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2018: The year of the media
DeKalb County, Georgia
Sometimes it all starts with a call from the media.
Sometimes it all starts with a call from the media

- Georgia Department of Transportation
- DeKalb County Parks
- Environmental Protection Division
- CBS 46 News: “Massive tire dump angers DeKalb Co. community”
Sometimes it all starts with a call from the media

October 12, 2018
And the media kept calling

And the media kept calling
And the media continued to call
And the media continued to call
Even an article “front-page above the fold”

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2018

Metro

WHY DELTA, VENDOR ARE SPLIT OVER DATA BREACH

WHY THESE TEACHERS ARE PLANNING HUNGER STRIKE

WHAT HAPPENED SUNDAY AT CHARLOTTESVILLE PROTESTS

ONLY IN THE AJC: WEST NILE VIRUS

Metro Atlanta could be facing a spike in virus cases, which could be fatal.

By Kathleen Emory kenomy@ajc.com

On a sweltering summer afternoon, Kathy Rogers, a nurse with the DeKalb County Department of Health, examines a mosquito trap set up near a Rosewell neighborhood. Rogers and other health officials are stepping up efforts to control the spread of West Nile virus in the area.

The virus, which can be deadly, has been found in mosquitoes in several counties in Georgia, including DeKalb, Cobb and Fulton. Health officials are urging residents to take precautions, such as using insect repellent and wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants.

Metro

PLANE THEFT HIGHLIGHTS SECURITY FEARS

Background checks, security processes come under scrutiny.

By Sally Ventersventers@ajc.com

As the FBI works to determine the identity of the two suspected hijackers of a cargo plane that landed in Cancun, Mexico, security experts are urging airlines to review their procedures.

The FBI is investigating an investigation and determined that the hijackers had used stolen identification to board the plane. Security experts say the incident highlights the need for stronger security measures at airports.

Metro

Mosquitoes carrying West Nile on the rise

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Metro

Planes for huge Roswell tennis center called off

Plans for a huge tennis center in Roswell are on hold.

By Jeff Blake blake@ajc.com

The developers of the proposed tennis center in Roswell have revised their plans, calling off the project.

The developers had hoped to build a 10-court facility, but now say they will focus on developing a smaller, more scalable facility.

Metro

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### Data for AJC

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<th>Through</th>
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<td>(~July 23)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tested mosquito collections</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>226</td>
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<td>West Nile virus (WNV)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent of collections WNV+</td>
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</table>
Gwinnett County confirms first human case of West Nile Virus
Nextdoor.com

Location-based Social Media

Canterbury Hills
Members: 136
Claimed households: 95 (49%)
Posts and replies: 24

Smoke Rise
Members: 1616
Claimed households: 1177 (52%)
Posts and replies: 491

East Atlanta Village
Members: 4191
Claimed households: 2547 (45%)
Posts and replies: 1605
West Nile Virus Activity Update - August 1, 2018

The West Nile virus (WNV) season had an aggressive start this year. Our program has been very busy. There is a lot of virus in the mosquito population at this time. While we have not had any human cases of WNV; August, September and October are the months when most cases are reported. Please take precautions, including using

See more...
Human Arboviral Disease Surveillance:

- **West Nile Virus (WNV):**
  - No cases* of WNV in DeKalb County residents
  - 3 cases* of WNV in Georgia
  - 1 WNV presumptive viremic blood donor in a Georgia resident (blood donation tested positive for WNV but donor did not develop symptoms)
  - 106 WNV cases* in CDC National Report including 21 in Louisiana and 13 each in California, Mississippi and South Dakota

- **Zika Virus:**
  - No cases* of Zika virus in DeKalb County
  - No cases* of Zika virus in Georgia
  - 34 cases* in US states reported in CDC Report (34 in travelers returning from affected areas, no sexually transmitted and no local mosquito-borne transmission)

Mosquito Surveillance:

- 59 WNV positive mosquito collections
- 21 WNV positive mosquito trap locations
- No Zika positive mosquito collections
- 35 mosquito trap locations sampled in DeKalb County
- 326 collections of mosquitoes submitted for arbovirus testing
- 138 mosquito trap nights
- 8,537 mosquitoes counted and identified

Mosquito Control Efforts:

- 480 calls requesting mosquito control assistance received and visited
- 4,632 homes visited in door-to-door educational efforts
- Over 5,900 storm drains and other mosquito breeding sites larvicided
- Detailed assessments where surveillance has indicated increased risk for virus activity

Additional Arbovirus Activity in Georgia:

- 1 case of internationally-acquired dengue
- 1 case of internationally-acquired chikungunya
- 1 case of eastern equine encephalitis

*Includes confirmed and probable cases.
Two cases of West Nile virus infection

All residents are at risk of getting infected with WNV

Epidemiological data analyzed to identify risk areas

Those at highest risk of severe symptoms
  - Over 50 years of age
  - With weakened immune systems
Larviciding with Garmin
And then came THE CALL from Danny at Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS)
First record of EEEV in mosquitoes in Georgia north the fall line

Commonly associated with coastal plains

Rare illness in humans with only a few cases reported in the United States each year

EEE is one of the most severe mosquito-transmitted diseases in the United States

Approximately 33% mortality and significant brain damage in most survivors

One of 66 select agents and toxins that must be reported to the CDC’s Division of Select Agents and Toxins
2018 in Summary
• **82** West Nile virus (WNV) positive mosquito collections
• **29** WNV positive mosquito trap locations
• **43** mosquito trap locations
• **459** collections of mosquitoes submitted for arbovirus testing
• **214** mosquito trap nights
• **10,652** mosquitoes counted and identified
Mosquito Surveillance

West Nile Virus (WNV) Positive Activity
DeKalb County, Georgia
September 30, 2018

WNV Positive Mosquito Trap Locations - 29
(WNV Positive Mosquito Collections - 82)
Mosquito Control Efforts

- 677 calls requesting mosquito control efforts received and visited
- Over 12,000 storm drains and other mosquito breeding sites larvicided
Educational Efforts

- **9,520** homes visited in door-to-door educational efforts
- Posts to Nextdoor.com generating community support and interactions
- Media interviews including a front page story in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
## WNV Program Summary Numbers

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Thank You!

DEKALB COUNTY
Board of Health

Juanette Willis
Juanette.Willis@dph.ga.gov
Division of Environmental Health
404-508-7900
www.DeKalbHealth.net