

# **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Board of Health Nursing Department has seen much activity this year, so much that the Board voted to increase nursing hours from 20 hours a week to full-time. That status change occurred in September 2001.

## **COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

All reportable communicable diseases must have a thorough investigation completed by the public health Nurse. Confidential reports are completed and kept at the Board of Health as well as submitted to the State Department of Public Health. Communicable diseases reported in Randolph this year include the following:

Hepatitis A	1
Hepatitis B	25
Hepatitis C	15
Salmonella	6
Giardia	6
Campylobacter	2
Listeria	1
Lymes Disease	2
Tuberculosis	4
Shigella	1
Varicella	1
Bacterial Meningitis	1
Pertussis	4

## **PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING AND CLINICAL PROGRAMS**

### **IMMUNIZATIONS**

Vaccines are provided to the Board of Health from the State Department of Public Health. They are provided to town residents free of charge.

#### **Influenza Immunizations**

Over 1680 Randolph residents received the Flu Vaccine at 6 various Flu clinics with locations throughout the town. In addition many residents who are home bound received the vaccine either through the Visiting Nurses Association or from the Public Health Nurse in their homes. The Public Health Department provided 6 formal flu clinics for town residents. In addition, many residents and employees of Randolph received their flu vaccine by appointment at the Board of Health. Volunteers make it possible for the flu clinics to run smoothly. The Ladies Library Association and local retired nurses assisted in the 6 flu clinics.

## **Pneumonia Immunizations**

Due to the late completion of the annual Flu clinics, the Pneumonia clinics were postponed to January 2002. However, many residents were able to receive their pneumonia vaccination at the Board of Health.

## **Walk In Immunizations**

101 residents came in for various immunizations including Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Hepatitis B, Tetanus, and Pneumonia.

## **Employee Immunizations**

To address the potential of workplace acquisition of Hepatitis B the Public Health Nurse held clinics to vaccinate staff at risk. There were two Hepatitis B clinics at the Donovan School. In addition, various employees came in to the Board of Health.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF BIOLOGICS**

3087 doses of various vaccines and serums were received from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. These were distributed to private physicians, medical centers, nursing homes and and/or used at public health clinics. The Board of Health Nurse is responsible for ordering, obtaining, and distributing all biologics, keeping accurate records of storage, distribution and usage of all vaccines. The Board of Health nurse also keeps physicians and clinics abreast of all changes in any public health immunization regulations. The Board of Health had a very positive visit from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for its handling and storage of vaccines.

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

Community education is an integral part of all clinics and office visits. The Board of Health Nurse developed an educational presentation titled "Colds & Flu", which was held at the Senior Center.

## **KEEP-WELL CLINICS**

Keep-Well Clinics are weekly blood pressure screenings for Randolph residents ages 65 and over. These clinics are held 3 Wednesdays per month at alternate elderly housing complexes. One does not have to be a resident of the housing complexes in order to participate but must be a Randolph resident. All clinics are free. There were 36 clinics during this past year. 231 people were screened at these clinics with 15 found to have blood pressures above acceptable levels. In addition, the Board of Health started new blood pressure clinics at the Bridle Path Apartments and Temple Beth Am. These clinics will continue to run monthly.

A monthly Municipal Employee blood pressure clinic was started at the Town Hall in August of this year. 85 town employees were screened at these clinics with 13 found to have blood pressures above acceptable levels.

## **TUBERCULOSIS**

80 residents of various ages had TB skin testing at the Board of Health. This test is performed by the Public Health Nurse and must be evaluated 48-72 hours after being done. All results are kept on file at the Board of Health with a copy of the results given to the person receiving the test. In September 2000, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health sent out a directive discouraging random TB testing by local Boards of Health and thus no longer providing Tuberculin for TB testing. In order to meet the needs of individuals who require TB testing for employment and educational pursuits, the Board of Health purchased its own Tuberculin. Those residents who do not fall under high-risk categories and require testing for the above reasons may now obtain a TB test for \$5.00. Those considered high risk might be persons who are foreign born from countries with a high incidence of Tuberculosis or those who are close contacts of persons with Tuberculosis. They may still receive testing free of charge. There was only 1 new active TB cases this year and more than 118 Class 2 (non-active) TB contacts. Persons with active TB are followed by the Board of Health Nurse while undergoing treatment. They require home visits, teaching, monitoring of medication compliance and supportive care.

