

BOARD OF HEALTH

	2002*	2003*	2004*
Annual Flu Clinic	240	201	280
Pneumonia	0	0	17
Lyme Disease	12	3	9
Bacteriosis	0	0	2
Annual Rabies Clinic	50	50	47
Percolation Tests	73	33	66
Septic Systems – Installed/Repaired	62	49	68
Well Permits	30	10	13
Septage Haulers Permits Issued	4	4	4
Disposal Works Installers Licenses Issued	19	19	16
Food Service Establishment Permits Issued	22	29	29
Public Swimming Pool Permits	1	1	1
Health / Nuisance Complaints	8	5	11
No. of gallons of Hazardous Household Waste Collected		420	495

*(Numbers based on calendar year)

The Transfer Station is being used by approximately 860 households. It saw 454 tons of solid waste and 213 tons of recyclable material through this past year. Early this year, the Board of Selectmen/Health voted to join about 90 other municipalities in western Massachusetts to take all recyclables to the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Springfield. Starting April 1, 2005, the Town will now be eligible to receive revenue for all the recycled materials (mixed paper, household glass, plastic containers and cans) received at the transfer station.

For more information on how to use the transfer station, please refer to the Transfer Station Information section of this Town Report.

In line with the pursuit of protecting our environment, we are looking forward to the ability to recycle materials such as mercury-bearing bulbs, thermometers, rechargeable batteries and other materials that are otherwise considered hazardous and not accepted as trash or recycling. We will keep you posted as these new programs evolve.

On April 3, 2004, we held our annual Rabies Clinic at the Highway Department Town Garage, where 47 dogs/cats were vaccinated. Many thanks to Dr. Penny Peck for her time and to our Town Clerk, Eva Wiseman, for her help in issuing dog licenses, and to the Girl Scouts, who, once again, lent a hand in organizing this important annual event.

On September 11, we participated in the Regional Household Hazardous Waste Day that was held at Minnechaug Regional High School. During this event, 495 gallons of hazardous waste from our Town were disposed of properly. Please contact the Board of Health office for more information on what materials are accepted during the event. **The next Hazardous Household Waste Collection Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 10, 2005.** So walk around your garage and cellar and start identifying the hazardous materials for disposal. Early planning always helps.

Due to the nationwide initial flu vaccine shortage and its subsequent availability, the Board held a total of 4 flu clinics during the months of November to January. Two hundred individuals were vaccinated for influenza and 17 for pneumonia. Many thanks to the Senior Center Director, Becky Moriarty, and her staff, for managing the registration and hosting the events. A huge thank you to Judy Hatch and Bea Moriarty, nurse volunteers, whose constant willingness to help allowed us to conduct all of the necessary clinics.

Beginning this year, the Board voted to make well water testing for coliform bacteria not just a once a year event but a year-round possibility. Sterile sample bottles may be picked up from the BOH office with instructions on how to properly draw a water sample. Residents will then have to take their sample to ConTest laboratory in East Longmeadow for testing (directions to the lab will be provided). The cost of the water test for coliform bacteria is \$25.00**, which should be paid directly to the lab. ConTest will mail the results directly to the residents.

This year too, emergency response planning became an important role of this board. So far, we have compiled a list of nurses who wish to volunteer their services in the event of a community emergency. Together with the Town of Wilbraham, a mock mass inoculation drill was planned last November, but due to the initial flu vaccine shortage, the drill was cancelled. There is so much more work to be done before we can say that we are ready to deal with a big community emergency. With the reduced hours and the considerable scope of this function, we can only try our best.

We encourage you to visit our website, www.hampden.org, to access forms required for percolation testing, disposal works construction application, title v information and links, transfer station information, upcoming events, etc.

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth M. Perkins, Coordinator
James D. Smith, Chairman

**Cost of water testing subject to change based on Con-Test Lab prices.