




Environmental Health Action Team Meeting

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

Agenda

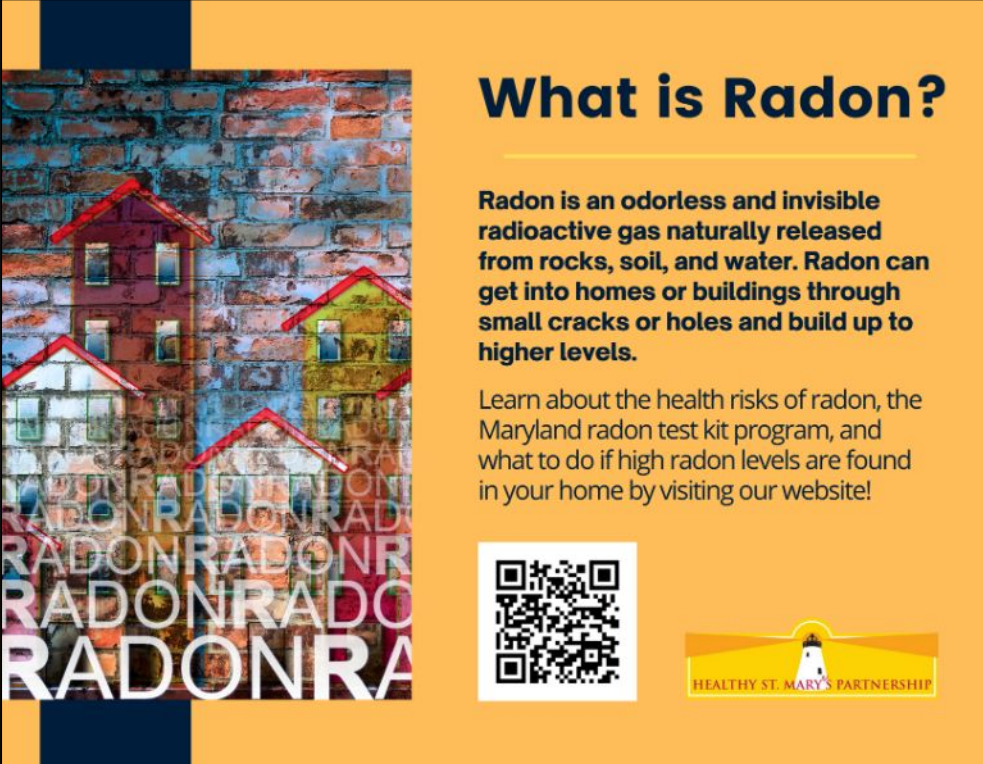
1. Introductions
 2. Radon Project
 3. Food Insecurity
 4. Transportation - Bike Share Program
 5. Action Team Meetings for Sept., Nov. & Dec.
 6. Partner Updates
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Introductions

- Brenda Wolcott - Medstar St. Mary's Hospital (MSMH)
- Cheri Reulet - Medstar St. Mary's Hospital (MSMH)
- Shan Chen - St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD)
- Sue Veith - St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development (SMC DED)
- Ben Cohen - Land Use & Growth Management (LUGM)
- Jacquie Wells - St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD)
- Bill Roberts - St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM)
- Michael Blackwell - St. Mary's County Library
- Shellnice Hudson - St. Mary's County NAACP
- Diana Little - Community member
- Heather Moritz - St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD)
- Kimberly Thorpe - Wiley Wheels
- Luciana Smith - Aetna Better Health of Maryland

Radon

- Advertising and promoting radon information on HSMP website
 - The radon webpage is now LIVE on the HSMP website!
 - A postcard has been created to share on social media and at future outreach events (see below)





The graphic is a vertical rectangular postcard with a yellow background. On the left side, there is a vertical strip with a brick wall texture. Overlaid on this are several colorful houses with red roofs. Below the houses, the word "RADON" is repeated in various colors and sizes, creating a collage effect. To the right of this strip, the text "What is Radon?" is written in a large, bold, black font. Below this title, there is a paragraph of text in a smaller, bold, black font. Underneath the paragraph is a QR code. At the bottom right of the postcard, there is a logo for "HEALTHY ST. MARY'S PARTNERSHIP" featuring a lighthouse icon.

What is Radon?

Radon is an odorless and invisible radioactive gas naturally released from rocks, soil, and water. Radon can get into homes or buildings through small cracks or holes and build up to higher levels.

Learn about the health risks of radon, the Maryland radon test kit program, and what to do if high radon levels are found in your home by visiting our website!



