

Dear Wyandotte Resident:

My name is Bruce Szczechowski. I've lived Downriver (Southgate/Wyandotte) for over 40 years. I have become concerned about cancer rates Downriver in recent years, as I've seen family, friends, classmates and, recently, my father, contract this terrible disease.

I have also found, over time, that if you want something done, then you need to do it yourself; or, at least, with the help of fellow citizens. In my opinion, health officials have not done their "homework", so to speak, regarding the study of health issues Downriver.

With that in mind, and having a biology degree and several years of medical school training at Wayne State University School of Medicine (as well as a master's degree in Environmental Science pending from Michigan Tech University), I have taken it upon myself—with your help—to study various health- and environment-related issues facing Downriver residents. I am starting this study with a survey of Wyandotte residents, because it is where I currently reside, as do numerous family members and acquaintances who have been afflicted with cancer.

I understand the alarm and potential pain (particularly to those who have suffered, or are now suffering from, cancer), that this survey may evoke. However, that is not the intent of this survey. It is merely one person's attempt to begin seeking answers to important health questions that others in more influential positions may be unwilling or unable to confront or examine. I sincerely hope that you will take a brief amount of time from your busy schedule to help me in this difficult, yet important, study.

Are the citizens of Wyandotte (and Downriver) being adequately serviced by health officials and regulatory agencies when it comes to matters of health for our families and children? I say, "Why wait for answers to health questions from obscure sources when we, as citizens, can gather our own data and seek answers for, and empower, ourselves?"

I hope you decide that health issues, like cancer, are as important to you as they are to me; and, you return the accompanying survey form in a timely fashion. Mailing your survey form to 1569 Elm St., or dropping off your survey form (in the "health survey box" located on the front porch at 1569 Elm St.) will save me thousands of dollars in postage. I am sorry for this inconvenience. However, if this is too much of a burden, or you have other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 285-3290; and, I'll be happy to come by and pick up the survey form, and/or answer your questions. Alternatively, you can go online and download the same form at www.dcseweb.org. Then, simply email it to me at bszczec@mtu.edu.

If you do not return the form, then I will assume that you and your family have been fortunately spared from the mental and physical ravages of this awful disease. If there are other rare diseases in your family that you would also like to share as an adjunct to this study, please feel free to include a description of the ailment as well. The more health information obtained, then the more informed we can all be regarding the well-being of Downriver citizens. Please be assured that any information you submit will be confidential and not divulged to anyone without your consent. This survey is a starting point to see how Wyandotte (and eventually, Downriver) cancer rates/health compare(s) with the rest of Michigan and the U.S. May God Bless You and Your Family this holiday season and in the years ahead!

Peace Always,