



# THE WAYNE Dispatch

NOVEMBER 2009



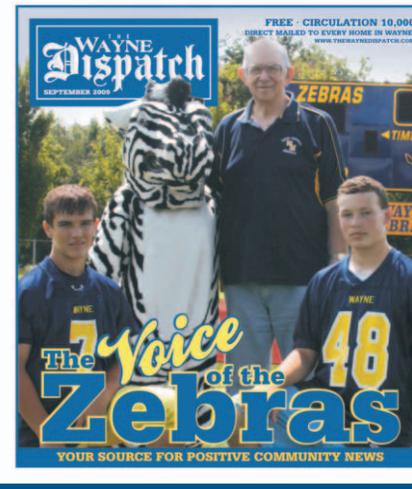
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# Wayne Dispatch celebrates 1 year anniversary

By Jenny Johnson

From the time we first rolled off the presses in Oct. 2008, The Wayne Dispatch has pledged to be "Your source for positive community news." Each month we enjoy sharing the great stories of the people, places and businesses in and around Wayne. The good stuff does not get pushed to the back in our newspaper. Our uplifting stories proudly fill the pages of The Wayne Dispatch.

Because of the support of our generous advertisers we are able to direct mail this publication to every home in the City of Wayne. Thank you to Dollar Daze, EQ, Harry J. Will Funeral Home, K & S Auto, Professional Insurance, Stottlemeyer Early Childhood Center, Uht Funeral Home, Wayne Westland Federal Credit Union, Wayne Westland Community Schools and all of our other advertisers.

We also distribute issues to more than 40 local businesses in Wayne and surrounding areas. We do this because we want to get the word out



John and Natalie Rhaesa, Wes Smith of Michigan Web Press and Natalie's parents, Lois and Don McCurry, with the first copies of The Wayne Dispatch hot off the press last year.

of the great things happening in our area. There are so many stories to tell and we are by no means done.

It takes a team to produce the Wayne Dispatch. I would like to thank all of our columnists who diligently bring us news, humor, human interest, safety and uplifting stories each month. Nathan Adams strives to keep us physically and emotion-

ally healthy with tips and suggestions so we Don't Let the Well Dry Up. Jill Gaudet reminds us the importance of shopping local and the great opportunities there are in Wayne. . . Where Everyone Knows Your Name. Hal Hultman sheds light on positive happenings in everyday life with On the Bright Side. It is a great history lesson each time Matt Miller gives us a look in the Rearview Mirror. Erica Perdue not only gives us A Fresh New Look at the younger generation but she also brings us great feature stories. Dee Ryan has her thumb on the pulse of everything happening in town and keeps us up-to-date on it all with Footprints of Wayne. Shawn

Bell is our newest columnist. His Fire House News plans to provide lifesaving tips we all need. These individuals are dedicated to the purpose of The Wayne Dispatch and it is a pleasure to read their stories each month.

The Wayne Dispatch would have never made it to your mailboxes without the vision and passion of its publishers, John and Natalie Rhaesa. They care passionately about their community and that passion can be seen in every issue of The Wayne Dispatch. In an age where newspapers are falling to the wayside in favor of online publications, the Rhaesas' hard work, creativity, dedication and commitment to keep tradition alive is to be respected and applauded.

Their idea to spread the good news has been well received and embraced by the businesses, residents and administration of Wayne. The Rhaesas and The Wayne Dispatch are pleased to be partners in continuing to make Wayne a great place to live, work and visit.

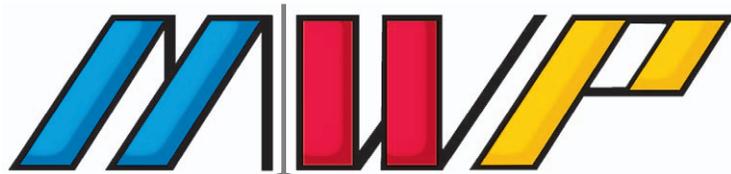
It has been an amazing year. On behalf on the Wayne Dispatch we thank you for your support. As always, we welcome your comments, ideas and suggestions. Please share with us at 734-641-6550 or [jenny@thewaynedispatch.com](mailto:jenny@thewaynedispatch.com).

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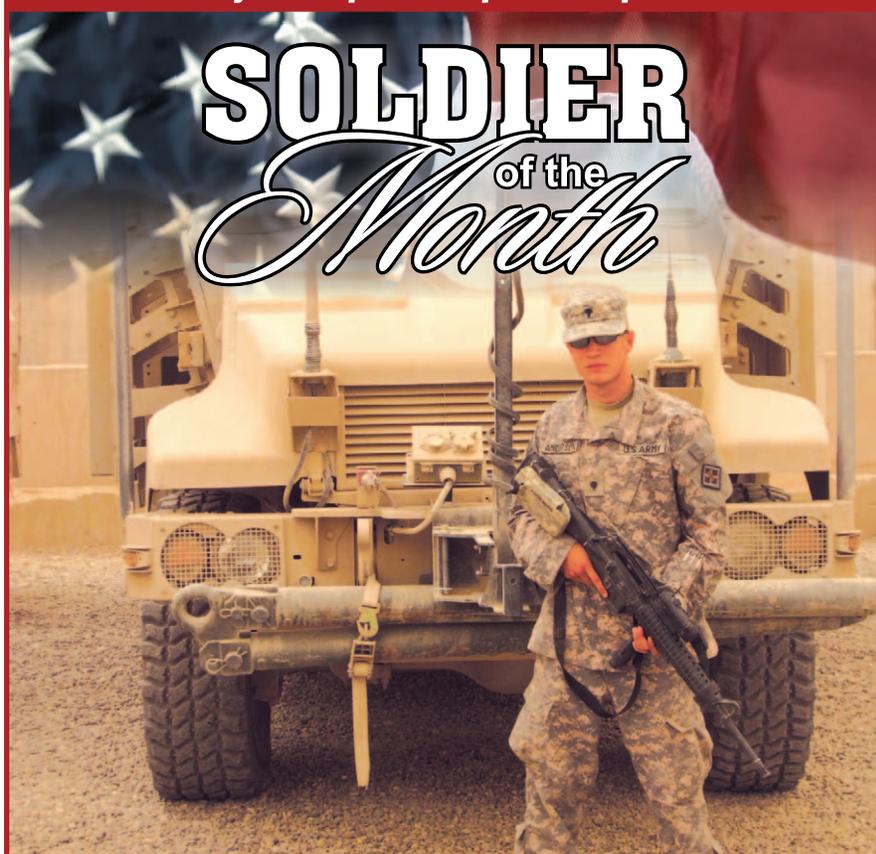
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The Wayne Dispatch is proud to present...



★ **NICK ANDERSON** ★

## Send a soldier a piece of home

By Erica Perdue

Nick Anderson grew up in Wayne, but his location has changed. He has been in Iraq for about six months now and still has six to go. He is stationed on a base that is about the size of a football field. When asked what he misses about home he said that he misses knowing what is going on in Wayne and snacks, especially sweets.

We want Nick, and all of the other soldiers, to know how much we appreciate their dedication and bravery. This is where you, the residents of Wayne, come into play. Nick's address is listed below, the Wayne Dispatch staff is asking you to think of these soldiers and send cards and/or gifts!

