

2010 WAYNE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

THE  
**Wayne Dispatch**  
OCTOBER 2011

**HANGIN'  
AROUND**

*Residents and business owners  
construct scarecrows to  
showcase downtown Wayne*

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**YOUR SOURCE FOR POSITIVE COMMUNITY NEWS**

# The Wayne Fire Department celebrates 100 years of service

The Wayne Fire Department is celebrating 100 years of service to our community this year. It was 1911 when the Wayne Village Council established the Wayne Volunteer Fire Department under the direction of Fire Chief Charles Goudy. For many years prior, the citizens were on their own in controlling the many fires that struck the community. When this area was first settled in 1824, all the homes and buildings were built with logs and wood. Fire was an ever present danger. Cooking and heating was accomplished with open fireplaces and stoves. Candles and kerosene lamps helped to light the night hours. These uses of fire presented many opportunities for accidental fires as did lightning strikes and bonfires to clear land. Fire was devastating to the wooden structures and many homes and businesses were destroyed and lives lost. The residents did their best to control the fires with bucket brigades. Everyone was a volunteer. The source of the water to fight the fires was the Rouge River, wells, ponds, rain water and any other water source available. All citizens had fire buckets that they brought with them to fight the fires that struck as often as once a week. If you couldn't help, you still sent your bucket to be used and picked it up at a later date or risked being fined for not having your fire bucket available in your home. It's hard to imagine how difficult and terrifying fires were to the early settlers. I'm sure our early settlers were more fearful of fires than wild animals, Indians or catastrophic weather.

As the village became more populated, the downtown area began to grow. The Michigan Central Railroad came through Wayne in 1838. This brought more growth, business and industry. Banks, stores, restaurants, shops and hotels were built. (At one time Wayne had eight hotels in its downtown area.) All of these buildings were built sturdier and some with brick. Some had several stories. This made fire fighting even more difficult. The buildings were close together, making the possibility of a fire "jumping" from one location to another a very real threat.

## Memory Lane

Darlene Hawley

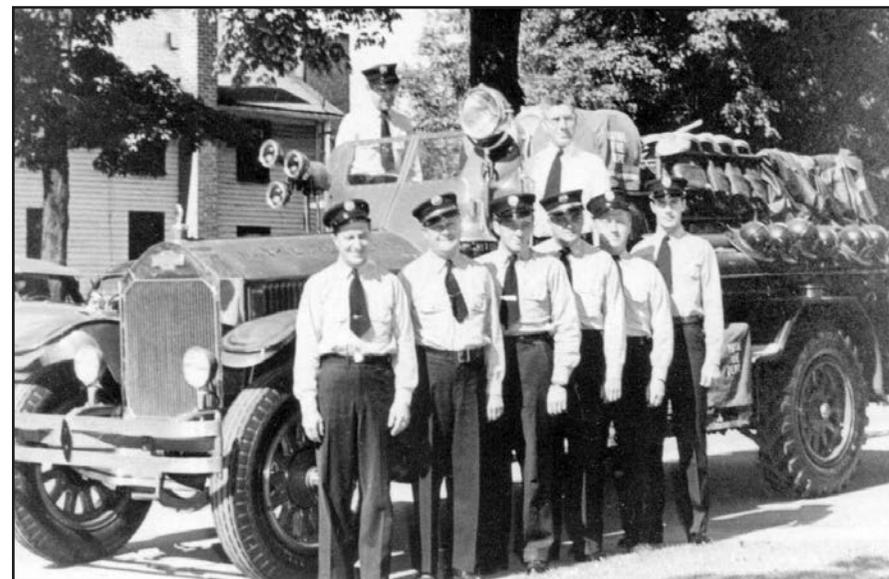


Bucket brigades did not work as well. In 1873, the Village Council approved the purchase of one Babcock 40 gallon soda and acid fire extinguisher, seventeen 22 foot ladders, six 12 foot ladders and 36 pails. The cost was \$96.13. This equipment was stored around town until needed and a "fire engineer" cared for it. Volunteers manned the equipment and did the best they could.

In 1893 the large brick building housing the Bank of Stellwagon & Hosie on Michigan Avenue was struck by fire. The fire was soon burning out of control and beyond the fire fighting capabilities of the community. The Village Council met in the street and considered blowing up the buildings next to the bank to stop the fire from "jumping" to other buildings and destroying the town. It was decided this action could not be taken. A telegram was sent to the Detroit Fire Department asking for assistance. They sent a steam engine, hose cars and twelve men on a special train to assist with the bank fire. The steam engine pumped water from the Rouge River with two 2 ½ inch hoses, one manned by the townspeople and one by the Detroit Fire Department. In spite of all this, the building was a total loss and the DFD sent the Village a bill for \$100. Following the fire, the Village approved the purchase of a Ramsey Hand Pump Engine, two hose cars and 90 feet of 2 ½ inch hose line.

Twelve volunteer firemen assisted Fire Chief Goudy when the volunteer fire department was established in 1911. The meager equipment they possessed was stored in the Village Hall which would become our first fire station and later our existing Historical Museum.

In 1914 a water supply system was installed with 80 fire hydrants.



The full time Wayne Fire Department from 1950. This photo was taken on Main Street on the east side of the Village Hall which is now the Historical Museum. The men on the truck are Thorton VanDerVoort and Fire Chief Hank Goudy Standing front to rear Dan Doletzky, Bernie Rowe, Gerald Kingsley, Warren Robinson and Ralph Renton. Photo courtesy of the Wayne Historical Museum

The water was pumped from the Rouge River into pipes and then on to homes and businesses. In 1928 a full time fire department was created with three firemen hired. Chief Charles Goudy worked the day shift, Dan Doletzky worked the afternoon shift and the son of Charles, Henry "Hank" Goudy, (who would later become Fire Chief) was on the night shift. They were paid \$1.00 per day and \$4.00 per fire run.

