



St. Mary's County Health Department

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAST WEEK FOR PUBLIC HEALTH HERO NOMINATIONS

Nominations must be submitted or postmarked by Friday, March 7, 2008.

LEONARDTOWN, MD (February 27, 2008) – Do you know someone who has a passion for the environment and the health of our planet? If so, the St. Mary's County Health Department would like to hear from you. The health department is holding its annual Public Health Heroes Breakfast April 10, 2008 and will be honoring people who live or work in St. Mary's County and who, through protecting the environment, are ultimately reducing the risk of the public health related consequences associated with global climate change.

The health department invites you to nominate individuals or groups who make conservation and/or environmental issues a priority. Their work in this area makes them champions of the environment and heroes of public health. Nominations must be submitted or postmarked by Friday, March 7, 2008.

This year's National Public Health Week theme, *Global Climate Change: Our Health in the Balance*, spotlights the relationship between climate change and the health of our communities, our families and our children. The World Health Organization is warning about the serious

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impact climate change will have on health. Cornerstones of the public health include safe drinking water, sufficient food, secure shelter and healthy social conditions. The changing climate is likely to have an effect on all of these conditions. Climate variability and change would also cause death and disease through natural disasters, such as heat waves, floods and drought.

The health department is looking for people who are adopting “greener” lifestyles and promoting policies that increase environmental stability. Choosing to drive less, conserving energy, buying local produce, purchasing products that are known to be energy efficient, recycling, educating others about the benefits of being environmentally friendly, or providing goods and services which are gentle on the environment are all examples of ways people are taking a stand for the environment.

Please honor their work and passion for the environment by nominating them to be 2008 Public Health Heroes. Request nomination forms via e-mail by calling 301-475-4318. Nomination Forms may be picked up at the health department 21580 Peabody St. Leonardtown, MD, local libraries, or may be printed from the website at www.smchd.org. Nomination forms should be returned no later than March 7, 2008. Please drop your nomination off at the health department or mail nomination forms to P.O. Box 316, Leonardtown, MD 20650. You may also FAX nominations to 301-475-4350. All nominators and honorees will be invited to an awards ceremony breakfast on Thurs., April 10, 2008, at St. Andrews Church in California. Randy Larsen, assistant professor of chemistry at St. Mary’s College will be keynote speaker.

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