

Beaufort County News Release

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH SECTION | COMMUNICATIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 19, 2015



County Launches Mosquito Control Mobile Application

Beaufort County has officially launched its first mobile app—*Mosquito Control Mobile Reporting App: Fight the Bite!* The app allows users to report mosquito activity and dead birds, utilizing geographical information system technology. Users can also request free service from the County’s Mosquito Control Department to help assess and address problems.

“Beaufort County Mosquito Control tests about 12,000 mosquitos each year for possible West Nile virus, but now we have the opportunity to also monitor dead birds more efficiently with the new app,” said Gregg Hunt, Director of Mosquito Control. “Although human cases with West Nile virus infections are rare in the region, the County wants to be proactive in preventing an outbreak.”

The County started working on the mosquito control app earlier this year in collaboration with University of South Carolina Beaufort assistant professor Kasia Pawelek and recent graduates Patrick Niehaus and Cristian Salmeron. Robert Gecy, Applications Programmer for the County’s Information Technology Division, led development of the app, which the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control may help to adapt for use by other counties in the state.

“We all know that the world is becoming more digital and that people are using mobile devices more than desktop computers,” said Dan Morgan, Beaufort County Mapping and Applications Division Director. “As a result, the County’s Information Technology Division has been working on several new digital initiatives and plans to reveal additional mobile apps in the upcoming months.”

The mosquito control app can be downloaded for free by visiting www.bcgov.net/mobileapps or going to the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store, by searching “Beaufort County Mosquito Control”.