In 1928, an American LaFrance gasoline powered fire truck was purchased for \$12,000. It had a 145 gallon water tank and a 1000 gallon per minute pump. It was state of the art. This truck was used into the 1950's and was recently painstakingly restored to its original beauty. The LaFrance is now on display at our fire station and is an important part of the history of our community.

Our fire department eventually outgrew the fire station housed in the Village Hall. In 1952, a new fire station was constructed on Wayne Road and was called the Wayne Nankin Fire Department since the cost for building the structure was shared by the Village of Wayne and the Township of Nankin. When Wayne became a city in 1960, the joint fire department was dissolved and each community had their own department and served their own communities. The City of Wayne paid Nankin Township for their cost of helping build the building and the purchase of equipment. The fire sta-

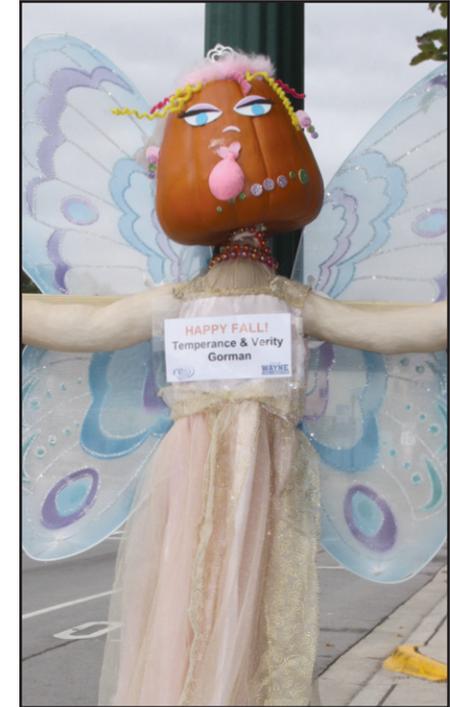
tion was renamed the Wayne Fire Department.

In 1964 the WFD entered the ambulance business. A Ford Econoline van was purchased and converted into an ambulance by the firefighters. It was called "The Fire Rescue Wagon". Prior to that, those in need of an ambulance called one of our two local funeral homes.

Over the years our firefighters have responded to some of the catastrophic fires of our time including the 1953 Hydra-Matic Transmission Plant fire in Livonia, the Detroit riots and fires of 1967, and the crash of Flight 255 on Middlebelt Road in 1987.

In 2004 our fire station underwent a major renovation, making it one of the finest facilities in the state. In recent years we have purchased state of the art firefighting equipment including fire engines, ladder trucks and rescue vehicles. Today we have 18 highly trained and professional firefighters who work around the clock to protect us. Our fire department responds to fires and accidents in and around our community 24/7 year round. We sleep better because they are on duty. We are proud of the job they do and of the history of the department over the last 100 years.

Note: I would like to thank Richard Story for his help with this article and the use of his historical research on the WFD. Richard is the Wayne Fire Department's Volunteer Photographer/ Historian and the Wayne Historical Museum Manager.



## Ripple Effect leads the wave in downtown improvements

By Jenny Johnson

Have you seen all of the new visitors in downtown? They are hanging around the light posts on Michigan Avenue. Thanks to the efforts of The Wayne Ripple Effect there are about 50 decorated scarecrows that are decorating downtown this month.

"It's a really nice seasonal display and an excellent family project," said Jennifer Rickard, Wayne Ripple Effect member. It was Rickard's idea for the scarecrows.

"She's been talking about doing scarecrows in downtown Wayne forever. This was her vision. After the great turnout of support from the residents and businesses for the downtown flower planters, we had a feeling people might be just as excited about decorating downtown again for the fall season. So we decided to give it a try and we've been just thrilled with the reaction from folks in town," said Sherrie Pryor Brindley, Wayne Ripple Effect member.

The scarecrows will be on display until Nov. 2. There will be a reception for the Scarecrow Michigan Avenue Show from 5:30- 7 on Oct. 12 during the Farmer's Market. The Wayne Ripple Effect will serve cider and donuts and people are invited to visit all of the scarecrows lining Michigan Avenue between Second Street and Elizabeth.

The scarecrows are the latest but



Wayne Ripple Effect Board Members (front) John Rhaesa, (back) "Wild" Bill Copland, Jennifer Rickard, Beverly Campbell, Pat Rice and Sherrie Brindley pose in front of The Wayne Historical Museum Scarecrow and the flower planters that have been downtown this summer. Photo by Jenny Johnson of The Wayne Dispatch

"It's a really nice seasonal display and an excellent family project."

**Jennifer Rickard**  
Wayne Ripple Effect member

not the only project the Wayne Ripple Effect has coordinated in the downtown area.

The Wayne Ripple Effect is a grass roots community based organization made up of eight committed residents who are dedicated to making a positive influence in Wayne. They talked about what they could do to make downtown Wayne a walkable destination spot again.

Board Members include: Sherrie Brindley, Beverly Campbell, Bill Copland, Christine Easley, Gayle Rediske, John Rhaesa, Pat Rice and Susan Rowe.

"The Wayne Ripple Effect is a group of people that have ideas, goals and a vision of a vibrant downtown for the City of Wayne. It is a true grassroots activism that is taking place. People are doing things to make Wayne a vibrant community," said Councilwoman Susan Rowe.

