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THE WAYNE Dispatch

DECEMBER 2011



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Tis the season of giving

Mary Anne and Tom Daily hosted their 43rd Veteran's Day Chili party on 11/11/11.

As with all good things the annual Chili Day will have 'Finis' after its name. Was it the fact that this year's party ended so many Veteran's Day remembrances, or were there more than the usual crowd attending? Among those I can mention: Kathy Beeny, Marie Pleuss: Judy and Dave Wells: Lynn and Jerry Higgs: Bev Woodard: Connie Bates: Shirley Marciniak: Midge Jaskolski: The Noels—Nancy and Matt: Pat Hartford and Corky Hays: Mike Rowland: Bridget Kelly: Carolyn and Chappie Reynolds: Judy Howton: John Norton.

At about 5:00p.m., Tom Daily read the names of all our dear comrades who have passed on over the years. This ended with a toast from all the guests.

Thanks to Mary Anne and Tom and their friends for all the hard work in bringing this Veteran's tribute to us for so many years.

It's time for all the Goodfellows Benefits---their motto---"No Child Left Behind." The first of the celebrations was at The Avenue Bar and Grill. November 30th was their evening to contribute to the charity. They offered dinner and drink Specials, followed by a festive night full of prizes, raffles, and auctions of sporting events and memorabilia.

Jake's Again held their 25th annual benefit for Goodfellows on December 1. In addition to their raffles, auctions, and prizes you also enjoyed Jakes famous burgers and fries at special prices. Sadly, Bill Brooks was not on hand to do the auctions and was greatly missed. Steve Englebretson filled in nicely as the auctioneer---I think Mr. Brooks would have been the first to agree.

Jake asked me to mention that Robin Muncie was here on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, and as they do most every year, held their family dinner at the bar.

Over at the Village Bar, Virginia and Lance will hold their Goodfellows night on December 8, from 5p.m. to 10p.m. They plan to have a 50-50 raffle and other raffles plus auctions.

The final Goodfellow Gala of the season will be at the US 12. Again

Footprints of Wayne

Dee Ryan



from 5p.m. to 10:p.m. John and Scott Goci will have special items to raffle and auction.

Whether you go to one of the Goodfellows benefits, or all of them, you will be contributing to the children and families in Wayne. It doesn't get much better than that--to have a good time, and do a good deed all at the same time.

As it does every November, the Garden Club gathered to decorate the Historical Museum. This year a special surprise awaited us as Joan Dittmar, who traces her family in Wayne back to the 1800's, brought boxes of antique ornaments to be used and viewed during the holidays.

Ms. Dittmar told a Christmas story that most of us had never heard. Originating in Germany it's the history of the 'pickle' ornament. The pickle ornament was always the last to be hung on the Christmas tree. It was well hidden among the branches. In the morning when the children awakened, they searched for the hidden pickle. The child who found it was given a special present from St. Nick.

The lighting of the Christmas tree will be on December 6, at 7:00p.m. Afterwards the museum will be open for cookies and hot chocolate. Then you can view all the delightful antique ornaments Joan Dittmar has collected since the 1950's.

Richard Story has posted some additional hours for Museum visits--Monday and Tuesday, December 19, 20--Tuesday and Wednesday, 27, 28. The hours for those 4 days are 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

The Museum will be closed December 23, 24, 30, and 31.

Our Ladies' Literary Club discussed their book---"Shanghai Girls" last month. Everyone agreed it was a very good 'read'. Sue Damitio brought in an article about The Iron Mountain Drawing Room Club---a book club started in 1879. Our Club



Tom and Mary Anne Daily made several varieties of chili to serve at their last Daily Chili Day on Veterans Day for their family and friends. Photo by John P. Rhaesa

started in 1896. And Karen Norton has found a Literary Club simply entitled "Book Broads." It really doesn't matter if your reading group is new or old, as long as you're sharing the love of books.

Please keep Kay Butler and Tom Dobrowolski in your thoughts and

prayers. They are both recovering from bad falls and we all wish them a swift return to good health.

This being my last column 'til 2012, I wish you all the happiest of Holiday Seasons.

And in the words of Tiny Tim---"God Bless Us Everyone."

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Principal Valerie Orr read her award winning essay to the crowd. Photo by John P. Rhaesa

Zebra fans Step It Up for Wayne Memorial

By Jenny Johnson

It was the best pep assembly yet. In addition to the talented performances by the band, cheerleaders, JROTC and vocal dimensions, there were some very special guests at Wayne Memorial High School's pep assembly on Nov. 9.

Terence Reilly, Vice President of Marketing for Famous Footwear, and Joy Howard, Converse Vice President Marketing-North America, were on hand to present Principal Valerie Orr a check for \$80,000. Orr submitted the winning essay to the "Step It Up For Your School" nationwide contest that outlined her idea to transform the school's literacy initiative.

