

# Washtenaw County Public Health

# 2010

# Annual Report



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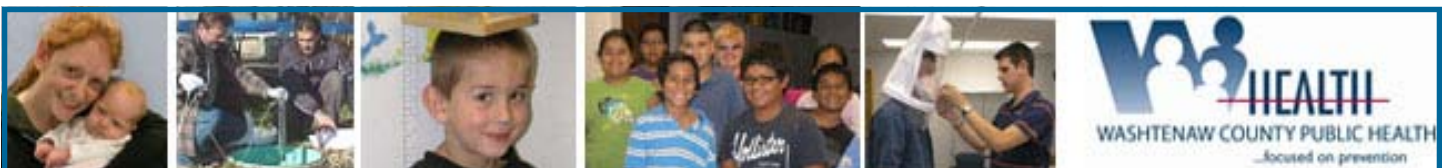
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## Directors Message

Richard Fleece

On behalf of the Washtenaw County Public Health Staff I am pleased to share with you the 2010 Public Health Annual Report. This report describes the various initiatives, programs and services the department provides in striving to improve the health of the community. This report also summarizes key activities undertaken within those programs.

As health Officer I am proud of the efforts and accomplishments of the dedicated individuals that make up our staff. I urge you to take a few moments to learn more about what the department is doing to make your life healthier every day.

2010 was a challenging and rewarding year. The department underwent a rigorous **Accreditation Evaluation** by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE) and was once again accredited for another three years with several programs receiving commendations for their outstanding work. 2010 also saw record number of **Pertussis** cases -231 cases in a normal year we may see a tenth of that.

One event that stretched the department's resources was the department's actions in an interstate **E.Coli 0145 outbreak** that resulted in a national recall of shredded lettuce. Washtenaw County took the lead in partnering with MDCH, The City of Columbus Ohio Health Department, The University of Michigan Occupational Safety and Environmental Health, CDC, FDA, and several other State and local agencies. Through extensive communication, epidemiological and environmental investigation, and laboratory testing the collaboration resulted in a national recall of shredded lettuce and a greater understanding of the transmission of this unusual strain.

In response to economic challenges the department looked beyond its traditional funding sources and strategically sought grants to assist in funding activities to promote health, and prevent disease.

In 2010 the department took advantage of the new publication **annarbor.com**. a local online newspaper to start its weekly column of Inside Washtenaw County Health Department. This weekly blog strives to share interesting stories from the staff perspective of how their day to day work contributes to the overall health of the community.

The dedicated Health Department staff continue to serve the citizens of Washtenaw County in assuring safe food, safe drinking water, safe swimming, safe day care centers proper hazardous material use and storage, the promotion of exercise and healthy eating, safe sex, emergency preparedness, communicable disease control, WIC, and Maternal and Children's Health.

We thank you for your support,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dick Fleece', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dick Fleece  
Health officer

## Public Health Practices

The public health functions of assessment, policy development and assurance are performed by public health professionals in their interventions with individuals, families and communities. Recognizing the complex forces affecting health delivery systems, public health professionals work as members of interdisciplinary teams and in collaboration with other public entities and the private sector to provide essential public health services which are:

- ◆ Monitoring health status to identify community health problems
- ◆ Diagnosing and investigating health problems and health hazards in the community
- ◆ Informing, educating and empowering people about health issues
- ◆ Mobilizing community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
- ◆ Developing policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
- ◆ Enforcing laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
- ◆ Linking people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
- ◆ Assuring a competent public health and personal health care workforce
- ◆ Evaluating effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal and population-based health services
- ◆ Researching for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.



### Our Vision

*A healthy community in which every resident enjoys the best possible state of health and well-being.*

### Our Mission

*To assure, in partnership with the community, the conditions necessary for people to live healthy lives through prevention and protection programs.*

## Emergency Preparedness: The Year of Initiatives

Cindra James, B.S.  
Emergency Preparedness Administrator



The beginning of 2010 looked a lot like the end of 2009—**H1N1 vaccination clinics**. By mid-March it appeared that H1N1 clinics were coming to an end, and the Emergency Preparedness program was able to focus on other initiatives. While all of the initiatives had been under way prior to H1N1, the planning of mass vaccination clinics and the coordination of getting antivirals into the hands of providers had slowed their progression down. 2010 focused on the **Closed Points of Dispensing (POD)** or Alternate Dispensing Sites (ADS), the Medical Reserves Corps (MRC), and Climate Change.

