

leading the way

- removing lead
- protecting health
- revitalizing communities



A Service of The City of Cincinnati

**GREATER CINCINNATI
WATER WORKS**

FALL 2019

GCWW Goes Where the Need is Greatest



GCWW is stepping up its efforts to replace lead service lines over the next year.

In addition to regularly-scheduled Capital Improvement Projects throughout the service area, GCWW will replace the water mains in six neighborhoods that have the highest number of lead services lines (LSLs).

The targeted areas are CUF, East Price Hill, Evanston, Hyde Park, Northside, and West Price Hill.

Nearly 1,200 public LSLs (and potentially as many private lines) are scheduled for replacement in these areas. Customers who move forward with private lead service line replacement can choose to have the LSLs replaced by the contractor awarded the main-line project.

A cost-sharing program is available to help owners replace LSLs. Forty percent of the cost – up to \$1,500 – will be paid by GCWW. Additionally, customers in areas that have assessment agreements with GCWW can pay the remaining cost through installments on their property tax bills over either five or ten years.

Areas eligible for the assessment include all City of Cincinnati neighborhoods, along with Deer Park, Fairfax, Golf Manor, Mount Healthy, and Silverton.

Homeowners who are not part of a main-replacement project may participate in the program individually. These replacements are referred to as “one-offs” and are performed by one of 11 certified contractors/plumbers with the lowest submitted bid. The public portion of the LSL is replaced by GCWW specialized teams.

For more information, visit **Lead.myGCWW.org** or call **513.651.LEAD (5323)**.

LEAD SERVICE LINES REPLACED

**PUBLIC SIDE:
2019 (Jan.-Sept.)**

816



Calendar Year 2018 Total: **318**
*(We have more than **doubled** this number!)*

**PRIVATE SIDE:
2019 (Jan.-Sept.)**

761



Calendar Year 2018 Total: **174**
*(We have more than **quadrupled** this number!)*



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HELP Fest Makes a Splash at Debut!

A total of \$7,600 was raised at the inaugural GCWW HELP Fest, held Aug. 8 at the Moerlein Lager House Schmidlapp Event Lawn (at Smale Riverfront Park.)

The event was a fundraiser for the Help Eliminate Lead Pipes (HELP) Program, which assists eligible low-income individuals and families with the cost of replacing lead service lines (LSLs).

Under sunny skies, festival goers heard free music from local rock band, Doghouse, as part of the Rockin' the Roebling series. For a donation, attendees cooled off with an extreme water balloon toss and took turns throwing bean bags at a dunk tank featuring City employees.

Among the brave souls getting dunked for a good cause were our own "First Lady of Water", GCWW Executive Director, Cathy B. Bailey; Assistant City Manager, John Juech; former Cincinnati Park Board Director, Wade Walcutt; and Jason Cooper, Collaborative Agreement Sustainability Manager.



Moerlein brewed and tapped an original beer for the event, "HELP wit Passion," a passionfruit wit beer. Originally from Belgium, wit beer involves a style of flavored wheat used in summertime brews.



Moerlein graciously donated \$1 from each pour of the beer.

GCWW media partner, Local 12 (WKRC-TV) also publicized the event on its newscasts and featured Deputy Director Verna Arnette in an interview: local12.com/news/good-morning-cincinnati/help-fest-to-feature-new-moerlein-beer-and-entertainment

A special "thank you" goes to businessman Dan Guest, who made a major contribution.



HELP FEST 2019 POEM

(An Excerpt)

To commemorate the event, Cathy Bernardino Bailey, GCWW Executive Director, wrote a poem that she read to the crowd:

*Christian Moerlein is the partner for us,
They answered the call and got on the bus.*

*With us, to do things all great and good,
For downtown, uptown and all the neighborhoods.*

*Their work helps us all assist more in need,
As we canvas the city to get the lead out indeed.*

*Water warriors are present today to lead the way,
Some good ole' fashioned games are here and at play.*

*The dunkin' booth is here if that's your pursuit,
Feel free to dunk a few of us after you give up the loot.*

*Or will you take home the prize for the water balloon toss,
We're anxious to see who will be tossin' water balloons like a boss!*

*But let's not let this event get away from us at all,
The beer and music are why we are here to party and have a ball.*

*"HELP Wit Passion" is the new Water Works-themed beer,
Please, please, please drink it and celebrate while we are all here.*

Governor Appoints GCWW Employee

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine recently formed a statewide advisory committee to make recommendations for improving efforts to prevent and treat lead poisoning, as well as remediating lead contamination from all sources.