## **OFFICE VISITS**

Randolph residents come to the Board of Health for a variety of reasons including allergy injections, Vitamin B 12 injections, medication administration, blood pressure monitoring, immunizations or TB skintesting. These patients, seen out of a routine clinic setting must have a physician's written order, renewed annually, especially if being administered any medications. The clinic charges a nominal fee of \$2.00 for these services, excluding immunizations, which are free. As previously noted, random, elective TB testing is available at \$5.00 per test. No one is turned away for an inability to pay. This year 749 patients obtained services from the Randolph Board of Health, nearly 240 more than last year. In some instances people are unable to come to the Board of Health for required services. Home visits are made on occasions whereby the person does not qualify for Visiting Nurse Services but is homebound. There were 142 home visits made this past year.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION**

**REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL:** Browning Ferris Industries, Inc. continues to be the Refuse Collection contractor for the Town of Randolph. SEMASS holds the contract for the disposal of the Town's refuse and curbside recycling program.

**RECYCLING/CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAMS:** Curbside recycling, which commenced in August of 1994, continues to be very successful with the residents very cooperative and eager to participate. Their recyclables are picked up every other week on their regular trash day. If a resident needs additional bins, they may be purchased at the Board of Health at a cost of \$5.00 per bin. Newspapers, glass, aluminum cans and plastics may be recycled. Residents may call the "Recycling Hotline" at 1 (617) 471-7900 with any questions.

The disposal of "white goods" (stoves, refrigerators, sinks, etc.) is still handled by appointment only. To schedule a pickup for any of these items, please call @ 1 (617) 471-7900. Items must be placed curbside. Refrigerator doors **MUST** be removed. Call the toll free number for further information.

As a result of the Board of Health applying for and being awarded a Recycling Grant for composting bins, the following may be purchased at the Board of Health Office, Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.:

Brave New Composter @	\$35.00
Biodegradable Bags (for leaf collection) @	\$ .50

Any questions, please call the Board of Health @ 961-0924.

## **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY**

On November 10, 2001, Robert Eldridge, Chairman of the Board of Health, once again chaired a very successful Household Hazardous Waste Day which, as it also had the previous year, received a great response from the Townspeople. The Town of Avon, once again, joined with the Board of Health in this endeavor.

This program, and its ultimate success and popularity, is, as always, due in large part to the volunteers who so generously give of their time at this annual event, which, as always, includes the Randolph Auxiliary Police.

Others to be commended again this year are Honey Dew Donuts for their consistent generosity supplying coffee and donuts and, the members of the Board of Health: Chairman, Robert Eldridge; Vice Chairman, Thomas J. Fisher, and Vice Chairman, Richard Brown.

**PUBLIC HEALTH COMPLAINTS:** More than 1,500 complaints were received for possible health nuisances and hazards and investigated and resolved during the year.

**SWIMMING POOLS:** 36 permits, for public, semi-public and private pools were issued.

**PUBLIC, SEMI-PUBLIC POOL INSPECTIONS:** The State mandates that public/semi public pools be inspected and brought up to code prior to issuance of annual license. This duty falls to the local Board of Health and, as such, over 25 inspections and reinspections of public and semi-public pools were made by this office prior to issuing annual permits.

**INSPECTION OF NURSING AND OTHER STATE-RUN HOMES:** 7 inspections of 5 facilities were made prior to relicensing.

**FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS:** 99 permits were issued to restaurants and other type operations serving food and/or drink for consumption on the premises. Inspections of all establishments have been carried out in excess of the two required by State Code and will continue to be monitored constantly.

**MOBILE FOOD & TEMPORARY FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS:** 3 permits were issued and are inspected on a regular basis.

**RETAIL & LIMITED RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS:** 49 permits were issued to retail & limited retail food establishments. All are being inspected on a regular basis.

**CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS:** 2 permits were issued to operate catering establishments which are also being inspected at regular intervals.

**COLLECTION & DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE:** 18 permits were issued.

**TOBACCO PERMITS:** 43 permits were issued for the sale of tobacco products.

**SUNTANNING FACILITIES:** 7 permits were issued and facilities inspected.

**THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE:** 11 licensed were issued.

**RECOMBINANT DNA MOLECULE TECHNOLOGY FACILITY:** 2 permits issued with regular inspections performed by the Town's Biosafety Officer.

### **REVENUE PRODUCED**

Permits & Licenses	\$18,914.00
Plumbing Permits	10,696.00
Gas Permits	8,698.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$38,308.00</b>

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Eldridge, Chairman  
Thomas J. Fisher, Co-Vice Chairman  
Richard Brown, Co-Vice Chairman

Patricia A. Walker

## **RECYCLING GRANTS (MRIP) MUNICIPAL RECYCLING INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

The Board of Health continues to work diligently to pursue and procure any available grant monies for recycling.

