

and Safety Standards for Recreational Camps for Children”, including background checks on staff, medical protocols, and health record reviews. Many facilities offer high risk activities such as ropes courses which require additional safety checks and reviews. 2012 saw an increase in children attending camp in Concord, with a total of 5,405 campers, compared to 4,200 campers in 2011.

Bathing Beach Program

The Health Division initiated a contract to provide services for collection and analysis of bathing beach water samples. Samples are taken weekly at the 3 semi-public beaches, from Memorial Day through Labor Day, for compliance with 105 CMR 445.00, Minimum Standards for Bathing Beaches. 50 water samples were collected from the 3 beaches over a 16 week period. Analysis of water samples resulted in a 4-day closure at one beach due to bacterial levels exceeding acceptable limits for bathing beach waters.

Ice Rink Air Quality

The Concord Health Division licenses 2 indoor ice rinks (Valley Sports and Middlesex School Atkins Hockey Rink); when applicable, the Public Health Inspector observes and reviews testing data for air quality for indoor ice rinks that use combustion engines that produce exhaust containing carbon monoxide or nitrogen oxide, for ice resurfacing. As of November 2011, neither licensed facility was using this type of machine to resurface the ice. Both facilities are utilizing electric ice re-surfacers that do not require air quality testing per 105 CMR 675.00.

Swimming Pools

There are 13 sites in Concord that hold recreational pool permits. One new pool facility was installed in 2012 at the Concord Mews/Mill Creek residential complex. There are currently 4 general purpose pools, 13 lap pools, 6 children’s pools, 3 special purpose pools and 1 diving well. The Public Health Inspector conducts water tests at each pool as well as monitors safety equipment and trained personnel for each site.

Animal Permits

The Public Health Inspector serves as the Town’s Animal Inspector. 74 properties are inspected for sanitary conditions, health of animals and elimination of odors and

pests with proper manure storage/removal. This year, Public Health Inspector spent a considerable amount of time revising the Board of Health’s regulation Minimum Standards for Keeping of Animals (originally adopted in 1976). The original regulation often caused confusion amongst applicants and property owners because of outdated language and/or references to zoning regulations that did not fall within the Health Inspector’s jurisdiction. The revised regulation that was adopted by the Board of Health focuses on issues that fall under the Health Department’s purview, such as sanitary conditions, animal health, and public health nuisances.

2009 – 2012 ANIMAL CENSUS INFORMATION

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Beehives	4	4	-	-
Cattle	217	243	178	255
Chickens	716	1,056	1,368	3,211
Donkeys	2	2	3	2
Geese/Ducks	23	29	38	37
Goats	17	10	13	21
Guinea Hens	14	9	8	7
Horses	166	164	163	182
Llamas	0	0	-	-
Pigs	12	10	2	15
Rabbits	70	78	112	200
Sheep	10	15	1	4
Turkey	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>57</u>
TOTAL	1,256	1,627	1,894	3,991

Rabies Control Program

During 2012, 24 domestic animals (dogs & cats) were quarantined by either the Concord Health Division or Animal Control Officer due to contact with potentially rabid animals. 16 domestic animals were quarantined and followed by the Dog Officer because of animal bites to humans. Rabies tests were conducted on 13 potentially rabid animals (8 bats, 1 cat, 3 woodchucks and a dog). None of the animals tested positive for the rabies virus.

At the Health Division’s Annual Rabies Clinic, Concord Animal Hospital veterinarians administered the rabies vaccine to 46 dogs and 2 cats.

EMERSON HOSPITAL HOME CARE SERVICES

Brian Hailey, MSPT Director

Emerson Hospital Home Care is a Medicare/Medicaid Certified, Joint Commission accredited, provider of

home health services in Concord, as well as 25-28 surrounding towns. Home Care is an active member of the Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts. The mission is to deliver high quality, safe, and cost effective services to our patients. These services include skilled nursing, physical, occupational and speech therapy, home health aide, and medical social work. Emerson Home Care continues to grow to meet the demands of skilled services in the home as hospital “length of stay” continues to decrease. We continue to partner with community and tertiary medical centers to reduce the incidence of re-hospitalizations. We have expanded beyond our 23-town service area to accommodate requests of referral sources and our patients.

Home Care accepts referrals for services from Emerson Hospital, other local community and tertiary hospitals, physician offices, skilled nursing facilities, rehabilitation hospitals, and referrals from patients with a physician’s order for home care. Members of the community can contact Home Care directly for skilled services for themselves or family members. Emerson Home Care partners with community members to provide services at home after a hospitalization, during a prolonged illness, or when a skilled need arises and the client is home bound. The goal of Home Care services is always to promote the highest state of wellness and independence, and to assist in planning for the continuum of care. Home Care also provides community health and communicable disease follow up in accordance with our Board of Health contract with the Town of Concord.

Although Emerson Hospital Home Care does not have a hospice program, we continue to work closely with several area hospice providers. Emerson Home Care continues to provide end of life care for those patients who decide not to enroll in a hospice program.