Priority mail boxes can be picked up for free at any post office, and the cost for shipping to Iraq is approximately ten dollars. Nick would love to receive cards from other Wayne residents, and anyone else in the area. He would also be ecstatic to receive any kind of snacks!

We know that there are many soldiers overseas from Wayne, and we would be more than happy to publish more addresses so that everyone can get a reminder of how much this community cares about them! If you would like to send an address in, you can e-mail it to [perdueerica@gmail.com](mailto:perdueerica@gmail.com). You can also contact me if you have any questions about the shipping process.

Please make this simple contribution! It will mean more than we imagine, I am sure of it!

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# Community Center celebrates 35 years

By Erica Perdue

The Wayne Community Center has been on the corner of Howe and Annapolis since November 1974. In those 35 years, an immense amount of programs have developed there. Various activities take place every day, and there are old friendships reunited and new friendships made on a regular basis within the building.

Nathan Adams, Parks and Recreation Director, said, "Since 1974, the Wayne Community Center has been a growing place for people of all ages, ability, ethnic background and socioeconomic background to meet and use for social, cultural and recreational purposes."

When the Wayne Community Center first opened, it included banquet rooms, a kitchen, an ice arena, racquet ball/handball courts, and administrative offices. In 1977 the health and wellness center, separate men's and women's work out areas, locker rooms with a whirlpool, wet and dry sauna, more racquetball courts, and an upper unisex weight room were added.

The health and wellness area was updated and upgraded in December 2008. It is now named the Patrick J. Norton Recreation and Exercise Club. Norton is a former mayor. Another recent recognition was the dedication of the pool facilities after former Parks and Recreation Director Ted D'Pulos.

There are approximately 1,400 current members at the REC. Memberships include the cardio room, weight room, locker rooms with whirlpool, wet and dry saunas, the indoor pool and the indoor track. Jim Donahey, a member of the REC, said, "The equipment, the people and the atmosphere is better than any private facility I have ever attended."

Another member, Ron Tyranski, said, "I've belonged to four or five other facilities, and this is probably the most friendly experience. People are so nice and I have formed a lot of friendships. It's a great place to work out and is the best deal in town."

There are many friendships created within the club. Personal trainer, Toni Meilleur, stated that the health and wellness area helps to



Construction of the Community Center at Howe and Annapolis. Photo courtesy of The Wayne Historical Museum

keep the community healthy. She has noticed that many members use the "buddy system" while exercising because it pushes them to work even harder and helps them feel better about themselves while having a good time.

Jackie Deal, member of the REC, said, "The support and help that I get, and the direction to what I should be doing is great. I love the staff too, they're delightful. It is always a wonderful experience."

There are also fitness classes at the REC including Jazzercise and Elements of Exercise. In the pool there are a variety of water aerobics classes offered Monday through Saturday.

Swim lessons are offered for children age three months and up. Participants are taught by certified lifeguards and swimming instructors. There are also private swimming lessons available for adults and children.

Open swim is a big hit. The water slides and water toys are on during open swim times. Also available in the pool are aquatic birthday parties and private rentals.

The Wayne Community Center has another eye-popping attraction for renting, the Oakbridge Suites Banquet and Meetings rooms, which can host parties as small as 50 and as large as 400 guests. In the month of September there were 50 events held.

Kathy Martin, the Banquet Super-

visor, said, "Many patrons who rent the facility for annual events such as holiday parties return year after year. All guests who rent a banquet room have access to the kitchen and customers who host their reception are offered the opportunity to use a banquet room for their shower at no extra cost. Audio and visual equipment is also available."

Many meetings and business seminars are held in these halls. Michigan Works! is in the Community Center four times every month and the Wayne Rotary meets there every Tuesday.

One of the newest programs to the Community Center is the Youth Services Program. Barb Christner said, "By merging us into the recreation building we have been able to better meet the needs of 'at-risk' youth. Recreational programs are a powerful force for both prevention and intervention."

There are also many programs for children at the Wayne Community Center. Over the summer and during school breaks, there is a day camp program for children ages 5-13. Jill Guisgand, mother of a day camper, said, "Every week they had a theme or something extra for the kids to do besides the normal day activities like swimming, playing outside, field trips, games and crafts. It is sometimes hard to take your child to a facility to be watched. That was not at all the case with the Summer Day Camp Program. We found it

very easy and rewarding having him involved in the program and it was sometimes hard getting him to leave at the end of the day!"

Another popular program for children is the Youth Theatre program. Arts and Entertainment Director Colleen Meyer said, "For the last five years I have lived and loved my job here. I have met some of the most wonderful actors, families and volunteers. The amount of talent in this community astounds me."

Crissy Hays, a volunteer parent said, "It is such a positive experience for kids performing and watching the shows." Her daughter, Veronica Hays, said she has a great time and everyone has fun in the shows.

Another parent, Debra Paul, stated that her daughter has grown in the program and it has become a family to them.

The dance program is also extremely popular. There are currently 204 children enrolled in the dance program, which includes hip hop/jazz, ballet, gymnastics, cheerleading, contemporary, tap and baton classes. Any child age 3 and up can join and there is a recital in the spring.

The Center also has an After School Recreation program. It is available at five elementary schools – Vandenberg, Taft-Galloway, Roosevelt-McGrath, Hoover and Schweitzer. Participants stay after

See **Celebration**, page 6

## Wild Bill wins award

He's a familiar volunteer at many of the functions throughout the City of Wayne. For his commitment to the community, the Recreation Advisory Board awarded Bill Copland with the 2009 James J. Poplin Award. This award recognizes Copland's "contribution to the success of the City of Wayne's Parks and Recreation department" said Janet Olszewski, Recreation Advisory Board.

Copland has been a resident of Wayne for 66 years and has served on the Wheelfest Commission for more than 25 years. He has also been a member of the Wayne Rotary Club since 1987.

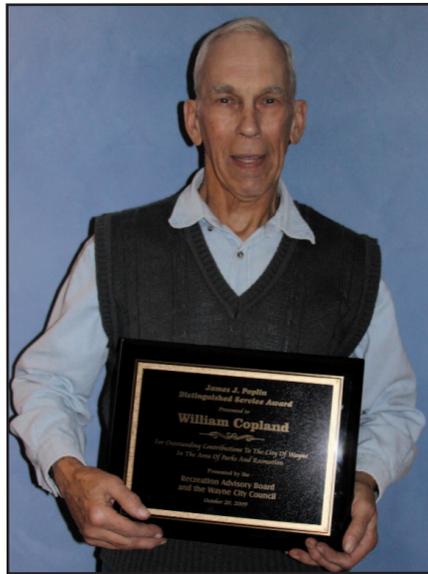
"He has been dedicated to our community," Olszewski said. He was awarded with a plaque from the Recreation Advisory Board at the last City Council meeting. The Recreation Advisory Board has sponsored this award since 1980.

Copland and his wife of 48 years, Sharon, have two children, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren. He has been a business owner in Wayne for more than 50 years.

"It is a great honor to recognize a good citizen who has really been involved," said Mayor Abdul "Al" Haidous. He commended Copland for his great sense of involvement and volunteerism.

Copland thanked the City of Wayne and Recreation Advisory Board.

"It's no big deal," he said. If everyone helped just a little "we can make Wayne an even better place."



