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Sept. 2016



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City Manager's Spotlight



TERESA WILSON
COLUMBIA CITY MANAGER

West Nile Virus Detected in Columbia- area Mosquitoes



The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), Richland County and the City of Columbia announced on Sept. 9 that a sample of mosquitoes trapped in the Shandon area has tested positive for West Nile virus.

"It is not uncommon for us to identify mosquitoes carrying the virus in our state," said Chris Evans, Ph.D. and DHEC's staff entomologist. "This identification is a reminder of the importance of preventing mosquito bites. It's the most important step you can take to prevent the spread of illness from mosquitoes to humans."

"Most people infected with West Nile virus have no symptoms," said Linda Bell, M.D. and state epidemiologist. "The risk of serious illness is low, as less than one percent of people infected develop a potentially fatal inflammation of the brain, known as encephalitis."

Bell said about one in five people infected becomes ill within two to 14 days with symptoms that may include fever, headache, joint pain, muscle pain, and occasionally nausea and vomiting, or symptoms of the more severe form of illness with headache, high fever, neck stiffness, disorientation, coma, seizures, or paralysis.

"If you have concerns about the virus or develop symptoms, you should contact your health care provider," Bell said.

As previously reported by DHEC, South Carolina has identified multiple cases of West Nile infection in people so far this year, including two in Richland County.

DHEC was notified Sept. 6 of the virus-positive mosquitoes taken from the Shandon/Five Points area of the city, which has many homes and an active business district and nightlife.

"The mosquito that carries this virus is usually active at night, but can also be active at dusk and dawn and in shady areas during the day," Evans said. "As the state's public health agency, we partner with cities and counties across the state to help trap and identify mosquitoes carrying diseases that can be spread to humans."



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West Nile continued...

"The virus actually starts with a bird," he said. "It spreads when a mosquito bites a bird that has the virus in their blood. The mosquito then can spread the virus to other birds, animals or people, when it bites during feeding."

"We have sprayed areas around Shandon, Rosewood, Five Points and the Vista in our efforts to control these mosquitoes," said Tammy Brewer, director of Richland County Vector Control. "Our trucks conduct spraying during nighttime hours when these mosquito species are most active. The insecticide that we use is very effective, and was selected because it should have a quick knockdown."

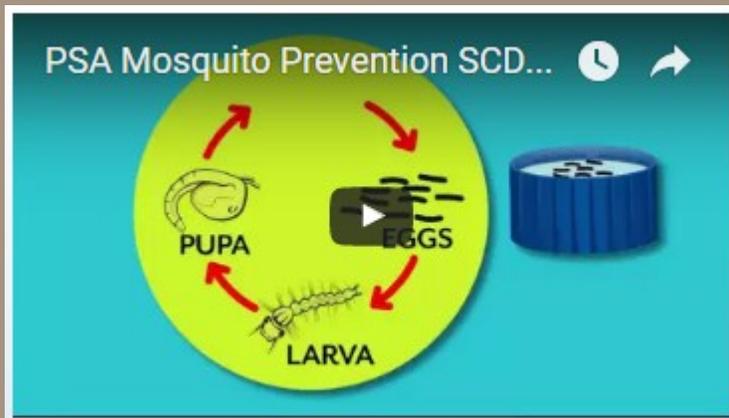
Most Effective Ways to Prevent Mosquito-borne Illnesses:

-  ⇒ When used as directed, insect repellent is the BEST way to protect yourself from mosquito bites—even children and pregnant women should protect themselves. Apply insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR 3535 according to label instructions. Repellents help keep mosquitoes from biting.
-  ⇒ Cover up: Wear clothing that reduces the risk of skin exposure. When weather permits, wear long-sleeved shirts and pants.
-  ⇒ Exposure to mosquitoes is most common at night and during the early morning. Some species bite during the day, especially in wooded or other shaded areas. Avoid exposure during these times and in these areas.
-  ⇒ Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property, including flowerpots, gutters, buckets, pool covers, birdbaths, old car tires, rain gutters and pet bowls.
-  ⇒ Make sure that your doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep out mosquitoes.

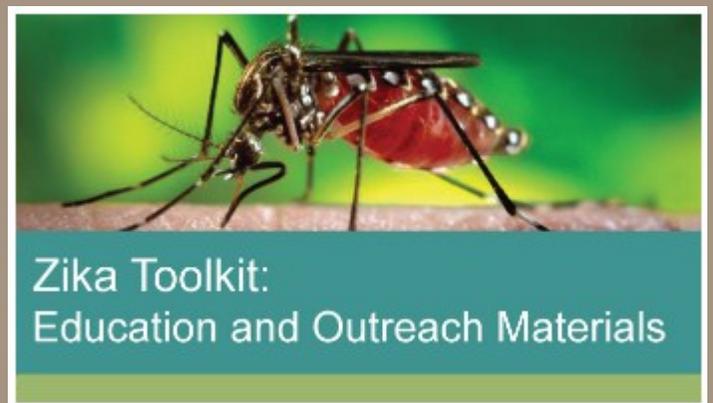
Officials emphasize the public plays a vital role in controlling the spread of all mosquito-borne diseases. "Mosquito control workers can't do it alone," Brewer said. "We need citizens to help."

