

PROCLAMATION

TICK AWARENESS MONTH JUNE, 2018

WHEREAS, Master Gardeners of Ocean County, Inc. was formed in 1990 and is a non-profit organization working in cooperation with the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Rutgers NJ Agricultural Experiment Station to promote the mission of the Rutgers Master Gardener volunteer program by utilizing research-based information to educate the public throughout Ocean County on best practices in consumer horticulture and environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the Master Gardeners of Ocean County, Inc., under the direction of the Rutgers Master Gardener Program, provides services for tick identification and have tracked the tick population in Ocean County since 2010; and

WHEREAS, over the past five years, Master Gardeners of Ocean County, Inc. has tracked an increase in the tick population; and

WHEREAS, while Lyme Disease cases are reported on in the Ocean County and New Jersey area, the U.S. Department for Human Services, Center for Disease Control and Prevention has updated its pamphlet "Tickborne Diseases of the United States 'A Reference Manual for Healthcare Providers'" to include additional less known diseases that impact the health of our citizens.

WHEREAS, these additional diseases include Anaplasmosis which is most frequently reported in areas that correspond with the known geographic distribution of Lyme disease; Babesiosis which is most frequently reported from the northeastern and upper midwestern United States; Ehrlichiosis most frequently reported from the southeastern and south-central United States, from the eastern seaboard extending westward to Texas; Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever cases have been reported throughout most of the contiguous U.S.; Powassan virus infections have been reported primarily from Northeastern States and the Great Lakes region; and

WHEREAS, the Master Gardeners of Ocean County, Inc. are committed to provide tick identification and preventative information, as well as promote the awareness of diseases set forth by the Center for Diseases and Prevention to citizens of Ocean County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE PROCLAIMED, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Plumsted, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey that June is Tick Awareness Month and further express sincere appreciation for the commitment and dedication demonstrated by these volunteer citizens of Ocean County.

Jack A. Trotta, Mayor

Eric Sorchik, Deputy Mayor

Larry Jones, Committeeman

Vince Lotito, Committeeman

Herb Marinari, Committeeman