Orr's essay explained her idea to use technology as a way to enhance the school's literacy initiative and to support struggling readers.

"The school already has a team working to help improve literacy, so I thought about nominating this idea right away. I included the modern technology component to enable our kids and teachers to become more proficient in technology while also working on reading skills," she said.

Technology is already being used in every core classroom district wide. Orr and her staff are brainstorming for the best ways for technology to reach the students who need it the most. She plans to purchase additional Smartboards and iPads with downloadable books, computer software to help teachers identify struggling readers and other resources to

support the reading and writing curriculum.

"It's really nice to have the financial flexibility to be creative and come up with the exact thing that we feel will be truly beneficial to our kids," Orr said. "We're very thankful to Famous Footwear and Converse for recognizing the financial need that schools have."

"We set out to inspire communities and students to step it up and take an active role in education by garnering support for their ideas on how to improve their schools," said Famous Footwear President Rick Ausic. "Wayne Memorial's story is an overwhelming example of students, faculty and parents joining together for education."

Once again the Wayne Memorial community supported their Zebras. The Step It Up For Your School contest was an online contest based on the essays submitted to Famous Footwear's Facebook page. The base prize began at \$15,000 and was increased for each additional vote cast, encouraging participants to rally their communities to vote for their school. In the end Zebra Pride beat out their competition.

The contest received more than 700 entries and more than 16,000 total votes. Orr rallied the troops and got more than 3,600 votes by sending emails to students, staff, alumni and using social media and

See **WAYNE**, page 4

WAYNE, Continued from page 3

flyers to ask the community to vote for them too.

"I just want to look and get a taste of what winning looks like," Reilly told the crowd. "This is all thanks to your principal—someone who is so in love with her school, students, faculty, administration and parents. Your principal wrote the winning essay for the Step It Up Contest."

Because she wrote the award winning essay, Orr herself was awarded \$20,000 and Wayne Memorial won \$60,000. But because Orr is a proud Wayne Memorial High School alumnus and dedicated to the school she loves, she donated her prize money to the school. She was proud to accept the \$80,000 check from Famous Footwear and Converse in front of the entire student body.

Orr said, "I would sincerely like to thank the folks from Famous Footwear and Converse for the generosity they have shown us and our kids. I want to thank the WMHS community for voting. This is the second time we have won an online contest where the winner was se-



Famous Footwear and Converse hosted a pep assembly for the entire staff and student body to present them with the Step It Up For Your School award.

lected by the school that gets the most votes. We have an extremely supportive community who stepped it up and voted for the Zebras each and every time we asked them to."

But Orr did not walk away empty handed. Because of her generosity, Reilly presented her with her own iPad. She also got a pair of specially designed Zebra print converse sneakers. All of the students who performed during the pep assembly got blue and gold Converse too.

"Converse is more than a shoe. It is a company that is committed to

one thing. Creating experiences that inspire you to do what you like to do," Howard said. "Today we are providing resources to help make learning more fun."

In addition to the prize money and Converse shoes, Famous Footwear and Converse also raffled off gift cards, five iPod Nanos and an iPad to students.

Orr's essay titled Wayne Pride Shines Through Wayne Memorial High School should win this financial award because you couldn't be voting for more deserving and tal-

ented kids. Our school is an exemplary school with a magnetic culture that draws students in and doesn't let go until they are on a road to success. Our kids come from diverse backgrounds and face difficult challenges, however they never cease to amaze us with their personal and scholastic accomplishments. Our students, nor our staff, use these challenges as an excuse to lower expectations. Wayne Pride shines through daily. Wayne Memorial High School would use the money to support our literacy initiative. The higher a child's reading ability, the most chance they have for a successful adulthood. We would purchase iPads and downloadable books for our reading classes that support struggling readers. We would also purchase computer software to assist our teachers in identifying struggling readers so we can move those students into one of our many safety nets. The money would also be used to purchase resources to support reading and writing across the curriculum. Please vote for the most amazing students and staff in the country!! Go Zebras!!!!

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Holiday fire safety tips

With the weather outside turning chilly, we start thinking about decorating for the holidays. It's also time to think about holiday fire safety. Each year fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400 people, injure 1,650 more and cause over \$990 million in damage. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA). The holidays are an exciting time of year for kids of all ages, and to help ensure they have a safe holiday season, here are some tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

Christmas trees - When purchasing an artificial tree look for the label "Fire Resistant." When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers the needles do not break. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin and when tapped on the ground the tree should not lose many needles. When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces, radiators or portable heaters. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways. Cut a few inches off the trunk of your tree to expose the fresh wood. This allows for better water absorption and will help keep your tree from drying out and becoming a fire hazard. Be sure to keep the stand filled with water, because heated rooms can dry live trees out rapidly.

