



PHOTO: STFANIE CARANO

Ford retiree Irene Ibbetson of Dearborn receives a flu shot from nurse John Benitez at the flu shot clinic provided by the Dearborn Health Department inside the Centennial Library.

## Dearborn Flu Shots Cover H1N1, Strains A and B

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Jones said.

The department is also prepared to provide vaccines for a number of exotic diseases, as they often service corporate employees and local residents who plan to travel overseas.

"So many people in this area travel overseas and if we can keep our residents protected so they don't bring back any unwanted germs, we're happy," said Joan Jones, director of the Health Department.

Jones said they occasionally service Ford employees traveling for business purposes.

"Probably about 30 percent of the people who visit identify themselves as people from Ford," she said.

Health Department nursing supervisor Fadia Salamey Aoude said that those who travel overseas need to be up to date on their tetanus diphtheria, Hepatitis A and typhoid shots.

"Some countries will require malaria, some require a yellow fever vaccine, like certain parts of Africa, Brazil and Argentina," Aoude said, "and some countries require meningitis, like Saudi Arabia for trips to the Holy Land."

Dearborn is currently the

only city in Wayne County and one of the few cities in the state with its own health department.

Jones said the department started back in the 1940s when tuberculosis was more prevalent among the local population. It is thought that U.S. service veterans returning from overseas may have brought certain germs back.

"It started as a TB preventative," she said.

In addition to immunizations, the department provides blood pressure testing at Dearborn's Senior Center and many local senior living facilities.

Jones said the health department was once a full-time department but, due to budget cuts, they now operate part-time. She said they are supported by the revenues they generate and by the city's general fund with an operating budget of just under \$400,000 annually.

Flu shots from the Dearborn Health Department will be available each Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the fall season. Shots are \$20 for residents, \$25 for non-residents.

Jones said the department treats a total of 12,000-14,000 people a year through their blood pressure and immunization services.

# Lecture Focuses on Area Theatre History

By Stefanie Carano  
Staff Reporter

Today's Detroit-area moviegoers are most familiar with cinema chains like Star, AMC and MJR for their film entertainment.

But in the dawn of movie theater cinema, a visit to the movie palaces that sprouted up in downtown theater districts was as much of an event as viewing the actual film. And, in the beginning, Detroit was one of the few cities in the country to offer this experience.

Last week, Michael Hauser, author of "Detroit's Downtown Movie Palaces," presented a historical account of these early theaters at the Henry Ford Centennial Library.

Detroit's first theater district, he said, was on Monroe Street, between Woodward and Randolph, where the first symphonic sounds, the first operas, the first vaudeville and the first movie pictures took place.

At the time of the opening of Detroit's earliest movie palaces, Hauser said, there were doubts about whether the cinema was a good business venture.

"Nobody ever thought that movies would ever be able to compete with all the other art forms, but the public proved the critics wrong and the public could not get enough of the movies," Hauser said.

He said Detroit's downtown theater district began to move up toward Grand Circus Park in the later part of the decade, around 1917. The first two theaters that opened there, the Adams and the Madison, showed films and opened within six months of each other. Each had 1,800 seats and had balconies, organs and full orchestras initially.

The Adams and the Madison flourished and by 1922, the Capitol opened, which Hauser said is now the Detroit Opera House. At the time when it opened in 1922, it was one of the largest theaters ever constructed in North

America, with roughly 4,000 seats.

"That theater opened on a cold January night in 1922," Hauser said. "5,000 people lined up to get inside that theater, so you've never seen a movie house quite like that. "Also, everyone was filmed as they came into the theater that night and at the end of the evening, they could see themselves on screen, which had never been done before." Around 1925, the State Theatre, now called the Fillmore, opened, and then in 1926, the Michigan opened. In 1927, the Oriental on West Adams Street made its debut.

Hauser said 1928 was a pivotal year for Detroit.

"Lots of buildings opened that year," he said. "This included the Fisher Theatre, and the Fisher Building opened along with it. So Detroit was really on a roll at that time."

He said many of the theaters during that time also had stage shows to accompany the film — offering dancing and live music.

"If you went to the Fox, it wasn't just the movie, you had the ballet corps, you had the Fox Grand Orchestra. The Fox also had its own version of the Rockettes called the Tillerettes, which were 32 precision dancers," he said. "The Capitol, or the Broadway Capitol, also had its own orchestra, a 40-piece orchestra called the Capitol Wonder Orchestra, with stage shows."

As times changed, so did moviegoers. Hauser said by the 1950s, the stage shows were pretty much gone except for the occasional early rock-and-roll artist or band or traveling movie stars that came to town.

"But by the 1960s, that had all dried up, too, and it was strictly films, and by the late '60s, the exhibitors, the folks who run the theaters, were having a difficult time because the studios were going where the money was and that was to the suburbs. People weren't living downtown anymore, business was getting a little more difficult,

these large theaters were expensive to operate, basically, about \$10,000 to open the doors, even with a pared-down staff and a little bit of air and heat. So the studios started to put their product in suburban theater."

As a result, the downtown theaters were relegated to playing horror, gore, kung-fu and a little bit of soft-core porn.

"What is now the opera house actually closed its doors in November of 1978 for films and to show how far down they had gone, the last three films to show were, 'The Naked Rider,' 'At Last, At Last' and 'Jailbait Babysitter.' The theater closed on a cold November evening to a whopping crowd of 40 dirty old men."

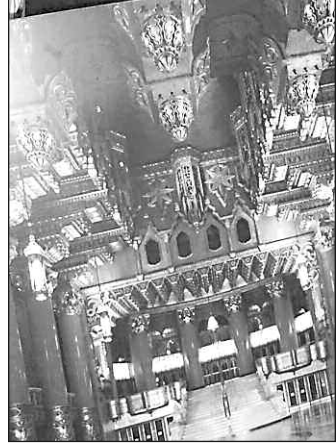
The theater reopened in 1980, and like a lot of the downtown theaters, became a rock concert palace for major musical acts including The B-52s and the Psychedelic Furs.

