

ANDREW J. SPANO, Westchester County Executive
JOSHUA LIPSMAN, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner of Health
SUSAN TOLCHIN, Director of Communications

CONTACT: SUSAN TOLCHIN
MARY LANDRIGAN

(914) 995-2932
(914) 813-5013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Spring S.T.I.N.G. Weekend and Household Chemical Cleanup Day - June 8-10

Clean up your property and help in the fight against the West Nile virus by participating in a double-header this weekend: Household Chemical Cleanup Day on June 8th and 9th and Spring S.T.I.N.G. Weekend on June 9th and 10th, both sponsored by Westchester County.

Residents are urged to bring their old tires, household chemicals and unworking computers and televisions to Westchester Community College Friday June 8th, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday, June 9th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Throughout the weekend, local groups will also sponsor cleanup activities.

“This is an opportunity to spruce up your home and to help your community,” said County Executive Andy Spano. “Old tires, when left outside, are popular breeding grounds for mosquitoes, which can carry the West Nile virus. And many common household chemicals, when not disposed of properly, end up polluting our water.”

Spano and Health Commissioner Joshua Lipsman will be at Westchester Community College at 10 a.m. Saturday, as a way to encourage people to bring their tires and chemicals to the site for proper disposal.

A variety of household chemicals will be accepted including pesticides, antifreeze, paint thinners, gasoline and swimming pool chemicals, as well as a maximum of 10 car tires. No paints will be accepted and pre-registration is required for 60 pounds or more of solid materials and 25 gallons or more of liquids.

This is the first year that residents can dispose of non-working or obsolete computers, monitors and televisions at chemical cleanup days. Proper disposal of this equipment ensures that cathode ray tubes (CRTs) -- the primary lead-containing component in computer monitors and televisions -- do not contaminate the environment.

Residents can also clean up their property and help in the fight against West Nile virus by participating in various community cleanup activities. Here are some suggestions from the County's Health Department:

- Team up with neighbors to get rid of all sources of standing water.
- Organize a neighborhood cleanup squad and work as a group to remove breeding areas from around the neighborhood.
- Partner with a community organization to tackle bigger public areas throughout the County that are in need of cleanup. This can be done by contacting Spring S.T.I.N.G. Weekend's cosponsor, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, at (914) 997-0946.

The Health Department also offers the following suggestions for eliminating mosquito breeding grounds from around your home and property:

- Get rid of all water holding containers, especially old tires, cans, buckets, drums, wheelbarrows and bottles.
- Cover all outdoor trash containers to keep rainwater from accumulating inside.
- Drill holes in the bottoms of all recycling containers that are left outdoors.
- Clean roof gutters and remove standing water from flat roofs.
- Drain the water in birdbaths, plant pots and drip trays twice weekly.
- Sweep your driveway after it rains so that it is free of puddles.

For additional information on West Nile Virus, call the Health Department's West Nile Virus Information Line at (914) 813-5609, or visit its website at www.westchestergov.com/health.

For questions, directions, an informational flyer on Clean-Up Day events or instructions on how to dispose of paints and other items that are not acceptable, call the County's Household Chemical Info Line at (914)813-5425. A staff member can also direct callers to local firms that recycle computer monitors and electronic equipment if these dates aren't convenient.

Working computers can be donated for re-use through the county's Used But Usable/Treasure Hunt program. Log onto <http://www.westchestergov.com> and go to "Recycle – Find a Treasure."