

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 of 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 our disease management programs, the home care department continues the success in decreasing emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and lengths of stay in several diagnostic groups to include chronic lung disease and congestive heart failure. The Department has participated in a nationwide effort by CMS 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 is also represented on the newly organized 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, to name a few. This has allowed these residents to successfully age in place, and remain out of an institution. Home Care also coordinates closely with the Concord 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. Utilization remains low, but 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. Please see the table below for data from flu clinics and communicable disease follow up.

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 also represented on the Emerson Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee which works with the Town of Concord to coordinate emergency preparedness efforts.

Influenza vaccination Rates	10/201– 12/2011
Senior Clinics	170
Concord Teachers	45
Seniors at Concord Park	39
Thoreau Club	12
TOTAL	266
Communicable Disease Follow Up	
Home care telephone visits	36
Home visits	2
Total	38

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Raymond A. Costa, Sealer

The ultimate goal of the Sealer of Weights and Measures is to “Create Equity in the Marketplace.” All individuals in a community are affected by weighing and measuring operations for virtually all of the necessities of life, particularly of food and fuel.

The function of the Weights and Measures official 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.

These weighing and measuring devices include, but are not limited to, all gasoline and diesel dispensing devices (pumps) throughout the community, all weighing devices (scales) used at supermarkets, delis, meat markets, seafood shops, retail checkout counters, farm stands, specialty stores, small convenience stores, pharmacies, laundromats, public shipping stores, hardware stores as well as home heating oil (fuel oil) delivery trucks and a myriad of other weighing and measuring devices.

Consumers can also feel confident when making purchases at establishments that use bar code pricing devices (scanners) as the inspection and testing for accuracy

and proper operation of these price scanning devices is another of the Sealer's duties.

The Weights and Measures official investigates consumer complaints that may be issued regarding weighing and measuring devices in the community that do not appear to be complying with legal standards. Upon investigation, whenever a failure of a device is found or failure of an establishment to comply with the weights & measures laws is discovered, immediate action is taken to facilitate compliance and, if necessary, the Sealer may issue civil citations or engage in criminal actions based upon these failures.

The following inspections were performed by the Sealer of Weights and Measures at more than 73 business establishments throughout the community: 105 weighing scales, 188 gasoline/diesel meters, approximately 42 bar code scanners, 600+ store shelf commodities, 10 fuel oil delivery trucks and a variety of other miscellaneous weighing and measuring devices... all "So That Equity May Prevail" in Concord.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION



From left: Stephen B. Verrill, Dean S. Banfield, Jeffrey W. Adams, Elissa J. Brown, George G. Lewis, Chair

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and staff would like to express their sincere appreciation to former Commissioner Jamie Bemis for her dedication and service, and to also welcome Jeff Adams as a new Commissioner.

The NRC and staff are responsible for the overall stewardship of the natural resources of the Town, and the establishment of Town environmental policy in con-

junction 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 also 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 reviewed 45 Notices of Intent, 9 Abbreviated Notices of Resource Area Delineation, and 12 Requests for Determination of Applicability, for a total of 66 new applications. The NRC received four requests to Amend an Order of Conditions, and two Requests to Extend an Order of Conditions. The NRC closed out many completed projects, issuing 32 Certificates of Compliance. DNR staff issued 36 administrative approvals for minor projects such as limited tree removal, deck construction, slope regrading, and stair repair. The NRC also began working with nine property owners to resolve new violations, including unauthorized tree removal and a beaver dam removal. Eight of the ten of the violations observed in 2010 have been resolved; the two identified late in the year are in the process of filing after the fact Notices of Intent. Efforts to resolve the violation identified in 2008 for industrial activities in wetlands are nearing completion and expected close out early next year.

No new appeals were filed in 2011. DEP upheld the Commission's decision on an appeal filed at the end of 2010 regarding parking lot improvements. Staff issued four Emergency Certifications, related to roadway flooding caused by beavers on Cambridge Turnpike and repair of two culverts at Route 117.

Projects of interest reviewed by the NRC this year include construction of a new public walking trail at Concord Riverwalk (1631 & 1641 Main Street) providing public access to the Assabet River; remediation work at the newly acquired Rogers Land at 6A Harrington Avenue; culvert replacement at Fairyland Pond; new athletic fields for Concord Academy at 153 Fairhaven Road; and commuter rail track work, including rehabili-