Hauser said of all the theaters no longer in existence, the disappearance of the Michigan is particularly disappointing for movie palace aficionados.

"That was a very beautiful, French Renaissance-style theater, and at that theater, up to 3,500 people a day would be entertained there," he said. "It's very sad but it reflects the times we live in, the flight of the population from Detroit, the downward trend of downtown, no more public transportation to speak of, freeways, lack of jobs, all those things sort of impacted Detroit and there's no way we can support all of that anymore, we just don't have the people."

He said one modern theater that preserves the fantasy atmosphere of the old theaters is the Star Theatre in Southfield, now the AMC Star Southfield, with creative architecture and engaging interior design reflecting Detroit's old theater district and the allure of movie palace films.

"Rockwell architects out of New York who did all the Planet Hollywoods designed that



Michael Hauser talked about some of Detroit's most notable movie theaters, such as the Fox.

theater. They put a lot of effort, thought and money into it," Hauser said. "That was the whole thing with the movie palace was when you came into a movie palace, you were to forget your thoughts and be transformed into, literally, another world."

Generally speaking, Detroit is described as having the largest collection of movie theater facilities still extant, east of New York City. Detroit is said to rank on par with Cleveland, which also saved many of its old movie houses.

In Detroit, developers have said one reason that as many movie houses survived as they did, in part, because economic redevelopment in the city didn't take off until the 1990s. So in the meantime, nobody even wanted the land the theaters were built on.

## Ford's Mielewski Works on the Edge Of Recycled Materials for Auto Use

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company licked as far as usage.

"Ford thought it was important to have a partnership with farmers," said Mielewski. "This idea is a great one."

Mielewski's group partners with the United Soybean Board as well as a variety of other organizations in its efforts to bring renewable and recyclable materials into vehicles.

"We are looking at everything and will partner with anybody to look at materials," said Mielewski. "We don't pooh-pooh anything in our area. We will take it."

One exciting prospect is its partnership with Ohio State University, which is studying dandelion roots to be used in place of rubber.

Mielewski and her group are working with increasing the amount of soy in materi-

als, as well as working on the durability of the polylactide plastic made from anything from corn to sugar. "This is what brings me to work every day," said Mielewski, about the renewable plastic. "Not putting plastics into the landfill."

With a company as big as Ford, every little bit helps reduce environmental impact.

For example, Mielewski talked about third-row bins in some Ford vehicles that are made of wheat straw. "It is not a glamorous part, it's in the third row where your kids throw their suckers when they are done, but it is a start."

Just this small part reduced Co2 emissions by 20,000 pounds.

It starts to add up. "There are two million cars driving around with soy-based foam cushions," said Mielewski. "That reduces petroleum us-

age by three million pounds annually."

Every material that gets into a car must meet all quality, durability and safety requirements first.

It keeps Mielewski and her group busy working to bring these materials up to the standards needed so they may be used in Ford vehicles.

"We want to be a leader in this area . . . everything (requirements) must be met first. We use recycled and renewable materials whenever it is feasible."

"Every year, we try to increase the recycled and renewable content."

## Deer-Vehicle Collisions are On Rise in U.S.

While the number of miles driven by U.S. motorists over the past five years has increased just 2 percent, the number of deer-vehicle collisions in this country during that time has grown by 10 times that amount.

Using its claims data, State Farm, the nation's leading auto insurer estimates 2.3 million collisions between deer and vehicles occurred in the U.S. during the two-year period between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2010.

That's 21.1 percent more than just five years earlier.

To put it another way, during your reading of this paragraph, a collision between a deer and a vehicle will likely have taken place (they are much more likely during the last three months of the year and in the early evening).

Iowa is second on the list. The likelihood of a licensed driver in Iowa striking a deer within the next year is 1 in 67. Michigan (1 in 70) is third. Fourth and fifth on the list are South Dakota (1 in 76) and Montana (1 in 82).

Not surprisingly, the state in which deer-vehicle collisions are least likely to occur is in Hawaii (1 in 13,011).

## Greenfield Village Offers Visitors Trick-or-Treating, Fright Sites

Pirate treasure-hunting, strolls through the haunted forest of Sleepy Hollow and glowing skeletons await visitors who attend the Greenfield Village Halloween program Oct. 8-10, 15-17 and 22-24.

Time slots are available every half-hour for the evening event, 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$12.75 for members and \$15 for non-members. For more information, call 313-982-6001 or visit The Henry Ford website.

Visitors can dress in Halloween costumes and trick-or-treat down a lit path of nearly 800 creatively-carved jack-o-lanterns that lean toward 11 fright-filled treat stations

Along the way, visitors will encounter several uniquely-customized characters like the fortune teller Madame Za Za predicting their future, or the Woman in White crying for her long

lost love. Down by the Suawnee River, they can watch the "pirates" as they fire cannons and search for their treasure. Visitors also can help Little Bo Peep look for her lost sheep and dance along with the xylophone-playing glowing skeletons.

At the end of the journey, visitors can walk through the haunted forest of "Sleepy Hollow," watching out for "The Headless Horseman."

The Taste of History and Guild Beer Hall will be serving meals, snacks and beverages, including Greenfield Village's own new signature beers.

A distinctive autumnal dinner package in Eagle Tavern is also available for those who wish to dine on-site before trick-or-treating.

Locally sourced fall meats and produce are on the menu, including roasted quail with apples and greens, stuffed pumpkin, sage pork sausage and a midnight cake with vanilla sauce.



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