Bill Copland

### Celebration, continued from page 5

school and play recreational games, basketball and floor hockey.

A large attraction at the Wayne Community Center is the ice arena. There are figuring skating classes, hockey games and open skating held there. The figure skaters have an ice show at the end of every season and there are regular hockey games. There is drop-in hockey for adults throughout the week. Even the young hockey players can get involved, Little Sticks is similar to a drop in session, but for children. They can come and learn the basics of skating and hockey. Parties are available in the arena too.

To add to all of the programs at the Wayne Community Center, the Senior Service Programs will be moving from their previous location to the center by December. This will add to the already extensive variation in ages and background of participants in the building.

Ron Hays, Chairman of the Commission on Aging, elaborated on the

benefits of the Community Center for seniors by saying, "You can get any type of exercise you want and you get to know a lot of people."

Steve Winkelman, Parks and Recreation Supervisor, said, "The Community Center is the hub of recreation activities and programs for the city, serving all ages. It gives everyone a sense of belonging, which is crucial to being a well-adjusted human being."

The Wayne Community Center has something for everyone. This 150,000 square foot building contains endless benefits and opportunities for children, teenagers, adults, and mature adults. It is not just a gym, nor a pool, nor an ice arena, nor a banquet facility, nor a dance program, nor a day camp program, nor a family program. The Wayne Community Center is all of these programs, and even more. There are constantly activities taking place in the building, not to mention the constant friendships that are made. As the wall says, it is truly, "The Best Part of Your Day."

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# The first shall be last and the last shall be first

Being the third son of four boys I always wanted to be first. After more than 40 years I guess I have gotten over the fact that it is never going to happen. Also in recognition of the first year anniversary of the "new" Wayne Dispatch Newspaper, I thought I would focus my attention on many of the firsts that have happened in the City.

The first settler in 1824 was George Johnson. The first building was a log tavern in 1824. Ezra Derby built the first frame house in 1832 on the site of Kick Tae Kwon Do. The first subdivision was in 1835 called Derby's Corners. In 1825 the first road was called the Chicago Road. Streets were first laid out in 1836. The first burial at the Cemetery was Sally Derby (wife of Ezra) in 1834. The first Post Office was in 1835 (of course we all know that from my September article - right??). The first Post Master was William Westcott. The first classes were held in 1834 on the second floor of a blacksmiths shop. The first log school was built 1838 on Main Street just south of the First Congregational Church. The first frame two room school was built in 1851. In 1870 the first brick three story school was built. The Class of 1879 was the first Wayne high school graduating class. The first saw mill was in 1834. The rail-

## Rearview Mirror

Matt Miller



road first went through the village in 1838 on the Michigan Central tracks now the Norfolk Southern Railroad. The first street car from Detroit made it to Wayne in 1897. The first toll gate on the Chicago Road was built in 1850 in the area in front of the Ford Michigan Truck Plant near where Cogswell Road used to meet the road. The first jail was built in 1869. The first gas street lights were installed in 1876.



The first gas street lights were installed in 1876.

The Wayne Bank opened in 1858. The first newspaper was printed in 1876. And finally, the first Millers move to Wayne in 1947 from Koblenz, Germany via Detroit and Plymouth.

As you can see, this is quite a list of accomplishments for the little Village of Wayne. Opportunities were there for so many of these firsts and our forefathers took advantage of the times to begin to es-

tablish our current City. As this article is titled with a quote from the bible, Matthew 20:16, the first is the highest position and everyone



The Wayne Bank opened in 1858.

should hold their heads high and be proud to be living in Wayne.

Learn more about Wayne's history by visiting the Wayne Historical Museum (734) 722-0113. The museum is open each Friday and Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. You can also join the Wayne Historical

Society. The Historical Society has interesting programs about history. Contact Gloria Rowland, President of the Wayne Historical Society at (734) 729-1277 for more information. You can also contact me at with any questions or comments.

matt@thewaynedispatch.com



Unistrut Corporation on Wayne Road next to the railroad. Photos courtesy of The Wayne Historical Museum

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# Sound advice

## Test your smoke detectors

November 1st marked the end of daylight savings time allowing us to turn our clocks back one hour. It should have also been the day to change the batteries in your smoke detectors. Remember the saying "Change your clocks, change your batteries." A smoke detector is critical for early detection of fire in your home. It could be the difference between life and death. Working smoke detectors are required by City ordinance in the City of Wayne. This means if your home does not have operating smoke detectors, the home owner is in violation and could be written a citation.

According to [www.Firesafety.gov](http://www.Firesafety.gov) every year nearly 3,000 people lose their lives in a residential fire. Most of the victims die from inhalation of smoke and toxic gases. Toxic gases spread faster than heat, therefore families asleep at night are unaware of the fire and can die as they sleep. These deaths can be prevented if the homeowner takes the necessary steps to make sure that all smoke detectors are functional.

Two-thirds of deaths occur in a home where there are no smoke detectors or they are nonoperational due to a dead battery or no battery at all. Having an operational detector plays a big role in keeping your family safe from fire. There are also other steps to ensure your family's safety. It is recommended there be a smoke detector on every level of the home, inside every bedroom, and outside every sleeping area. The detector shall not be less than 4 inches or more than 12 inch from the ceil-

### Fire House News

Shawn Bell



ing, and when installing the smoke detectors you should follow the manufacture instructions.

Have you ever heard the loud chirp of a smoke detector? That loud chirping does not mean that it's broken; it just means that you need to change the batteries. To test your detector hold the tester button and wait for the chirp. You should also explain to the family the consequences of removing the battery even for a short time. Also sit down as a family and make a plan of what they should do if they hear the chirping and perhaps do a quick demonstration.

Remember to have a safe and happy holiday season and "Change you Clocks Change your batteries". Should you have any questions regarding smoke detectors, or any other fire safety questions, please call the City of Wayne Fire Department at 734-722-1111 or go to their website [www.ci.wayne.mi.us](http://www.ci.wayne.mi.us).

*Editor's Note: Shawn Bell is a Lieutenant Fire Inspector with the Wayne Fire Department. He is also the Emergency Management Coordinator and Fire Investigator. He has been a member of the Wayne Fire Department since 1994 and has been actively involved in public education in programs such as Learn Not to Burn and Fire Prevention Week. Look for future safety tips from him.*



### A cut above the rest

Kathleen Avci and her family think the Wayne Fire Department and Oakwood Annapolis Hospital are #1. They worked diligently to free her finger from a metal bench and she was proud to show off her healed digit to Mayor Haidous at a City Council meeting.



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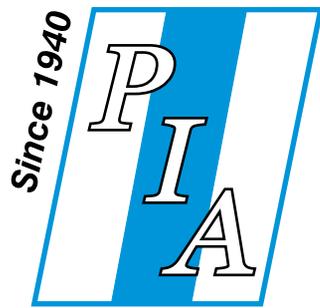
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## No Wayne child without a Christmas

The Wayne Goodfellows make sure no child in the City of Wayne is without presents under the Christmas tree. This year you have three opportunities to help them meet their goal. From 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. on Dec. 3 at the Wayne Community Center the City of Wayne Employees and Friends will host a Goodfellows fundraiser. Tickets are \$10 and it includes two drink tickets, appetizers and a door prize entry. Throughout the evening there will be prizes, raffles and auctions.

