

Dear Residents:

Recently, there has been discussion and concerns about mosquito control. I would like to take this opportunity to address some of those concerns. For this mosquito season, the Town, after meeting with a series of vendors and in trying to begin the process of addressing the concerns raised by our residents, switched to **Merus 2.0 (information attached)**, a product with an Organic Materials Review Institute Listing. This NEW product, which can be used around crops, even those organic, is our first step in changing our approach to responsible and responsive mosquito control. We can all agree that not controlling the mosquito population can bring (immediate) health concerns to our community.

A resident presented Power X as an alternative vendor as they are one of over 1,000 vendors approved to provide mosquito control in the State. After speaking with Power X and learning that they are a barrier treatment company, we could not move forward with them. Power X is excellent for a localized area (your home), but given the coverage area needed by the Town, a Mosquito Control Program that is multi-faceted is critical to our response. We utilize both a barrier treatment and a wide-area effort to adequately meet our needs.

As for identifying when treatment is needed, although trap counts is one method, surveillance is preferred. Why? Well, traps emit a gas that lures mosquitos to them and can lend itself to a false need to treat. Surveillances, the method the Town utilizes, depends on individuals reporting mosquitos. Once a larger area of concern arises, we then call for treatment. We typically do not use blanket weekly spraying (only during the ZIKA outbreak, at the suggestion of the mosquito control center, did we perform blanket treatments). The two sprays announced previously are a preseason treatment and come after three weeks of heavy rains and an increase in calls from residents expressing being bitten by mosquitos (throughout Town).

In our newsletter, we advertise that we have weekly sprayings. We advertise weekly, because when we call for treatment, it is performed at the same time and same day of the week. Although spraying does not take place every week, we want residents to know that if it will take place it will only happen on the day and time of the week stipulated. Because spraying is done on an as needed basis, it is difficult to state exact dates when it will occur, this is why we provide a more generic time frame.

Please know that in practice it is not performed weekly; however, we advertise that it will take place weekly in an abundance of caution. I know this may seem confusing, but the alternative of issuing out a different message every week depending on the weather and if a spray were needed, would be even more convoluted and confusing.

Although it was previously announced that there would be weekly spraying conducted, our contract with Clarke is as needed. The initial treatments are scheduled for June 13 and June 20 between the hours of 5:00 and 6:00 am. Moving forward, when there is a need determined based on the surveillance of our residents, spraying will take place **ONLY** on Wednesday morning between 5:00 and 6:00 am. Clarke will also treat our catch basins and our barrier (parks) areas.

We are here to serve our Residents in a Professional, Responsible and Respectful manner.

I hope this response has cleared up any issues and concerns. I am happy to meet with any resident as needed.

Thank you again,

Alexander Diaz
Town Manager
Town of Golden Beach