

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Solid Waste Disposal – Residential trash and solid waste continued to be collected by licensed contractors and delivered to Wheelabrator Resource Recovery Facility in Millbury. The “Tipping Fee” charged by Wheelabrator was \$69.10 per ton. This rate is adjustable from year to year based on the changes in the consumer price index. The total tons delivered in 2009 from Princeton amounted to 1,053.28 tons, a decrease of 31.04 tons from 2008.

Sewage Disposal Systems – During the calendar year 2009, there were twelve (12) permits granted for new or repaired subsurface sewage disposal systems. There were twenty-one (21) Title Five inspections made.

Food Establishments – Jim Hillis inspects all establishments licensed to provide food to the public, including school lunch services, and investigates any complaint filed against such provider.

Rabies Clinic - The annual immunization clinic against canine rabies was conducted by Dr. Jennifer Downes of the Holden Veterinary Clinic who volunteered her services of which we greatly appreciate. A total of fifty-one (51) animals were inoculated at a fee of \$10.00 each.

Seasonal and H1N1 Flu Clinics – The annual seasonal flu clinic and the H1N1 clinics were provided for by the Board and over 450+ people took advantage of this service. Several flu clinics and home visits were performed this year to ensure that everyone would have an opportunity to get vaccinated. We would like to take this opportunity, once again, to thank Joanne Kotoski, RN for volunteering her services to the many folks who received their flu shot. Also, we would like to thank Linda Orrell RN, Judy DeNittis RN and Raquel Hillis RN for volunteering their expertise along with Joanne to the H1N1 Flu Clinics. They are truly an asset to our community and we thank them immensely. Their kind and gentle manner was greatly appreciated by all who were vaccinated.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gregory Dowdy, Chairman
James Hillis
Robert Mason

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

The Council on Aging devoted time, energy and spirit during 2009 identifying the needs of elders in the community, establishing new programs designed to meet daily living needs, prevent isolation and generally improve the quality of life for the Princeton senior population. At this time about 11% of the Princeton population is age 60 and over.

The Executive Office of Elder Affairs has awarded the Princeton COA \$3500 Formula Grant monies to be used for monthly mailing and preparation of the senior newsletter. In 2010 we will continue to publish important information and referrals about programs and services that enable our elders to live with dignity and independence.

The Council on Aging provides contact with regional and state organizations which support seniors, makes available funding for fees for conferences, training sessions and membership dues for MA Council on Aging and Central MA Council on Aging organizations.

SCM Elder bus 1- 800 321 0243- provides transportation to seniors and the disabled for medical on Monday and Wednesday as well as food shopping

The response from the older individuals in the community involved with programs, songs and cookies at Holiday time has been well received. The children have done a remarkable outreach job for the homebound and frail elders. The Congregational Church is offering an event for seniors 'Food for Thought, serving a wonderful lunch on the third Wednesday of the month. Also in place, well attended gentle stretch, osteoporosis prevention exercise and monthly coffee socials, a weekly bridge group has been formed meeting weekly on Tuesday afternoons. Oriol Health Care sponsors Girls and Guys Fitness class on Tuesdays.

Other services offered:

Blood pressure screening is offered at the senior club luncheon.

General information and referral, including fuel assistance and winterization programs, donations of equipment for use to physically challenged individuals. We see this need increasing as our population is living longer. Coordinating an AARP volunteer Tax-Aide programs as well as S.H.I.N.E. help for seniors and Medicare beneficiaries understand their health insurance options. Senior Work-off abatement, as well as other tax programs to assist senior homeowners is available. Operation Sandbucket is in place, a monthly food pantry, as well as a gift of turkeys and pies from the Sheriffs office at holiday time

A survey was sent to all seniors to determine the need for meals on wheels; volunteers will deliver meals on wheels to homebound individuals

Volunteers who give their time and talent make the COUNCIL ON AGING an important community resource.

Sadly, in September, we lost our long devoted board member, Miriam Smith.

An up-date to our walking path was established from generous donations in memory of Wilmot Flanders, holder of the Gold Cane, who passed away in May.

Gaile T. Rollins, Director
Mary Gundersen, Chairman
Priscilla Genest, Treasurer

Nancy Wheeler, Secretary
P. Jane Fife
Beverly Kohlstrom



Town of Princeton
Report of Veterans' Service Department
January 2009 – December 2009

The Veterans' Department is under the direction of Chapter 115 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Local Veterans' Agents direct the Veterans' benefits program, which is a joint program with the Commonwealth and the Town of Holden to deliver financial benefits for qualified veterans' and/or their dependents. The office also assists and advises veterans and/or their dependents with questions and applications concerning their federal and other state benefits.

For some veterans, their families or widows of veterans we hope to assist them with their monthly expenses only temporarily. Forms of more permanent income could include returning to employment, qualifying for VA (Veterans' Affairs) or Social Security benefits. Any veterans benefits expended through the town are reimbursed by the state at a rate of 75%.

I am available during the day at 508-799-1041 for any questions and if necessary to set up an appointment.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Greenwood
Veterans' Agent