Their premier event was a Hops & Schnapps Martini & Beer Tasting



# ATTENTION

## ALL WAYNE RESIDENTS LEAF PICK-UP PROGRAM CHANGED

Due to budget constraints, the City of Wayne's Annual Leaf Collection Program has been changed.

As of October 1, 2011, all leaves must be placed in brown paper yard waste bags or metal or plastic 20 to 30 gallon containers and set out on the regular trash collection day.



The City's Department of Public Works will no longer pick up leaves that are raked into the streets.

The City of Wayne Fire Department reminds us that burning leaves is not permitted in Wayne.



If you have any questions, please call (734) 721-8600.



**Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.**

# HALLOWEEN BASH 2011

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Christopher Sanders (left) with his attorney Ron Ruark appeared before Garden City 21st District Court Judge Richard Hammer on Sept. 26, 2011. Photo by The Wayne Dispatch

## Wayne City Council candidate faces charges

Christopher Sanders, Wayne resident and one of five candidates seeking a seat in the Nov. 8 City Council election, has been charged with 12 counts of violation of an election statute for falsifying petitions. Sanders is being charged with signing petitions when someone else collected the signatures.

This is in violation of Michigan Election Law Section 168.544c7 which says that an individual, if not a circulator, cannot sign a petition as a circulator.

The charges were initiated as a result of petitions Sanders pulled on June 15, 2010 from then City Clerk Mary Carney's office, asking that the city charter be revised to mandate minimum staffing level at the fire dept. The petitions were signed by Sanders and presented to the City Council on Jan. 18, 2011. He turned in 632 signatures on 69 pages most of which were signed on Sept. 1, 2010. The number of signatures required to move a ballot initiative forward is 5% of registered voters which is about 600 signatures in Wayne.

Sanders attended an Elections Commissions meeting, which was recorded in Feb. 2011 to answer questions about the petitions.

Then City Attorney Richard Clark asked Sanders if he was the one who collected all of the signatures, then

why did he have people from the same street on the same dates but on different pages.

Sanders stated that he obtained all of the signatures but others did help him. "We did not fraudulently collect any signatures," Sanders told the board at the Elections Commissions meeting.

The investigation was done by the Michigan State Police and charges were filed by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

Sanders was arraigned on Sept. 26 at the 21st District Court in Garden City. An order of disqualification was filed by the 29th District Court in Wayne on the basis of Sanders being a council candidate and the City Council being the court's funding unit. The pre trial is scheduled for Oct. 24. If convicted of the misdemeanor charges, he can face a \$500 fine and/or 93 days in jail.

Sanders is currently on a one-year probation in Riverview where he pled guilty to furnishing alcohol to minors. He pled guilty to those charges on Feb. 23, 2011. His probation began on March 23. As part of his probation Sanders is not permitted to be within 1000 feet of any school or place where children congregate; not allowed to have unsupervised contact with minors under age 17; and could face mandatory incarceration for violation of probation.

# Spooky spectacular fun Halloween events in Wayne

By Vanessa Janowski

Halloween is just around the corner and it's time to buy candy, decorate the house, and get the kids' costumes ready for trick-or-treating. There are plenty of Halloween events happening for kids and adults of all ages in Wayne.

The First United Methodist Church will have its annual Angels Night/Trunk R Treat event on Wednesday, Oct. 26. The event will be from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and is open to the public. The free event will include a costume fashion show, games, snacks, crafts, and 'trunk r treating' in the parking lot. Kids ages K-5th grade are encouraged to wear their costumes. The church is located at 3 Towne Square in Wayne. For more information, contact the church at 734-721-4801.

Also at the First United Methodist Church, there will be the Annual Harvest Dinner on Friday, Oct. 21. The complete turkey dinner plus a beverage and dessert is \$9.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 4-12 years. There will also be a bake sale, crafts, Rada cutlery, and a silent auction for a quilt. Carry outs are also available. Dinner is from 4:30-7:00 p.m.

The Farmers Market in Wayne is hosting a Halloween Kids Day on October 26th. The Market is located in the State Wayne Theater parking lot from 3:00-7:00 p.m. and is free to the public. The Outdoor Fun Store will provide basketball, golf, shuffleboard and other games, and Pooky T Clown will be face painting, and another helper doing balloons. Acoustic guitarist Rob Johnson will be playing and singing for anyone who wants to listen to some tunes. There will be pumpkins donated by Noel Derr-Johnson with Century 21 Dynamic for the kids to decorate. Kids are welcome to trick or treat throughout the farmers and vendor tents.

The Wayne Public Library also has a variety of events happening in October. They will have their annual book sale during library hours Oct. 6-8.

On October 19 at 7:00 p.m. there will be a "Scare Up a Good Book" Lit-



There will be lots of Halloween Fun at the Farmers Market on Oct. 26.

eracy Fund-Raiser Tea that will feature an assortment of books. There will also be refreshments and tales. Tickets are \$20 each and the money will go to a fundraiser for the Wayne Civitan Club. Tickets can be purchased at the library desk.

Janet Alm, a psychic, will be visiting the library on Oct. 22 at 1:00 p.m. This is a free event.

On Oct. 27 there will be a Halloween "Trick-or-Treat" Children's Party at 6:30 p.m. Included at the event will be games, treats, crafts and stories. Kids are encouraged to dress up in their costumes. This is a free event for all ages.

Storyteller Jeff Doyle, will be entertaining families with Halloween stories at the Wayne Public Library at 1:00 p.m. on Oct. 29. This event is sponsored by City Attorney Paul Bohn from the law firm of Fausone Bohn, LLP.

After the storytelling, the Junior Civitan Club will host pumpkin painting for kids at 2:15. They will provide the pumpkins and paint as well as donuts and cider. For more information about these events, or to register, call 734- 721-7832.

