

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
Report for the Village Council Meeting
6/6/2017

SUBJECT:	SUBMITTED BY:
New Business – Adopt Codes to address mosquitoes in abandoned swimming pools to prevent the spread of West Nile Virus	David Fieldman Village Manager

SYNOPSIS

At the request of Commissioner Waldack, consideration of whether to adopt codes that would address mosquitoes in abandoned, neglected or untreated swimming pools to prevent the spread of West Nile Virus has been placed on the New Business Agenda. Pursuant to Village Council policy, this topic shall be a discussion item only to allow for the Council to direct staff to prepare an action for consideration at a later date.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The goals for 2015-2017 include *Exceptional Municipal Services*.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Action at the discretion of the Village Council.

BACKGROUND

Commissioner Waldack requested that the Village Council consider the adoption of codes to address mosquitoes in abandoned, neglected or untreated swimming pools to prevent the spread of West Nile Virus. The proposal is as follows:

Staff propose codes and other tools that may be necessary to stop the spread of mosquitoes in abandoned, neglected, or untreated swimming pools (and possibly other unmaintained ponds or water features) that can become breeding sources for the spread of West Nile Virus.

Currently, no codes or enforcement is available to address even the most egregious problem pools. The intent is not to police every pool, but to allow enforcement in problem areas or neighborhood complaints. This can be a matter of life or death.

REASON: West Nile Virus and other diseases are carried by mosquitoes. As reported by Mayor Tully, WNV and other diseases are a growing threat in DuPage County. WNV can be deadly and has killed in our area.

If you Google articles on WNV prevention and the warnings all agree that standing water is a breeding source, recommending to remove items such as cans and tires. Recycle bins need to have holes to drain water. They all agree that swimming pools left untreated and even covered can be a major breeding ground. Left to its own, a swimming pool can breed tens of millions of mosquitoes in just a few summer months.

At the present time, there are no enforcement tools that can require a resident to maintain pools (possibly fountains and standing ponds) in a manner that will prevent the breeding of mosquitoes. Staff should review actions of other states, such as California, where abandoned swimming pools have been addressed.

The Municipal Code currently addresses stagnant water and mosquitoes in Chapter 13, Sections 13.9 through 13.14. It is unlawful for any person to keep any body or collection of water to stand on their property in which mosquitoes breed or are likely to breed. The code is applicable to many areas which could collect stagnant water, including but not limited to depressions, fountains and swimming pools.

The code also offers approved methods for property owners to treat the stagnant water to prevent mosquito breeding. The Village can issue violations regarding stagnant water and if the violation is not addressed within three days, the Village can treat the stagnant water and bill the offending property owner for the Village's costs.

The Village has addressed stagnant water concerns a handful of times over the past few years and has successfully brought the properties into compliance without having to treat the water ourselves.