

THE WAYNE Dispatch

SEPTEMBER 2018

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Costas Ciungan reopened Costas Village Bar in August, the bar held its official ribbon cutting ceremony.

Passing on the family legacy

By Carolyn Marnon

Built in 1926, no one could have predicted the future of 35234 W Michigan Ave. Four years later, in 1930, Gus Roussakies was born in Warren, Ohio during the depression. Gus, a U.S. citizen, travelled with his family to Greece when he was just a year old.

As a young man of 18, Gus would need to enter the military service and serve during the Greek Civil War that raged on at the time. To avoid the mandated service, Gus returned to the United States to live with an aunt in Detroit. He later moved to Baltimore. This was an area known for its large Greek population.

Arranged marriages were the norm for Greek families of the time. A marriage was arranged for Gus with a young lady whose family owned restaurants in the area. He worked in the restaurant business, and his in-laws eventually helped set him up in his own business. Unfortunately, his wife died while in her 30s and left Gus with a 7-year old daughter to raise as a single parent.

Gus returned to Detroit with his daughter and started working at Ford's Wayne Assembly plant. Thus begins the story of the family in the Wayne area.

Gus's daughter is the mother of Costas Ciungan (pronounced chungan), the current young owner of Costas Village Bar, formerly known as The Village Bar.

Costas's grandfather owned The

Village Bar for over 30 years. Back in the late 1950s/early 1960s, Gus bought the bar (the bar side has been a bar ever since it was built, according to Costas). With the old theatre operating nearby, the "joint was hopping," according to Costas. Grandfather Gus, he said, gave much to the Wayne community and engaged with the community. He tried to sell the bar and retire, but by the mid-to-late 1990s, the contract became null and void. The business reverted back to Gus. He operated it by himself until 2001 when he brought in his brother, John.

In 2010, Gus tried to sell the bar again. The process to sell the bar is lengthy and after six years, the bar again reverted back to Gus. Unfortunately, Gus died in November, 2016. Gus had left his interest in the business to his brother, John, and to his only grandson, Costas. The family gained possession of the bar back in November, 2017.

John owned another bar in Livonia, so he sold his interest in the bar to Costas. Costas is now the bar's only owner. Costas wants to bring back the tradition and history of his grandfather's bar. He wants to help serve people. He wants to serve not just good drinks, but good food reminiscent of that which was sold during his grandfather's years.

Costas started helping in the kitchen when he was 16 years old. Before that, he would clean the bar on Sundays. Gus would share

recipes with his grandson. He always wanted things done a certain way. Costas says he gets his burger meat from Norm's Market in Westland. This meat makes a burger similar to the ones his grandfather made.

Costas mentions that the prior owner did make some infrastructure improvements and put in new flooring. He is looking for a warm and welcoming feel when a guest walks in the door. Restoring great customer service and quality food products is his goal. New management and staff are in place, including Costas's aunt, Carolyn Ciungan, who is the manager and works days and his sister, Christina Tobin, who is the night manager. Costas has a twin sister who lives in Texas and is not involved in the business.

The bar reopened as Costas Village Bar on July 12 under the management of Gus's family and brings back good food and spirits. In August, the bar held its official ribbon cutting ceremony.

In addition to enjoying food, liquor, beer and wine, you can play Keno and Pull Tabs. There is a TouchTunes jukebox and 6 pool tables available. 9 TVs can almost ensure you won't miss your favorite sporting event: one even has an 85-inch screen. You can get your food to go, and you can even order beer and soda to go. The beer comes in a sealed 6-pack.

Some might be puzzled by the rowing pictures and framed jerseys

hanging on the wall. Costas is a part-time rowing coach at Grand Valley State while pursuing his Master degree part-time. The framed jerseys are ones he was given when his rowing team won races. He explained that the losing team in a race would give their jerseys to the person in their same rowing position of the winning team. These are prized possessions to Costas and something he is very proud of. The display of old newspaper clippings and vintage photos are from Gus's rowing days.

Starting Thursday, September 13 at 6:00 p.m. you can participate in or just enjoy listening during Open Mic with host Robert Johnson. Starting Tuesday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m. you can come in and enjoy Trivia Night. Friday and Saturday night feature Karaoke starting at 9:00 p.m. The bar is open to having bands play on Friday or Saturday nights. Contact Christina, the night manager.

And don't let the name fool you. This is not just a bar. Costas wants the community to come in and enjoy themselves. Families can dine in the bar area until 9:00 p.m. The bar serves grilled cheese, chicken tenders and French fries, all favored by young eaters. The prices are reasonable. Costas says he has had good feedback.

