Help Fight West Nile Virus by Reporting Dead Birds

West Nile virus season has arrived in San Mateo County. While the risk of human West Nile virus infection in San Mateo County remains low, reports of dead birds are an early indication that the virus is circulating in the environment. Residents are encouraged to report fresh carcasses of birds or tree squirrels to the California West Nile Virus Hotline at www.westnile.ca.gov or by phone at 877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473).

West Nile virus is primarily a disease of birds. However, humans, horses, and other animals can become infected with WNV if bitten by an infected mosquito. West Nile virus cannot be spread person to person. To prevent mosquito breeding on your property, avoid mosquito bites, and reduce the risk of West Nile virus infection, follow the "Three D's":

- DRAIN – Mosquitoes lay their eggs on standing water. Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property, including flower pots, old car tires, rain gutters and pet bowls.
- DAWN and DUSK – Mosquitoes bite in the early morning and evening so it is important to wear proper clothing and repellent if outside during these times. Make sure that your doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep mosquitoes out.
- DEET– Apply insect repellent containing DEET, picaradin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535 according to label instructions. Repellents keep the mosquitoes from biting you.

For assistance with a mosquito problem in San Mateo County, contact the District at (650) 344-8592. For more information on West Nile Virus and other District services, visit us on the web at: www.smcmvcd.org