

# Marion County Implements Mosquito Control Services



Marion County held an emergency meeting on October 04, 2018 at 10:00 am in the County Council Chamber to announce the awarding of a grant by the Marion County Healthcare Foundation to Marion County for \$137,764.00. This emergency grant would provide the funding to the County to purchase equipment and establish a county mosquito control program. The funding will allow the purchase of three units along with other equipment and chemicals. Mr. Harper, County Administrator stated, “If not for the Foundation, we probably would be unable to start spraying. The program has to meet certain requirements prior to implementation including having certified staff, recordkeeping and public announcements completed prior to the programs implementation”.

Among mounting calls from the citizens to the County about the nuisance of the mosquitoes was the proactive position the County had to take to reduce the risk of disease. The Marion County Healthcare Foundation shared the concern about the mosquitoes and the increase in the risk of health hazards. The MCHF Director, Pete Mazzaroni stated, “The Marion County Healthcare Foundation is pleased to be able to provide this grant to assist Marion County in addressing this very serious need. The mosquito outbreak due to remnants of Hurricane Florence presents a health hazard. This grant directly aligns with our mission of providing innovative grants that help improve the quality of life for the citizens of Marion County.” Senator Kent Williams pronounced the partnership between Marion County and the MCHF as a “blessing”. He added, “To have an organization like the Marion County Healthcare Foundation is a blessing for the citizens of Marion County. They have filled in the gap on many matters of concern within the County. The issue of Mosquito Control fits the mission of MCHF”

Marion County will begin spraying for mosquitoes on Friday, October 12, 2018 throughout Marion County. They will begin spraying in the populated areas of the southern and northern part of the county. In addition, as the program develops, zones will be established and the spraying will be done based on those spraying.

Having the ability to furnish the citizens of Marion County with a Mosquito Control Program, Chair of County, D.N. Collins, describes Marion County as “blessed”. Further, he thanked the Marion County Healthcare Foundation, for making this very important service possible.

## **MOSQUITO SPRAYING ANNOUNCEMENT FOR** **MARION COUNTY**

Marion County will begin spraying for mosquitoes on Friday, October 12, 2018 throughout Marion County. Spraying will be done between the hours of 5:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. The chemicals used for mosquito control spraying are approved by the EPA and pose minimal risk to humans or animals.

Individuals with asthma or other respiratory illness may wish to stay indoors and close windows and doors during spraying. In addition, homegrown fruits and vegetables should be washed, scrubbed, and/or peeled before eating.

Residents are reminded of the most effective ways to prevent mosquito-borne illnesses, including West Nile Virus:

- Repellents help keep mosquitoes from biting. Apply insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR 3535 according to label instructions.
- Make sure that your doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep out mosquitoes.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property, including flowerpots, gutters, buckets, pool covers, birdbaths, old car tires, rain gutters and pet bowls.
- Wearing light-colored clothing to cover the skin reduces the risk of bites.

*To help keep our honeybee population safe, beekeepers are urged to contact Marion County Emergency Management office at 843- 431-5009 to identify the location of their colonies.*