

WEST NILE

FROM PAGE A1

Andrew Raczowski, R-Farmington Hills, who hosted the Michigan Health Summit discussion at the Costick Center Tuesday evening.

He invited several federal and state health officials to discuss the various aspects of the virus and how people can protect themselves.

"While it is an epidemic there is no cause for panic," said Dr. Lamar Hasbrouck, epidemiologist with the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

The disease is rare to catch and it is even more rare to suffer serious illness from it to the point of death, he told the audience.

The virus lives on through a cycle of infect mosquitoes and birds. He said the mosquitoes favor biting birds for their blood, but if birds are not prevalent, other animals and humans can be a second choice.

Humans, however, are dead-end host for the virus. Humans cannot transmit the disease to others and once infected, the person becomes immune to future infections, Hasbrouck said.

"Most folks bitten by an infected mosquito will show no symptoms," said Hasbrouck. A few will have a mild illness with a low fever, headache and aches, he said. And rarely, folks will have severe reactions that cause death.

The CDC states 125 deaths in the nation have been blamed on the virus.

Hasbrouck said people age 50 and older have a higher risk of serious illness if infected due to a lower natural immune system.

How the disease came to the U.S. is unknown, but it is most common in Africa, West Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

It's symptoms can mirror that of Yellow Fever, said Dr. James Mergen of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

He said the disease has surprised health officials with its quick spread across the nation in just three years.

"It's still establishing itself," he said of the spread.

Officials with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases are researching the virus and a vaccine, he said.

Dr. Steve Halstead, of the Michigan Department of Agriculture/Animal Industry

Division, focuses on the effect of the virus on animals.

He said not many people know horses have been infected with the disease.

There have been reports of dogs and cats being infected as well but evidence shows so far they are not at a substantial risk, he said.

Hasbrouck said people can protect themselves from the virus by avoiding mosquito bites wearing more clothing, using an insect repellent with DEET and avoiding areas and times of the day that mosquitoes are prevalent.

People should also avoid allowing pools of stagnant water where mosquitoes reproduce.

A member of the audience asked the panel whether she should allow her young daughter to attend a Girl Scout camp. Hasbrouck told the mother she should send her daughter.

"This is a scary thing, but we have to balance our fears with practicality," he said, adding a repellent is a practical way to avoid mosquito bites.

For more information about the disease, the panel suggested the following Web sites:

www.nih.gov and www.cdc.gov

ppace@homecomm.net | (248) 477-5450

HERITAGE

FROM PAGE A1

Laurie Nedelman, volunteer coordinator for the high schools' cheerleaders and football players, was working in the kids' arts and craft section. She said it was a good way for the athletes to perform community service and help out with the goal of celebrating diversity in the community.

There, children were engrossed in making such things as an origami figurines from Japan, clay figures from India and Chinese lanterns among others crafts.

It all fell in line with this year's Heritage Day concept of celebrating the community's many cultures, Bolen said.

The Costick was buzzing with hundreds of people at the Main Heritage Festival Sunday through the food court and the information booth.

At the Finland booth, Charlotte Lytkainen was showing guests the artwork and customs of her native homeland.

"We're showing our customs and replicas of some of the things we make," she said. They included such items, milk buckets and glass work.

"The Fins use a lot of birch bark for shoes in the old days," she said.

"The Fins are great weavers, too."

Gohar Imam of Farmington Hills represented Pakistan at her display.

She was there with her children who were eager to explain the items.

Imam mentioned she works at Longacre as a language instructor.

"We have a large Indian population," she said.

Imam said guests were taking a lot of interest in the exhibit and she was making things fun by writing people's name in her native language on paper from them to take home.

She and her daughters were wearing the traditional kameez tops and shalwar pants.

At the African American section, Angie Smith, PTA regional vice president, was helping with the display that included handouts explaining great strides made by African Americans.

Amid artwork and African masks, included biographies and the brochure of the Underground Railroad production that was put on by Wooddale Elementary in February for Black History Month.

"A lot of parents form the community helped," said Smith. "They chipped in and bought things (for the display)."

She said the public "loves it. They're interested in knowing what we've done."

At the India display, Durga

Chavali of Farmington Hills said she was enjoying being able to display her culture to others.

"We're glad we have an opportunity to represent our country," she said. She showed intricate carvings made from soft sandalwood.

Food was also part of the fun as different ethnic dishes were offered, from sushi to Italian to ribs.

The India Kitchen of West Bloomfield was offering Indian food in the gymnasium.

Employee Selva Kumar said the chicken tikka masala was the popular dish among patrons.

He said the festival is a great way to offer the food to people who might otherwise not experience it on their own.

Yutaka Ishigai of Farmington Hills brought his three children to the festival and was letting them enjoy the many crafts in the Kids Discovery room.

He said he came to learn about other cultures.

Todd Schlueter was there in part because his wife Karen was on the festival planning committee.

"The festival "encompasses the diversity of the community," he said of why he enjoyed attending. "It promotes understanding and background."

ppace@homecomm.net | (248) 477-5450

MESSAGE

FROM PAGE A1

The district was granted two variances, but a sign was purchased that officials knew wouldn't comply, Bruce said. About \$26,000 was raised to purchase the sign. The district's hope was to seek some form of accommodation later.

