

Resolution Lyme Disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

Whereas, ticks carrying the bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi* that causes Lyme Borreliosis, commonly known as Lyme disease, are present across the state of North Carolina (six reported cases per year per 1,000,000 people on average or a 0.0006% infection rate); and

Whereas, the North Carolina Division of Public Health now encourages physicians to consider the clinical diagnosis of Lyme disease in residents who may be infected with the bacteria, contracted within NC; and

Whereas, Lyme disease is difficult to diagnose because it imitates other condition and no reliable laboratory test can prove who is infected or bacteria-free, which often leads to misdiagnosis; and

Whereas, early indicators of infection include flu-like symptom, characterized by chills, headache, fatigue, muscle and joint aches and swollen lymph nodes; and

Whereas, weeks or months later, patients with untreated or under-treated Lyme disease can suffer from serious, permanent and sometimes life-threatening damage to the brain, joints, heart, eyes, liver, spleen, blood vessels and kidneys. For these reasons it is imperative that all who develop this disease receive immediate treatment; and

Whereas, ticks carrying the bacteria *Rickettsia rickettsii* that causes Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever are also present across the state of North Carolina (fifteen reported cases per year per 1,000,000 people on average or a 0.0015% infection rate); and

Whereas, the North Carolina Division of Public Health now encourages physicians to consider the clinical diagnosis of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever in residents who may be infected with the bacteria, contracted within NC; and

Whereas, early indicators of infection include flu-like symptom, characterized by chills, headache, fatigue, muscle and joint aches and sometimes diarrhea; and

Whereas, long-term health problems following acute Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever infection can include partial paralysis, gangrene, hearing loss and movement disorders. For these reasons it is imperative that all who develop this disease receive immediate treatment; and

Whereas, the threat of Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever should not keep the public from enjoying the benefits of exploring natural environments, the best methods to reduce disease transmission is to educate people about the seriousness of the illnesses and the need to practice personal preventative techniques when engaging in outdoor activities, such as frequent tick checks, use of tick repellent and proper tick removal.

Now therefore, be it resolved by the Village Council of the Village of Bald Head Island declares the month of July Lyme Disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever Awareness Month.

This the 16th day of July, 2010.

SIGNED:

Andy Sayre, Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra C. Talbert, Village Clerk