"We're trying to make it a family restaurant with good food. We're hoping to be a charming space. The first thing we did when this was an idea and there was talk, how we can come back in. We created a distinct logo with five stars emphasizing good food, good drinks and good service."

Although the family is Greek, there are no plans for Greek music or dancing. You can, however, enjoy a Taste of Greece on Saturday nights. There is plenty of parking behind the building and some parking on the street in front. The location is convenient if someone wishes to catch a movie at the State Wayne Theatre and then have dinner.

Dreams for the future would include an outdoor patio. Perhaps an opportunity to do something with the vacant land next door.

When asked why he thought his grandfather left him the bar, he answers, "I think he thought I was the right man to leave it to. We always learned from my grandfather to seek a better path for ourselves. I visited him; I worked for him."

NEWS BRIEFS

Tai Chi classes

This gentle form of exercise can help maintain strength, flexibility and balance; this could be the perfect activity for the rest of your life. There is growing evidence that this mind and body practice has value in treating or preventing many health problems. This low-impact, slow-motion exercise can be adapted for anyone. Ten-week session is being offered beginning Tuesday, September 11. Fee is \$65 for the ten-week course. This averages out to \$6.50 per class; isn't your health & wellness worth that investment? Must pre-register by Tuesday, September 5. Call Nancy at Wayne Senior Services (734) 721-7460. The class will be held at HYPE Recreation Center, 4635 Howe Rd.

Attention grandparents and/or caregivers!

You don't need to feel alone any more. Join a group that meets at the First United Methodist Church, 3 Towne Square, on the second Wednesday of the month (starting September 12) from 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. The best place to park is in the south parking lot at the church. Meet in the church parlor. Questions? Call Linda Maylone at (734) 674-7239. No child care available at this time. The church is handicapped accessible.

Book sale

The Friends of the Westland Library will be holding a book sale next month. Thursday, September 13, will kick off the event with a Preview Sale from 3:00-6:00 p.m. There is a small entrance fee to this event. Everyone is invited to the open sales on Friday and Saturday, September 14-15, from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Sunday, September 16, will feature the \$4 bag sale from Noon-3:00p.m.

Fall Church Rummage Sale

Come to the Fall Rummage Sale at the First United Methodist Church in Wayne Thursday and Friday, September 13 & 14, (9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) and Saturday, September 15, (hours 9:00 a.m.-Noon). Also, Saturday is bag day. You pre-buy a \$3.00



Wayne resident Winifred Eberts celebrated her 108th Birthday at Maple Manor last month.

or \$6.00 bag and fill it with items you select from the main hall. The church is handicapped accessible. The address is 3 Town Square (across from the Wayne Post Office). Questions? Call the church office at (734) 721-4801.

2018 Diamond of the community named

The Wayne Commission on Aging is proud to announce this year's Diamond of the Community, Mrs. Patt Hartford. She was chosen because of all the great volunteering she does throughout our community. A dinner in her honor will be held on Tuesday, September 18, at 6:00 p.m. For further information and/or tickets, please call Nancy at Senior Services at 734-721-7460.

9th annual veterans summit

The 9th Annual Veterans Summit will be held on Thursday, September 20, at 1:00 p.m. at the VisTaTech Center, Schoolcraft College, 41700 W Six Mile Rd, Northville. The annual Veterans' Summit brings experts together with veterans in need of understanding the benefits for which they may be eligible through Veterans Affairs. Topics this year will include: VA Ann Arbor Medical Center update, State Veterans update, Veterans Home for Southeast Michi-

gan, Maximizing Veterans Health Care, Veterans Health & Medical Cannabis, and Disability update. Veteran specialists will also be on hand to address special needs. VA, MVAA and County Counselors will answer questions. You and your guests must register for this free event at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/9th-annual-veterans-health-summit-tickets-49189363711>

City attorney and councilman resigns

The Wayne City Council accepted the resignation of City Attorney Breeda O'Leary-Brassfield at the council meeting on September 4. The council appointed the law firm of Giamarco, Mullins and Horton of Troy to provide legal services and to act as the city attorney on a temporary basis. The council also accepted the resignation of appointed Councilman Ryan Gabriel.

Vacant positions at fire department

The Wayne Professional Firefighters Association Local 1620 asked City Council to approve a letter of agreement with the city that any newly hired Firefighter/EMT B be classified as a "Provisional Employee." A representative of the association told the council there are 3 vacant positions under the SAFER

grant. The department has had several paramedics leave over the last year. Under this agreement, the department would be able to hire EMT Bs (Basics) who are enrolled in paramedic school. Concern was raised over EMT Bs and what services they could actually provide on the truck. Council was told that a Basic would always be on a truck with a trained paramedic.