The Wayne Community Center will be hosting "A Royally Spooktacular Halloween Party Show" on Oct. 26. There will be four shows: 5:30, 6:00, 7:00, and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults, children 2 years and under get in free with adult admission. Come visit with a variety of characters such as fairy tale princesses, ghosts, witches, superheroes, furry friends and more. Admission includes the show, snack, and craft. Please call 734-721-7400 to register for a time slot.

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- Balloons
- Wooden Lawn Art
- Face Painting
- Dog Treats
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- Jerky
- Salsa/Chips

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## Great reason to make a stop in downtown Wayne

Avenue Sports Grille, 3632 Elizabeth, is the place to be whether you are looking for a quick business lunch, an excellent steak dinner, a fun night out or a place to watch the game. They have a fun friendly atmosphere. But they don't want to be the only happening place in Wayne. Managers Karl Makky and Tony Duhani are adamant supporters of turning all downtown Wayne into a thriving and happening location.

Avenue is on the right track. In the past 16 months they have been voted the #1 sports bar in Metro Detroit by Real Detroit Weekly, voted #1 Burger In The "D" by WDFN 1130 AM and voted #2 Destination for Saint Patrick's Day 2011 by Detroit Free Press. They have also hosted several fundraisers and benefits that have helped support business and community members.

Growth is coming soon to the Avenue. They have already made changes at the Avenue to be upscale to increase their restaurant appeal and have hired a Le Cordon Bleu certified chef. They are expanding their kitchen and Duhani said they want to serve more gourmet style food.

Avenue has a seasonal menu so they can always offer a variety of food with fresh homemade recipes and drink specials everyday. They have daily specials that include steak, chicken, seafood and pasta dishes.

They will also be adding 500 sq. feet to the dining room and adding a game area.

"We want you to experience downtown Wayne," said Makky. "We have to put downtown Wayne on the map. We all need to take one step forward together."

You can call them bar owners or entrepreneurs but "we are hard workers that is our only title," said Duhani. "We want to make



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something out of this place and to do that you need successful neighbors around you."

Avenue Sports Grille is open Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-2 a.m., Sat and Sun. 11 a.m.-2 a.m. They have 20 televisions, can seat 150 and offer daily lunch, dinner and drink specials. They have a covered heated patio, live entertainment Thursday- Saturday nights and offer private parties and catering.



## Eat, drink and watch the game with us!

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with purchase of Specialty Dinner and drink.

Expires 11/30/11

**Avenue Sports Grille**

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with purchase of 2 drinks.

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### Wave, Continued from page 3

Fundraiser in February at Avenue Sports Grille. They raised \$2200 to help support their projects.

Making Wayne beautiful is important to The Wayne Ripple Effect. In April they coordinated a Clean Up Day and had 20 volunteers help them pick up trash from the streets and sidewalks.

In May they spearheaded a flower planting day. In the past this was done by the city but because of budget restraints they weren't able to do it so the Wayne Ripple Effect took on the task.

"We are able to do it all with volunteers. Over 100 pots were sponsored," said Brindley. A dedicated crew of the Wayne Ripple Effect members diligently spent hours every week watering the pots to make sure they lasted through this hot dry summer.

In July they served ice cream to more than 100 people during the sidewalk sales.

"We created a bustle in the downtown and had some happy people eating ice cream," Brindley said.

They also hosted a Harry Potter preview party at the State Wayne Theater. More than 200 people gathered for a costume contest and games.

"We believe the State Wayne theater is an important anchor to our community. It is a significant historical building in our downtown and houses the mural. We wanted to make a special experience for people to make them feel happy about coming downtown," Brindley said. The group is looking at starting a Friends of State Wayne Theater group to help the theater survive. So far they are getting a good response from residents and business owners.

Walk Wayne is another project in the works. The Wayne Ripple Effect has partnered with two Wayne residents, Kurt Kuban and Jessie Shaffer, to plan walking routes through downtown and Dynamite Park. The goal is to get more foot traffic in the downtown area. Routes will vary from one to five miles and will take people through the beautiful but underused Dynamite Park which is along the Rouge River.

"We've been able to accomplish more than even we had imagined mostly due to the overwhelmingly positive response of Wayne residents and business owners. I think people

have been waiting a long time to see things happening in downtown, so the support has been easy to find. People have been so eager to help," Brindley said.

"Pride is what the WRE has brought back to the community. My hopes are that they can gain more active members to bring even more exciting ideas. Government cannot and should not do it all. People are what make a community and the Wayne Ripple Effect is growing this one small pebble at a time," said Rowe.

"When I attended the first public meeting and saw the great turn out of Wayne citizens, I knew a citizen's group could be the Ripple that could turn the City of Wayne into a Main Street community like it used to be. I shared at that meeting, that I saw the transformation that took place in the City of Howell (which was) a Main Street community. It was citizen involvement that made it happen. We the citizens of Wayne, have to work together, to make it happen here. Beautification of the businesses, new business, people in town walking around and community events in the park," said Pat Rice.

Next the Wayne Ripple Effect will send in an application for Wayne to become a Michigan Main Street community. The Main Street program works with communities to help revitalize their downtown districts.

"The longer we are doing what we do the more people we touch. The commitment residents and businesses have to this town is amazing. So many good people are starting to get excited about the future of Wayne. We are just thrilled," Brindley said.

The Main Street Program provides training and resources for citizens who want to revitalize their downtowns.

The program is being used in places like Howell, Ferndale and South Lyon, said Brindley. If Wayne is selected to participate, The Main Street Program will take the Wayne Ripple Effect's efforts to a whole new level.

