The public health system in Zanesville and Muskingum County provides a variety of services that touches each one of us in so many ways. All of us, who are proud to call Zanesville and Muskingum County home, benefit from the preventive services that the Health Department provides. The Health Department partners with many other local agencies to ensure that the community has the resources to promote, to protect and to improve the public's health. For example, the Health Department works with local law enforcement, fire departments, local academic institutions and Genesis HealthCare System, among others to ensure that we are prepared to handle a public health emergency. In addition, the Health Department works with schools to ensure that our children have a clean, safe and healthy environment in which to learn. Registered sanitarians are also available to inspect restaurants and to educate restaurant employees on safe food handling so that you can dine out safely with your family. Certified Plumbing Inspectors work with city; county and village water departments to assure preventive measures are in place to protect our water supplies from contamination.

Each member of the community is also a vital public health partner because you have the power to promote, protect and improve the health of your family, neighbors and friends by supporting the local public health levy on March 4. The funding will ensure that the Health Department's environmental health division will have the resources available to continue animal bite investigations, enforce the smoke free workplace rule and protect us from those pesky mosquitoes so that we can enjoy our backyard barbecues and family activities. The Health Department's nursing division will also be able to provide adult and child immunizations and dental services in a cost effective manner.

With your support, the health department will continue to provide vital public health services, respond to local public health emergencies, and to enforce public health regulations that are intended to keep us healthy and safe.

Mike Kirsch Nashport