Alternate or closed dispensing sites are intended to reach defined segments of the population that may be unable or unwilling to report to public dispensing sites. Alternate dispensing sites are operated by private or nonprofit entities with support and coordination from the WCPH. As we are responsible for providing emergency medication or prophylaxis quickly and safely, in the event of an emergency which requires treating the entire public (or large portions of the public) with drugs or vaccines, having ADS allows us to reach all populations more expediently. WCPH will open and operate public dispensing sites, where residents or guests will come to receive emergency medication. In some cases, however, it is better to bring drugs or vaccines to people rather than having them report to a public dispensing site.

Over the past year we've increased the number of sites to 100. Sites sign an enrollment agreement form stating that they are willing to provide prophylaxis to their defined population, and abide by WCPH conditions and any State and Federal regulations upon receiving medication or vaccine. They also fill out a plan template that includes number of staff (and family members), clients they may be willing to provide prophylaxis to, emergency contact info, and other pertinent info that makes them a site suitable.

The second initiative is increasing our volunteer numbers. The **Medical Reserve Corps** is the component of the US Citizen Corps that will bring together local health professionals and others with relevant health-related skills to volunteer in their community. These volunteers will assist local, existing community emergency medical response systems as well as provide a group of readily trained and available resources to help a community deal with pressing public health needs and improvements.

Over the last year, through providing orientations and several trainings, we now have fifty volunteers to call on. This number may sound low, but the EP program is trying to grow this slowly so as we aren't overwhelmed and more importantly we don't lose volunteers because we grew too fast and weren't able to support them properly. At last fall's drive-thru flu clinic the volunteers got a chance to support WCPH and get some real experience. It is our hope to keep the volunteers energized and ready to respond whenever the need arises.

The last initiative is one regarding **climate change**. Last April NACCHO held a Climate Change Workshop to engage local health departments in this topic and to show what other health departments have done as grant recipients. After attending this workshop, the EP program utilized their UM intern to do research on what is going on in the US regarding climate change and how are these agencies (not all public health) were engaging the public and showing leadership in this area. A lot of great things have been done and are continuing to be done.

In late October, we learned that the state of Michigan had received some grant dollars from NACCHO and were looking for a few local health departments to partner with on a project. WCPH EP program was selected to do a health impact assessment. We received a small grant that will be used in 2011 to conduct this assessment and analyze its findings. Our process and work may be used in the future as the template for other local health departments statewide.

*Preparing for and responding to emergencies is the responsibility of the Division of Public Health Preparedness. This team of emergency management specialists is dedicated to protecting public health during unforeseen crises that affect the community. Their work includes extensive emergency planning and coordination activities with Emergency Management partners, first responders, and other community resources in both the public and private sectors. They are also responsible for providing critical information to the general public before, during, and after a public health emergency.*

# Disease Control

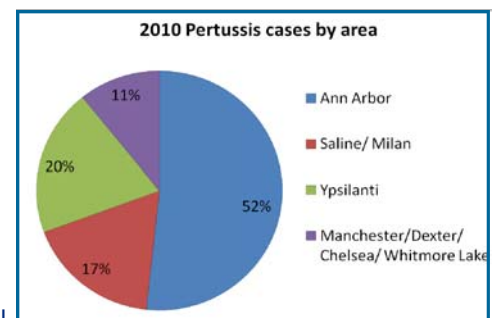
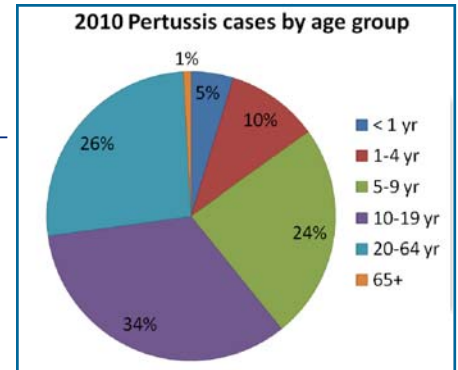
**Diana Torres-Burgos**  
M.D., M.P.H.