They Wayne Ripple Effect welcomes volunteers. Attend one of their monthly meetings at the Wayne Public Library at 6:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. Residents can also help by patronizing Wayne businesses.

Volunteers can email WayneRippleEffect@gmail.com.

## CONTROL YOUR SPENDING

You might have some concerns about your **spending habits**. Maybe you are an **overspender**. Whether you are a controlled spender or an overspender, there are many tools and techniques to help you transform negative habits into **positive behavior**. Here are a few:

1. **Stay clear** – of the places you know that you'll spend lots of money.
2. **Take a timeout** – Think before you buy. Adopt the policy: "I will use layaway, the store's 'hold policy'; or I will wait two weeks before I buy this item."
3. **Shop with a list** – Eliminate impulse buys. Use a list, and stick to it.
4. **You can still splurge** – but do it economically and conscientiously. Splurge at the less expensive stores.
5. **Track your money** – and use cash when you purchase items
6. **Call a friend** - Talking with a trusted person can reduce the urge to splurge.

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Euchre time**

The Wayne Rotary will sponsor a Euchre Tournament at 7 p.m. on Oct. 15 at St. Mary Catholic Church, 34530 Michigan Avenue. Check in begins at 6:15 and the cost is \$20 per person. The proceeds will benefit the John Bolde Memorial Food Depot as well as other local charities in the community.

**Donate to the window fund**

The Wayne Historical Society and Historical Commission need your help. They need to raise about \$3000 more to be able to replace the windows at the Historic Museum. The building is 133 years old and many of the windows are original.

"They are past their useful life," said Matthew Miller, City Clerk. New windows will not only be more energy efficient but will help preserve all of the history in the museum. They have collected about \$17,500 so far and need to get to \$20,000 so

they can get the new windows installed this fall.

Donations can be sent to: Wayne Historical Society at Wayne Historical Museum, One Town Square, Wayne, MI 48184.

**Rush Trucking donates school supplies**

Rush Trucking of Wayne purchased 75 orange backpacks for a very good reason. Employees at the Wayne locations held a school supply drive to fill the backpacks. On Sept. 13 John Dalrymple, CFO, donated the school supplies to students at Taft-Galloway Elementary School.

"We felt it was important to be a part of the community," said Mary Miller, Rush Trucking.

Rush Trucking is a full service trucking company owned by Andra Rush. It is the largest Native American owned business in the United States. Its corporate headquarters are in Wayne.

**Joint Dispatch serves and protects**

The Western Wayne Central Dispatch Center is doing its job. The joint 911 emergency dispatch operation between the cities of Wayne and Garden City is housed at the Wayne police station but services emergency calls for both cities.

"(It) is operating pretty seamlessly" said Robert English, City Manager. On Aug. 3 an armed robbery occurred at a 7-11 store in Garden City. According to Garden City Police Chief Bob Muery, it was because of the proficiency of the 911 dispatchers that the suspects were apprehended quickly, the stolen property recovered and a gun was taken off the streets.

"It is operating as the chiefs designed it to," English said.

**Trained to help**

Seven more Wayne residents are ready to help in a time of need. They are the newest graduates of the Community Emergency Response Team. The CERT program educates and trains residents in disaster response skills. Residents learn fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and medical operations so they can assist others in their home, neighborhood or workplace.

Training was voluntarily provided by the Wayne police officers and firefighters. The CERT program now has 67 trained residents.

**Sweat for a good cause**

On Oct. 23 Anytime Fitness in Westland will participate in Workout for St. Jude. Participants can earn money for St. Jude Hospital by working up a sweat. Whether they want to lift weights, walk, run or ride the bike, all pledges they get will be donated to the children's hospital. You don't have to be a member to participate. This event is open to all from 12-5 on Oct. 23. They are trying to raise \$5000. For more information visit [www.facebook.com/anytimefitnesswestland](http://www.facebook.com/anytimefitnesswestland).

**Personal property tax**

The City Council approved a resolution that will be sent to state legislators regarding the elimination of personal property tax. About 13% of the city's revenues come from personal property taxes. That's about \$2.2 million. City Manager Robert English told council that if legislators do vote to eliminate personal property tax, there needs to be a mandate that requires them to replace those funds.

"It needs to be revenue neutral," he said.

Councilwoman Susan Rowe said, "It is devastating for them to take this money away from us."

**Made with love**

Wayne resident Mark Blackwell found an outlet for his grief. After his mom passed away two years ago he needed to find something to do. He made 120 knit hats, in memory of his mom, and donated them to the Wayne Goodfellows.

"I wanted them to stay locally. I want to give back to the community. My mom was very charitable."

"These hats are much needed. We appreciate it," said Mel Moore, Fire Chief and a member of Wayne Goodfellows.

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Treat eye infections & allergies

Laser vision correction pre & post surgical care

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A JoNa Media LLC Publication

P.O. Box 156 • Wayne, MI 48184

734-641-6550

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The Wayne Dispatch is a monthly publication direct mailed to the entire City of Wayne.

# Police department recognizes excellence

By Jenny Johnson

He is a 10 year veteran of the Wayne Police Department and wanted to be a police officer for as long as he can remember. Officer Kevin Schmidtke was chosen as the 2010 Police Officer of the Year.

"I wanted to become a police officer for numerous reasons, but mainly it was to assist people who have been victimized by crime. People should feel like they have somebody in their corner that is going to look out for them when something happens," he said.

Police Chief Jason Wright said, "I am proud of the hard work he is doing in the detective bureau."

His first day in the bureau he was assigned the robbery investigation from Leo's Jewelry where a shot was fired and \$245,350 in Rolex watches were stolen.