Cynthia McCarthy, Administrative Specialist with the GCWW Enhanced Lead Service Line Replacement Program, was among 29 people appointed to the Lead Advisory Committee.

Prior to joining GCWW earlier this year, Cynthia was a Senior Sanitarian and HUD Grant Program Manager with the Cincinnati Health Department's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

During the next two years, Ohio will invest \$25 million to prevent and treat lead poisoning and remediate homes of toxic lead. The funding includes \$225,000 to increase the supply of lead hazard control workers; and \$5 million per year to provide a lead abatement tax credit.

The committee will review local, state, and national best practices to prevent lead poisoning. It began meeting in late October.



Cynthia McCarthy,
Lead Program Administrative Specialist

DID YOU KNOW?

GCWW can assist with the cost of lead service line removal at your home.

GCWW WILL PAY

40%

(up to \$1,500)

AND – if you live in the City of Cincinnati or an area that has an agreement with GCWW – the remainder can be paid via installments on your property taxes over

5 OR 10
years

For more details, visit
Lead.myGCWW.org

MEET YOUR GCWW LEAD TEAM

JAMES NELSON



Job Title:

Civil Engineering Technician 3/
Lead Program Community Liaison

Years at GCWW:

13 years

Educational Background:

Associate's Degree in Applied
Sciences Civil Engineering
Technology – Surveying
(Cincinnati State)

Where did you grow up?

Forest Park and North College Hill

What are your hobbies or interests?

I am a part-time firefighter paramedic. I currently work for two departments on nights and weekends.

Why is your work important?

Every day I get to talk to our customers and help them out. I get to do something different every day and work with a great group of people at Water Works and on the Lead Team.

What should people know about the Lead Program?

It's not just about if we find lead. It's important to know when we do find lead, that we get it out!

Making the Connection with Plumbers

GCWW teamed with several City of Cincinnati Departments to let area plumbers learn how they can become involved with the Enhanced Lead Service Line Replacement Program.

An outreach event was held Sept. 20 for plumbers at the GCWW Spring Grove location. It was designed to help plumbers learn how they can become certified to safely replace lead service lines for GCWW and identify the City resources available to assist them.

Plumbers also learned how to become involved with the City's contracting process and participated in a question and answer session with municipal employees. GCWW has an ambitious goal of replacing all lead lines over the next 15 years, and local plumbers will be an important partner in this effort.

Other departments participating were Community and Economic Development, Economic Inclusion, and Finance. We encourage other plumbers to contact us to partner in getting the lead out!

PLUMBER'S FAIR...

Calling all Plumbers!
Join us for engaging information and a Q&A session.

Friday, September 20, 2019
4 to 6 p.m.

GCWW Chester Park Complex
4247 Spring Grove Avenue, 45222
(located off Clifton Ave.)

To register, please email:
Tasha.Watkins@gcww.cincinnati-oh.gov
Registration is preferred, but not required.
Walk-ins are also WELCOME!

Attend and learn how to:

- Become an integral part of the Lead Service Line Replacement Program (LSLRP) and play an important role in replacing private-side lead lines within 12 neighborhoods in the City of Cincinnati
- Register to do business with the City
- Become a certified City Vendor
- Apply for small business loans with the City
- Increase your business and promote your company

Visit Lead.myGCWW.org for more details today!

In partnership with:
CINCINNATI COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE ECONOMIC INCLUSION

Notice Under the ADA: The City of Cincinnati will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in its programs, services, or activities. If you require any special accommodations or communication aids visit www.cincinnati-oh.gov/managers/ada.

LEAD SAMPLING KITS ANALYZED

JUNE
2019

168

JULY
2019

109

TOTAL

508



AUG.
2019

116

SEPT.
2019

115