

BOROUGH OF CHATHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

2007

BOARD OF HEALTH

FEBRUARY 14, 2008

APRIL- None

MAY- None

JUNE - None

JULY- None

AUGUST-

A citizen complained of finding a fly in take-out food from a Main Street restaurant. He was angry because he was refunded only for the container of food that contained the fly. Mr. Faitoute checked the restaurant and no fly invasion was apparent. He advised the complainant that this type of occurrence can happen, even in a home kitchen.

SEPTEMBER –

A resident complained of feeling ill after purchasing and eating a turkey sandwich from a local deli. Mr. Faitoute inspected and found no health violations and no other complaints were received.

OCTOBER-

A resident complained he noticed a fly inside a wrapped package of chop meat he was looking at in a local market. Mr. Faitoute inspected and found no health violations and no fly invasion.

NOVEMBER-

A request was made to check the salad bar at a local market. Inspection revealed that the salad bar conforms to code.

A handicapped driver backed through the plate glass window at an ice cream store on Main Street. Mr. Faitoute inspected and found that none of the food items were affected, as the electricity maintaining the freezer was not shut down

DECEMBER- None

POOLS

The three pools in town were checked by Mr. Faitoute and remained satisfactory for the swimming season. Each pool had a pre-opening inspection done. Garden State Labs continued to check the pool water and, outside of minor deviations, the pool results were satisfactory. During the swim season, Mr. Faitoute made a total of 9 inspections.

FLU CLINIC

The annual Flu Clinic was conducted on October 27th, 2007. 244 people were immunized. This Borough clinic is conducted at St. Patrick Community Center where the larger room was put into service. The clinic once again had the assistance of the Borough's CERT team. The people were moved through the lines more quickly because of this additional help.

The Medicare information was obtained by Board of Health and CERT personnel. The Madison BOH nurses conducted the clinic.

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A Borough Hall clinic was held the following week for personnel who deal with the public and 14 individuals were inoculated.

In total, 258 people were inoculated by the Madison Board of Health personnel. Of this number, 186 were listed as Medicare-covered.

A check for \$6,111.06 was given to the Borough Financial Officer in October, by Mr. Faitoute. This check was received from Medicare to cover immunizations given at the 2006 clinic. The Medicare reimbursement is always received close to a year after the clinic takes place.

MISCELLANEOUS COMPLAINTS

The Board of Health personnel handled and referred out 122 documented complaints. These were in addition to the undocumented telephone calls received daily from residents with inquiries on Board of Health-related activities.

Mr. Faitoute was subpoenaed to Court in January to testify for building management, involving an eviction at a Main Street apartment renter, due to the unsanitary condition of the apartment.

RAT COMPLAINTS

A sudden burst of Norway rat activity was reported to the BOH from June 22nd thru August 16th, a total of 8 weeks.

The very same rats that quietly, usually after dark, fed on available food sources all winter and early spring were forced to reconnoiter, out in the open, for sources of food. This observable activity was obvious to residents, as was their search for new locations to construct their burrows.

While the BOH receives yearly complaints about rats, especially during the spring months, this was an unusually large infestation caused by:

1. Forced migration of existing rats away from the Washington Avenue School construction site.
2. Residents feeding birds and to a lesser extent, chipmunks, squirrels, etc.

While this was an unpleasant occurrence, sanitarians are aware that rats are primarily nocturnal, shy and easily frightened. They do not transmit rabies and the incidence of rat bites in suburban settings is almost zero.

Nevertheless, this required an intensive response from Mr. Faitoute and interviews with owners of affected properties. Letters warning of the sightings, suggesting precautions and offering assessments were hand-delivered to 100 plus people. Over 400 letters were sent via the mail to residents in an expanding area around the original infestation site. There were

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96 telephone calls received in those **8** summer weeks. Each call required a site visit or a return call.

Chatham Borough Council Response to Rat Activity

The Borough Council authorized the baiting of Days Brook from Main Street to the Public Works gate. The Council also authorized the baiting of the wooded perimeter of the new athletic field behind E.C.L.C. school, to address any existing infestation. Both jobs were performed by a licensed exterminator.

Madison Health Department Response

Madison is the lead agency for Chatham health services. Health Officer John Theese and two R.E.H.S. (sanitarians) responded on July 5th and participated in the further investigation of Washington Avenue School property and nearby infested properties on Washington Avenue, Orchard Road & Watchung Avenue. The St. Patrick church property was also reevaluated on July 24th.

After this infestation was handled, a few additional calls came into the BOH offices and Mr. Faitoute met with the homeowners to discuss extermination procedures.

Mosquitoes/Crows/Bats

During 2007, the Board of Health handled the usual complaints about cats, rats and dogs. There was no report of West Nile virus found in a Borough citizen. Several bats were taken to the N.J. State Labs for testing. None came back positive for rabies.

MADISON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Health Officer Theese paid three visits to the Board of Health regular monthly meetings in April, May and June.

In April, Mr. Theese spoke to the Board about:

- (1) The annual Health Evaluation Report that he submits to the N.J. Dept. of Health.
- (2) Annual local health evaluation report implementation questionnaire.

In May, Mr. Theese was in attendance at the meeting to hear Noah's Bagel response to the Show Cause Order that had been served on them by the Board of Health.

In June, Mr. Theese again visited the Board with William Nauta, OEM coordinator to discuss the Medical Reserve Corps they are forming under the CERTS initiative.

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Health Educator Christine Shesler attended the April meeting to discuss and give information on the Mayor's Wellness Campaign. Madison has formed a committee whose general aim is to educate the public on staying healthy. Board member Lisa DeRosa had been doing a great deal of work on the formation of such a committee in Chatham and Ms. Shesler was there to answer questions. The NJ State Department of Health started this initiative with letters to Mayors of all communities.

RESIGNATIONS FROM THE BOARD AND NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Ann Frommer resigned from the Board as of December, 2007. A new member will be appointed by the newly elected Mayor in January, 2008.

CONCLUSION

We remain under the umbrella of the Madison Board of Health for many of our health services. They continue to remain responsive to our inquiries and cooperative in the running of our annual flu clinic.

William Faitoute, R.E.H.S. continues to work very hard for the Borough and is consistently prompt in his response to complaints and questions referred to him by the public.

Members particularly thanked him for the herculean effort he made during the many extra hours he spent in the Borough during the "rodent" crises.

Board of Health members thanked Micki Chaput for her excellent guidance in taking the BOH through this year. It was a more difficult year because of the large rat infestation and the public's alarm. Mrs. Chaput has served as president for the last three years and has done an exemplary job.

Dr. Neil T. Collins is our council liaison and Board member who is appreciated for his dedication to the Board and his ability to answer any questions Board members have from Council. At the start of the year, Dr. Collins was instrumental in having Mr. Faitoute check local restaurants on their use of trans fats. Mr. Faitoute was able to determine that all the Borough restaurants were trans fat-free.

In conclusion, we are looking forward to 2008 and the challenges it may bring.

*Submitted by: Betty Rhodes, Laux, Recording Secretary
Chatham Borough Board of Health*

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