Jake's Again is sponsoring a party from 5:00 -9:00 p.m. on Dec. 10 and the Wayne Firefighters Local 1620 will host a party from 5:00 -9:00 p.m. on Dec. 12 at US-12. All proceeds will benefit the Wayne Goodfellows.

Anyone in need of help can pick up an application at the Wayne Fire Dept., Wayne Public Library, City Hall, Wayne Community Center, or download one from [www.waynegoodfellows.org](http://www.waynegoodfellows.org). Applications will be accepted until Dec. 4. If you would like to donate a prize or cash contribution, please call 734-722-1111.

## Buffet to help the hungry

It's a Thanksgiving feast you'll never forget. From 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on Nov. 12 the Culinary Arts students at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, 36455 Marquette, Westland is preparing a Thanksgiving buffet for the Family Resource Center Fundraiser. All proceeds will go toward providing Thanksgiving dinners for needy families in the Wayne Westland area. Come help the hungry and get a great meal.

## Students to honor veterans

**By Erica Perdue**

On November 11th, at 11:00 am in front of Wayne Memorial High School, the 159 Junior Reserves Officer Training Corps (JROTC) participants at the school will hold their sixth annual Veteran's Day Ceremony. All are invited to attend the event.

WMHS has had a JROTC program since 2004. In the six years that the program has been available, First Sergeant Steven E. La Haine and everyone participating have worked hard to gain the success and recognition they have.

They are not only the current Michigan-wide Drill and Raider Champions but also the National runners-up in Raiders. The US Army has even recognized the success of the program by proclaiming them an “Honor Unit with Distinction,” the highest unit award given to a JROTC by the US army. To top it all off, the program has the current top male and female cadets in the state of Michigan!

La Haine, senior army instruc-

tor at WMHS, said the purpose of the ceremony is, “to honor those veterans and fallen comrades who have given us our freedom.”

The President of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 310, Tim Driscoll, will be speaking at the ceremony. Flags will be posted in honor of veterans and the cadets will speak. The Star Spangled Banner will play as the Color Guard posts the National Colors to honor the nation and veterans.

“I feel that it is the most important ceremony of the year. It is a great honor to recognize those veterans who sacrificed so much for our country,” La Haine stated.

Everyone is invited to attend the event: parents, students, friends, teachers and veterans. The JROTC program has made it to the top in several classifications. This honorary ceremony will allow those attending to honor their nation and veterans and give an opportunity to see a group of Wayne High students who have worked hard to gain the distinction that they have.

## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



Congregational Church members Louise Steinhauer, Hazel Shelton, Billie McCarty, Bob Miller, Darlene Hawley, Joan Watson and Bev Wensko get ready for the 63rd Annual Church Fair.

### First Congregational Church Fair

The First Congregational Church, 2 Town Square will host "Snow Fashioned Christmas" from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Nov. 5 and 6. The 63rd Annual Church Fair is free to attend and will feature handmade holiday gifts, candy, canned vegetables, jellies and pickles. The Boutique offers hand made quilts, sweaters, blankets and much more. Other shops with unique goods are the Specialties Shop, the Secret Closet, Attic Treasures, Book Store, Men's Booth and the Variety Shop. Lunch, featuring soup, salad, sandwiches and dessert, will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and a full turkey dinner will be available from 5-7 p.m. each day. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 3-11. Bring your family, friends and neighbors for a great time.

### Rotary Christmas Parade

The 34th annual Wayne Rotary Christmas Parade will begin at 10 a.m. on Nov. 21. Line up begins at 9 a.m. on Second Street between Sims and Ash Streets. The route will follow Glenwood and Wayne Road to Michigan Avenue to the State Wayne Theater where Santa will meet with the children of Wayne. This year's theme is "The Gift of Christmas." The Wayne Rotary is once again asking parade participants and spectators to donate canned foods. All food collected will be donated to the John Bolde Food Depot. Food will be collected at the line up site.



### Blessing of Nativity Scene

The sixth annual blessing of the community nativity scene will begin at 7 p.m. on Nov. 27 in front of Harry J. Will Funeral Home on Michigan Avenue. The cooperative effort between several community churches, business people and residents has provided the City of Wayne with a beautiful nativity scene for all to enjoy. Following the blessing there will be Christmas songs and refreshments. For more information, please contact Tom Lynch at 734-721-5600.

### Cup of Christmas Tea

The 10th annual "Cup of Christmas Tea" will be at 7 p.m. on Dec. 10 at the Wayne Community Center. Proceeds from the Tea will benefit the Business and Professional Women's Wayne Memorial High School Scholarship and the City of Wayne's After School Recreation Program.

Tickets are \$10 each and organizers are looking for hostesses. Reservations are due by Dec. 3. For more information, please contact Sue Honke at (734) 721-7400 extension 1303 or visit [www.ci.wayne.mi.us](http://www.ci.wayne.mi.us).

### Woodlands of Van Buren hosts Holiday Mixer

Celebrate the holiday season from 6:30 p.m. to midnight on Dec. 9 at Woodlands of Van Buren, 39670 Ecorse. For \$39.99 per person you get hors d'oeuvres, dinner buffet and an extravagant dessert table. Entertainment will include holiday music and local carolers. Purchase a table of 10 for \$375 and get a bottle of Chardonnay and a bottle of Merlot. For reservations, contact Kathleen Warren at 734-729-4477 or [catering@thewoodlandsgc.com](mailto:catering@thewoodlandsgc.com).

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# School district prepares for 21st Century

By Jenny Johnson

Because of the sluggish economy, a cut in the school aid bill from the State and declining population in Michigan, the Wayne Westland Community School District is facing a \$10 million budget deficit. To preserve the best educational opportunities for their 13,000 students, the Board of Education requested the formation of the 21st Century Schools Committee.

The 21st Century Schools Committee is made up of parents, students, community members and district staff and was formed to research and analyze ways the district can cut costs, reduce spending and not only preserve but add educational opportunities for its students. Five teams have been working toward creating a plan that will be brought before the School Board in December. The teams are communications, enrollment, facilities, finance and instruction.

The committee's top priorities are to be student centered and instruction driven while adopting a long term plan to keep the district financially stable.

"We want to sustain and improve our educational system," said Dr. Greg Baracy, Superintendent.

Some of the changes the committee is considering include:

## Realigning grade levels

This would create elementary schools for K-4, upper elementary schools for 5-6, middle schools for 7-8 and high schools for 9-12 grade students. Under this plan the district would be able to offer enhanced learning opportunities to the fifth



Sandy Kingston and Kim St. Peter are members of the 21st Century Schools Committee. They attended the latest Committee meeting to get an update of what each of the five teams have been working on and to hear the latest details from Lansing about the decrease in per pupil funding for school districts.

and sixth grade students. They would be able to take foreign language and vocal and instrumental music classes.

"These kids get a start at a younger age and it pays dividends as they get to high school," said Dave Ingham, John Glenn High School Principal.

Val Orr, Wayne Memorial High School Principal, said she spent time talking to the students in the fifth-sixth grade schools during her visits. The students told her they "felt just right" in the buildings they were in.

