

**GRANT**  
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as the Mainstreet process begins. "This has to be a constant ongoing thing."

"Retailers are impacted by decisions being made," said Oglesby, an attorney. "It was difficult in the past to keep merchants motivated. We need that input."

A contingent of Farmington representatives attended the Main Street presentation at the St. Mary's of Orchard Lake Conference Center.

"We were obviously thrilled," said Farmington Mayor Jim Mitchell. "We're looking forward to working with Oakland County and their planners to provide whatever assistance they can to the community. The County of Oakland is the only county in the country which administers the Main Street program for its community."

Elsewhere, the program is administered on the state level, Mitchell said.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson presented the award.

"He was very gracious," Mitchell said.

Some digital camera shots of key downtown buildings were

shown during the presentation, which included the historic Farmington Civic Theatre, the Village Mall, and the Cook Building, Mitchell said.

**EXCITING PRESENTATION**

During an interview with the Mirror, Downey pointed out exciting things that happened during the year. She included a merchants' survey that showed which activities were important to them and a desire for more expertise in marketing.

After a strong fundraising effort, a community pavilion will be built next year in the Downtown Farmington Center. There will be more pedestrian walkways in 2004, she said.

Downey also agreed information about the new downtown merchants association helped.

"Last year, I had to admit there was none," she said.

Bob Donohue, principal planner for Main Street Oakland County, identified some reasons why Farmington wasn't selected for the grant last year. Among them was a lack of adequate, consistent communication between the DDA, local businesses, Chamber of Commerce, the merchants association and

other organizations regarding downtown issues.

Only two cities were selected this year because of budget cuts, Downey said. Last year, Ferndale, Holly and Lake Orion were chosen. Royal Oak, Rochester and Walled Lake were picked the first year.

"It was one of the best things in the city which could happen at this point in time," said Frank Lauff, Farmington city manager. "It will add a lot of expertise for the DDA in the next three years."

Lauff will also retire Jan. 3, 2003.

"It's wonderful," said Becky Burns, speaking on behalf of her business, Farmington Bakery. "It's a good thing for downtown Farmington. It's a wonderful first step for all the changes that are about to take place."

Volunteers representing both businesses and residents will be needed to serve on numerous committees to provide input. They should contact either Downey, (248) 321-1944, Oglesby, (248) 476-1322 or Lauff, (248) 474-5500.

"The DDA will be looking for help from the community at large," Mitchell said.

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# Rocky organizes West Nile seminar

BY PAUL R. PAGE  
STAFF WRITER

The West Nile virus is the latest buzz word inciting fear in the community and from coast to coast. But what is fact and what is fiction?

State Rep. Andrew Raczowski, R-Farmington Hills, is sponsoring a local health summit to address questions about the virus and what can be done to combat it. Raczowski said Oakland County has the most registered cases of the virus in humans in the state and that residents are calling his office out of concern about what can be done.

"This has become a national issue," he said.

"It's spreading and it's impor-

tant to sponsor this, so people know what's fact and what is fiction," the representative said.

The summit will begin at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 1 at the Costick Activities Center, located on Eleven Mile between Ingham and Middlebelt. The panel of experts scheduled to speak and answer questions include: Dr. Lamar Hansbrouck of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control; Dr. James Meegan of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; and representatives from the Michigan departments of Agriculture and Community Health.

The virus, spread by infected

mosquitoes, appears to be most dangerous to the elderly and ill children, said Raczowski.

"We've seen some 196 cases here and already nine deaths are attributed to it," he said, "three of them being in Oakland County."

He said another concern is that BET is being sprayed in areas to control mosquitoes from spreading.

"It's a carcinogen known to cause cancer," he said. "I'm not a big fan of that type of spray. It's an environmental hazard. I'd rather see some alternative means as to what we can do."

"We're fifth or sixth in the nation of most deaths," he said. "So it's an important issue here."

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**MARKET**  
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the Downtown Center throughout the end of October.

"I understand that the contiguous businesses did much, much better, because there was more activity in the downtown center," said Farmington Mayor Jim Mitchell.

He suggested the permanent move.

"Since the pavilion is coming next year, it wouldn't be a bad idea," said Frank Lauff, Farmington city manager.

He suggested closing Grove Street from Grand River to the first driveway by Great Harvest for the remaining Saturdays through October. Grove will be closed from 6:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

"It's hard to understand how a couple blocks down it could

make such a difference," said councilman Arnold Campbell.

