



News Release

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Charleston County Council to Honor Retiring Mosquito Control Manager

Donna Odom to be recognized by council for her 26 years of service to Charleston County

[Charleston County Mosquito Control](#) Manager Donna Odom is retiring after a 26-year run in the Mosquito Control Department. Odom will be recognized by Charleston County Council at the Jan. 20, 2015 meeting.

Link to County Council agenda can be found [here](#).

Charleston County's Mosquito Control operation is the largest in the state in terms of staff and budget. Odom started with the county in 1989 as the assistant Mosquito Control manager. During her tenure, Odom improved efficiency within the department through better practices and new technology.

"Donna Odom is not only a great supervisor but a great person as well," said Public Works Director Jim Neal. "Under her leadership, our Mosquito Control Department has grown into one of the finest operations in the state. Donna's contributions to the citizens of Charleston County will be missed."

In 2012, Charleston County saw a record number of mosquitos in addition to a nationwide outbreak of West Nile cases. In response, Odom and her staff handled more than 3,700 hundred service request; nearly double the previous year's total. In that same year, Mosquito Control increased the local ground spraying efforts, which covered nearly 1.3 million acres by the end of 2012.

"We are proud of Donna's long tenure of service to Charleston County citizens. We will miss her and we wish her the best in retirement," said Charleston County Administrator Kurt Taylor.

Did you know?

- 50+ species of mosquitoes live in Charleston County
- 30 of these species bite people and pets
- The two salt marsh species occur in the greatest numbers
- Breeding potential
 - Dredged material disposal sites can produce up to 80 million mosquitoes per acre per rainfall
 - Natural sites can produce up to 8 million mosquitoes per acre per rainfall or tide event

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