Zoe earlier admitted changes were made at the suggestion of the manufacturer who sold the sign.

Bruce said Farmington Public School Superintendent Bob Maxfield sought a meeting with him several months ago while he was ZBA chair asking whether there were some options available. Bruce advised Maxfield to talk to the city attorney's office.

Maxfield is in Germany on a Fulbright scholarship until Oct. 12 and couldn't be reached for comment.

Derek Beckerleg, an attorney with the Kohl, Seccrest, Wardle, Lynch, Clark and Hampton law firm in Farmington Hills is researching the issue and will update the ZBA at its Oct. 8 meeting.

Specifically, the ZBA wants:

■ black and white lettering rather than red lettering.

■ hours limited from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. rather than 24 hours a day as desired by the district

■ limiting the text change to every 30 minutes rather than every five seconds

"We did that for safety reasons, because we were concerned drivers would be distracted," Bruce said. "They should act like a member of the community. I'm disappointed that they should take this route."

The issue has been lengthy in discussion, but contentious a much shorter time, said Farmington School Board Member Frank Reid. He didn't know why this weekend was chosen for the dedication. "We want to be a good neighbor," Reid said.

In written information, which Nae called "The Saga of the Harrison High School Message Board," Nae wrote:

"On Nov. 20, 2001, I made my fourth trip to the Farmington Hills Zone Variance Board to get yet another approval for the electronic message board for Harrison High School. I say yet another because it is now reaching the fourth year in this endeavor. This board in its zest for public protection for the city of Farmington Hills has again blocked a perfectly simple request."

All that's wanted is a simple marquee to announce activities at the school, Nae said.

shuck@homecomm.net | (248) 477-5450

Tyndale offers Red Cross CPR program

A Red Cross First Aid, CPR and Emergency Care Certification program will be offered on Saturday, Oct. 12, on the campus of William Tyndale College from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost for the certification program is \$40. To enroll, contact Jenni Knowles by e-mail at jknowles@willamtyndale.edu or by phone (800) 483-0707, Ext. 512. An option is also available to receive one hour of academic credit for the cost of one semester hour. Contact the Registrar's Office. William Tyndale College is located at 35700 West Twelve Mile Road on the corner of Drake in Farmington Hills.

MOTHERS' COUNT ON CRITTENTON

At Crittenton's Birthplace, our dedicated staff and obstetricians deliver superior care in a warm, comfortable atmosphere. To reach one of our excellent obstetricians, call 1-888-904-4325.

CRITTENTON HOSPITAL
MEDICAL CENTER

Quality Care...Close to Home & Work

FOR PHYSICIAN REFERRAL CALL:
1-888-904-4325

Join us for a career-building- picking-up-where- you-left-off-and- making-it-happen- Open-House.

Save Wednesday, October 9

from 5-7 p.m. Whether you're thinking of earning another degree or finishing the one you started months (or years) ago, don't miss University of Detroit Mercy's special Open House for adult students. Learn about our more than 60 graduate and undergraduate programs and special Weekend College—all tailored to the schedules of working students. You can even bring an application and transcripts and get an on-the-spot admission decision. For information or to make a reservation, call us at 800-635-5020 or email admissions@udmercy.edu



We want great things for you.

800-635-5020 313-993-1245 www.udmercy.edu

AMERICAN HOUSE
SENIOR LIVING RESIDENCES

*Now Offering Spacious
2 Bedrooms with 1 or 2 Baths
& Some 2 Bedroom 2 Bath & Den*

Includes:

- Continental Breakfast
- Activities Program
- Scheduled Transportation in our Bus
- Emergency Call System

Starting at \$1,200

OAKLAND COUNTY

BIRMINGHAM 1100 North Adams Rd. Birmingham, MI 48209 (248) 845-0420	TROY 2300 Grand Haven Troy, MI 48063 (248) 848-3555	HAZEL PARK 777 E. Woodward Pk. Blvd. Hazel Park, MI 48030 (248) 845-0707	OAKLAND 1815 Barkway Pl. Pontiac, MI 48340 (248) 335-7030
SOUTHFIELD 27577 Lenox Southfield, MI 48034 (248) 333-5435	FARMINGTON HILLS* 2400 Macomber Rd. Farmington Hills, MI 48330 (248) 471-8171	SENIOR VILLAGE OF ROCHESTER HILLS 1785 S. Adams Rd. Rochester Hills, MI 48309 (248) 853-8000	W. BLOOMFIELD 5453 Maple Rd. West Bloomfield, MI 48302 (248) 335-7020

WAYNE AND WASHTENAW COUNTIES

CARPENTER 3470 Carpenter Pl. Ypsilanti, MI 48197 (734) 877-0071	DEARBORN HTS.* 28600 Ann Arbor Trail Dearborn Hts., MI 48127 (313) 278-8430	RIVERVIEW 20300 Fort Street Riverview, MI 48182 (248) 478-1010
WESTLAND II 3001 E. Westland Westland, MI 48185 (734) 424-8634	WESTLAND III 3001 E. Westland Westland, MI 48185 (734) 728-8670	TAYLOR 23250 Lundy Rd. Taylor, MI 48180 (734) 848-9900

*Independence
Should Last A
Lifetime*

**OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY
100-400 PM**

OPTIONAL SERVICES

- Lunch • Housekeeping
- Dinner • Laundry