

# Lead Watch

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A Publication of the Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning  
Committed to Ending Childhood Lead Poisoning by 2010  
February, 2005

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*LeadWatch* is the CPLP newsletter, designed to share news and information about the prevention of childhood lead poisoning.

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News to share with CPLP members and friends?

Suggestions for the newsletter?

Send information to:

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## City Scoping Hearing

### City to hold “Scoping Hearing” on lead ordinance environmental review

**Monday, February 28  
6:30 p.m. at City Hall**

Two proposals have been submitted to City Council for a city lead ordinance. In the January LeadWatch there was an article highlighting contents and differences of these proposals.

The first step towards passage is an environmental review (called a “Generic Environmental Impact Statement”). The City must first agree on the scope of this review. They have issued a draft scope, and on Monday, February 28 there will be a hearing to receive input on this draft. Interested people are encouraged to attend the meeting and give feedback.

As a reminder, the Coalition’s five key criteria for an effective City ordinance are:

- Targeting high lead neighborhoods first
- Mandatory inspection and lead hazard control
- Lead Safe Work Practices required

- Disclosure of lead in the property
- Tenant protection for lead complaints

### Gantt Introduces State Lead Bill

February 9, New York State Assemblyman David Gantt introduced a proposal for a new state lead law. Below is a list of what’s contained in the Gantt bill.

- create a loan fund to help property owners fund renovations for compliance with lead-safe requirements
- provide for standards of accreditation inspections and contractors performing lead-hazard remediation
- requires registration of affected properties
- provides tax credits for remediation
- calls for the appointment of a Deputy Commission of Housing and Community Renewal to oversee lead-safe provisions

- provides for educational programs relating to lead poisoning and abatement

Gantt, in writing why a “new lead bill” is needed, says “the current law has been ineffective in causing the elimination of lead-paint hazards in residential properties.” The Gantt legislation is A04201.

The Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning is sending a letter to key State officials, stating our support of state action to end childhood lead poisoning. A number of other bills are being drafted or submitted. □

## **Update: Coalition to End Lead Poisoning in New York State**

A number of members of the local Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning are also active in the state group: the Coalition to End Lead Poisoning in New York State. Two individuals are designated as the official representatives of the Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning: they are Ralph Spezio and Mike Hanley.

At its most recent meeting, the State coalition discussed reactions to New York State’s strategic plan for childhood lead poisoning abatement. This plan has been submitted, as required, to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The state coalition is also working on statewide legislation to protect children from lead poisoning. □

## **Lead Is In The News**

The problem of childhood lead poisoning has been a hot news topic in February. Lead has gotten much local media attention during the past weeks. Childhood lead poisoning has been the subject of articles and editorials in the Democrat and Chronicle, local talk radio shows, and television reports. The television stories include a two-part series on lead by Jessica Weinstein of Channel 10 NBC.

The lead issue isn’t going away from the media anytime soon. There are a number of other reports and specials coming up in the near future. At least two other television stations are planning to launch extensive series on childhood lead poisoning. One station is looking at covering the many aspects of the lead situation with multiple “beat” reporters taking his or her specialty and relating it to childhood lead poisoning in Rochester.

**For everyone who has helped generate this coverage, which is shaping public opinion about the urgency to end childhood lead poisoning, thank you and keep up the good work! □**

## **Coalition Member Presents at American Association for Advancement of Science**

Dr. Katrina Korfmacher, University of Rochester Medical Center, was a panelist at a workshop at the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington D.C. On February 20 Dr. Korfmacher spoke about the experiences of the GLO project (Get the Lead Out) and how they are informing local lead policy. She spoke on a panel on “Powerful Partnerships to Promote Environmental Health.”

Katrina is an active member of the Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning, and co-chairs the Coalition’s Government Relations Committee. □

*Reminder: To be a voting member of the Coalition, you must serve on at least one committee or Work Group. If you have not yet signed up, please consider where your talents can make the most difference and make your commitment. For more information, see the website at: [www.lead-safe-by-2010.org/committees](http://www.lead-safe-by-2010.org/committees) or call Patricia Brantingham at 256-2260*