



## CITY OF CORSICANA, TEXAS

August 2, 2012

Dear Citizens,

Several news reports have warned of human cases of West Nile virus in the Dallas area. This virus is carried by birds and typically transmitted to humans by mosquitos. I thought it would be of interest to update you on the City of Corsicana initiatives for mosquito control. The City will be targeting areas of concern. Generally, City parks and creeks will be sprayed and tablets are being placed in creeks for larva control. Residential areas will be sprayed as needed. There have been fewer concerns this year regarding mosquitoes due to one major factor. The last measureable rainfall was in early July. Lack of rainfall, while unfortunate in many ways does reduce the mosquito population.

**Citizens** can take the following steps to minimize mosquito infestations:

Eliminate standing water by destroying or disposing of tin cans, old tires, buckets, unused plastic swimming pools or other containers that collect and hold water. Do not allow water to accumulate in the saucers of flowerpots or in pet dishes for more than 2 days.

Clean debris from rain gutters and remove any standing water under or around structures, including flat roofs. Check around faucets and air conditioner units and repair leaks to eliminate puddles that remain for several days.

Change the water in birdbaths and wading pools at least once a week.

Check for trapped water in plastic or canvas covers used to protect boats, pools, etc.

### **What can Citizens do to reduce mosquito bites?**

If possible, schedule your activities to avoid the times when mosquitoes are most active - usually dawn and dusk. Dress in light, loose-fitting clothing. Use General Electric yellow "Bug Lights" for outside illumination. These lights are not repellent, but they do not attract mosquitoes like other incandescent lights. Mosquitoes are relatively weak fliers, so placing a large fan in outside areas can provide a low-tech solution. Citronella candles have a mild repellent effect, but do not offer significantly more protection than other candles producing smoke. Even when following all the precautions above to eliminate mosquito habitat, some mosquitoes will still be around to spoil the fun. Limit exposure to the mosquitoes by using effective repellents and sprays.

In addition, citizens may see dead or dying birds. While a dead bird will not transmit the virus it is a good idea to not handle the bird without protection. Place the carcass in a plastic bag and dispose of it in the regular garbage.

Sincerely,

Chuck McClanahan  
Mayor