One suspect was immediately captured and the watches were recovered but the second suspect was still at large. Within about two weeks Schmidtke found a lead that resulted in an arrest and an 8-20 year prison sentence.

Wright said the detective bureau is about more than just working your 50+ cases each detective is assigned but is also about hitting the road for calls for service when needed.

A resolution read before city council noted, "Detective Kevin Schmidtke distinguished himself in 2010 through his dedication, strong work ethic and commitment to the community. His proactive approach to policing and unwavering integrity embodies the core values of the Wayne Police Department and has served him well as a patrol officer and a detective."

Mayor Al Haidous said, "This is another success story in our community that shows

you how the police department functions in the City of Wayne. They respond in a timely manner to the community's need. They do an excellent job in tough times."

"The best part about this job is helping out the community and also the fun and camaradery that I share with my fellow officers. I work with 30 other officers that probably deserve this award for one reason or another and I was just fortunate enough to get recognized for it this year," Schmidtke said.

The Wayne Police Citation Board also awarded Life Saving awards to Officer Kevin Berger and Reserve Officer Chris Gietzen. They were both instrumental in saving an individual's life.

Officer Kevin Berger arrived at the Village Bar on Aug. 1, 2010 for a well being check of a depressed person consuming large amounts of prescription medicine. He had already left when officers arrived. Officer Berger recognized the subject's name and knew his residence. Officers arrived to find the door barricaded. They forced the door open and found the subject unresponsive. He was transported to the hospital. Doctors said he would have died if not brought to the hospital.

Chief Wright said, "His patrol knowledge, quick action and decision making skills saved a man's life."

Reserve Officer Gietzen was one of the first to arrive on the scene after the Dec. 29 explosion at William C. Franks Furniture. He climbed into the rubble to help rescue Paul Franks who was trapped under concrete and iron. He used a fire extinguisher to try to keep the fire from getting to Franks. His quick and courageous actions benefited Franks.

Gietzen was, "Heroic. For a reserve officer to receive that honor it is very prestigious."



Officer Kevin Schmidtke (center) with picture frame was chosen as the 2010 Police Officer of the Year.



Officer Kevin Berger and Mayor Al Haidous.



Chief Jason Wright, Reserve Officer Chris Gietzen and Mayor Al Haidous.



Captain Kenny Joe Hines and Mayor Al Haidous

## City recognizes Fire Fighter of Year

Second time is a charm. The 2010 Fire Fighter of the Year- Fire Captain Kenny Joe Hines was also honored in 1999.

Hines is a 21-year veteran of the fire department. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 2000 and to Fire Captain in 2003. He has also trained as a state certified fire inspector and National Fire Protection Association plan examiner. He is currently a state certified paramedic and fire officer trained through the State of Michigan Fire Officers Program.

"Everyday when he walks through

the door he is fire fighter of the year. He leads the troops with respect and doesn't ask anyone to do something he wouldn't do himself or hasn't done. His command presence on Dec. 29. moved that operation along smoothly," said Fire Chief Mel Moore.

Hines is a second-generation fire fighter. His father, Darrell Hines, is a retired shift commander from Metro Airport. Captain Hines and his wife, Christine, reside in Belleville with their three children, Cassidy, Zachary and Hannah.

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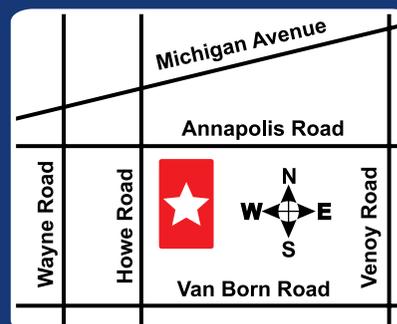
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# Candidates answer questions at forum

By Jenny Johnson

On Nov. 8 voters in the City of Wayne will elect a mayor and three city council members. Candidates for each position attended a candidate forum hosted by the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County.

Councilwoman Susan Rowe, candidate for mayor, and Councilman Albert Damitio, William Long, Lorne Skip Monit, John Rhaesa and Christopher Sanders, City Council candidates, answered questions submitted by audience members. Rowe talked about her view of the power and limitations of a mayor.

She said the mayor is the chief person for the city to sign contracts, represent the city and chair the council meetings but they still only have one vote on the city council.

"I am a person who represents the citizens," she said.

If elected Rowe said she will help attract new businesses to Wayne by empowering the DDA council to meet more frequently and let them be more involved in the plans for the downtown area.

Rowe said one of the biggest problems facing Wayne is the 13% decrease of personal property tax revenue. "Your taxes are going down because your property values are decreasing," she told the audience. But this means there is less money for the city's budget and that makes it tough to continue the level of service for residents.

Rowe would like to increase the city's population by "having a Friday night event in downtown, town hall meetings to let people know what we have to offer and open houses for realtors."



Council candidates Lorne Skip Monit, John Rhaesa, William Long, Christopher Sanders and Councilman Albert Damitio attended a Candidates Forum sponsored by the League of Women's Voters. They answered questions submitted by voters.

Rowe was asked if she was elected would she close the Community Center. She said, "I am one vote of 7. I do not believe in closing the community center. It is a building the citizens pay for and are paying for. We need to look at cost." She said the council needs to look at programs that will help offset the operational costs of the building.

She does support the sale of two city owned properties- the State Wayne Theater and Wayne Activity and Banquet Center. The WABC building would be her first choice.

"That could be a very viable tool for redevelopment," she said.

"My vision is to have Wayne (be what) I have been told existed. Wayne is a community of people. I grew up in a small town and I get that here. I want to be part of the revitalization."

The five city council candidates are vying for three seats. They also fielded questions submitted by the audience. They were each asked what they felt was the biggest problem facing Wayne.