"Celebrity" dinner shows coming up

The Knights of Columbus Notre Dame Council 3021, 3144 S. Wayne Rd, present several upcoming evening "dinner and a show" options.

September 22: A tribute variety show featuring Greg Jaqua's tribute to Elvis Presley, Dean Martin, Willie Nelson, Tom Jones and many more and Charlie Nova's country music review.

October 20: Brandon Stryker's tribute to Frankie Valli along with a Broadway show review. Tyrone Hamilton will be performing as Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder and Ronnie Milsap.

Meet and greet ward 6 candidate

Be an informed voter in November. You can meet Ward 6 candidate Phil Wagner on Thursday, September 27, from 5:00-9:00 p.m. at Karma Coffee and Kitchen, 35634 W. Michigan Ave.

Come prepared to talk about issues that Wayne is facing and what some of his solutions are to help our city thrive.

Red October Run

Beaumont Hospital's annual Red October Run will be Sunday, October 7, at Greenfield Village, Dearborn. There will be a 5K run, 5K walk, and kids' Junior October 1 mile. Red October Run supports youth fitness and nutrition education programs in conjunction with Beaumont's Healthy Communities Initiative. Registration is limited to 1500. Register at www.beaumont.org/redoctober-run.

See **Briefs**, page 13

Pro champion drag racer from Wayne

By Carolyn Marnon

After over 30 years of drag racing within members of the Kull family, Wayne resident Steven Kull is the first in the family to win a championship.

Steven Kull was recently named Pro-class champion at Milan Dragway for the 2018 race season. He said there are 12 races over the summer season and each driver earns 10 points for every round won. Two drivers race their cars against each other at a time. The winner gets the points while the loser is eliminated. The rounds continue until one winner remains. With this system, it is possible to never win a race during the season and still become the season champion. It's all about getting those points each round. Steven ended the season with 273 points, having won 27 rounds and picking up 3 extra points for coming in 2nd place during one race. Winning a race would have earned an extra 4 points.

What makes Steven stand out in the field of racers at Milan? It would be his white 1964 Malibu Station wagon. Yes, you read that right—a station wagon. Steven drag races with that old family favorite. You or someone you know probably remembers sitting in the back seat facing the drivers coming up behind you and waving. Steven is taking that waving in a whole new direction as his wagon waves that dust back at his opponent.

Steven is now heading to Indianapolis later this month for the Division 3 NHRA (National Hot Rod Association) Bracket Finals where he will compete against the top 10 racers from 17 other Division 3 tracks



Steven Kull was recently named Pro-class champion at Milan Dragway for the 2018 race season with his father Ray Kull from K and S (right) with family and friends celebrating Steven's championship win.

in the region. He also gets to participate in the Race of Champions against the pro champions from the other tracks.

Now just where did that station wagon come from? In the late 1980s, Steven's father, Ray Kull, who owns and operates K & S Auto on Wayne Rd., and Ray's brother, Jim, went to a house in Dearborn Heights to buy tires for a mud bog truck. The station wagon was sitting in the house's backyard.

A year later, Ray and Jim were sitting around when Jim pondered whether that guy in Dearborn still had that station wagon sitting in his backyard. They called; he did; they bought. And thus was born a unique drag racer.

Unless they wanted to hobble along with the 1990s minivans of the world, the station wagon did need a few adjustments—new engine, new

transmission and slick tires. A slick tire is a tire with a smooth tread used in auto racing.

Ray was the original drag racer in this car, followed by Jim Kull, and now Steven. Steven's cousin, Josh, has raced a couple times in the car, but he now has his own car to race.

Steven started going to the track with his family when he was about 5 years old. He began racing when he was 8 in junior dragsters. Junior dragsters are ages 8-14 and race what looks like a go-cart. Once a driver gets a driver's license, he/she can race cars. Steven says he tried playing baseball but that didn't work out.

Steven's fiancée, Felecia Morin, and his soon to be 3-year old son, Hunter, cheer him on. In his free time, he enjoys boating. And no, there is no boat-racing on the horizon.

The speed and excitement of racing are what drag Steven into the sport. His car can travel from the starting line to the finish line in 9.69 seconds at 136 mph.

If he wins in Indianapolis, he will be able to go on to the national racing championships in Pomona, California in October. He would have to beat approximately 180 other cars to get there.

What is Steven's goal in racing? "To win at Indy," says Ray. Steven adds, "That's the big deal, to win at Indy. To go to nationals and then you have a chance to become a world champion."

