



### **Orrville wins Gold Again in Ohio's Healthy Community Challenge!**

The city of Orrville was recently awarded the 2008 Healthy Community Gold Award, which is the highest wellness achievement award given from the state of Ohio. The local Growing Healthy Habits Community Coalition applied for this special award for the Orrville community through the Healthy Ohio Program of the Ohio Department of Health. Award applications are due each spring and the state of Ohio determines the award winners and levels of awards (gold, silver, or bronze) each summer, based on the applications received.

“I am really impressed with what is being done in Orrville to address health issues before they become problems, said Dave Handwerk, Mayor of Orrville. “The Growing Healthy Habits program is a great approach and the fact that it is spearheaded from DCH is a gift to our community.”

This year the annual award presentation will be held on Thursday, October 16th at 9:30 am during the annual Ohio SOPHE Health Educators Institute Conference. The conference will be held at the Mohican Lodge in Loudonville. Orrville is one of 21 communities being honored by the Office of Healthy Ohio in 2008.

“I’m very excited that the Orrville community continues to take great interest in their health,” said Dr. Andrew Naumoff of Dunlap Family Physicians and founder of the Growing Healthy Habits Community Health Coalition. “Our goal is to make the greater Orrville community the healthiest community in Ohio. We are pleased to see everyone working so hard to accomplish this.”

This is the third consecutive year that Orrville has won an Ohio Healthy Community Award. In 2006, the city was awarded the Silver Award and then in 2007 and now in 2008, the top Gold Award. Healthy Community Awards are given to Ohio communities that can show that health and fitness is a top priority through community support, engagement, and wellness activities.

The Healthy Community Award is a part of Governor Ted Strickland’s Turnaround Ohio initiative. Through Healthy Ohio, the Ohio Department of Health is working with Ohio’s counties, cities, towns and villages to create healthy schools, businesses, and communities by encouraging Ohioans to improve nutritional habits, increase physical

activity, and prevent or reduce tobacco use. Besides health promotion, two other important objectives of the Healthy Ohio initiative are disease prevention and promoting health equity to ensure that all Ohioans have access to quality, affordable health care. For more information see the Healthy Ohioans web site at [www.healthyohioprogram.org](http://www.healthyohioprogram.org)

For more information on health, wellness, and fitness in Orrville, please go to [www.growinghealthyhabits.com](http://www.growinghealthyhabits.com)

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