Lights - Check all tree lights-even if you've just purchased them-before hanging them on your tree. Make sure all the bulbs work and that there are no frayed wires, broken sockets or loose connections. Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted. Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use. To hold lights in place, string them through hooks or insulated staples, not nails or tacks. Never pull or tug lights to remove them. Plug all outdoor electric decorations into circuits with ground fault circuit interrupters to avoid potential

Fire House News

Shawn Bell



shocks. Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.

Decorations - Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or nonleaded metals. Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use non-flammable holders and place candles where they will not be knocked over. In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable. Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children to prevent them from swallowing or inhaling small pieces. Avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a young child to eat them. Wear gloves to avoid eye and skin irritation while decorating with spun glass "angel hair." Follow container directions carefully to avoid lung irritation while decorating with artificial snow sprays. Remove all wrapping papers, bags, paper, ribbons and bows from tree and fireplace areas after gifts are opened. These items can pose suffocation and choking hazards to a small child or can cause a fire if near flame. Fireplaces should be inspected and cleaned annually by a licensed professional. Before lighting any fire, remove all paper and other decorations from fireplace area. Check to see that the flue is open prior to lighting the fire. Do not burn gift wrap paper in the fireplace as a flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

Finally, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help. And remember to practice your home escape plan.



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Gregory J. Baracy, Ed.D., Superintendent

Check all tree lights-even if you've just purchased them-before hanging them on your tree.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

DIA Rembrandt Exhibit

A volunteer from the Detroit Institute of Arts will present "Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus" at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 6 at the Wayne Public Library. This exhibit highlights Rembrandt's portrayals of Jesus, as well as other paintings, drawings and prints that depict events described in the Bible. Admission is free but call 734-721-7832 to register.

Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony

Join Santa, the mayor and city council at 7 p.m. on Dec. 6 at the Wayne Historical Museum, One Town Square, for the annual tree lighting. Christmas songs will be led by St. Mary Catholic Church Youth Choir. Get your photo taken with Santa for \$3 and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies served by the Wayne Beautification Committee.

Dressed for the Holidays

The Wayne Historical Museum has some beautiful holiday decorations on display this year thanks to long time Wayne resident Joan Dittmar. She has loaned the museum her own antique decorations. Take a step back in time and check them out this holiday season. The museum is located at One Town Square between the two Michigan Avenues and is open to the public from 1-5 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Admission is free.

Visit with an Elf

Freddy the Elf is in charge of fun at the North Pole and he's coming to visit the Wayne Public Library at



Santa hit the streets of Wayne to greet children of all ages during the Rotary Christmas Parade. Photo by Natalie M. Rhaesa

6:30 p.m. on Dec. 8. He's a mischievous fellow and his antics and humorous stories will keep you entertained. There will be dancing, singing, mischief-making and "special presents" for all from Freddy. Please call the children's department to register for this fun event 734-721-7832.

Goodfellows Fun

The Wayne Goodfellows will be out in force this month with the goal of "No Child Left Behind" in the City of Wayne. If you haven't made it to a party yet, it's not too late. The Village Bar will host a party on Dec. 8 with special guest Darren McCarty and US-12 will have one on Dec. 15.

Both parties are from 5-10 p.m. and will have food, drinks, raffles and auction items with proceeds going to help families in Wayne.

Holiday stroll

Check out downtown Wayne in the candlelight. From 4-8 p.m. on Dec. 9 more than 1000 candles will light up Michigan Avenue between Wayne Road and Second Street. Join the Season of Lights that includes old fashioned caroling with strolling choirs, hot chocolate, marshmallow roasting, s'mores and more. Enter to win a Downtown Wayne prize package at a scavenger hunt through Downtown Wayne stores. For more details visit www.WayneRippleEffect.com or call (734) 740-0606. This event is sponsored by the Wayne Ripple Effect and the Wayne Chamber of Commerce.

Christmas play

Inspire Theatre, 33445 Warren Road in Westland, will present "Christmas Eve on Woodward Ave" at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 11-12 and 3 p.m. on Dec. 13. Named after the local holiday classic by Red Wing singer, Karen Newman, the play is set at the Scrooge Television Network, owned by the tightfisted Ebenezer Scrooge. As the cast awaits the arrival of Santa and Karen at the "Woodward

studio," fun and frivolity ensues. Tickets are \$12. Reservations can be made by calling 734-751-7057.

Join senior Christmas Party

The Wayne Golden Hour Club and Wayne Senior Services invite you to their annual Christmas Party at 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 15 at the Wayne Activity and Banquet Center at Sims and Wayne Road. Lunch served at noon. Tickets are \$12. Enjoy food, fun, entertainment and raffles. There will be a rendition of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas.' Tickets can be purchased until Dec. 8 at the Senior Services Office located in the Wayne Community Center.