In 2010, the health department continued to be busy with ongoing surveillance and prevention of many diseases in our community. Two disease events that proved to be very significant this year was the record number of pertussis cases reported in the county and our involvement in the first E. coli 0145 foodborne illness outbreak in the U.S.

**Pertussis** (commonly known as whooping cough) is a vaccine preventable disease whose incidence has been on the rise across the country in recent years. 2010 was another record year in the county for pertussis as a total of 233 cases of the disease were reported—almost triple the number seen in 2009. Although pertussis is thought of as a disease of young children, more than a third of last year’s cases occurred among individuals 20 years of age or older, highlighting the importance of the adult pertussis booster vaccination in helping to prevent the spread of pertussis in our community.

In 2010 we were part of a multistate foodborne outbreak due to **Escherichia coli (E. coli) 0145**. This was the first major foodborne outbreak of this unusual bacterial serotype identified in the U.S. It was through the quick action of our community providers, the good communications and partnerships with multiple organizations (such as MDCH, other state health departments, and federal/local agencies) that this outbreak investigation identified the source of illness (shredded lettuce) in a relatively short period of time. These interagency relationships and collaborations are essential to assure food safety and prevent foodborne diseases.



We were also part of a multistate foodborne outbreak due to **Escherichia coli (E. coli) 0145**. This was the first major foodborne outbreak of this unusual bacterial serotype identified in the U.S. It was through the quick action of our community providers, the good communications and partnerships with multiple organizations (such as MDCH, other state health departments, and federal/local agencies) that this outbreak investigation identified the source of illness (shredded lettuce) in a relatively short period of time. These interagency relationships and collaborations are essential to assure food safety and prevent foodborne diseases.

Services	2009 Clients Served	2010 Clients Served
STD Clinic Examinations/Counseling	2291	2257
HIV Testing/Counseling	765	880
TB Screenings and/or Treatment	1161	1128
Tdap vaccinations given for pertussis prevention	522	1107

*Disease Control is responsible for preventing and controlling the spread of communicable diseases. It provides an active surveillance and reporting system that monitors the prevalence of all communicable diseases in the County, such as tuberculosis, meningitis, pertussis, and influenza. Disease Control provides diagnostic, treatment, counseling, and referral services for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) such as HIV/AIDS, gonorrhea, syphilis, and Chlamydia, and also provides a wide variety of immunization services to County residents. Disease Control staff is available 24/7 to protect health and prevent disease.*



# Health Promotion & Disease Prevention

Sharon P. Sheldon, MPH,  
HP & DP Manager

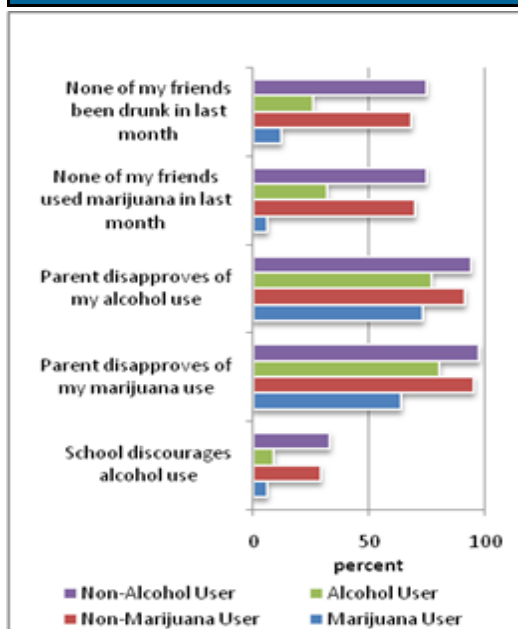
Washtenaw County Public Health’s Substance Abuse Prevention Team of Jane George, Adreanne Waller and Therese Doud have released the ‘Community Focus: Substance Abuse Indicators in Livingston and Washtenaw Counties’ report, a compendium of 10 high-level indicators that impact substance use in communities across Washtenaw and Livingston counties. The report includes conventional measures regarding substance use such as binge drinking and marijuana use as well as education, employment and social factors such as parental approval. This report provides national, state and local data on each indicator and helps readers understand how the indicator relates to substance use and what can be done to intervene using evidence-based programs.