The Home Care department plays an integral role in the organization’s focus on enhancing the care of the growing elderly population in the communities we serve. This includes ongoing meetings with members of the community, as well as initiatives within the care environment in the hospital. Using disease management programs, the Home Care department continues its success in decreasing emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and length of stay in several diagnostic groups that include chronic lung disease and congestive

heart failure. The department has participated in a nationwide effort to reduce unnecessary acute care re-hospitalizations and our reportable rate remains below the State and national averages. Home Care participates on the hospital’s Community Geriatric Committee to address the needs of the geriatric population in the community. The Home Care department remains active on the “Care Transitions” committee whose focus is to improve care transitions and reduce unnecessary re-hospitalizations.

Emerson Home Care services residents of Concord Park, Newbury Court/Newbury Commons, and residents of the Concord Housing Authority. This has allowed these residents to successfully age in place, and remain out of an institution. Home Care coordinates closely with the Council on Aging to promote health and wellness to seniors through lectures and other programs.

Our contract with the Town of Concord includes communicable disease follow-up and an influenza vaccination program. The contract also allows Home Care to make home visits to qualifying individuals who have no source of payment to cover our services. This remains an important aspect of our work with the Board of Health. The influenza vaccination program serves both residents and employees of the Town of Concord.

Influenza Vaccination Rates	10/2012-12/2012
Senior Clinics	140
Concord Teachers	15
Concord Park ALF	46
Thoreau Club	14
Town Employees	71
TOTAL	286
Communicable Disease Follow Up	7/2011-6/2012
Home care telephone visits	32
Home visits	0
TOTAL	32

In accordance with our contract, Emerson Home Care continues to work closely with the Board of Health and with other community organizations to coordinate care for the residents of Concord. We will continue to work with the Town and organizations to identify areas of opportunity to serve the Town’s residents in an effort to promote health and wellness. Home Care is represented on the Emerson Hospital Emergency Preparedness

Committee that works with the Town of Concord to coordinate emergency preparedness efforts.

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Concord's long-time Sealer of Weights and Measures, Raymond Costa, left his part-time position with the Town in 2011. In 2012, after considering the best options to fulfill the requirements of this position, the Town decided to contract with the Massachusetts Division of Standards (DOS) for the interim to provide weights and measures inspections to ensure the Town met the minimum requirements of all pertinent state laws.

The function of Weights and Measures is to safeguard the public in matters involving the commercial determination of "quantity" and ensure that whenever merchandise or service is bought or sold, that honest weights and honest measures are delivered, and that fraud, carelessness or misrepresentation of such transactions are eliminated. To facilitate this endeavor, the accuracy of all weighing and measuring devices used for sale to the public are inspected, sealed or condemned as required. Examples of weighing and measuring devices inspected include, but are not limited to, all gasoline and diesel dispensing devices (pumps), home heating oil (fuel oil) delivery trucks, weighing devices (scales) and bar code pricing devices (scanners) used in supermarkets, delis, meat/seafood markets, pharmacies, and farm stands.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION



From left: George Lewis, Dean Banfield, Elissa Brown, Jeff Adams, Stephen Verrill, Chair

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and staff are responsible for the overall stewardship of the natural resources of the Town, and the establishment

of Town environmental policy in conjunction with the Selectmen and Town Meeting. The NRC administers the State Wetlands Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40), Rivers Protection Act (MGL Chapter 258 of the Acts of 1996) and accompanying regulations (310 CMR 10.00), and the Concord Wetlands Bylaw and Regulations. The NRC plays an important role in open space planning pursuant to its authority under the Conservation Commission Act (MGL Chapter 40 Section 8c).

Wetlands Protection Act

The majority of Commission and staff time relates to administering and enforcing wetland regulations. The NRC held 23 hearings to review permit applications, which included 43 Notices of Intent, 2 Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation, and 16 Requests for Determination of Applicability, for a total of 61 new applications. The NRC received seven requests to Amend an Order of Conditions, and two Requests to Extend an Order of Conditions. The NRC closed out many completed projects, issuing 36 Certificates of Compliance. Division staff reviewed 49 Administrative Approvals for very minor projects including limited tree and invasive species removal. The NRC issued one Emergency Certification for a septic system failure. The NRC began working with three property owners to resolve new violations for unauthorized tree removal, a failed septic system, and a platform. The outstanding violation for industrial composting activities in wetlands identified in 2008, and two remaining violations identified in 2010, were resolved this year. No new appeals were filed in 2012.

Projects of interest reviewed by the NRC this year include a mixed use redevelopment project at 50 Beharrell St. to demolish the existing commercial/industrial buildings and construct a new three-story building to accommodate light industrial, commercial, and residential uses; a proposal to replace and clean out culverts in a sensitive wetland ecosystem at Moore's Pond in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery; a proposal to demolish an existing filling station and construct a new bank at 1112 Main St.; and a proposal from Eagle Scout Danny Horvath to replace the boardwalk at Old Calf Pasture.