You can help

Are you looking for a way to help others this holiday season? Mark Chevrolet on Michigan Avenue is collecting items for Toys for Tots until Dec. 15. They are specifically looking for brand new unwrapped gifts for children age 9-14.

ICON Computers on Michigan Avenue is collecting gently used and new clothing and new unwrapped toys for Westland Goodfellows. If you are looking to help someone in need please consider stopping by one of these locations with a donation.

The bells will be ringing in Wayne. The Salvation Army needs help filling their Red Kettles. They will have bell ringers at the Kroger on Michigan Avenue, Walgreen on Michigan Avenue and Venoy and Northside Hardware on Wayne Road.

St. Mary Outreach Center is always looking for generous donations. They accept gently used clothes for their clothes closet, new personal hygiene items, canned food and monetary donations.

One can at a time

Wayne Westland students recently donated over 5300 lbs of non-perishable food to St. Mary Food Depot John Bolde and St. Matthew Food bank.

Members of the First Congregational Church of Wayne packed 100 Thanksgiving food baskets and donated them to local needy families. They will also donate 100 Christmas food baskets.

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Mayor Al Haidous with his wife, Mary, was sworn in to office by former City Manager John Zech. Councilman Al Damitio was sworn into office by his wife, Sue. Photos by Jenny Johnson

Mayor and council sworn in at City Hall

There are some new faces on City Council. After winning their re-election campaigns Mayor Al Haidous and Councilman Al Damitio were joined by first time council members Skip Monit and John Rhaesa at the swearing in ceremony at the Nov. 15 city council meeting. All four elected officials were joined by friends and family.

Haidous was sworn in by former City Manager John Zech. "I can't thank citizens of Wayne enough for the honor they have given all of us," Haidous said.

"I'm excited about the opportunity," said Councilman John P. Rhaesa. "We have some tough but exciting times ahead."

"I am honored and humbled by the support," said Councilman Skip Monit. He also thanked former Councilwoman Susan Rowe for her years of service.

Councilman Al Damitio said, "The City of Wayne is my family."

The three council members will serve four year terms and the mayor will serve a two year term. Councilwoman Pam Dobrowolski was nominated by Mayor Pro Tem Donna McEachern to serve as the next Mayor Pro Tem.



Councilman Skip Monit



Councilman John P. Rhaesa



Remembering friends

Franks Furniture employees place a wreath at the former site of the furniture store in remembrance of their colleagues Leslie Machniak and Jim Zell.

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Three day expedition proves Rouge River has canoeing potential

By Kurt Kuban

Normally when I think about canoeing adventures, my thoughts take me to places like the Canadian wilderness or floating along a beautiful river in northern Michigan. I usually don't think about the Rouge River.

Yet, during the first weekend of October, I spent three of the most grueling days I've ever spent in a canoe floating along the Rouge River, including the section that passes right through Wayne.

I was part of a group that spent pretty much most of the daylight hours over a three-day period canoeing the Lower Branch of the Rouge River from Canton all the way to Dearborn — a journey of about 22 river miles. Of course, along the way we had to duck under, climb over, or trudge around well over a hundred log jams of varying size. But we did it.

And I'm happy to report that nobody in our group of about a dozen foolhardy souls died or was seriously injured during our exploratory venture.

The group — which included myself, members of Friends of the Rouge, and some officials from Wayne County, Canton Township and the City of Wayne — shoved off on the morning of Friday, Oct. 7, at Beck Road in the western portion of Canton. On Sunday evening, just as the sun was setting in the west, we pulled up near Fairlane -- Henry Ford's historic estate in Dearborn. The Ford estate, located on the campus of U-of-M Dearborn, sits majestically on the main branch of the Rouge River, just upstream from its confluence with the Lower Rouge River, which is the branch we floated on. Our trip took us through most of Canton, Wayne, a portion of Westland, Inkster, Dearborn Heights and finally Dearborn.

Day one was perhaps the most grueling. The river is smaller in western Canton, and it winds quite a bit. As a result, it is just littered with fallen timber that has created dozens and dozens of logjams. That meant us finding any means necessary to get past each one — many had to be portaged around. We quickly became experts at evaluating the jams and how to get past them — whether it was to duck under, pull over or just



Kurt Kuban and other members of Friends of the Rouge led a canoe trip down the Rouge River and through Wayne. Photo by John P. Rhaesa

get out and walk around. By the end of the day, we had only made it to Lilly Road, which was far short of reaching our goal of getting half way through Wayne. We were also very sore.

Day two began at Lilly and we made our way east, traveling under I-275 and towards Hannan Road and into the City of Wayne. There weren't as many log jams as the previous day. By the end of the day, we had reached Wayne Road — the site of a dam, which was appropriate because the dam was the reason for our trip in the first place. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources long ago declared the dam a nuisance, because it impairs the ability of fish to move up and down the river to spawn. And it is the only dam on the Lower Branch of the Rouge.

