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Established in 1945, DuPage County Health Department promotes physical and emotional health; prevents illness injury and disability; protects health from environmental risk factors, and strives to assure the provision of accessible, quality service.

Milton Township Improves Mosquito Abatement Services
Task Force guidelines implemented providing more complete coverage

DUPAGE COUNTY—This summer, residents of Milton Township will be better protected against West Nile Virus thanks to the collaborative efforts of the township, Wheaton and Glen Ellyn mosquito abatement districts.

During the May meeting of the DuPage County Mosquito Abatement Task Force, the President of the Wheaton Mosquito Abatement District announced a partnership between the three entities. Alan Bolds told the group that his district joined with the Glen Ellyn and Milton Township districts and will work under a coordinated effort, yielding savings of nearly \$20,000 per year. But more importantly, said Bolds, the newly-coordinated programs and increased communication will provide Milton Township residents higher quality services during the upcoming warm-weather months.

DuPage County Board Chairman Dan Cronin appointed the DuPage County Mosquito Abatement Task Force in 2013 and charged members with improving public health, increasing coordination among abatement providers and leveraging efficiencies.

The Task Force, led by DuPage County Board of Health President Linda Kurzawa, identified four strategies that would result in lower costs to residents, and at the same time, achieve a higher level of protection for residents.

“We outlined these strategies as a way to achieve corner-to-corner, consistent mosquito management efforts that prioritized public-health protection,” Kurzawa said.

1. Increase public awareness of the Personal Protection Index (PPI) and educate residents about actions they can take to improve their own personal safety;
2. Assure that the DuPage County Forest Preserve District reviewed the organization’s policies and practices to ensure they are consistent with current public health guidance;
3. Leverage the experience of Bloomingdale Township’s mosquito abatement efforts so that experience could be replicated in another township;

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-Page 2-

4. Encourage municipalities to consider utilization of a standardized contract, discuss objective pricing and program data to determine if there are economies of scale to be gained that may result in cost savings to residents.

The first three proposed strategies were implemented over the past four years. Significant progress on the final strategy was made this year and outlined at the most recent meeting. Chairman Cronin praised the groups' efforts.

“The Milton Township collaboration will serve as a model for other public entities to emulate as they seek to enhance public health protections while leveraging operational efficiencies,” he said.

The mosquito surveillance season officially begins in Illinois in mid-May.

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