

## BOARD OF HEALTH

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

The year 2015 was yet another busy year for the Board of Health. In all, approximately 504 permits were issued by this office. This number represents an overall increase (11%) as compared to 2014 totals. Overall complaints made to the Board of Health increased slightly.

The following permits were issued by the Board of Health in 2015:

Body Art Establishment	2
Body Art Practitioners	6
Day Camps for Children	1
Food Establishments	134
Food Establishment Transfers	6
Food Permit – Temporary	8
Frozen Dessert	6
Milk & Cream	92
Milk & Cream Transfers	3
Mobile Home Parks	2
Hotel/Motel	3
Perc Tests/Soil Evaluations	11
Septic Abandonment Permits	52
Septic Haulers	58
Sewage Disposal Works Construction Permits	5
Sewage Disposal Works Installers	14
Stables	20
Swimming Pools	12
Swine	2
Tanning	5
Tobacco Vendors	24
Tobacco Vendors Transfers	3
Trash Haulers	13
Well Construction	3

The Board of Health continues to respond to complaints made by Town residents and others in regards to septic system failures, food service violations, farm animals, dog bites, substandard living conditions, rubbish, illegal dumping, odors, pests, communicable disease and other nuisance complaints.

There were approximately 76 Public Health related complaints made to the Board of Health Office.

The Board of Health continues to participate in the Bristol County Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition (BCPHEPC). This collaborative consists of 24 Southeastern Massachusetts communities. Raynham also participates in the Sachem Rock Regional Emergency Planning Zone (SRREPZ) with the Towns of Bridgewater, East Bridgewater, West Bridgewater, Hanson, Halifax and Whitman primarily for Emergency Planning, Sheltering Assistance and enhanced Emergency Response capabilities.

These Towns are working together so that all communities within these two collaboratives are able to handle possible public health related emergencies with far reaching implications, not just related to bioterrorism, but also to flu pandemics and natural disasters.

Through the participation with the BCPHEPC, this office has developed a Public Health Emergency response plan that includes the proposed operation of two Emergency Dispensing Sites within the Town. If needed, one or both of these dispensing sites will go into operation as part of the Strategic National Stockpile. We anticipate a comprehensive Sheltering Plan very soon with the SRREPZ.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV) were once again major concerns in Raynham and the Region. The Board continues to work to help aid in reducing the risk of contracting either disease by the residents of the community. The Board has been a major advocate for aerial adulticide spraying of mosquitoes in the region and has instituted outdoor bans on use of Town owned property during elevated "Risk" alerts.

In concert with those efforts, the Bristol County Mosquito Control Project (BCMCP) continued an intensive spray program in the community to help keep the mosquitoes that carry these diseases at bay. During this past season we did not see the implementation of an adulticide aerial spraying campaign conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in conjunction with other State agencies. The Board is disappointed that these measures were not implemented and would greatly appreciate future spraying as this measure helps slow the spread of disease.

The Board has also committed its resources once again by contracting with the USDA Wildlife Services in regards to geese mitigation on our public lands. Keeping Johnson's Pond and other areas of the Town protected from waste remains a top priority.

In order to stay abreast and up to date on many of these Public Health issues, the office staff participated in many different types of trainings throughout the year. This included Emergency Preparedness, septic/Title 5 updates, housing inspection and regulatory food updates.

Aerial adulticide mosquito spraying to help prevent EEE and other arboviruses, emergency preparedness, the food service community, housing and trash complaints, emerging pathogens and flu pandemic planning will continue to be some of the major issues facing the Board and Town in the coming year.

I wish to thank Marie Smith, Joe Pacheco, Karen Roberts and Richard Schiavo for all the support they have extended to me. I also wish to thank Gail Santos, Louis Bousquet, Randall Buckner, Bob Iafrate, Marsha Silvia, Ted Pietnik, Robert Mangiaretti, Karis North, Gene Romero, Kevin Moreira, Adam Perry and all Raynham Town employees for their valued help and assistance

I encourage any citizen having a concern in the area of Public Health to contact us. The Board of Health Office is open during the daytime office hours and from 6 to 8 PM on Tuesday evenings.

Respectfully Submitted,

David D. Flaherty Jr., RS, REHS  
Health Agent