

Pesky sewer flies targeted at community college

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MIDDLETOWN — It's the attack of the sewer flies.

A visit by the quarter-inch sized flies, also known as drain flies, in a building on Brookdale Community College's main Lincroft campus has created a nuisance, but there has been no disruption of classes, school officials said Friday.

Robert Southward, general manager for capital projects and facilities, said the flies haven't appeared in the past week. He noted that demolition and replacement of walls has been scheduled in one small second-floor area of the Main Academic South building. Bids are due next week for the esti-

mated \$200,000 construction project, Southward said.

"The plan is to remove the walls in one small area of the MAS building second-floor suite No. 138. This is a group of offices for some members of the Health Sciences faculty," school spokesman Steve Nacco said. "There are no classrooms in this area, which is not customarily frequented by students. Facilities workers will begin reconstruction work in two weeks and complete the job in eight weeks. During this period, the employees will move to temporary offices."

Southward said signs of the flies were noticed after remodeling work was done four years ago.

Adult sewer flies do not bite or sting and do not require blood for egg development, according to the Web site of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. They do not transmit diseases, but can transfer bacteria and cause allergic reactions in sensitive people.

"We're establishing a perimeter around the problem suite and will essentially gut the space and survey the demolished area to make sure there are no water intrusions before we rebuild the same configuration," Southward said. "We'll do this work at night during third-shift hours, so the activity will almost be invisible to people in the daytime."