**Therese Doud, Adreanne Waller, and Jane Goerge**

This report sets the stage for data on these 10 indicators to be tracked over time and used to help identify priorities for future substance abuse prevention funding. A unique dataset called the “SAFE and SOUND survey” was implemented in the fall 2010 and feeds into the information shared in the Community Focus Report on each specific indicator. The chart below compares how youth and adults from the same household and schools disapprove of alcohol and marijuana use.

**Figure 2 – Peer, Parental and School Disapproval and Alcohol and Marijuana Use Livingston & Washtenaw County 12-17 year olds**



### SMART INDICATORS

- 30-day use
- Perceived Risk of Use
- Age of First Use
- Driving Under the Influence (DUI)
- Drug Arrest Rate
- Absenteeism
- High School Dropout
- Divorce Rate
- Motor Vehicle Crash with DUI
- Perceptions of Parental Disapproval
- Unemployment

# Health Promotion/Disease Prevention

The “Community Focus: Substance Abuse Indicators in Livingston and Washtenaw Counties” report culminates a 3-year Strategic Prevention Framework project in collaboration with the Washtenaw Community Health Organization (WCHO) and Michigan’s Bureau of Substance Abuse and Addiction Services.

The Strategic Prevention Framework Project (SPF) was initiated in Michigan in 2005 by the MDCH Bureau of Substance Abuse and Addiction Services with the intent of impacting **population-level change** and **outcomes-based prevention** for citizens across the lifespan. The SPF project works toward change that impacts whole communities, not only individuals, and therefore is highly aligned with a **public health approach** to preventing and reducing substance-related problems.

The SPF project used a data-driven approach whereby a team of trained and committed “community epidemiologists” which we call the SMART Team regularly reviews Community Focus indicators and other data sources to monitor progress and recommend areas of intervention to the WCHO for potential grant funding.

The formal SPF project with MDCH has ended, and the integration of SPF principles has been successfully rolled into the ongoing work of staff within Washtenaw County Public Health’s Substance Abuse Prevention unit.



*The Health Promotion / Disease Prevention Division works with community partners to improve health and prevent disease where Washtenaw County residents live, work, learn and play. This means addressing the things that make residents sick, such as lack of access to healthy foods and lack of safe places to be physically active. HP/DP staff and community partners work together to set policy, implement programs, and change community environments so that healthy living is easier for individuals to achieve.*

# Family Health: Providing help in challenging times

Susan Lee,  
Nursing Director, Family Health Manager



The Family Health Division continues to support families in this challenging environment. For the Women Infant and Children (WIC) program, 2010 was a banner year with a base caseload of 5700 and a participation average of 5621.

Children's Special Health Care Services also saw a demand for services as more families found themselves with diminished or no health insurance.



Over 600 children with special health care needs were served. In the same year, the Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) made 2198 home visits to high risk pregnant women and their infants; all of them with increasingly complex psycho-social and health care needs. Our Children's Medicaid Advocate assisted an ever-increasing number of clients obtain MICHild or Healthy Kids Health insurance.

Finally, our Hearing and Vision Technicians continue to screen every child in Washtenaw County for the appropriate hearing or vision screen allowing us to identify thousands of children who need further evaluation or observation.



*The Family Health Division promotes equality of health for women of childbearing age, their children, and families by ensuring that services are available and accessible, with respect to the dignity and cultural diversity of the community. Most Family Health Division programs focus on preventing health problems through early detection and intervention services, many of which begin at the very earliest stages—during pregnancy and the first year of a child's life. With a desire to see healthy babies in Washtenaw County, the Family Health Division also reviews the medical, social, and environmental factors linked with all fetal, infant, and maternal deaths.*