## Closing seven elementary schools

The Facilities team visited each of the 17 elementary and four middle schools and rated all of them using 19 different criteria including the age, capacity, energy efficiency, recent construction, and enrollment. Taking the instruction team's recommendations into account they sug-

gested there be 10 elementary schools, two upper elementary schools, two middle schools and two high schools in the district. The upper elementary schools could be housed in two of the current middle schools.

"There have been no decisions made about any schools," said Jeffery Rahmberg, District Consultant, Rahmberg & Associates. "We are some distance from that."

The district will work to repurpose the buildings that do get closed. They can be used as childcare or Headstart facilities, community and mental health facilities or with partnerships with municipalities.

## Revising attendance boundaries

Many of the elementary schools are currently operating at 50 to 60 percent capacity. The goal is to have the schools operating at 70 to 80 percent capacity. By closing seven elementary schools and adjusting the

attendance boundaries each high school would have one middle, one upper elementary and five elementary schools feeding into it. This means by the time a student enters fifth grade they are with their entire graduating class and will continue to move forward with them.

This plan not only gives students consistency but it makes financial sense because the district would save money on operating expenses. School Board President Skip Monit said he was happy to hear this plan doesn't call for many layoffs for district staff. The money the district is saving won't be taken out of programming but from restructuring and it will be done without effecting student learning.

The key is "where can we save money without hurting programs or kids," said Marty LaPorte, Senior Executive Director, Human Resources.

Wayne Westland is not the only district in the state to face these hardships. Every district is facing declining revenue and population and increasing costs.

"The state has not adequately funded any district in 10 years," said Gary Martin, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative and Business Services.

This restructuring will make it possible for the district to operate more efficiently and still be able to offer students a great education. These are necessary steps the district must take to secure the future for the students in Wayne Westland.

For more information on the 21st Century Schools Committee, please visit [www.wwcsd.net](http://www.wwcsd.net) or call 734-419-2000.





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# Wayne-Westland Community Schools Change is Coming



*The national banking and credit crisis followed by the near collapse of the auto industry has brought great economic challenge to the State of Michigan. As revenues shrink and families move out of the state resulting in declining school enrollments, these challenges significantly impact our schools. The Wayne-Westland Board of Education is committed to facing these economic issues while ensuring that Wayne-Westland Schools remain educationally and financially strong.*

*On May 18, 2009, the Board of Education passed a resolution to form a citizens' committee to make recommendations to the Board for continuing the district's tradition of academic excellence in the face of financial uncertainty. This committee—the 21st Century Schools Committee—has been working throughout the summer and fall.*

#### **WHAT ARE THE CHARGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS COMMITTEE?**

The Board of Education asked the 21st Century Schools Committee to make recommendations to the Board regarding the following tasks:

*A. Review district facility use and demographics. B. Explore various learning configurations. C. Review attendance boundaries. D. Explore additional educational options for district students.*

#### **WHAT CITIZENS ARE ON THE COMMITTEE?**

The committee is comprised of a parent representative from each school building in the district; high school student representatives; community members; school administrators; teachers; school district union presidents; and other stakeholders.

The 21st Century Schools Committee is composed of five teams—Instruction, Enrollment, Facilities, Finance & Human Resources, and Communications. The teams report their research and recommendations back to the entire 21st Century Schools Committee.

#### **WHAT FACTORS WILL THE 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS COMMITTEE CONSIDER IN MAKING THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS?**

The committee is looking at many factors in order to make recommendations to the Board of Education. The Instruction Team is exploring grade configurations and additional educational programs which can be offered by using different grade configurations. The Facilities Team is reviewing the building structures in terms of age, capacity, parking, utility consumption, materials and other relevant information. The Enrollment Team is looking at balancing enrollment levels, geographical considerations and optimizing resources. The Finance & Human Resources Team is looking at the fiscal impact of any suggested recommendations.

#### **WILL SOME SCHOOL BUILDINGS NEED TO BE CLOSED?**

**Yes.** In order to live within our means, the district cannot afford to keep open buildings which are significantly under utilized.

#### **HAVE ANY BUILDINGS BEEN IDENTIFIED TO BE CLOSED?**

**No.** Recommendations for school closures have not yet been made by the 21st Century Schools Committee and no decisions have been made by the Board of Education at this time.

#### **HAS THE INSTRUCTION TEAM MADE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS YET?**

**Yes.** The Instruction Team has recommended that the Facilities Team and the Enrollment Team explore the implementation of a K-4; 5-6; 7-8; 9-12 grade configuration. The Instruction Team visited Novi Schools, Livonia Schools, Dexter Schools and Saline Schools—all of which successfully use this configuration.

#### **WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF A 5-6 GRADE LEVEL SCHOOL?**

- The ability to offer programs in instrumental music, foreign language, and gifted/talented to students in these upper elementary grades.
- The opportunity to house 5th and 6th graders in a developmentally appropriate setting. Sixth graders remain in an elementary setting, thus their transition to middle school and high school is much easier.
- Upon leaving 4th grade, 5th and 6th graders are introduced to the classmates they will remain with through high school, thus making the transition to middle school and high school much easier.
- The opportunity to provide more academic collaboration and targeted professional development for staff.

#### **WHO WILL MAKE THE FINAL DECISION AND WHEN?**

The Board of Education is composed of elected representatives of the community. They will study the recommendations of the 21st Century Schools Committee and vote upon any changes to be adopted. In order to implement these changes for the 2010-2011 school year, the decision needs to be made in the early winter months, so that the district can schedule classes, staff buildings, and proceed with transition plans during second semester.

#### **HOW CAN I STAY CURRENT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS COMMITTEE?**

All minutes from committee and team meetings are posted on the school district website, [wwcsd.net](http://wwcsd.net). Just click on the 21st Century Schools logo on the home page.

# Thanks for giving

Welcome, Rev. Thomas Healey. He is the new minister of Wayne's First Congregational Church. Born in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, he is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. His degree was in Engineering, a profession he followed for 18 years before entering the seminary in Chicago. Already married to his wife Karen, he continued as an engineer, while studying for the ministry. Eight years later, he graduated, cum laude, and was assigned to his first parish, the First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa. In 1996 he became pastor of the First Congregational Church of Clear Lake Iowa. Becoming the Spiritual Care Counselor for the Hospice of N. Iowa, he served in that capacity for 9 years. A fellowship in the teaching of Palliative Medicine and a lecturer in Family Medicine, which Rev. Healey describes as "the 'heart' of medicine" rounds out his impressive resume.

Rev. Healey and his wife, Karen, a Head Start teacher, have 3 daughters. Jessica lives here, Erin, in Wayne NE and Heather in Pt. Washington, WI. The Healey's are looking forward to the arrival of their first grandchild.

Asked his goals for his church... Mr. Healey says "To grow in faith and to be a missional community, that worships and serves God on all levels...touching people emotionally, physically, rationally, esthetically and relationally...touch the whole person."

Rev. Healey has met the pastors of the other Wayne churches and belongs to the Wayne-Westland Ministerial Association.

