Get the BUZZ on Protecting Yourself From

## Mosquitoes

The City of Lanett has a mosquito control program that begins spraying in May of each year and runs through the end of October. The City is broken into three sections and each is sprayed once per week.

## Did You Know?

Only female mosquitoes bite for blood to provide protein for egg formation.

## Why are mosquitoes a problem?

Outdoor fun such as gardening, sports and a quiet evening outside can be ruined by buzzing, biting mosquitoes. Besides that annoying itch, mosquitoes can carry diseases such as West Nile virus, St. Louis encephalitis—even Chikungunya.

**WEST NILE VIRUS** has the potential to infect horses and humans. Mosquitoes obtain the virus from feeding on infected birds. People infected with the West Nile virus can experience mild to severe flu-like symptoms. While usually mild, in serious cases the symptoms can cause death. There is no vaccine to prevent West Nile virus.

**ST. LOUIS ENCEPHALITIS** can affect the central nervous system and cause severe complications, even death. Mosquitoes can transmit the virus to animals and humans after feeding on infected birds.

**CHIKUNGUNYA** is a virus that can be transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. Transmission to humans may occur when infected female mosquitoes attempt to feed on a human host.

## YOU CAN JOIN THE FIGHT TO CONTROL MOSQUITOES

- Regularly check and empty water in items such as flower pots and saucers, wheelbarrows, trash cans, recycling containers, buckets, discarded tires and plastic wading pools.
- Be sure that rain doesn't collect in tarps covering boats or other stored items.
- Replace water in bird baths at least once a week.
- Change the water in pet dishes daily.
- Clean out gutters so they won't hold water.
- Flush out ornamental ponds and rain barrels with larvicide, available at local home and garden stores.
- Stock ponds with fish that eat mosquito larvae

Contact The City of Lanett at (334) 644-2141 if you suspect there is a major mosquito problem in your neighborhood.