Food Insecurity

- Please continue to share the [Food Connection Map](#) with other partners and community members!
- St. Mary's County Food Security Report
 - IRB has notified us that our survey/stakeholder forums qualify as exempt research and we are approved to move forward
 - Please share the [Food Security survey](#) and [webpage](#)!
 - 17 responses in the first 24 hours
 - The Subcommittee will be meeting on 8/18 to discuss Stakeholder forums. [Email HSMP](#) if you'd like an invite to these meetings!
 - Survey distribution discussion:
 - MedStar St. Mary's Hospital community health workers and MedStar Medical Group, St. Mary's County Government webpage, Economic Development newsletter, St. Mary's County Library's social media, Printouts for SMCHD's Environment Health lobby, Open Houses at County (touch base with Mike Watson), Charlottis of SMCPs (Peachjar), County Times, other newsletters
 - Creating a paper version of the survey
- Advocacy Update
 - [August 25 -Board of Appeals Meeting](#)
 - Team members are encouraged to participate or send in their own comments.
 - Update on Steering Committee Approval for the following item voted on at the July action team meeting:
 - HSMP to advocate for codifying controls in designated food desert areas and setting zoning standards (Passed - We will draft an advocacy letter and bring it for review at the September meeting)
 - HSMP to compose a letter declaring the opening of Royal Farms at Tulagi Place a public health concern at the 8/25 appeal hearing (Did not pass)

Transportation - Bike Share Program

- HSMP will be holding a brief presentation at the TCC Bicycle committee meeting on September 8
 - Anyone interested in helping develop the presentation?
 - Sue Veith
 - Let us know if you're interested!
 - Sue shared that the TCC issued an RFP for professional consulting services to develop roadway safety plans. She suggested we may want to follow and request to be one of the groups that provides input to the consultant.
- **Update on Action Item:**
 - Reach out to bike share companies to see if any would cover the startup cost since they will get a return on investment
 - Bird & Bewegen Technologies seem to be the most open to this concept. A tri-county effort "SOMD Bike Share" would be more appealing
 - Tourism groups would potentially be interested in a bike share as well. St. Mary's County Government is looking at kayak share/lockers now.
 - LUGM is applying for a Passenger Ferry Feasibility study and a Bay Ways Destination Assessment study. They are looking at the city of Leonardtown. Bike shares could be good at these locations in the future.
 - TCC received \$10 million for encouraging rural economic development. One project that is proposed is bike signage on routes in some counties.

Action Team Meetings for Sept., Nov. & Dec.

- The HSMP Annual Meeting is Thursday, September 29
 - **The team voted to still meet on September 21.**
- The team voted on the option to hold meetings in November and December
 - **The team voted to meet on November 16.**
 - **The team voted to not meet in December.**

Partner Updates

- The Department of Economic Development reports that the Farmers Feeding St. Mary's event had 475 households at its 1st event and over 650 households at its 2nd event! Its organizers are looking to host 3 Farmer's Feeding events next year. If you have suggestions for funding the Lexington Manor Passive Park Community Garden, please contact [Sue Veith](#)!
- There is a need at the local food bank for food donations. HSMP & partners will do a social media push for a food drive and link to the food drive on the Food Security webpage.
- HSMP is planning for its [HSMP Annual Meeting](#) on September 29 from 8:30am-4:00pm! There will be presentations on the Maryland food map, community resilience following the COVID-19 pandemic, American Heart Association's culinary demonstration and blood pressure cuff program, the new SMCHD Behavioral Health Hub, and Lexington Manor Passive Park's Community Garden. Tabling applications close this week - [click here to apply](#). HSMP is figuring out if they can offer CEUs for attendance. Lunch will be provided from Linda's Cafe and will be available by online pre-order - stay tuned for more updates!
- SMCHD's next virtual food safety class will be held on October 19. Registration closes on October 13. For more information on registering, [click here](#)!
- Charlotte Hall Library & Lexington Park Library's Telehealth booths will be opening to the community next week. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be next Monday, August 22 at 8:00am at the Lexington Park Library. They are the first of its kind - the first ADA-accessible telehealth booths in the country! It features climate control, workplace seating, power outlets, an air filtration system and it can also be reserved as a quiet study space when not being used for telehealth appointments.

Communications

- Submit event and news updates/information at:
<http://healthystmarys.com/newsletter/> or email
stmaryspartnership@gmail.com
- Follow HSMP on Social Media
 - Facebook: [Healthy St. Mary's Partnership](#)
 - Twitter: [@HealthyStMarys](#)

Upcoming Meetings

- Wednesday, September 21, 2022 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.