Springtime Clean-up Helps Franklin Township to “Fight the Bite”
Mosquitoes and ticks can be found nearly everywhere, and are unfortunate nuisances of summer.

How can you enjoy your backyard without being annoyed by these flying pests?
Look around your home, yard and garden.

There are some simple landscaping techniques that you can use in these areas to help reduce these biting insects:
Standing water is an attractive place for mosquitoes to lay their eggs.

Mosquitoes can hatch in a week or less, in as little as a half inch of water.
Flower pots, toys, small containers and pails can provide a home for hundreds of mosquito larvae.
Empty still or stagnant water at least weekly to help keep mosquitoes from breeding.

This is a big step toward protecting yourself, your family and your neighborhood.
Tires are the most common mosquito breeding ground in the country.

If tires are used for decoration or swing sets, drill holes in the bottom for drainage.
If tires are no longer useful, discard during Somerset County Tire Recycling Days.
Unmaintained pools – including children’s wading pools – are also common sources for mosquito breeding.

*Water in small wading pools should be changed or refreshed often.*
For pools, clean and chlorinate even when not in use.
Is anything accumulating in your yard?

Garbage, cans, stumps, & various debris can hold water or become homes or hiding sites for all types of unwanted insects and creatures.

Remove old furniture, mattresses, and trash from the yard as these may give mosquitoes or ticks a place to hide.
Maintain your lawn.

Mow and weed as often as necessary to keep grass and nuisance plants from becoming too high.

Removing leaf accumulations and trimming bushes and plants not only makes neighborhoods more attractive, it also reduces homes and hiding places for unwanted creatures.
Around the house, install and maintain doors and windows, and assure that screens are in good repair.
Are your rain gutters in good repair and clear of leaves or other debris?

Look also at trash cans and recycling bins – remove water inside and underneath; cover the cans when not in use.
Ticks can hide in brush and overgrown bushes, so it pays to keep them neatly trimmed.
Maintain children’s swing sets, toys and recreational equipment.

Empty them regularly of collected water to prevent them from becoming insect breeding places.
Stack wood neatly, off the ground, and keep in a dry area.

Keep fences repaired to discourage unwelcome animals (such as deer, raccoons and stray cats/dogs) from entering your yard.
Franklin Township has ordinances requiring owners to maintain their properties.

Taking care of your yard and property is a good thing to do for the community; it also will provide a safer place for you and your family to live.
Keep an eye out for local convenience center hours, tire drop off events and/or contact your garbage hauler to properly dispose of unwanted yard debris and materials.
For more information, visit these websites:

Somerset County Department of Health
www.co.somerset.nj.us/health

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/ticks &
www.cdc.gov/westnile
“Fight the Bite”

Don’t provide homes for mosquitoes and ticks!

Somerset County Department of Health, 2015