

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 24, 2016

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Fouts Directs Anti-West Nile Virus Efforts After Infected Mosquito Is Found

Warren, MI – After learning that the Macomb County Health Department found a mosquito in Warren that has been identified as carrying the West Nile Virus, Warren Mayor Jim Fouts has directed an all-out city-wide effort to fight the spread of the virus.

Fouts directed the DPW to drop the Altosid XR briquettes into the city's 17,500 street catch basins for the second time in four months.

He also directed all city inspectors, police, and firefighters to watch for standing water situations in the city focusing on apartments, condo complexes and city parks.

At his State of the City address on April 7, Fouts said to prevent the West Nile Virus from spreading into Warren, he was directing the deposit of briquettes into catch basins in May. While a city councilman in 2002, Fouts requested that the city administration

take action after learning of 60 deaths in Michigan and 2 in Warren from the virus.

Fouts also said city residents can help by removing mosquito habitats. Fouts advised the following precautions by residents:

- Get rid of standing water in rain gutters, old tires, buckets, plastic covers, toys or any other container.
- Change the water in bird baths, fountains, wading pools, rain barrels and potted plants once a week.
- Drain temporary pools of water or fill with dirt.

“August is the prime month for the spread of the mosquito-borne virus,” said Fouts, who supports President Barack Obama’s proposal to Congress for an appropriation of \$1.2 billion to develop an anti-virus vaccine.

“We have to take action immediately before this becomes an epidemic,” said Fouts.