

# HACIENDA HEIGHTS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

## PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH

### “VARIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS”

Presented by Lucy V. Pedregon

August 18, 2014

1. West Nile Virus: This virus is carried in wild black birds then transmitted by infected female mosquitos to humans. The virus is prevalent in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. It was first detected in the United States in 1999 in New York City and has rapidly widespread throughout the country by the year 2002. The West Nile Virus was discovered in Hacienda Heights area in 2004 ten years ago! The virus is most prevalent in May through October when mosquitos are most abundant at dusk. This includes the aggressive Asian Tiger Mosquito that has distinct white stripes and bites throughout the entire day. Most people who are infected with West Nile Virus have no symptoms. Those who become ill may have fever, headache and body aches, nausea, a skin rash on the trunk of the body or swollen lymph nodes that may last a few days. A severe case may result in encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) along with high fever, headache, neck stiffness, tremors, paralysis, disorientation, coma and possibly death. It will take years to create a vaccination. In the meantime, to prevent mosquitos from breeding; drain stagnant water in containers, chlorinate swimming pools, and, since we are in a drought, avoid over-watering lawns/fields. Report any sightings of dead birds to the Greater LA County Vector Control District in Santa Fe Springs at (562) 944-9656. (Refer to post card from Vector Control District.)
2. Asian Citrus Psyllid: This is a small, aphid like insect which infest itself on the back of citrus tree leaves ( lemon and orange trees). The psyllid insect lay the eggs to new sprouting leaves. This tiny gnat-like insect feeds on the leaves causing the tip of the leaf to burn and twist leaf growth spreading the destructive bacterial disease “Huanglongbing” commonly known as “Citrus Greening Disease”. The Asian Citrus Psyllid spreads from tree to tree through grapping, not through the distribution of fruit. Symptoms of the disease include yellow shoots, leaf mottle, small upright leaves, and lopsided fruits with a bitter flavor. Diseased trees are non-productive and must be removed and destroyed to prevent further spread of California threat to the citrus industry. Today the Gale corridor is still being monitored by the Agricultural Department due to the find of the psyllid over a year ago. Trees

removed by the department will be replaced according to the agricultural representative. Anyone suspected of having such a diseased tree may call the California Department of Food and Agriculture Hotline at 1 (800) 491-1899.

3. The Lions Club: The Lions Club is a recognized non-profit organization that focuses on vision for those in need. The Hacienda Heights Lions Club has dissolved and joined a collaborative Lions Club that meets on a monthly basis at Casa Blanca. If anyone has prescription lenses that are no longer in use, do not discard them. One may donate the old pair of lenses to the public library at any time. The library will forward the items to the Lions Club who in turn find a recipient to clarify their vision needs.