

April 29, 2003

**9th Congressional District Residents Invited to Attend
May 5th North Suburban Forum on West Nile Virus**

EVANSTON, IL - Residents of the 9th Congressional District are invited to attend the North Suburban Forum on West Nile Virus on Monday, May 5, 2003, from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. The forum will be held at Skokie Village Hall, Village Council Chambers (5127 Oakton Street).

The Forum is sponsored by U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), State Senator Jeff Schoenberg, State Representative Julie Hamos, and Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin.

Officials will examine ways to better coordinate region-wide communication and containment approaches, develop enhanced mosquito abatement procedures and strategies, and promote more efficient use of limited local, state, and federal resources.

Representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Department of Public Health, Cook County Department of Public Health, and North Shore Mosquito Abatement District will provide an overview of the virus and planned control efforts for the summer.

Last year, Illinois experienced 877 cases of the Virus and 62 fatalities, as well as a noticeable loss of songbirds. Experts believe that West Nile Virus will be even more virulent this year.