



Parish of Ascension

OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT

TOMMY MARTINEZ
Parish President

Parish President Proclaims June 23-29 as “Pilez Mosquito Week in Ascension Parish”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 18, 2013

GONZALES – Ascension Parish President Tommy Martinez has proclaimed the week of June 23-29, 2013 as “Pilez Mosquito Week in Ascension Parish.”

Ascension Parish joins all Louisiana parishes in observance of National Mosquito Control Awareness Week. This observance was designated by the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA). The word “pilez” (pee-lay) is Cajun French for crush, kill or destroy.

“We are asking our residents to join us in fighting this annual problem,” said President Martinez. “Our state is home to dozens of species of mosquitoes which inhabit a wide range of habitats.”

Ascension Parish Mosquito Control Department Supervisor David Matassa said all species of mosquitoes require standing water to complete their developmental cycle.

“By reducing standing water on your property, whether it’s a home or business, it is the best way for parish residents to help combat the mosquito problem,” Matassa said.

Open, water-filled containers provide mosquitoes with their best breeding grounds in developed areas. 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, according to AMCA literature.

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Matassa said old tires, buckets and cans that are not being used should be emptied of standing water. He said 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, Matassa said.

Receptacles where standing water is desired – pet dishes, bird baths, reservoirs for flower pots or planters – 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.

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