



May 15, 2018

Dear Borough Resident,

Now that spring has sprung, we can enjoy everything the outdoors has to offer – from gardening, long walks through town, and outdoor barbecues. Unfortunately, the warmer weather also brings unwelcome pests, including mosquitoes, which can spread diseases like West Nile virus.

In 2015, Mayor Carolyn Comitta created the West Nile Task Force (WNTF), formed of Borough leaders, staff, an active citizen group known as *Don't Spray Me*, and the Chester County Health Department (CCHD). The WNTF's goal is to help all of us take simple, non-toxic steps to control mosquitos so the CCHD doesn't find cause to spray our neighborhoods with insecticides.

Scientific research shows that chemical insecticides are relatively ineffective because they do not impact mosquito eggs, larvae or pupae. In addition, the insecticides are toxic to mosquitoes' natural predators such as dragonflies and frogs, as well as bees, butterflies, cats and chemically sensitive people.

Thanks to efforts to eliminate standing water (a mosquito breeding ground), we have seen great success, with no sprays conducted in the Borough over the past few years. The Public Works Department continually works to eliminate standing water issues in storm inlets and, with more than 100 block captains, the *Don't Spray Me* citizens monitor mosquitoes and help us all manage mosquitoes safely.

Please join us in taking some simple steps to eliminate standing water on your property by cleaning roof gutters regularly, keeping trash cans contained with tight-fitting lids, changing out bird baths, applying larvicide to stagnant water, and more! For information, visit the Borough's website:

<http://www.west-chester.com/491/Mosquito-Awareness>.

Thank you for keeping West Chester Borough a safe, healthy, and green community for everyone!

Kindest Regards,

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