



**PRESS RELEASE — June 26, 2013**

**Communications: 972-624-3156**

## **Rain creates mosquito concerns**

THE COLONY, Texas — Recent rains may be great for your lawn and garden, but they are not good news for mosquito control. City officials wish to remind residents that although all mosquito testing to date for West Nile virus in The Colony has been negative, standing water is often the culprit for an increase in the mosquito population. Identifying and eliminating stagnant pools of water on private property, such as unused swimming pools, hot tubs, bird baths, ponds, low areas, etc., is critical when it comes to preventing breeding grounds and hatching of adult mosquitoes.

It takes an effort by the entire community to effectively combat West Nile virus. The best prevention for everyone is through education and personal protection, especially for the elderly and those with health issues, by following the 4 Ds listed below:

1. Dress to protect: wear long sleeves and long pants.
2. Dusk and Dawn: avoid being outside at these times if possible.
3. DEET: wear insect repellent with DEET or an effective alternative.
4. Drain standing water: eliminate any water that stands for longer than five days or treat water with larvacide according to the label.

The City is asking all residents to be aware of and remove potential mosquito breeding grounds on their own property, and wear protective clothing and insect repellent when outside for activities. Although most mosquitoes are not disease carriers it is necessary to prevent all breeding grounds to effectively combat West Nile virus.

For more information regarding mosquitoes and the City's mosquito treatment plan, contact Community Services Director Pam Nelson at 972-624-3958, via email at [pnelson@thecolonytx.gov](mailto:pnelson@thecolonytx.gov) or Chemical Applicator Shane Bartel at 469-853-1222, via email at [sbartel@thecolonytx.gov](mailto:sbartel@thecolonytx.gov), or visit [www.thecolonytx.gov/Depts/PARD/mosquitocontrol.html](http://www.thecolonytx.gov/Depts/PARD/mosquitocontrol.html). If you notice standing water on private property, please contact The Colony Community Image Department at 972-624-3160.

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