



Parish of Ascension

OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT

TOMMY MARTINEZ
Parish President

Parish President Proclaims June 21-27, 2015 as Pilez Mosquito Week in Ascension Parish

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GONZALES – Ascension Parish President Tommy Martinez has proclaimed the week of June 21 through June 27, 2015 as “Pilez Mosquito Week in Ascension Parish.”

The American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) also designated this week as National Mosquito Control Awareness Week prompting a statewide observance. The word “pilez” (pronounced “pea-lay”) is Cajun French for crush, kill or destroy – an appropriate term for one of Louisiana’s most prevalent pests.

“We want to remind our residents to be aware of their surroundings,” said President Martinez. “Not only do we provide mosquito control services to the residents of Ascension Parish, but with common sense practices, we are asking our residents to join us in fighting this annual problem.”

Ascension Parish Mosquito Control Department Supervisor David Matassa said Louisiana is home to dozens of species of mosquitoes which inhabit a wide range of habitats. However, they all require standing water to complete their developmental cycle, he said.

“The best way residents can help combat increased mosquito populations is by reducing standing water on their property, whether it’s a home or business,” Matassa said.

Open, water-filled containers provide mosquitoes with their best breeding grounds in developed areas. According to the AMCA, water left standing for five to seven days has the potential to produce literally hundreds of mosquitoes per day – mosquitoes that will stay close to that original water source.

Matassa said containers like old tires, buckets and cans that are not being used should be emptied of standing water. Other potential breeding grounds for mosquitoes include old appliances, unplugged boats, toys, plastic sheeting, roof gutters, pool coverings and garbage cans. Even an upturned bottle top or a discarded candy wrapper can be a haven for mosquito larvae, according to the AMCA.

Matassa said pet dishes, bird baths, reservoirs for flower pots or planters all should be flushed out with freshwater every four days to prevent mosquitoes from completing their developmental cycle.

For more information, contact the Ascension Parish Mosquito Control Department at (225) 621-9613, or visit www.ascensionparish.net.

CUTLINE – Ascension Parish Mosquito Control Specialist Robert Bergeron is shown responding to a parish resident’s call out request and applies adulticide product to bushes near a home Thursday.