updated the Private Water Rules which became effective on January 1, 2000. These rule changes have been implemented to monitor and provide quality assurance to retain our high quality of potable water. In addition, this department is now testing for nitrates as well as the standard bacterial test procedure.