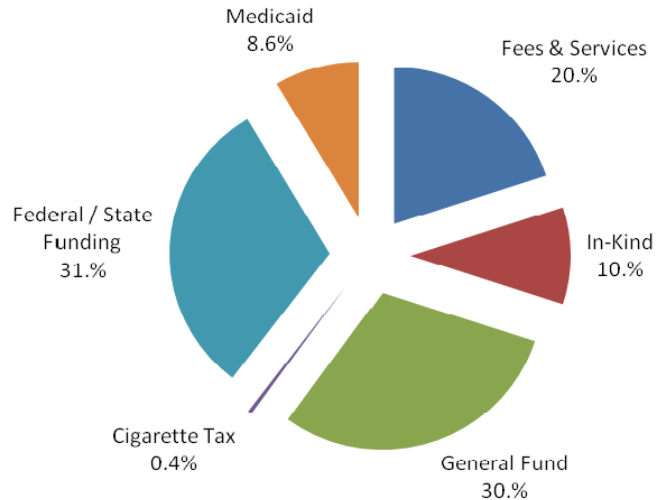
## Finance Division

Jennifer Brassow

The Washtenaw County Public Health Department's Financial Management team is responsible for:

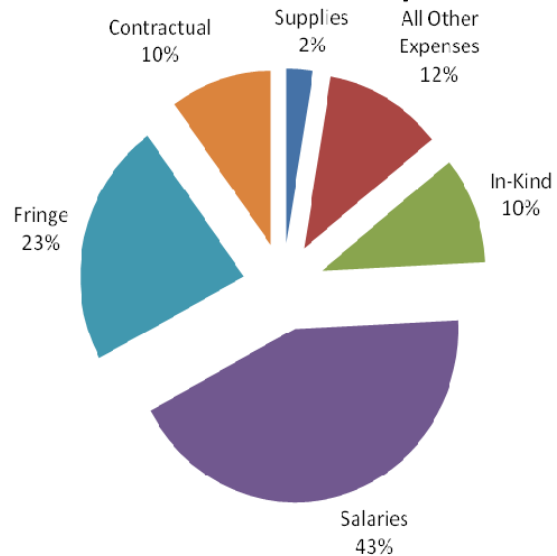
- Budgets
- General Accounting
- State Reporting
- Accounts Payable / Receivable
- Purchasing
- Insurance Billing
- Contracts

### 2010 Public Health Revenue



The department also provides a variety of financial, reporting, and decision support services to the management staff.

### 2010 Public Health Expenses



The combined annual expenditures for the Public Health and Environmental Health Departments for fiscal year 2010 totaled \$12,690,026. Funding is comprised of multiple revenue streams that include:

- Federal
- State
- County General Fund
- Local Contributions
- Grants

*The Washtenaw County Public Health Department's Financial Management team is responsible for accounting, budget, accounts payable, accounts receivable, and purchasing. The department also provides a variety of financial, reporting, and decision support services to management staff. The annual budget for the Public Health Department is nearly \$12 million and funded through multiple revenue streams that include Federal, State, and County/Local dollars and grants.*



## Environmental Health Division

Richard Fleece

In June of 2010, Washtenaw County Environmental Health's **food safety program** was reviewed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. The review was part of an accreditation program occurring every three years for all local health departments. The food program received a "met" in each of the 20 minimum program requirements and met all 4 important factors. This is the highest level of achievement that a food program can receive during accreditation and we are very proud of our program and the staff that work very hard to maintain it at such an outstanding level.

Sugarloaf Beach, operated by Waterloo Recreation Area was closed for 29 consecutive days during the summer of 2010 due to elevated **E. coli bacteria** in the water. This was the longest beach closure in the bathing beach sampling history at WCEH. It is believed that an extremely large goose population was the culprit of the high bacteria levels in the water. Our staff worked closely with the Waterloo Recreation Area staff to clean the beach, surrounding swimming areas and to help bring the bacteria levels back within acceptable ranges for recreational body contact.



In April and May of 2010, WCEH investigated the first multi-state outbreak of **E. coli O145** related to produce this summer. This outbreak resulted in a national recall of shredded Romaine lettuce and had involvement of local, state, and federal agencies working together to investigate the cause of 26 confirmed cases. 11 confirmed cases resided in Washtenaw County and even more that were ill, but not able to be confirmed due to the unusual nature of the strain of E. coli causing illness. E. coli O145 is similar in nature to the more commonly publicized E. coli O157 in that it often causes bloody diarrhea and can cause serious illness in humans.

May 1, 2010 marked the day that the Smoke Free Workplace Law began in Michigan. In Washtenaw County, that meant that bars and restaurants would now be smoke free. Other workplaces were already covered under the local county ban and had been smoke free for several years. WCEH was tasked with investigating any complaints and violations of the law, and during 2010, there were 12 complaints and 8 violations of the law found during inspections. All in all, the compliance rate was extremely high and we are pleased that the public and restaurant community worked with us to ensure smoke free workplaces for restaurant employees.