## Footprints of Wayne

Dee Ryan



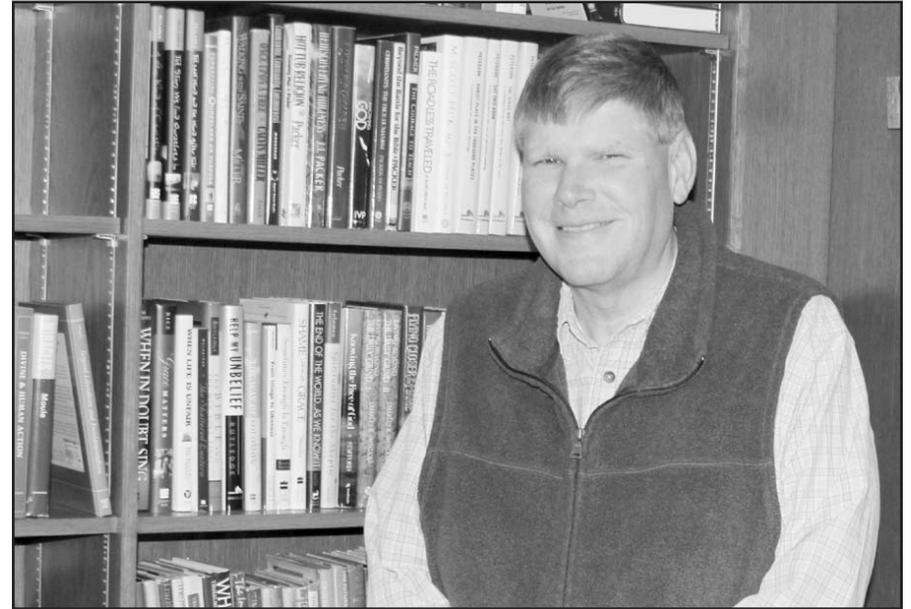
His church is an open and welcoming church and in his words, "We don't come with all the answers, but walk together while we live in the questions." "First and foremost we are followers of Christ."

Judy and Vince Berna started helping veterans from their apartment in 1994. Now they're doing so much more from Veteran's Haven at 4924 S. Wayne Rd. They run a two pronged food distribution program. Each Wednesday between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., anyone with true needs will receive food at Veteran's Haven. They are partnered with Gleaners who deliver food items. Any food not distributed that day is given to St. Mary's Outreach Food Bank.

Veterans may receive a generous supply of food on any day, once a month. They just need to show their DD214 and proof of income.

The Haven operates a large house in Wayne, where vets can stay while getting their lives back on track, then may move to a four unit apartment in Nor-Wayne. Qualifying veterans who are facing eviction or utilities cut-off can apply for financial aid, and the Haven will help them cut through red tape when dealing with other agencies.

Veteran's Haven offers wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, and



New minister Rev. Thomas Healey of the First Congregational Church of Wayne.

shower chairs for veterans in need.

Want to know how you can help? Donate men's winter clothing (in summer it's tees and shorts). Hygiene products such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, denture cream, alcohol free mouthwash, deodorant, and razors are needed. Medical supplies, canned goods, and non perishable foods are also appreciated.

Oh, yes...cash is always good!

Veterans Haven has a website at: [www.vetshaven@gmail.com](mailto:www.vetshaven@gmail.com) or call them at (734)728-0527.

In addition to Judy and Vince, we met workers Mark and Mike, plus the Haven's beautiful dog, Savannah.

Judy Wells, 'Volunteer Extraordinaire' at St. Mary's Food Bank wants to say "thanks" to the good guys at Ford Local 900. October's "Global Week of Caring", the union member's food drive brought in 1,903 lbs. of food. This was divided among three local charities; two of which were Veteran's Haven and St. Mary's Outreach Center- Food Bank.

Ms. Wells would specially like to thank Rob Weber, Anderson Robertson Jr., Bill Johnson, Mike Stockdale, Greg Poet, and Jeff Carter. Her appreciation goes out to all the members of Local 900. Ford will also be donating turkeys, and to make sure everyone who qualifies gets a complete Thanksgiving dinner...you can help by donating non-perishable foods. Or of course cash. To donate perishable foods, call Judy Wells at (734) 326-2234 and she'll set up a delivery time. Hint...turkey breasts are nice items for smaller families.

Chumm's Larry Stockwell gets

big cheers from all the volunteers at St. Mary's...he brings all the donuts not sold that day from his shop over to the Outreach Center.

Lot's of generous folks doing good things aren't there?

The Beautification Committee members (Sylvia Sak, Judy Wells, Anne Law, Mary Anne Daily, and Tom McDonald) would like you to know that the annual Christmas tree lighting will be at 7 p.m., Dec. 1 at Goudy Park. Afterwards there'll be cookies and hot chocolate at the Senior Center. If you've decorated your house for the Holidays and would like to vie for a Holiday House Award...The Beautification Members ask that you call the Wayne DPW @ 721-8600. They'll take your name and you may be the winner of a Holiday House Award. You may also nominate a neighbor's house for an award.

Kudos to Kevin Daily for making Wayne Memorial's 25th reunion so successful. His hard work really paid off...the large crowd at Wayne Manor enjoyed the evening. My Meghan (Maggie) was especially pleased to see 3 old pals...Kathy Ebling, Barbara Ingalls, and Keith Nabozny. Keith created a Facebook page to keep the graduates up to date on reunion news, and Diana Hartford Bentley is credited with doing much to make the evening a joyous event.

Happy 1st Anniversary to John and Natalie Rhaesa and The Wayne Dispatch.

And to you, Dear Readers, a very Happy Thanksgiving.

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## A smile makes a difference

We don't realize how much we affect everyone around us with our attitudes. Whether it is when we are in school, at work, at the gym, in the grocery store, or walking down the street, the smile we give or the bad attitude that we portray can really make or break someone's day, and we don't always realize it. Not to mention how much your attitude has to do with your feelings for that day.

If you keep a positive perspective for yourself, you will feel so much better about everything going on around you. I'm not in any way saying to completely forget and avoid certain problems and worries that occur in everyday life, but just to remember that there is a bright side to look at.

Keeping a pleasant attitude about your day could very easily change someone else's day more than you would ever imagine. There have been several days when I have been sitting at work, and a person comes through with a big smile and nice things to say, and it genuinely makes my day.

I try to remind myself constantly to remain in the best, most cheerful mood possible, no matter what situation my life is in at the moment. Everyone goes through stressful times, and we all have bad days, but there are simple things that can be done to uplift spirits just enough to make a person feel much better about himself.

There are a lot of things going on

### A Fresh New Look

Erica Perdue



right now in the area that people are having a hard time with, and support from happy, friendly people is always incredibly helpful. So when you are in school, sit next to someone who is lonely at lunch, or invite a new person to hang out in your group of friends. At work, have a conversation with someone who you don't typically talk to. When you are

out running errands and shopping, smile and ask complete strangers how they are doing, and tell everyone to have a nice day. I promise you, it seems simple, but it really does make an amazing difference.

Keep a smile on your face, and please let it remain in the back of your head that your positive attitude could absolutely change one person's entire outlook. Being a friendly classmate, teammate, co-worker, neighbor, friend, or even a stranger, could turn out to change someone's life. This is your simple way to be a hero to other people, the admiration you can receive from being that uplifting and inspiring person is a feeling that you will find to be immensely fulfilling.

**Keep a smile on your face, and please let it remain in the back of your head that your positive attitude could absolutely change one person's entire outlook.**



### Lions and wings

Detroit Lions Head Coach Jim Schwartz and wide receiver Calvin Johnson will broadcast live from 7-8 p.m. on Mondays until Nov. 23 at Buffalo Wild Wings on Wayne Road in Westland. They are photographed with Brandi Rudy, Manager Buffalo Wild Wings.