Rhaesa said getting more police on the street, revitalizing the downtown and merging public services.

Long said trying to get the community more involved in the city.

Sanders said, "Our number one concern is deterioration of our neighborhoods. We need to attract new neighbors and business and rejuvenate the city's image."

Damitio said decreasing resources are the city's biggest problem. "The taxes we are getting are declining. We need to work to improve our income and finances."

Monit said, "Fiscal stability fuels everything else."

How can the city help existing downtown businesses?

Sanders said utilizing the DDA money for the purpose it was intended. Damitio said implementing the Master Plan.

"We need to create a business friendly environment and encourage business owners to meet and have the city listen to their concerns. They are the lifeblood of the city," Monit said.

They all agreed the role of an average citizen is important to Wayne.

Rhaesa said, "I belong to a group with a bunch of average citizens. They put flowers on our streets and

are about to put scarecrows up. They care, if we can harness that, give them the opportunity, greater things are yet to come."

Long said he hates the word average. "Every citizen is able to do something whether in your own yard or helping a neighbor, it takes that involvement to make a difference," he said.

Damitio mentioned the Friends: People Helping People project.

"It was just a group of average citizens that went and painted a house a week ago. It started with an average citizen standing up and asking for help in the community. I think the average citizen in the city of Wayne is outstanding," he said.

Long-term visions of the council candidates include, "getting the community involved and getting businesses to come to Wayne," Long said. "There's no reason we can't get a good quality restaurant."

Sanders wants to reestablish the mission to become a city of people, pride and progress and redefine the city's image.

Making improvements in neighborhoods is important to Damitio. He also said, "There are a lot of people who come to Wayne during the day to work. We have to be able to draw some of those people into the businesses."

Monit said, "My vision is to create a city where people don't just want to cruise through on Michigan Avenue. We need to present a reason for them to want to stop.

We've got to make them stop and enjoy what we have here."

"We can make a difference. We have to use the master plan and create some wins," Rhaesa said.

**As always, I count on your continued support for a brighter future and continued success for this great community.**

**VOTE HAIDOUS on Tuesday, November 8, 2011**

**Sincerely, Mayor Haidous**  
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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Award winning Zebras

Wayne Memorial High School has won the grand prize in the Famous Footwear Step It Up For Your School contest. They will soon receive close to \$89,000 in prize money. Principal Valerie Orr submitted an essay titled Wayne Pride Shines Through. In it she said, "our school is an exemplary school with a magnetic culture that draws students in and doesn't let go until they are on the road to success." The prize money will be used for the school's literacy initiative. They will purchase IPADS, downloadable books and computer software to help students struggling with reading. Over 700 schools nationwide entered the contest.

### Grub Crawl

The Wayne Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Grub Crawl from 6-9 p.m. on Oct. 20. Tickets are \$15 and will get you into 10 downtown locations. This is your chance to hit the streets for the best eats. Tickets are available at the Chamber office.

### Zebras Alumni All Access Weekend

Are you a proud WMHS alum-nus? Then join your fellow Zebras for Alumni All Access Weekend. There will be a VIP tent at the Varsity Football game at 7 p.m. on Oct. 14. Cider and donuts will be served. For all of the details check "Like" the Wayne Memorial High School Alumni Facebook page. You can call 734-721-0100.

### Household Hazardous Waste Day

Wayne County has scheduled a countywide Household Hazardous Waste collection for all county residents from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Nov. 5 at the Redford Public Service Dept., 12200 Beech Daly in Redford. Items accepted include household chemicals, paint, adhesives, fertilizer and lawn care products, antifreeze, products containing mercury and batteries as well as electronics.

# Damitio

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## OBITUARY

**Ernest Glenn Leasure** was born February 15, 1919 in Chillicothe, Ohio, the son of William E. and Grace Edna Leasure. He grew up with his two brothers Cecil and Richard in Ohio and worked at a paper mill after completing his schooling. He would later marry the love of his life, Agnes, and move to Michigan, where he would spend the rest of his life. He retired from the Ford Motor Company after over 30 years of service to the company as a Quality Control Inspector.

Ernie was a man of many talents. He was musically gifted, teaching himself the piano as well as playing trombone and tuba in the marching band. He also spent much of his life singing in the choir at his church, New Beginnings in Wayne, Michigan. He was an active member of the church for 64 years. His other great talent was in wood working. He could frequently be found working with his band saw to make toys or decorations for the yard.

Ernie loved to bowl, go square-dancing and horseback riding. He also loved to travel with Agnes and did so frequently.

Ernie was preceded in death by his



parents, his daughter Patricia Thomas and his brothers. He is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Agnes, as well as his beloved children William (Betsy) Leasure, Daniel (Irene) Leasure, Carol (Jerome) Glass and Diana (the late Louis) Pasnik. He is the grandfather of 12, the great grandfather of 12 and the great great grandfather of 4.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the Harry J. Will Funeral Home. Please visit: [www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com](http://www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com)

Ernie was laid to rest at Parkview Memorial Cemetery in Livonia, Michigan.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### City participates in court consolidation study

The City of Wayne has joined the communities of Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster and Westland in a study that would analyze the consolidation of the district courts.

"It's very important for us to participate in this study," said Mayor Al Haidous.

A consolidation of the district courts could result in a reduction of personnel and capital assets costs by combining court functions, sharing services and eliminating facilities. The National Center for State Courts will conduct the study and present it to the committee which include City Manager Robert English and District Court Judge Laura Mack. The city will share the \$48,000 cost with the other cities.

Recommendations from NCSC are due back to the committee in November.

### Blossoming with help

It just keeps growing. This year the Wayne Community Garden provided over 800 lbs. of herbs and produce that was donated to the St. Mary Outreach Center's food bank.

