

Media Placement Highlights

January 12 – February 13, 2019

Notable media placements:

Central Illinois Proud

"Durbin, Duckworth announce more than \$31 million for state community health centers" – January, 2019

<https://www.centralillinoisproud.com/news/local-news/durbin-duckworth-announce-more-than-31-million-for-state-community-health-centers/1739758023>

- U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth announced on January 30 that nine community health centers throughout Illinois have been awarded a total of \$31,402,178 in federal funding through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Health Center Program.
- As one of the nine health centers, the Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center received \$4,687,749 in federal funding.
- Community health centers currently provide primary health care services to approximately 1.4 million Illinois residents, including one of every four Medicaid patients.
- "Every Illinoisan, no matter their zip code, deserves the same access to quality health services," Senator Duckworth said. "This funding is critical to the health of our state and will help provide necessary, affordable care to thousands of families."

Lake County News-Sun

"'We report regardless': Coast Guard protection among Lake County services pressing on during shutdown" – January, 2019

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/lake-county-news-sun/news/ct-Ins-gurnee-plant-emissions-st-0130-story.html>

- Health Department Executive Director Mark Pfister said that some programs at the Lake County Health Department were to be affected if the shutdown continued through February.
- Regarding SNAP benefits, Pfister said, "We have been telling everyone that they will receive [benefits] at the end of January, but it has to last through February." He added that people who receive these benefits spend them locally, and if funds run out, it also affects the private businesses that cater to people using those programs.
- In addition, the Lake County Board approved \$247,621 in emergency funding for the 'A Way Out' program for residents seeking treatment for substance abuse, because although it was approved for a grant through the U.S. Department of Justice, no one was in the office because of the shutdown.
- Pfister also said the health department is working to keep everyone informed regarding ethylene oxide concerns in Lake County. Although the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had been running a website for the latest information updates, no one was keeping the site up to date due to the shutdown.

"Gurnee Village Board told state legislation could change regulations on ethylene oxide emissions" – January, 2019

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/lake-county-news-sun/news/ct-lns-gurnee-plant-emissions-st-0130-story.html>

- In a village board meeting on Monday, January 28, Gurnee trustees were told a new state legislation could tighten regulations for ethylene oxide emissions, including changing measurements of emissions from percentage-based to tonnage-based. State Senator Melinda Bush, Health Department Deputy Director of Prevention Larry Mackey, and Gurnee Mayor Krysti Kovarik spoke at the meeting.
- "My biggest priority now, I promise you, is public health. But there are other concerns," Senator Bush said. "One of which is that, as of today, there isn't a replacement for ethylene oxide (EtO) to sterilize these items."
- "Officials at all level of government have been meeting on the issue, including a recent meeting in Chicago with local officials and state officials teleconferencing with the EPA in Washington," Mackey said.
- Mackey also recommended that residents in areas of concern are encouraged to study the issue, ask questions and monitor information from EPA and local officials. "We should all work together as a team to influence as much as we can, where we can," Mackey said. "We all have the same interests at heart."
- Residents at the meeting expressed that they believe the IEPA and USEPA are not 'reacting with urgency' and believe local officials need to do more. Mayor Krysti Kovarik responded by saying that the village and local health officials have been involved in a multitude of activities since the concerns of EtO were raised.

"'We don't want EtO': Residents target ethylene oxide emissions at Gurnee, Waukegan meetings" – February, 2019

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/lake-county-news-sun/news/ct-lns-gurnee-plant-emissions-st-0206-story.html>

- On Monday, February 4, groups gathered at village board meetings at Gurnee Village Hall and Waukegan City Hall to raise ongoing concerns regarding ethylene oxide emissions.
- "We don't want EtO in the village, and the answer we are getting is 'too bad,'" said a Gurnee resident.
- Audience members asked the Village of Gurnee to do more than it already has, including an independent study monitoring EtO emissions, including some residents saying the federal and state EPA cannot be trusted.
- Audience members asked the City of Waukegan, strengthen regulations, push for a cancer-cluster study, and to use its home-rule authority.
- "The city cannot do as much as you might think," said Waukegan city attorney Bob Long. "Without the expertise and resources of the Illinois EPA, it would be easy for the city to go too far, opening itself up to liability and inadvertently impacting other businesses."

- Larry Mackey, Deputy Director of Prevention at the Lake County Health Department, reiterated that both Vantage and Medline have agreed to voluntarily submit to additional studies that will be conducted by certified experts, not the businesses themselves.
- “Both companies also agreed to install more emission-control equipment at their plants to reduce EtO output,” Mackey said, “and that project could be completed by this spring, weather permitting.”

Total Media Placements

January 12-February 13, 2018

Press Releases Sent	2
Press Release Placements	12
Other Articles Mentioning/Quoting LCHD/CHC	12