It was a difference in night and day as to the amount of activity down in that center, Mitchell said.

"There's a tremendous amount of foot traffic and it adds to the numbers there," said councilwoman JoAnne McShane.

"There's so many more businesses who can benefit from that location," said councilwoman Mary Bush. "There's a handful in Village Commons."

Becky Burns, co-owner of the Farmington Bakery on Grand River listened to the farmers' plight of losing even one Saturday of business before talking to McShane about moving the market Sept. 7. Also, Mike Fuslier, Manchester farmer, vendor and producer came to the Farmington City Council meeting Sept. 3 asking

that the market not be canceled. Farmers are bemoaning with produce at this time, he said.

Next year, the market will move a bit further west in the same downtown center near the fountain, even before the new pavilion will be built in that location to house it.

The DDA expects that fundraising for the pavilion project will exceed goal, Downey said.

Also new next year, the Michigan State Extension Service will provide a Master Gardener to talk with visitors about growing produce.

"It will be someone from the area," Downey said. "They will be there every week. It will be a nice service. They will try to provide that for all the markets in Oakland County."

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## Hillsdale College and Metrobank: Let the Partnership Work for You

**D**rawn by the Hillsdale College refusal of federal taxpayer funds, and impressed by a default rate of less than one percent on Hillsdale's private student loan program, the directors and president of Farmington Hills-based Metrobank established the Metrobank Tradition Award to provide half-tuition scholarships for students attending Hillsdale College. Metrobank currently funds two half-tuition scholarships available to qualified students from Farmington, Farmington Hills, Northville and Livonia who demonstrate financial need at least equal to one half of tuition, maintain at least a 3.0 grade-point average, and agree to participate in on-campus employment and voluntary community activities while attending Hillsdale.

Metrobank has also provided three million dollars in principal for the Independence Loan, a privately funded program the College established in 1984 to replace federal taxpayer funds and ensure Hillsdale's independence.

A private four-year liberal arts institution founded in 1844, Hillsdale does not accept federal taxpayer funding of any type for its operations, including all federal student financial aid programs, which now make up nearly 75 percent of all student financial aid available to American colleges and universities.

The College has gained a national reputation for its stand against bureaucracy and its dedication to quality liberal arts education, free enterprise, limited government intervention and the American heritage of individual self-determination. As part of the College's original charter, it adheres to the

non-discriminatory policy regarding "nation, color or sex" which it has maintained since 1844, long before the Civil War and well before almost all other American colleges did so.

Within the last decade, Hillsdale College has doubled the capacity of the library, constructed a new fine arts center, put in a new state-of-the-art, three-story science building and completed construction of new faculty and administration buildings. Currently under construction, the Howard Music Hall will open in spring 2003. Overall, this campus of 1,150 students has over 40 buildings.

Hillsdale also hosts the Center for Constructive Alternatives (CCA) and the Shaviano Institute for National Leadership, which have attracted speakers such as Clarence Thomas, Margaret Thatcher, Colin Powell, William F. Buckley, Jr., Ronald Reagan, Dave Thomas, Benjamin Netanyahu, Norman Schwarzkopf and many others.

Hillsdale's speech digest, *Imprints*, reaches over 1.1 million readers each month. Meanwhile, Hillsdale's academic reputation has grown steadily, gaining favorable reviews from national surveys of quality in higher education. *U.S. News & World Report* has named Hillsdale among the top 100 national liberal arts colleges, and *Peterson's Competitive Colleges* annually lists Hillsdale among its top choices and notes that the College is "constantly chosen by the best students for their education."

For more information, contact Jeff Lantis, Hillsdale College Director of Admissions, at (517) 607-2327, or e-mail at admissions@hillsdale.edu.

### Metrobank Tradition Award Provides Financial Assistance to Area Students Who Choose to Attend Hillsdale College



**Colby Clugston** will graduate in May 2003 with a degree in political science and history and plans to pursue a law career. He is a member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and the College Republicans, and has also volunteered for several humanitarian projects. Colby resides in Farmington Hills.



**Rachel Rock**, of Livonia, is a junior with a major in international business and foreign language and minor interests in psychology and Spanish. She belongs to the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, serves on the Student Activities Board, and participates in the Paint-the-Town volunteer project. Additionally, she serves as a tutor.



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