The 40 x 30 garden is located on Michigan Avenue next to the Wayne Police Station. It is operated as part of the community service program of the 29th District Court. More than 200 youth and adult community service workers and volunteers watering, weeded and harvested the garden. They also had help from the Wayne Rotary Club who donated the funds to purchase the sprinkler system. Wayne Metro Community Action Agency provided the seeds and plants for the garden. Wayne Garden Club, Wayne Civitan Club, City of Wayne Police, Fire, Youth Services, DPW, 29th District Court, Flower King of Livonia, Don Nicholson Enterprises and April Shepler also contributed to the garden.

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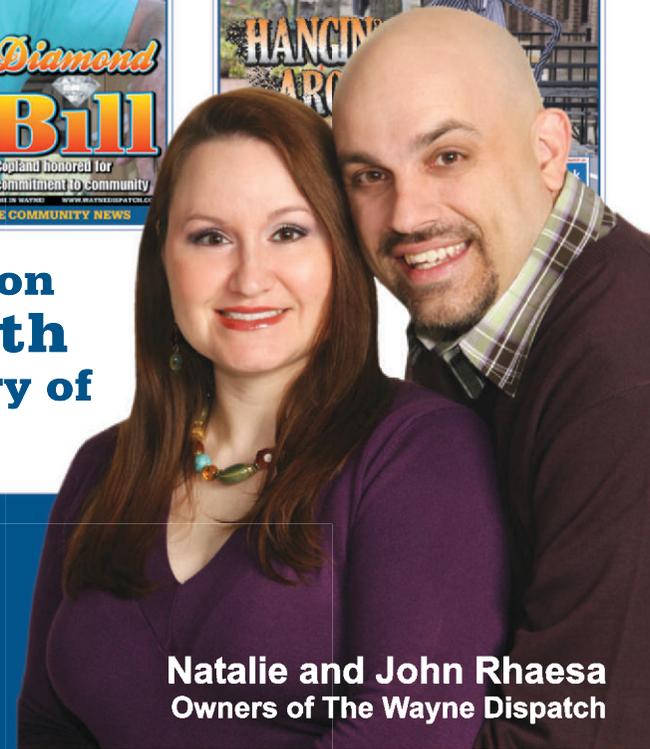


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# New leaders making their mark in Wayne

The First Congregational Church in Wayne recently welcomed their new minister. He's the Reverend Daniel Vellinga, or less formally--- Pastor Dan, who's only been here a few weeks and is still unpacking. Originally, the new minister is from Iowa, but has served his church in Idaho, Massachusetts, and Bowling Green, Ohio. Before coming to Wayne, Reverend Vellinga was a Chaplain at Mercy/St. Vincent's Hospital in Toledo.

He received his Master of Divinity degree at Oral Roberts University in Oklahoma. Married for 30 years to his high school sweetheart, Jeanne; they have a grown daughter, Nicole, whom they're happy to have living with them here in Wayne.

The new Pastor hopes to meet the religious leaders in the community very soon, and plans on perfecting his sermons. His goals include helping his flock as they pursue the Vision Statement of their church. It is: "The First Congregational Church of Wayne strives to be a place of acceptance, faith and love in Christ; worshipping, working and offering ourselves to God in fellowship with one another and the community. We seek to serve with open minds, open hearts, and open hands."

The Congregational Church workers are gearing up for their annual Fair. And while I know Pastor Dan will love his church and its community, once he gets a taste of all those wonderful candies, it'll be just one more reason he'll never want to leave Wayne.

The Wayne-Westland First Methodist Church also has a new minister. Not quite as new as Pastor

## Footprints of Wayne

Dee Ryan



Dan, the Reverend Paul Hamm, also known as Pastor Paul has been in Wayne since July. Although born in Korea, Pastor Paul called Brooklyn and Queens, New York home for most of his life. He did his undergraduate studies at our University of Michigan and received his Masters of Divinity at Drew University in New Jersey.

He began his service to the Church at the Korean United Methodist Church in Troy, as its Youth Pastor. He also served on Staten Island as the Children's and Youth Pastor.

Our Methodist Church is Reverend Hamm's first appointment as a Senior Pastor.

He and wife Jennifer have been married just about one year---since last October. She is a Master Student at the Michigan School of Professional Psychology.

Because of his youth, parishioners might think that his object will be to change things---not his idea at all. The Reverend describes his plan as a diagnostic mode. He wants to concentrate on those values which need cultivating and encouraging. Above all he aims to respect the time-honored traditions of his church.

Having been a youth minister himself, Pastor Paul wants to note the Church's Youth Coordinator, Jim Nault, who meets with young people



Pastor Daniel Vellinga of First Congregational Church and Pastor Paul Hamm of First United Methodist Church pictured here in front of the historic mural are happy to call Wayne home. Photo by John P. Rhaesa of The Wayne Dispatch

each Wednesday.

Although the two ministers are neighbors, they haven't met yet. I have an inkling that will change very soon.

Thanks to both Pastors Dan and Paul for their time, and to their secretaries, Linda Beasley and Sandy Ofiara for their help.

### Some final notes...

An outsized and enthusiastic crowd came to dine with Diamond Bill Copland and his family last month at the Wayne Activity and Banquet Center, where he was given

plaques from State, County, and City of Wayne Officials; each one praising his good works in our community.

At last month's wine and cheese party at our Library, order blanks were on each table.

When you found a wine you favored it was possible to order it from Dan and Kim McCarthy's Cost Plus shop at Eastern Market. Here's the best part---the McCarthy's delivered your order to our beloved reading institution. I call that a full service library---

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