After years of efforts to find the money for the project, it was recently announced that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Great Lake Restoration Initiative would provide grant money to remove the dam. The project, which is expected to take place next year, is really a big deal for the City of Wayne. It is receiving \$1 million out of the nearly \$5 million federal funding for Great Lakes restoration projects de-

signed to help environmentally degraded areas. Removing the dam will restore fish passage to migratory species such as salmon, walleye, northern pike and small mouth bass, and improve shoreline habitat. It will also reconnect 22 miles of the Rouge River with the Great Lakes.

Friends of the Rouge, a group with a long history of trying to save the Rouge, saw the dam removal project as a way to also promote the recreational opportunities of the river, especially fishing and canoeing. That's when the idea for our trip was hatched.

At the end of day two, a couple of us (city employee and former city councilman Matthew Mulholland and myself) decided to shoot over the dam, which is only about six feet high. Fortunately we survived this foolish act, though it was pretty exhilarating at the time.

Day three was by far the most rewarding. Because of the work volunteers have been doing over the last decade or so, most of the river is open through the City of Wayne east of Wayne Road. We actually got to paddle continuously for very long stretches, making it to Inkster Road by lunch. We paddled on into Dearborn Heights.

At Telegraph Road, we had a de-

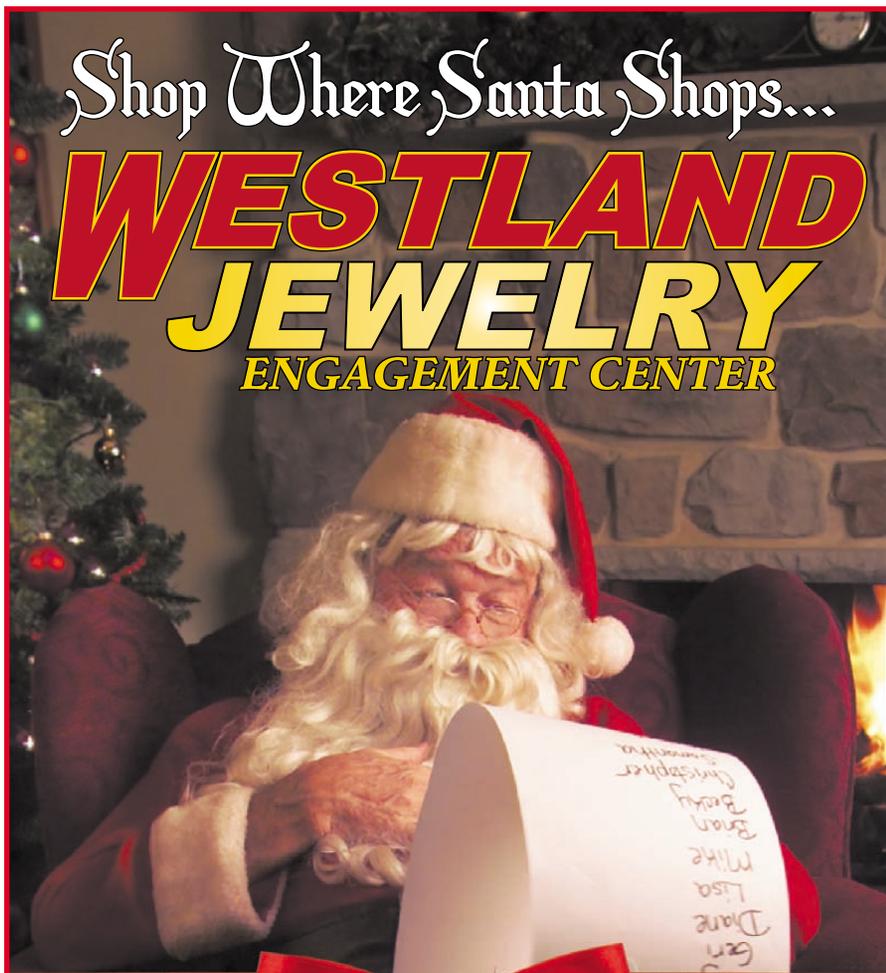
bate. It was about 4:30 p.m. The plan had been to take out there, and finish the trip on a fourth day. Some of us wanted to complete the journey that day though - Fairlane was only a couple miles away. We took a vote, and we decided to finish the trip that day. It was a great decision, because as we pulled up at Henry Ford's elegant home next to a large waterfall he built on the river, there was a perfect sunset. It was an appropriate end of our journey.

Our journey was all about letting the public know of the potential of the Rouge River — and its recreational possibilities. I can say without any hesitation, this long forgotten and ill-treated river is on its way back. It could be a great resource and add to the quality of life of our city and our region.

