

# Spring is high risk season for Lyme disease

The high risk season for Lyme disease begins in spring and continues until September, according to the Arthritis Foundation.

"People and pets who live or work near or enter wooded or marshy areas are most at risk to contract Lyme disease because these areas are home to the tiny tick that can carry a special kind of bacteria," said Dawn Hafeli, program director. "When the tick bites, it can pass along the infection that causes Lyme disease."

With a few precautions, however, the chances for being bitten by the tick can be reduced greatly. The Arthritis Foundation offers

the following suggestions:

- Check yourself, children and pets for ticks often;
- Wear light-colored clothing to help see ticks;
- Wear long sleeves when in wooded areas and tuck pants inside boots;
- Wear other protective clothing; and
- Clear away brushy or grassy areas near the home.

"If there is a chance that you have been bitten by a tick, it's important to know the early warning signs of Lyme disease," said Hafeli. "These include flu-like symptoms out of flu season, an

expanding skin rash and joint or muscle pain." If left untreated, Lyme disease can cause serious nerve or heart problems as well as a disabling type of arthritis. Fortunately, early treatment of Lyme disease symptoms with antibiotics

can prevent these more serious medical problems. Throughout the spring and summer seasons, especially the week of June 6-12, which is Lyme Disease Awareness Week, the Arthritis Foundation is encourag-

ing people to find out more about this disease.

For more information about arthritis, including a free brochure entitled Lyme Disease, contact the Arthritis Foundation, Michigan chapter, at 1-800-968-

3030 or 810-350-3030.

The Arthritis Foundation is the source of help and hope for an estimated 37 million Americans who have arthritis. The foundation supports research to find ways to cure and prevent arthritis diseases, and seeks to improve the quality of life for those affected by arthritis.

## Engler vetoes school bond bill

Gov. John Engler has vetoed a bill giving school districts power to issue bonds to purchase high-tech equipment and computers.

The governor said Senate Bill 597 went too far and offered to sign a modified version if passed by the Legislature.

"I will support an amendment to the school code that does allow bonding for furnishing of partially remodeled schools and for technological hardware for instructional purposes," Engler said, "as long as language is included that ensures that the bonds for technology cannot be issued for longer than the use-

ful life of the equipment."

The governor also opposed:

- Allowing school districts to refund bonds at higher interest rates if the bonds were consolidated with a new debt issue.
- Using sinking funds for the purchase of new technology.

Engler's veto message was received last week by the Senate, which placed the bill on its calendar. The Senate did not take it up during Wednesday's all-day session over the teachers labor relations act. The Senate canceled its Thursday session.

## OCC sets woman's health conference

"A call to wholeness: a woman's health agenda for the '90s" will be the theme of a conference Saturday at the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus. This annual conference, open to the public, is sponsored by OCC's Womencenter and the Women's Resource Center and Health Services of Schoolcraft College.

The conference begins at 8:30 a.m. with keynote speaker Natalie

Rice, Ph.D. Rice will speak on women and self-esteem in an address titled, "Just who do you think you are?"

Those attending will then participate in workshops of their choice. A total of 26 workshop topics will be offered. They include breast cancer, eating disorders, politics of women's health, depression, menopause, sexual

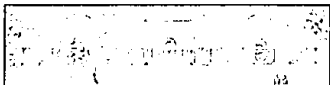
assault and AIDS.

Cost for the day long event is \$25 and includes lunch. Pre-registration is required. For more information, or to receive a free brochure, contact the OCC Womencenter at 471-7602.

The Orchard Ridge Campus is located at 27055 Orchard Lake Road, south of I-696 in Farmington Hills.

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