

Flu from page A1

Status C, we accept patients through the door, and we always take critical patients."

While news stories have touted a severe epidemic, Botsford physician Dr. Wiley Fan stressed this year is really no different from any other in terms of how the bug hits.

"The flu presents the same every year," Fan said. "It's an acute onset of fever, body aches and headaches. It's really a respiratory virus."

Most people can handle their symptoms at home with over-the-counter remedies. But for

some, the virus can have devastating consequences, such as respiratory or renal failure.

"The other scenario is patients who have not really done well at home," Vioder said. "They're nauseated or vomiting and can't tolerate medications orally or they need intravenous fluids (due to dehydration)."

Patients who come to Fan with flu symptoms first get a lecture about having a flu shot. He said those who don't have a variety of reasons that range from being afraid of vaccinations in general to having experienced flu-like

symptoms after a previous vaccination.

"That's just not appreciating the gravity of influenza and how it affects the general population or the possible complications," he said, noting the flu can be followed by a more serious bacterial infection, such as pneumonia.

While there's no specific treatment for the flu, doctors do have medications that can shorten the episode by a few days.

"The whole issue is getting to your doctor in the first few days," Fan said.

Panel from page A1

voted against a Time Warner franchise agreement while in office. The central issue hasn't changed: Is Time Warner's proposal reasonable to meet the costs of providing cable service to the area's 40,000 subscribers?

In addition, Gillespie said, Vagnozzi may have to be called as a witness during the proceeding, which will begin with a required notification sent to Time Warner on or before Jan. 26. That will put the company on notice as to exactly what the issues will be, according to John Donohue, an attorney who represents both Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Donohue said the challenge to Vagnozzi's position should be offered in writing—"an affidavit of disqualification"—to SWOCC, which would, in turn, present it to the administrative board. He agreed with the second issue Time Warner raised, that SWOCC carried the burden of proof.

According to Gillespie, that means the cable provider is entitled to a franchise renewal and SWOCC must prove Time War-

'In my defense, I was married for 50 years, so I know how to compromise.'

Aldo Vagnozzi
—Panel member

er doesn't meet the requirements set by law.

Both sides will present evidence in written form first, to save the panel from having to sit through hours of testimony, Donohue said, and to help both sides with cross-examination and rebuttals. Donohue and Novi city attorney Dennis Watson will sit in to advise the panel about legal issues, but will not serve as advocates, he added.

The panel established a schedule that will put the actual hearing date at Aug. 16. While panel members Vagner and Watson wondered whether negotiations would continue during the hearing, Donohue cautioned it was improper to inquire as to their progress.

"I think as far as the tribunal is concerned, you can always assume there are discussions

going on," he said.

The panel may meet again soon if Time Warner decides to challenge Vagnozzi's appointment. Following the meeting, he indicated he would step down if necessary, but said Hills Council members asked him to serve because of his experience with the cable commission.

"At the time, I was in charge of doing what was best for our residents," he said of his vote against the franchise agreement. "I also have a reputation of being fair. In this role of judging the situation, I will be fair."

To Time Warner representatives during the meeting, Vagnozzi quipped, "In my defense, I was married for 50 years, so I know how to compromise."

Longtime community activist to be honored

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Geese from page A1

"We couldn't grill outside, because you'd get droppings on the stuff."

What's worse, trying to scrub the layers of ... residue ... from his house only intensified the aching. Walsh has lived there for 30 years and said he's never had a problem like this one. He holds the city responsible as well, for not acting soon enough.

Neighbors first started complaining in late 1997 and circulated a petition in 1998, calling for some action on the issue. Property owners sent another letter to Farmington Hills City Manager Steve Brock in July 1999.

Officials did consider an ordinance in September, but scrapped it as unenforceable. The new law is complaint-driven, meaning officers would respond only when someone called about a problem. It would be enforced in cases where feed-

Residents concerned about the issue may attend Monday night's meeting, at 7:30 in Farmington Hills City Council Chambers.

ing led to six or more birds gathering in one location.

According to one resident who asked that her name not be used, neighbors have called the health department. But a representative from that county agency confirmed Friday they have no jurisdiction in this matter.

It's all up to the city. And residents like Walsh are getting tired of waiting for them to do something.

"I've retired, and I hoped to enjoy my place," he said.

City manager Brock knows all too well that local officials bear the burden of dealing with this problem. An attempt to cite a property owner based on a nuisance ordinance failed, because the local law didn't have enough teeth.

"We wouldn't be going to this level if there were another way to deal with it," Brock said.

He's also quick to point out that the city isn't trying to put a stop to all bird feeding. There's nothing wrong, he said, with tossing a little popcorn to the geese.

"(Walsh) is one of the people who has been most severely affected. It's impacting his life, and that's where the line is crossed," Brock said.

Residents concerned about the issue are urged to attend Monday night's meeting, at 7:30 in Farmington Hills City Council Chambers.

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