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## Halloween winners

Carmine Jackson, 2, dressed as Sully from Monster's Inc. and Alexandria Saylor, 9 months, dressed as a clown won the Wayne Farmers Market Halloween Costume Contest. Elyse Carr, 6, is a student at Roosevelt-McGrath Elementary School and dressed as a Geisha girl for the Farmers Market Halloween party. She won The Wayne Dispatch Raffle. Her prize included a Jonas Brothers backpack and Wayne Dispatch hat and t-shirt. Congratulations to all of the winners. Photo by Natalie Mae Rhaesa of The Wayne Dispatch



## Police collect Cell Phones for Soldiers

One small gesture can make a big difference. When you take your old cell phone out of the junk drawer and drop it in a Cell Phone for Soldiers box you provide a life line for U.S. soldiers and their families.

In August Police Chief John Williams announced the Cell Phones for Soldiers campaign in Wayne. They had collection boxes at the Wayne Police Station, library, City Hall and Wayne Community Center.

"I'm proud to say through Officer Kubinski's efforts and the community, we were able to collect over 1,000 phones," said Williams.

The program takes used cell phones and sends them to ReCellular. They pay Cell Phones for Soldiers for the phones and the money is used to buy prepaid calling card minutes for U.S. soldiers stationed overseas.

Chuck Newman, the owner of ReCellular and former Wayne resident, said he is proud of "the great generosity of my hometown."

The goal was to collect 500 phones and that was far exceeded, Williams said. In addition to the hundreds of phones collected from residents, Community Living Services of Wayne donated 280 phones.

ReCellular collected 5.5 million cell phones in North America last year. They are sending over 8,000 phone cards a week to soldiers. "By donating cell phones you are expressing your support of the sacrifice they make for our country," Newman said. Officer Charlie Kubinski said the City of Wayne provided 60,600 minutes of talk time for soldiers and their families. "This community hopes to contribute more to benefit our soldiers," Mayor Al Haidous said.

If you have a cell phone to donate, you can still drop them off at the Wayne Police Station, City Hall, library or Wayne Community Center.

**"This community hopes to contribute more to benefit our soldiers."**

**Mayor Al Haidous**

# WHAT'S ON YOUR PLAYLIST?

Music. We love the beat, the bass and the lyrics. But is that all there is? Often songs become popular because they give voice to the needs, struggles and hopes in our lives. Our playlists are filled with music that inspires, motivates, comforts and moves. Come rock out with us as Eastfield Collective plays five hit songs that fill playlists around the world. Join us as we listen to the heart, consider the truth and feel the beat of the music around us.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Grant provides safety for police officers

The Wayne Police Department received word from the Bureau of Justice Assistance that their grant application for the 2009 Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program has been approved. The department will receive \$5,100 toward the purchase of new bulletproof vests. The grant requires a 50% match by the City.

"This is meant to save the lives of law enforcement officers," said John Williams, Police Chief.

It is in the police officers' contracts that the City will provide bulletproof vests. Each vest costs \$600.

"This grant cuts the cost to the City in half," Williams said. "You can't put a price on the safety of officers."

### Leaf Collection



Residents can rake leaves into the street on City of Wayne maintained paved streets until Nov. 23. The City DPW department will pick them up that week. Once leaves are raked into the street, please don't park on or near the piles. Do not place garbage cans on them and keep them away from catch basin drains. Leaves will not be collected from gravel or dirt streets or state and county roads like Hannan, Venoy and Merriman.

### New Developments

The **New York Gourmet Deli** will soon open at 4554 Howe Road in the location previously occupied by Dairy Dan. The sandwich shop will be open year round and provide carry out soups and sandwiches.

The City Council approved a site plan for **Strait Gate Church**, 31650 Van Born, to re-establish a church at the vacant property on Van Born just west of Merriman in the location of the former Calvary Baptist Church.

**Jack Cooper Transport**, 3800 Michigan Avenue, is planning to add a permanent modular office unit to their site on the auto carrier lot. The company is making this improvement to be able to better service the Michigan Assembly Plant.

**U.S. Nutrition Center** located in Metro Place Mall is open. They offer nutritional information and help with weight management.

### Master Plan needs your input

For the first time the completed draft of the Master Plan was presented to the City Council. It has also been posted on the City's website [www.ci.wayne.mi.us](http://www.ci.wayne.mi.us). The public has 42 days to review and comment on it. Then the draft and comments will be sent to the planning commission and City Council for final adoption. The Master Plan draft is a proposed 20 year redevelopment plan for the downtown area.

## Bed Bug Myths BUSTED!

MYTH	FACT
<i>You can't see bed bugs</i>	Although adult bed bugs are less than 1/4" in size, they are still visible.
<i>I don't have any bites, so I must not have bed bugs</i>	Not everybody has a visible reaction to bed bug bites. Checking for signs of bed bugs is the best way to find out if you have them. See "How to Inspect for Bed Bugs" in the bed bug section of our website.
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# Mayor Haidous honored to serve fifth term

By Jenny Johnson

Wayne is a great place to own a business and raise a family. Mayor Abdul "Al" Haidous knows because he has done both. He and his wife, Mary, have raised five children in the City and owned Al's Friendly Market for more than 30 years.

That's one of the reasons he decided to run for public office in 1993 as a City Councilman. In 2001 he ran for mayor and was just elected to his fifth two-year term. This is the second time he has run unopposed. "I am blessed in many ways to be the mayor of such a good town," he said.

The job of mayor is a part time position but a full time job. Everyday Mayor Haidous hears from residents and business owners. They don't hesitate to share the good and the bad with him. He thinks this communication is the reason why voters support him.

"My political career is based on good communication and trust with the public," he said.

Haidous said his goal as mayor is to "vote for the good of the City." He takes his job seriously.



Mayor Abdul "Al" Haidous

In addition to his duties as mayor, Haidous currently serves on the Retirement Board, Risk Management Committee, Real Estate Committee, Cable Communications Regulatory Committee, Downtown Development Authority, Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART), Southeast Government Alliance, Wayne County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Program, Conference of Western Wayne and Central Wayne County Sanitation Authority.

The past year has been the most difficult since he has served the City, Haidous said. The budget deficit the City faces is not due to mismanagement but it's a result of the sluggish economy and idling of the Ford Motor Company. The City Council had to make tough decisions to balance the budget while trying to preserve vital services.

Wayne is a great community that has room for improvement and that requires a good team of elected officials, management, employees and residents, he said.

"I am proud to serve with such a great team," he said. The focus is to create a slim and trim local government. Wayne is on the right road with efforts like cooperating with other cities in joint purchasing and insurance plans.

Haidous said the 2010-2011 budget year will also be a difficult one. The economy has not recovered, the Michigan Assembly Plant has not begun production yet and Ford has

not announced plans for the Wayne Assembly Plant. The State budget is also unpredictable. They recently announced a cut to revenue sharing which will be a loss of at least \$100,000 to this year's budget. Haidous said the City will wait until they get the final numbers from the State and then they will "go back to the drawing board" to see where they can trim the current budget.