The river traverses a really nice forested corridor, which in many places is reminiscent of northern Michigan. We saw plenty of wildlife on our trip. We saw some large fish in Canton, including some pike. We saw deer and raccoons, mink and plenty of species of birds, including some egrets and blue herons that squawked at us for disturbing them when we got out of the canoes and visited a really nice man-made wetlands area in Inkster. And perhaps most promising, we saw evidence of beavers in the river.

The Rouge River is never going to be the AuSable or the Manistee. Or even the Huron for that matter. The Rouge River watershed is home to more than a million people. And that many people cause lots of problems for a river like the Rouge — storm water runoff, garbage, and even dumping of raw sewage (which we found a couple cases of in Dearborn Heights). But the Lower Rouge could be a real nice canoe route, especially from Canton through Wayne and to Inkster Road. It is something that Canton, Wayne, Westland and Inkster should really try to promote, not to mention Wayne County, which owns most of the land along the river.

With a little more attention and some proper planning, it could be a nice draw to our city. This is our river. If we were able to make it a viable canoe route, which I really believe is possible, it would be a heck of a legacy to leave to future generations.



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Wayne police stop crimes in progress

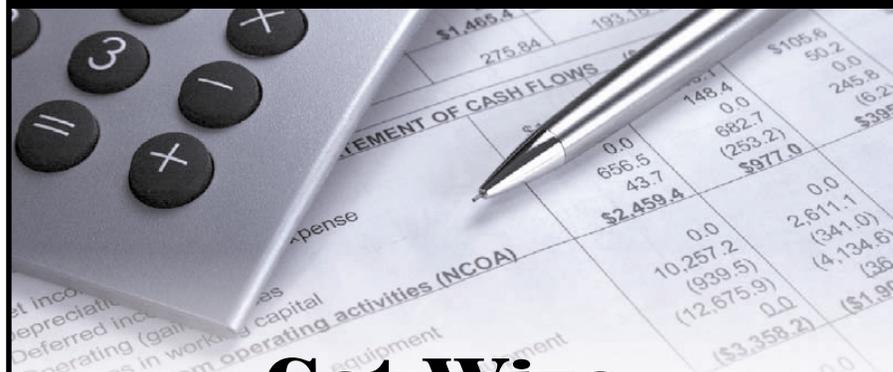
On Nov. 12 Wayne Police officers Felts, Amore, Mangan and Hamlet stopped a larceny from a vehicle at Newberry Square Apartments. Two suspects were rifling through a vehicle parked in the municipal parking lot and fled on foot. They were located in the area of Michigan Avenue westbound and Elizabeth. The stolen property was recovered and Randy Harold of Oak Park and Richard Gasser of Romulus were arrested for Larceny from Vehicle.

clothing were recovered. Terrica Jackson, homeless, was charged with Retail Fraud 2nd degree a one year misdemeanor and Rasheedah Olverson, of Ypsilanti Township, was charged with misrepresenting her identity. Both also had several outstanding warrants.

Police Chief Jason Wright said, "The officers in the larceny from vehicle investigation demonstrated team work and worked well together. I commend all of them for their dedicated patrol work. The lieutenant who conducted the business check did a nice job as well. This incident is a perfect example why the Wayne Police Department conducts walk-throughs of businesses. We conduct these walk throughs when time permits all year, not just during the holiday season. We find them to be very pro-active and a good community policing tool."

On Nov. 19 Lt. Lindberg conducted a business check at the General Dollar on Michigan Avenue. The manager indicated a retail fraud in progress to Lt. Lindberg. He investigated two subjects at the store and arrested both of them- one for retail fraud and the other for misrepresenting identity. Several items of

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Tips to keep your dog safe during the Holidays

By Vanessa Janowski

The holidays are a time for families and friends to get together and make memories. With the commotion of shopping, decorating and cooking this time of year, it's important to keep a safe atmosphere for your furry friend. Here's a few tips to keep in mind to ensure both you and your dog have a fun and safe holiday season.

As much as your dog may beg, it's important to not give him/her any chicken or turkey bones. When bigger bones may seem harmless, it is still possible that your dog could break off a piece or even swallow the whole bone. Bones can get stuck in the throat or stomach and your dog may end up in emergency to remove it.

Supervise dogs around decorations. Decorations such as tinsel, lights, confetti, ribbons and ornaments are popular embellishments that can be an easy target for dogs to get ahold of. If you have to leave the room either take him/her with you or put a barrier (baby gates work great) to block the room with the tree or decoration from your dog.

Keep chocolate and other sweet treats away from counter top edges and low tables. Your dog may have an urge to quench its sweet tooth. Chocolates, among other snacks, are dangerous to dogs and can be life threatening. Pet stores and dog bakeries have dog-friendly desserts if you want to give your dog something special for the holidays.