The Randolph Board of Health to date, since the inception of the MRIP Program, has been awarded over \$52,000.00 in Recycling Grants, which must be, and are, used only for the purpose of continuing and promoting recycling and recycling programs in the Town of Randolph. In the course of implementing these programs, the Board of Health turned \$8,836.50 back into the recycling account during the Year 2001.

It is strongly felt that recycling is an extremely important issue and is worth any effort to be able to provide recycling to the Town's residents.

The Board of Health Coordinator for these grants is Patricia A. Walker, Code Enforcement Officer who is required, in addition to the endless forms, surveys, reports and documentation that must be completed all throughout each year, to attend a certain number of meetings/seminars (including the Annual Recycling Conference) as a condition of receiving these grant monies. Ms. Walker's aide in this huge endeavor is Priscilla MacDougall, the Board of Health secretary, whose assistance is greatly appreciated.

The Board of Health will continue to support this endeavor and wishes to thank the residents of Randolph for their continued recycling efforts and look forward to expanding this program in the future.

The Year 2001 was the second year for the highly successful operation of the compost area for disposal of leaves and yard waste. The site, the former landfill on Johnson Drive, off Canton Street, was negotiated for by members of the Board of Health due to the large demand of the Townspeople who had many more leaves than the 2 week curbside collections would accommodate. The landfill, of course, remains closed but a small area in the front which opened every other Saturday, 8:00A.M. to 12 Noon for a limited time during the course of the year. It closes at the end of November for the winter and will reopen in the Spring at a date to be announced.

In order to use the compost area, residents must obtain a sticker. Advertising will be done regarding same prior to reopening the compost area in the Spring.

The disposal site for televisions and computer monitors also continued with great success. As the State no longer allows the pickup of these CRT's, otherwise known as Cathode Ray Tubes, and to eliminate same from the waste stream, these items must be properly disposed following State Guidelines.

As such, the Board arranged for a CRT container to be placed at the site of the former landfill and the Town residents can bring these items to the site at a cost of \$10.00 per unit. The site, as with the compost area, (same location) will be opened in the Spring every other Saturday 8:00 A.M. - 12 Noon at a date to be announced.

2001 saw the implementation of a Mercury Thermometer Swap for the purpose of attempting to keep Mercury out of the waste stream. This program was through a grant applied for and received by the Randolph Board of Health. The response was overwhelming. Residents can call the Randolph Board of Health with any questions regarding this and other programs, of course.

As an additional component to the Mercury Program, the Board of Health was also awarded a Mercury Waste Disposal Shed. All requirements for construction and storage were made by the Board of Health for this phase and the shed is in place.

## **PLUMBING & GAS INSPECTION**

544 permits for gas installations were issued during 2001. As with plumbing inspections, at least one inspection is necessary for each installation.

484 permits for plumbing installations were issued during the year. Each installation requires at least one inspection by the Plumbing Inspector.

## **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Richard Brown was reelected in April for a three-year term.

The Board of Health continues to contract with South Shore Visiting Nurses Association for Public Health Nursing services for the Town of Randolph. We have been most fortunate to have their very capable and highly respected services.

The Health Nurse is Patricia Iyer, RN. The Board of Health is most pleased by her job performance and the high regard she is held in by our patients.

Thomas J. Fisher was appointed Milk Inspector upon the resignation of Paul J. Scally, who served in that capacity for many years.

The Board of Health wishes to thank Mr. Scally for a job well done and wishes him well in all his endeavors.

Mr. Fisher, upon assuming his new duties implemented via a vote of the Board of Health an increase in the Milk License fee from \$2.00 to \$10.00. This, of course, helped increase revenue for the Town of Randolph.

## **WIC PROGRAM**

The WIC Program (Women, Infants & Children) housed at the Board of Health offices at 1 Turner Lane has been highly successful, adding an additional day (Thursday) to their busy schedule. They are open Monday, Wednesday, Thursdays & Friday-call(781) 961-4206 for their hours and appointments.

This highly regarded program is promoted by the State Department of Public Health and is an invaluable tool to assist those in need of its services.

The WIC people approached the Randolph Board of Health some time ago to discuss the need for a Randolph location in that they have close to 900 Randolph residents that were forced to travel, along with their children, to WIC's Quincy office.

We see this as a benefit to many of our Town's residents and welcome them to their new Randolph WIC location.