**As of May 1, 2010 bars and restaurants  
in Michigan are smoke-free**

**That leaves more breathing room for  
your customers and employees.**

## Environmental Health Division

Several groups reported vomiting and diarrhea after swimming at Independence Lake this summer. Test results from the ill individuals showed that **Norovirus** was the cause. Norovirus can be spread through ingesting contaminated food or water, or by contact with ill individuals. Norovirus is able to survive in water and our investigation indicated that the lake water was the most likely source of contamination. WCEH, PH and staff from Parks and Recreation took every effort possible to limit the transmission of the illness through the lake water, which can't be treated, by posting signs reminding ill persons not to swim, not to drink the lake water or allow it to enter the mouth as well as through thorough disinfecting of the park's common areas such as picnic tables and restrooms.

In October of 2010, WCEH, in close partnership with WCPH and UM OSEH, investigated more than 50 illnesses related to **Norovirus at a University of Michigan sorority house**. The girls were likely exposed at a meal that occurred at the house on a Friday, and by Saturday evening, many were violently ill with vomiting and diarrhea. Symptoms were so sudden and severe that several were transported by ambulance to the local emergency room. Outbreak controls were put into place, including keeping sick students isolated from well students, practicing diligent hand washing and performing several thorough cleanings of the facility.

Bed bugs were a very hot topic in 2010. WCEH investigates housing complaints, including those related to bed bugs. Although bed bugs do not spread illness and there is no requirement to report them to the health department, they do cause a high degree of social stigma and discomfort for individuals sensitive to their bites. Several educational seminars were provided upon request to different housing agencies as well as participation in a county-wide bed bug task force. We also revised and updated our bed bug fact sheet and provided more materials on our website to educate the public on these re-emerging pests. To put the number of complaints in perspective, in 2007 there were no bed bug complaints, in 2008 there were two bed bug complaints, in 2009 there were 15 and in 2010 there were 24. Bed bugs are not required to be reported to our agency, so it is unknown what the total impact these pests have had on our community, but it is clear that the numbers of complaints and degree of public awareness are on the rise.

*Norovirus is the leading cause of disease from contaminated foods in the United States; it is responsible for more illnesses than all other viruses, bacteria, and parasites combined. Of all foodborne disease outbreaks with a known cause in the United States, over half are caused by noroviruses. The types of foods most commonly involved in foodborne norovirus outbreaks include leafy greens (such as lettuce) and raw shellfish (such as oysters). However, any food item that is served raw or handled after being cooked can become contaminated with noroviruses.*

*The mission of Environmental Health is to protect and improve the quality of the environment and the health of Washtenaw County citizens. Environmental staff does this by investigating, inspecting, testing, regulating, and reporting on all activities associated with the environment and development. This most frequently includes housing, food and foodborne illnesses, public swimming pools, beaches, hazardous material storage facilities, wells, and sewage disposal/septic systems*

## Norovirus to blame for sickening dozens of University of Michigan

Thurs. Nov. 4, 2010



Health experts warn of whooping cough epidemic in Washtenaw Co.

Posted: 09/28/2010  
WASHTENAW CO., Mich (WXYZ)- The Washtenaw Co. Health Dept. says whooping cough is reaching epidemic levels.

## Officials track Ann Arbor E. coli outbreak

Posted by [Pritzker Olsen](#) on Apr 20, 2010 in [E. coli Outbreak](#) | [0 comments](#)

“We are in the early stages of our investigation,” said Dr. Diana Torres-Burgos, MD, MPH, Medical Director for Washtenaw County Public Health, “and we are doing everything we can to identify probable cases and to prevent any additional illness.”

## *Reports of bed bugs on the rise in Washtenaw County; Ann Arbor apartments deal with infestation*

Thurs. Sept. 30, 2010



## Human case of West Nile virus identified in Pittsfield Township

Posted: Fri, Aug 20, 2010 : 4:56 p.m





Oct 30th  
9:00 am -  
3:00  
1200 State Circle  
Ann Arbor  
48108

*Spreading the word about  
flu clinics*