Walking your dog throughout the year is important. Dogs need exer-



cise year round. If possible try to keep your dog from walking on sidewalks that have salt. You can buy booties for your dog to protect their paws from ice, snow and salt. If your dog will not walk with the booties, check their paws when you get home and take out any debris that can get stuck in between the pads of the paws.

Your dog wants to have fun too, and he/she can be included in the family excitement. Have a stocking with dog treats and/or toys for your dog. You can also wrap a present with a new toy and let them open it (with your supervision of course). This can also be a good mind exercise for your dog as they figure out a way to get their present unwrapped. Only use wrapping paper with no ribbons or bows, which can be fatal to your dog's stomach. So include your furry friend in the festivities and happy holidays!

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LETTERS

I'm sorry

To the Editor,

I apologize to all the folks who've been my friends all these years.

I was misled by Chris Sanders and more importantly, I tried to get him to quit using my name. He kept calling people right up to the end and used my name as an endorsement.

For this I'm very sorry.

Sincerely,
 William Copland

Mistakes made lessons learned

Dear Editor,

Life lessons are typically learned by our own mistakes or the mistakes of others. The key is to learn from those mistakes. This past election the Wayne Fire Fighters Local 1620 endorsed candidates without doing thorough research and the proper leg work that our reputation and citizens deserve. As a local union we are involved in our community and have a genuine interest in the success of our City. In the months leading up to November 8th, we had several candidates contact us looking for our endorsement. Most of

these candidates were able to speak before the membership about their vision and goals for the City of Wayne. Unfortunately, due to scheduling conflicts, we apologize to those who were unable to address us. As a union we look for candidates that are not only supportive of public safety, but also have fresh ideas and a vision to help the city succeed and grow. After our endorsements were made public, newspaper articles and local televised news reports began to surface. Because of our lack of research, we were also being educated by the local media. As we were reading articles and watching the broadcasts, we began questioning if we had made the right decisions. This is not a very comfortable position to be in. To this day, we do not know what the true facts are, that is for the legal system to figure out. The bottom line is, our decisions in any capacity should reflect our pride in our city and in our department. We have learned many things this election season, these lessons will assist us in being a better union and helping our city become a better place. We look forward to a bright future for all.

Wayne Fire Fighters Local 1620



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Village Bar challenges Michigan smoking ban

By Jenny Johnson

Theresa Shackelford, owner of The Village Bar in Wayne, is part of a group that may file a class action lawsuit against the State of Michigan in protest of the smoking ban that began in May 2010. Since then she has seen a steady decline in her business- especially when the weather gets cold.

She said in the past six weeks her Keno has been down \$2000 a week. Her daytime business has fallen by about 50%.

"It's like watching a bomb drop," she said. "It's killing jobs, businesses, retirements. It's killing dreams." The smoke-free legislation, bans cigarette and cigar use in workplaces, including bars, restaurants and offices.

Shackelford is part of Protect Private Property Rights in Michigan. PPPRM is fighting the court system to get the smoking ban lifted or at least have a compromise, she said. According to PPPRM, 260 local bars

have closed since the smoking ban began. She said her business is private property but the state is dictating how she operates it. She has had meetings with state legislatures trying to get them to amend the current smoke free legislation. And she is not alone. A bar in Macomb County was cited by the health department for allowing smoking in their establishment. They are taking the case to the Michigan Supreme Court. The Village Bar is the first in Wayne County to challenge a citation.

"I am being made responsible for what other adults do," she said. Enforcing the smoking ban falls under the jurisdiction of the county health department. It is not a civil infraction, misdemeanor or felony. It is a health department code.

Michigan is now the 38th state to implement legislation that bans smoking in public areas. It's killing jobs in the State of Michigan and taking so much money out of our local economy," Shackelford said.

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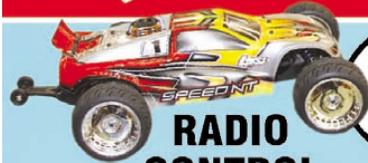
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NEWS BRIEFS

Rowe awarded Women of Achievement

Susan Rowe, former councilwoman, received the YWCA Women of Achievement Award on Dec. 2. She was nominated by Judge Laura Mack who said Rowe "embodies integrity and good government. She is an excellent role model for women seeking to make a difference in their communities."



In addition to serving on Wayne City Council, Rowe is also on the Michigan Municipal League, the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and the League of Women Voters (LWV).

Leaf Pick Up

Remember there is no curb side leaf pick up this year. Residents have to bag their leaves and put them out on their regular trash day. Compost and leaf pick up will continue through Dec. 16.

Bullet Proof Vest Grant

The Wayne Police Department has received a \$7750 grant from the 2011 Bullet Proof Vest Partnership through the US. Dept. of Justice. This grant requires 50% match from the city and will provide funding for about 18 bullet proof vests for police officers.

