

Express FACTS

New hires, promotions

The ISDH welcomes three new employees this week:

Sandra Dockery, Human

Resources

Catherine Wolter, Legal Affairs

Marka Secuskie, Finance

Two promotions were also effective this week:

Gary Allen, Vital Statistics

Shannon Hilderbrand,

Children's Special Health Care Services

Welcome and congratulations!

'Walk to Win'

Don't forget to join the Indiana State Department of Health's *Walk to Win* program, now through Sept. 30 each Tuesday and Thursday.

Walk to Win participants will meet in the ISDH lobby at 11:30 a.m. for a guided 30-minute walk through downtown Indianapolis. Participants who log 8 days of walking per month will automatically register each month for a chance to win a lunch for two in downtown Indy.

To sign up for the ISDH *Walk to Win*, call 233-7256 or just show up.

New arrivals

Congratulations is extended to Weslyn Coleman, Vital Statistics, and Gerald Coleman, assistant commissioner, Health Care Regulatory Services, on the Aug. 23 birth of their daughter, Blaire Antoinette, who weighed in at 6 lbs., 15 ozs.

In Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to Patricia Morton on the recent death of her mother. Cards may be sent to Pat at: 628 S. Cole St., Indianapolis, IN 46241. Sympathy is also extended to Dena Watts on the recent death of her grandmother. Cards may be sent to Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Watts at 2420 E. Walker Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46203.

Sympathy is also extended to the family and friends of former ISDH assistant commissioner Roger D. Beesley who passed away Aug. 21.

'Earthquaker' doesn't shake out

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) Residential Sewage Disposal staff has received a number of inquiries about the use of the "Earthquaker" process to renovate failing on-site sewage disposal systems, according to Alan Dunn, supervisor, Residential Sewage Disposal Program.

The process involves using equipment to inject compressed air into the soils under and around the soil absorption field. Supposedly, the compressed air "fractures" the soils, resulting in cracks and crevices to enhance water movement through the soils. Styrofoam beads are injected in these crevices during the process, claiming to hold the crevices open for an extended period of time.

"Companies marketing this process claim great success renovating failing on-site sewage disposal systems," said Dunn. "However, we have been unable to verify the efficacy of this process as a long-term solution for failing on-site sewage disposal systems."

Dunn said attempts to work with the local companies to study and monitor this process have not been fruitful.

Issues raised concerning this process include the collapse of the crevices; the clogging of the crevices with sewage solids and the organic mat; and the potential for the creation of groundwater contamination in some soils.

"These are issues that must be addressed in order to consider this

process for renovation of failing on-site sewage disposal systems," said Dunn.

"Until these issues have been adequately addressed, the ISDH cannot recommend the use of this process."

When a homeowner is experiencing problems with an on-site sewage disposal system, no plan for repair or replacement should be implemented until a thorough investigation of the soils and the system has been conducted, according to Dunn.

"The homeowner should contact the local health department for assistance with this investigation," said Dunn.

The investigation should include, but may not be limited to: a review of the health department files on the system; a soils evaluation by a soil scientist; a check of piping for blockage or collapse; the examination of system components, including the septic tank, dosing tank (if applicable), and distribution box for integrity, stability, level, and groundwater infiltration; a check of plumbing for leaks; a check of actual water usage vs. system size; and a check of the perimeter drain system, if applicable.

"Only after the necessary information has been collected should a plan for resolution of the problem be implemented," said Dunn. "This plan must address the reasons for original system failure, the soil conditions at the site, and the daily wastewater flows. To arbitrarily apply any process for renovation of a failing on-site sewage disposal system without the procedure described above would be a disservice to the homeowner."

First Lady

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redeem their vouchers: Broad Ripple Farmers' Market, Bloomington Farmers' Market, Bloomingsoods Farmers' Market, Corydon Farmers' Market, Greenfield Farmers' Market, Indianapolis City Farmers' Market, Lafayette Farmers' Market, New Albany Farmers' Market, Noblesville Farmers' Market, North Manchester Farmers' Market, Salem/Washington County Farmers' Market, South Bend Farmers' Market and Tipton Farmers' Market.



Indiana State Department of Health Express

The *Indiana State Department of Health Express* is a bi-weekly publication for ISDH employees. To submit news items, call (317) 233-7336 or send information to: ISDH Express, Office of Public Affairs, 2 N. Meridian St., 2nd floor, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Inquiries should be directed to:

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