Dead birds can help DHEC and local partners track West Nile virus. Residents can report the finding of dead birds to DHEC. Learn how [here](#). DHEC is currently accepting submission of birds through Nov. 30, 2016.

Learn more about West Nile virus at www.scdhec.gov/westnile. For more information about preventing mosquito bites and the spread of West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses, visit www.scdhec.gov/mosquitoes.



[Mosquito Prevention SCDHEC](#)



[Zika Toolkit: Outreach and Education Materials](#)

City of Columbia & Richland County Receive Outstanding Planning Project – Multi-jurisdictional Award from SCAPA

The City of Columbia and Richland County were recently recognized by the SC Chapter of the American Planning Association (SCAPA) with the Outstanding Planning Project – Multi-jurisdictional award. *Plan Together: Put the Pieces in Place* was a multi-jurisdictional planning process conducted by the City and Richland County that led to the development of two unique plans, adopted by each jurisdiction in 2015. *Plan Together* is an unprecedented collaboration that ensures citizens of the City of Columbia and Richland County are able to shape long-term plans for their shared future by working together.



“We are thrilled that this notable collaboration between the City of Columbia and Richland County has received this award. We had a terrific team working on the project to include the consultants, staff, and most importantly, the citizens. Everyone contributed a great deal of time and energy into creating a first-rate plan and it is gratifying when those efforts are recognized.”

~Krista Hampton, Planning & Development Services Director



The City of Columbia and Richland County strategically coordinated their individual planning efforts (Plan Columbia Land Use Plan and Richland County Comprehensive Plan) in the *Plan Together: Put the Pieces in Place* process. This effort specifically focused on outreach and resulted in plans that reflect expressed public values, with more than 750 workshop attendees plus additional online participation in the process. The process was designed to help both communities align their land use planning and development decision making process to be both more modern but also lead to updates to development regulations in both the City and County.

For more information about Plan Together, contact the Planning and Development Services Department at 803-545-3222 or visit <http://weplantogether.org>.

PARK(ing) Day 2016



PARK(ing) Day is an annual open-source global event where citizens, artists and activists collaborate to temporarily transform metered parking spaces into “PARK(ing)” spaces: temporary public places. The project began in 2005 when Rebar, a San Francisco art and design studio, converted a single metered parking space into a temporary public park in downtown San Francisco. Since 2005, PARK(ing) Day has evolved into a global movement, with organizations and individuals (operating independently of Rebar but following an established set of guidelines) creating new forms of temporary public space in urban contexts around the world.



The City of Columbia partnered with the South Carolina chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and One Columbia for Arts and History to facilitate this event. This year, there were nine participants throughout the city. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, September 16, citizens were invited to stroll through City Center and beyond to see the interventions that illustrate how we could creatively use metered parking spaces.



The mission of PARK(ing) Day is to call attention to the need for more urban open space, to generate critical debate around how public space is created and allocated, and to improve the quality of urban human habitat ... at least until the meter runs out.

Main Entrance at Owens Field Park Closed for Construction

On Thursday, Sept. 26, the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department announced a revised schedule for the closure of the main entrance at Owens Field Park located at 1351 Jim Hamilton Blvd.

Due to construction at the park, the main entrance will be closed to traffic from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday only. Visitors must use the South Ott Road gate to enter the park during that time. The gate will reopen during the week from 5 to 9 p.m. and will remain open on Saturdays and Sundays.

The project includes construction of a Miracle League Baseball field and boundless playground, renovations of ball fields, walkways, vehicular round-about and stormwater improvements.

For more information, call the Parks & Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.



[Download map of Owens Field Park](#)

City Partners with VPS for In-Office Payments

New Convenience Fee Schedule

2.5% Credit Card Fee	1.5% Debit Card Fee
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\$1.95 Minimum Fee

To continue to provide customers the ability to make in-office payments with a debit or credit card, the City has partnered with Value Payment Systems (VPS), a third party service provider. As of Sept. 15, in-office debit or credit card payments will now include a convenience fee. The convenience fee collected is in no way associated with the City and is solely collected by VPS.

Customers that do not wish to use this service have the option to pay by traditional methods, such as cash or check.

Residents Urged to be on Alert for Impersonator

On September 20, the City's Customer Care Center received a call from a resident in the North-east Columbia area regarding a suspicious man, who identified himself as a City of Columbia employee. The suspect advised the resident that he could restore their water service if a cash payment was made. The caller advised that the suspect is a white male and at the time of the incident he was driving a white pick-up truck.



As a reminder, City of Columbia utility field workers never collect money in the field. All utility field workers can be identified by uniforms which consist of a white polo shirt and blue pants. The polo shirt will reflect a city logo and the employee's last name. In addition, city workers have proper photo I.D. and drive vehicles with the City logo.

If you believe you are a victim of a scam, please contact Crime Prevention at (803)545-3555.

About Teresa Wilson

Teresa Wilson is the City Manager for the City of Columbia, SC. For more details on the City Manager, visit ColumbiaSC.net/City-Manager. For more information about the City of Columbia, visit ColumbiaSC.net.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with your concerns, suggestions and hopes for our City. I take pleasure in my service to each of you!

All my best,

Teresa Wilson

