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# WASHINGTON SPARK!

A monthly newsletter  
from the city  
government of  
Washington, Georgia.

Empowering our  
citizens through  
public information.

May 2016



## Zika Virus has many citizens concerned

Over the past few months there have been many reports across the United States of outbreaks of the Zika Virus, which has many locals concerned about their safety. Mosquitoes have always been a nuisance but with reports of the Virus spreading there are even more reasons to look for ways to control the mosquito population.

### Mosquito Facts:

During the winter months mosquitoes are in the egg stage and will not hatch until it becomes warm and rainfall comes. They go from egg to adult within 10 days in the right conditions. Female mosquitoes lay several hundred eggs at a time, and they can do so in a body of water as small as a bottle cap!

### So what do you need to know to protect yourself?

To start with mosquitoes bite primarily during the day and at dusk. So that is when you need to take extra precautions to protect yourself. One of the most effective ways to control the mosquito population is to eliminate standing water. The DPH (Department of Public Health) recommends the “Tip ‘n Toss” method after every rainfall and at least once a week. Citizens should dump out standing water in flowerpots and planters, children’s toys and trash containers. Do not allow water to accumulate in old tires, rain gutters or piles of leaves. They also recommend tightly covering water storage containers such as buckets, cisterns and rain barrels. For all containers without lids or are too big to “Tip ‘n Toss”, use larvicides which are not harmful to birds or animals.

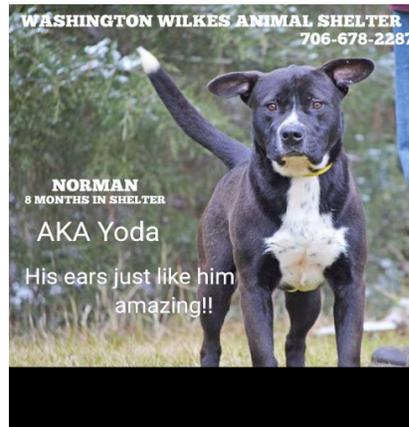


*Pictured above, Willie Veazy getting prepared to head out for his weekly mosquito spraying. Mr. Veazy is trained in the proper application of the pesticide and does his best to ensure that it is handled and disbursed in the safest way possible.*

### About Zika

There are ongoing Zika outbreaks in nearly 40 countries and territories in the Americas, Caribbean, Pacific Islands and Mexico. Zika virus has been linked to serious birth defects in infants. So far there are **NO** reports of locally transmitted Zika cases in Georgia or anywhere in the U.S., but cases have been reported in returning travelers. Zika virus can be spread through the bite of an infected mosquito, but only if that mosquito has bitten an infected person carrying the virus. See the back of this flyer for even more ways you can protect yourself from mosquitoes.

### PLEASE ADOPT A NEEDY PET



Norman is around 3 years old and is great with other dogs. He plays fetch and knows how to sit! Please consider giving him a forever home, or becoming a foster.



### Calendar:

**June 13<sup>th</sup>:** City Council Work session 5:30 p.m. followed by Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at Pope Conference Center  
**July 3<sup>rd</sup>** –Fireworks Celebration

**\*\*Please write comments or concerns on the back of your utility bill stub and send back with your payment\*\***