

Tick bites are responsible for an estimated 300,000 Lyme-disease infections in the U.S. a year according to the study, conducted by the CDC's National Center for EZID, in Colorado.... Cost? \$1.3 billion/year.

Today we might see Galena's deer problem in terms of ornamental plants, and tomorrow a health risk; it all depends upon a cyclical inevitability.

This brief summarizes a cottage industry in a vacuum that Galena is uniquely qualified to fill. I propose that the City of Galena, in concert with the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Fed/State/local health dept, any number of universities and Pharma to create a Lyme Disease research center taking the lead in diagnostics, treatment and cure. The economic rewards to the community are obvious.

Why Galena? Because we uniquely have:

- 1) A woefully underused \$55 million health care facility.
- 2) Which sits in a primary deer tick/Lyme disease environment.
- 3) And has a wild, but tame deer population that can be studied.

The first point is Galena has a wonderful but grossly underused medical facility that can house a research/diagnostic/treatment center. The second is we have a lot of victims. The third is deer do not seem to get ill from Lyme disease. Maybe because deer live an average of 5 years, but they still don't get sick.

There's a reason for this, and in order to find out why, having a wild, semi tame and controllable population can be pretty important to any continuous study, and this Galena uniquely has like no other community is Lyme disease country.

It is a well-accepted historic fact that a U.S. weapons testing lab on Plum Island off the tip of Long Island created Lyme disease. It was known that a herd in Connecticut saw across the Sound and returned, and this is where Lyme disease was first detected, in Lyme Connecticut. Our government created the problem and therefore must accept a level of responsibility, and financing.

Galena has 1 congressperson, 2 U.S. Senators that is located at the confluence of two more states making 3 congresspersons and 6 U.S. Senators from states with seniority positions in both the House and Senate. Any number of universities and drug companies will want to be involved. The point is Galena has a menu of powerful negotiating positions, the most important of which is the health of the people in the community.

I have good friends and even relatives; I'm sure everyone knows someone that has suffered from Lyme disease and still do today. It often masquerades as Alzheimer's, Lupus and any number of maladies

too many doctors misdiagnose and treat incorrectly,... sometimes for years.

Its time has come. For Galena to attain this goal is not impossible, it is probable. We only require the resolve to make it happen.