With all of these challenges Haidous said the future of Wayne is still good. One example is the Master Plan. Haidous said he is excited about the implementation of the 20 year plan that is a vision for development and revitalization of the downtown area.

"This is a realistic plan for Wayne. We don't want to dream beyond our ability. We want the dream to fit our ability," he said.

"The future is good, maybe not easy but good," he said.

Haidous wants to thank everyone for their support during difficult times. "The City of Wayne will cross this bridge over these rough waters," he said.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### City Council Meeting

8:00 p.m. Nov. 2  
City Hall · 3355 S. Wayne Road

### City Council General Election

7:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m. Nov. 3  
Please remember to vote!

### Lincoln and the Constitution

7:00 p.m.- Nov. 4  
Wayne Public Library  
3737S. Wayne Road

Come hear a fresh perspective on the Lincoln presidency. Was he the Great Emancipator or a calculating politician willing to accept slavery? Attendees will have the opportunity to share their views. The program is free but please call 734-721-7832 to reserve a seat.

### Class Reunion

Monroe Elementary School  
6th grade classes of 1970-71  
2:00- 6:00 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8  
Beaver Creek  
1609 N. Wayne Road, Westland  
Cost is \$15 per person

### Memorial Candle Lighting

7:00 p.m.- Nov. 10  
Harry J. Will Funeral Home  
34567 Michigan Avenue  
A time to gather and remember those you have loved and lost. Please join in to light a candle in remembrance of them.

### Veterans Day

Nov. 11

### City Council Meeting

8:00 p.m. Nov. 17  
City Hall · 3355 S. Wayne Road

### Ladies Night Out

5:30- 8 p.m. Nov. 18  
Wayne Chamber of Commerce  
Join us for an evening of shopping, snacks and relaxation

### Michigan's Defining Moment

Community Conversation  
6:30- 8:30 p.m. Nov. 19  
Wayne Community Center  
4635 Howe Road  
Join the conversation of Michigan's Defining Moment. This Public Engagement Campaign is an effort to heighten public awareness of the significant challenges and opportunities Michigan faces. The meeting is open to the public and will offer an easy way for interested residents to understand the challenges facing Michigan and voice their opinions on how best to move the state forward.

### Wayne Rotary Christmas Parade

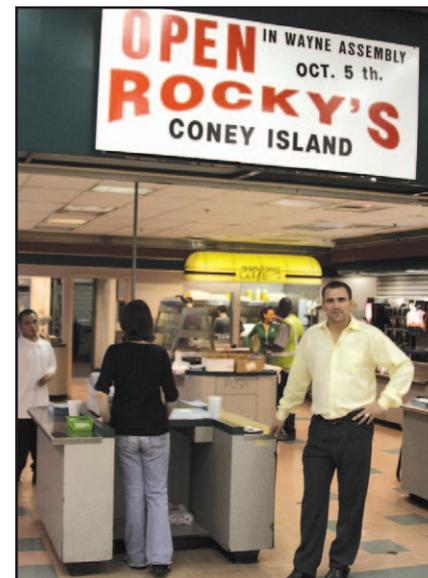
10 a.m. Nov. 21  
From City Hall to  
State Wayne Theater

## Rocky's offers free Thanksgiving dinner

It all started in Wayne with the first Rocky's Coney Island on Wayne Road just north of Van Born. Now Rocky and Rosie Gjoka own the Rocky's Coney Grill and Family Dining on Wayne Road, just north of Palmer in Westland. They also operate two restaurants out of the Wayne Stamping and Wayne Assembly Plants to serve Ford employees. They are open from 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday to offer the Ford employees the same menu items as their Westland location. They will open a restaurant inside the Michigan Assembly Plant when it reopens.

They serve between 1800 -1900 people a day at the Ford Plant facilities. They also plan to open Rocky's Bar and Grill at the former site of LeRights Restaurant on Wayne Road.

The Gjokas have been very fortunate and because of that they want to give back to the community that has helped to make their businesses successful. They regularly host fundraisers for schools, churches and civic organizations. Rocky is a graduate of Wayne Memorial High School and the couple lives in Wayne. They enjoy being a part of the community. Be-



Rocky Gjoka at the new Rocky's at the Wayne Stamping Plant Restaurant.

cause of the tough economy they realize their community needs help. That's why they are offering a free Thanksgiving dinner including dessert from 4-7 p.m. on Nov. 25 at their location at 1622 S. Wayne Road just north of Palmer in Westland. In 2007 they served more than 500 people. If you would like to volunteer to help please call 734-727-0640.



### Former Dairy Queen owner dies

Peter Lekas and his wife, Eileen, bought the Dairy Queen in 1959 and operated it for 28 years until they sold to family members and current owners, John and Anna Petrou. Longtime Wayne resident, Peter, died on Oct. 13, 2009 at age 86. He is survived by his wife, Eileen, brothers Christ, William, John and Nick Lekas and many nieces, nephews and cousins. The funeral service was at Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Church and he was laid to rest at Interment White Chapel Cemetery.

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## Michigan Assembly Plant has Focus

**By: Jenny Johnson**

Work is progressing at the former Michigan Truck Plant. Kathleen McIntyre, Ford Motor Company governmental representative recently visited the Wayne Rotary Club and shared the future of Ford Motor Company in Wayne.

"There is not a finer city anywhere," she said. The name Wayne may have come out of the new Michigan Assembly Plant but "Ford's heart and soul is never coming out of Wayne."

Currently the inside of the plant is being demolished from the floor up and it is about 80% finished. Heating and cooling units were recently placed on the roof and next the 300,000 square foot roof will be re-roofed. Skillets, which make it possible for the vehicles on the line to change heights, for the ease of the workers, are being installed. Demolition of the body shop is underway too.

Ford Motor Company's 500 million dollar reinvestment in Wayne will make it possible for Ford to launch the new Focus in 2010 and the first battery-electric version of the Focus in 2011.

"We are very aware and proud of our place in this community," she

said.

In the meantime production of the Ford Focus is being done at the former Wayne Assembly Plant. The Plant is currently running two shifts. McIntyre said when the work is complete at the Michigan Assembly Plant they will slowly start the transition of moving the Ford Focus over there. There is not currently a comprehensive plan for the Wayne Assembly Plant once the Ford Focus is up and running at the new plant.

The decision to idle the Ford plant has taken a toll on the City of Wayne budget.

"We are aware of the sacrifice of the City and the company," McIntyre said. "We had to make difficult decisions to make Ford viable in Wayne." She said Ford Motor Company looks forward to a long and continued partnership with Wayne.

The Michigan Assembly Plant sits on 140 acres along Michigan Avenue and it is 2,866,000 square feet. The plant opened in 1957 and has made station wagon bodies for the Wayne Assembly Plant, the Ford Bronco, Ford F-Series, Ford Expedition and Lincoln Navigator. The Wayne plant was one of the world's most profitable auto plants in the late 1990s when they produced SUVs.

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## Driving to make a difference

Ford Motor Company, Jim Demmer of Jack Demmer Ford, and Wayne Memorial High School Principal Val Orr partnered for Drive One 4 UR School during Wayne Pride Day. The community had a chance to drive a new Ford vehicle and help raise money for the school. Community members were also invited to tour the school and learn more about the school's sports, clubs and organizations. Photo The Wayne Dispatch



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