Police Chief Jason Wright said this is another successful program that helps offset the costs of vest.

Deputy Chief Tony DeGiusti is very active in pursuing grants for the police department, Wright said. Each vest lasts about five years. If it gets used, the manufacturer replaces it with a new one.

Police Advisory

Wayne Police want to alert residents that recently there have been some residential burglaries on Elizabeth Street south of Michigan Avenue. These break-ins have occurred during the day time. Rear doors and windows have been forced open to gain entry. Residents are encouraged to report any suspicious activity in their neighborhoods to the police department at 734-721-1414.

JAG Grant

The Wayne Police Department received a \$9966 grant from the Justice Assistance Grant Program from the U.S Department of Justice. The grant is to be used in specific areas including preventions education, enforcement planning or technology. Police Chief Jason Wright said the JAG grant will be used to replace the recording system for the telephones.

There is no match by the city for the grant. Wayne is one of 15 communities in Wayne County to receive the JAG grant.

Pearl Harbor Survivor Speaks

The Wayne Rotary will present The Nate Weiser Story at 6 p.m. on Dec. 7 at Wayne Tree Manor, 35100 Van Born Road. Weiser is a lifelong Rotary member and a Pearl Harbor attack survivor. He will talk about his experience. There will also be dinner and drinks. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. For tickets, please call Steve Tackett at 734-740-4982.

New businesses

Two new businesses are getting ready to call Wayne home. Cutt'n Up, is a four station barber shop that will be located on Wayne Road in the Seven Star Plaza just north of Annapolis. O'Reilly Auto Parts will move into the former Blockbuster location on Michigan Avenue east by Goody's Pet Supply. This strip center will now be fully occupied.

Pool prepares for swimmers

The Ted D'Pulos Pool will re-open February 2. They are now accepting reservations for birthday parties and field trips. Call (734) 721-7400.

Heise holds office hours in Wayne

State Representative Kurt Heise will hold district office hours from 1-2 p.m. on Dec. 12 at the Wayne Community Center. No appointment is necessary during these office hours. If you are unavailable to attend but wish to set up an appointment either in the district or in Lansing, please call 1-855-REP-KURT or email kurt.heise@house.mi.gov.

Memories from Christmas past...

This year will mark my 58th Christmas. And while I admit that there have been times when I arrived at Northside Hardware and forgot what I came for, I can still vividly recall many of my early childhood Christmas gifts and memories.

I fondly remember how happy I was when I walked home from school and learned that the Christmas gift catalogs had arrived. Looking back I feel sorry for the letter carrier that had to lug all of those heavy books along his route. For those that are too young to remember them, I am referring to the Christmas gift catalogs from Sears & Roebuck, Montgomery Ward and J.C. Penny. The copy from Sears was always known as the "Wish Book". I would spend days poring over the books imagining how great my life would be if I found any of those toys under the tree on Christmas morning. And Santa must have liked what he read in my yearly letter because many of the toys that I had circled on those dog eared catalog pages were usually under the tree on Christmas.

Of all the presents I received in my early childhood, I think I enjoyed my Tonka trucks the best. They provided not merely hours of imagination, but years of imagination. Tonka trucks were made of steel and seemed to be indestructible. I can still remember hauling my guinea pigs around the yard in the back of a green cattle hauler. How could I ever forget the endless hours of entertainment I derived playing in David McCollum's backyard with my bull dozer, crane, stake truck and pick-up truck? David lived next door to me and his father had fenced off a section in the backyard where we could dig to our hearts content. We dug a small quarry for our "heavy equipment" to operate in. That is, until the time when we tried to dig a hole to China. My father had said

On the Bright Side

Hal Hultman



that we would hear Chinese voices when we got close to the other side. As often as we put our ears to the earth, we never heard a thing.

Aside from my trucks, there was also the time when I was going to be a ventriloquist. Santa had brought me both a Jerry Mahoney and Danny O'Day dummy to practice with. I played the instructional record over and over and soon discovered that it's impossible to sound the letter B without moving your lips. That was the end of that career path!

Lastly, I would like to say that my best Christmas memories are of my family. Christmas has always been magical to me. Getting together with all of my cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents were the best times ever. We all lived in the same town back then and both sides of my family were and still are very close with each other. In fact, my father's brother and mother's brother were closest of friends from grade school right up until one of them died recently. Sometimes I wish that I still lived in Downers Grove.

Regardless of where I live, I still feel warm all over when I look at an old black and white photo of my brother and I in our pajamas sitting beneath a spindly looking Christmas tree as we contemplate Santa's impending arrival. I can only hope that my Grandson Sam will have similar memories when he reaches his 58th Christmas.

Merry Christmas and Season's Greetings to all of you.



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