For 20 years or so, K & S Auto, Red Apple (Wayne) and Gibson, Broach & Tool (Westland) have sponsored Steven's car. It's quite fitting that Ray is wearing a t-shirt emblazoned with "We believe in heroes." Certainly, Steven is his hero.

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Locally-made tortillas found at area stores

By Carolyn Marnon

Wander the Hispanic food aisle at Fresh Choice Food Center, and you will come across products made by Tortillas Tita, a small business located in an office/industrial area off Michigan Ave. Founded by husband and wife Martha Jaramillo and Francisco Alvarez, the business is slowly growing. They had to move from their original location in Westland for one with more space in Wayne.

Martha and Francisco were both born in Mexico. They met in college and moved to the United States when Francisco was sent to Toledo by his employer in the auto industry. He says it was challenging, but it eventually led to a job with Ford Motor Company where he now works full-time while helping Martha part-time with the family business.

While living in Toledo, Martha would have to drive to Detroit to get authentic tortillas. Francisco says Mexicans eat tortillas like Americans eat bread. Later, Martha was attending Eastern Michigan University for her Master of Business Administration (MBA). In a class where students studied business cases, there was an assignment given to put together a business plan. Martha chose to write up a plan for running a tortilla shop. Francisco helped her write up the areas about engineering and the manufacturing process since he had that background from his jobs in the auto industry.

Nothing came of the plan until about July 2010 after Martha had received her MBA and was looking for a job. Francisco recalled the business plan and suggested they open a tortilla shop. They further developed the original plan, and Tortillas Tita was born. Tita was a nickname Martha had in Mexico.

Francisco's side of the family comes from Central Mexico. They owned mills and made their own corn meal. His grandmother made a living by making tortillas in-house by hand. The recipe they use at Tortillas Tita to make their tortillas is an adaptation of his grandmother's recipe using corn meal that is available in the U.S.

The business produces corn tortillas, flour tortillas, chips and tostadas. These products can be



Martha Jaramillo and Francisco Alvarez with some of the tortillas they manufacturer in Wayne.

found in approximately 100 stores and restaurants in the area. Martha handles the merchandising side of the business and has accounts with Fresh Choice Food Center in Wayne, several in Westland (Heartland, La Tiendita Mexican Market and Dos Hermanos Market), several in Canton (Holiday Market and Busch's) along with Honeybee Market, Plum Markets and Vince & Joe's. All carry the tortillas while only a couple sell the chips.

The couple is working on increasing the capacity of their manufacturing process. They arrive before 4:00 a.m. to start mixing the dough and running the tortillas through the machines. The machines cut, bake and cool the tortillas as they travel down the line. They are packaged by hand. Over the summer, they were able to get help from some high school students. They manufacture the tortillas and chips until 11:00 a.m. at which time Martha takes off to deliver products, set up displays and find new sales outlets. Francisco heads off to his full-time job in Livonia.

The challenge for Tortillas Tita is being able to make enough product that Martha can sell, especially with the chips. They are looking for ways they can expand that process to

make more. In the meantime, the chips are only in a few stores because not enough can be made to keep in stock if they tried to expand to more stores at this time. It's important to Francisco and Martha that they don't overpromise what they can't deliver.

Honesty is important to Martha and Francisco. "I want to be welcomed when I come to the stores," says Martha. "I don't want to push anyone out of the way." Stores can sometimes have bad transactions with suppliers and don't trust those suppliers when they come in with their products. This is something Martha works hard at to avoid. They believe the values they set in their company translate into whether the community will trust them.

With ownership of their small business, they have learned several things. Martha has learned to be persistent, consistent and self-disciplined. Francisco says teamwork is the main thing he has learned. Working with suppliers and customers is important because, he says, "sometimes it's easy to get into your own world."

Francisco and Martha express gratitude to Wayne City Clerk Matt Miller, whom they knew from attend-

ing St. Mary's. Matt took the time to help them and "that was a big reason we ended up here (in Wayne). I appreciate how much work he put into getting us into this town," says Francisco. Having outgrown the location they started with in Westland, they have been in Wayne since 2013.

Francisco jokes, "We can do Uber if we want to give up." He goes on to say, however, "Your commitment has to be more than 100% if you want to succeed." With a mission to "produce and market the best Hispanic products to fully satisfy critical customers in search of authentic flavor while delivering part of the rich Mexican cultural background" and by taking measured steps in their growth, it is hopeful they will continue to be successful.

In honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month in the United States, which starts on September 15 and runs through October 15, the quick and easy recipe for a festive dinner below is shared on www.tortillastita.com

Cheese Enchiladas

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 12 Tortillas Tita shells
- 1 can of enchilada sauce (either red or green peppers)
- 4 cups of shredded mozzarella or chihuahua cheese
- 1/2 cup of chopped onions
- Nonstick spray

Instructions

1. Mix cheese with chopped onion.
2. Warm tortillas on any pan or comal, keep them warm on foil or towel.
3. Serve enchilada sauce on a bowl big enough to wet tortilla for both sides. Use nonstick spray or oil on an oven pan and add a tablespoon of enchilada sauce.
4. Get first tortilla wet with the enchilada sauce on both sides, set on the oven pan and fill with cheese mix, bend tortilla on half or roll. Keep doing the same with the rest of the tortillas. Spread cheese on top when finished and warm dish until cheese is melted. Serve immediately.

NOTE: A comal is a smooth, flat grid-dle that is typically used in Mexico to cook tortillas.

Mack makes macramé and more

By Carolyn Marnon

Her home brims with quilts she has made. Lap quilts, bed quilts, quilted wall hangings, even a wooden chair has been “quilted” with pictures taken from magazines and decouped on. “I’ve always done something,” says Wayne resident Henrietta Mack. “Macrame, paper mache, wallets, quilting.” She has some of her wallets for sale at Helium Studio on Wayne Rd.

Henrietta has also been the Chairperson for the General Henry Dearborn Quilting Society’s quilt show for the last 4 years. Henrietta is very excited to talk about The Quilted Tree Quilt Show being held at First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn October 19-20. “45 ladies have made 125-130 quilts that will be on display. All of the quilts are different, and all are beautiful,” she says. The show, held every other year, has each member doing something to participate. Each member gets to show 3 quilts. “We’re a very talented group of ladies,” says Henrietta.



Henrietta Mack smiles as she shows off the quilts members of the General Henry Dearborn Quilting Society made to be raffled at their upcoming show.

Henrietta started making quilts in 1992 after she took a class in Dearborn. Her granddaughter now has that quilt. She took what she learned from the class and from there she taught herself additional techniques.

When she’s not quilting or making something, Henrietta has been working part-time at St. Joe’s for almost three years as a nurse making follow-up calls to patients the day after they’ve had procedures. She and her husband, who is deceased,

bought their house in 1967. They had 4 kids who attended Wayne Memorial High School. Originally from Pennsylvania, she mentions that her mother just recently died at home at the age of 104. Henrietta is not a gardener; she says she has a white thumb. She likes to cook; her father was born in Italy, so she makes lots of food, including homemade ravioli. She also has taken an interest in photography. She says she “dabbles.”

Sitting at her kitchen table in her quilted vest, next to her quilted chair, with plates bearing quilted patterns on them and a sewing machine nearby, she also mentions going on quilting retreats where “it’s so much fun” 24/7 over 3-4 days.

She’s made so many quilts, she gives them away. Her daughter recently told her “Mom, don’t make me anymore.” The day we spoke, she was wearing a purple floral quilted vest she’d made.

The ladies of General Henry Dear-

See **Quilt**, page 12

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Red carpet movie premiers in Wayne

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, September 26, for the next big movie event benefiting Wayne Memorial High School's Champions of Wayne program.

Champions of Wayne is partnering with Phoenix Theaters to present the world premiere of "Liz", the Michigan premiere of "Rogers Park", and a panel discussion with stars and creators.

Both films have ties to Wayne and Wayne Memorial High School.

"Liz", a short filmed locally, was written and directed by 2013 WMHS graduate Alec Gibson.

"Rogers Park", a full feature film that debuted at the Chicago International Film Festival, stars Inkster native and recent WMHS distinguished alumnus (Class of 1988) Antoine McKay. "Rogers Park" is rated R, meaning it contains adult content (sexual situations, drug use, etc.) and is considered to be unsuitable for children.



Antoine McKay

Between the two premieres, guests are invited to attend the "How to Make a Movie" panel discussion—featuring Alec Gibson, Antoine McKay, "Liz" producers Charles A.

Kennedy Jr. and John Julien Jr. and "Rogers Park" director Kyle Henry.

Ticket Information:

"Red Carpet, Liz, and Rogers Park" Ticket - \$70 includes:

Viewing of the Short Film "Liz", "How to Make a Movie" Panel Discussion, and "Rogers Park"

Red Carpet Party Access starting at 5:00 p.m.

Meet the Cast and Crew
Beer & Wine (21+ with ID)
Catered hors d'oeuvres

"Red Carpet and Liz" Tickets

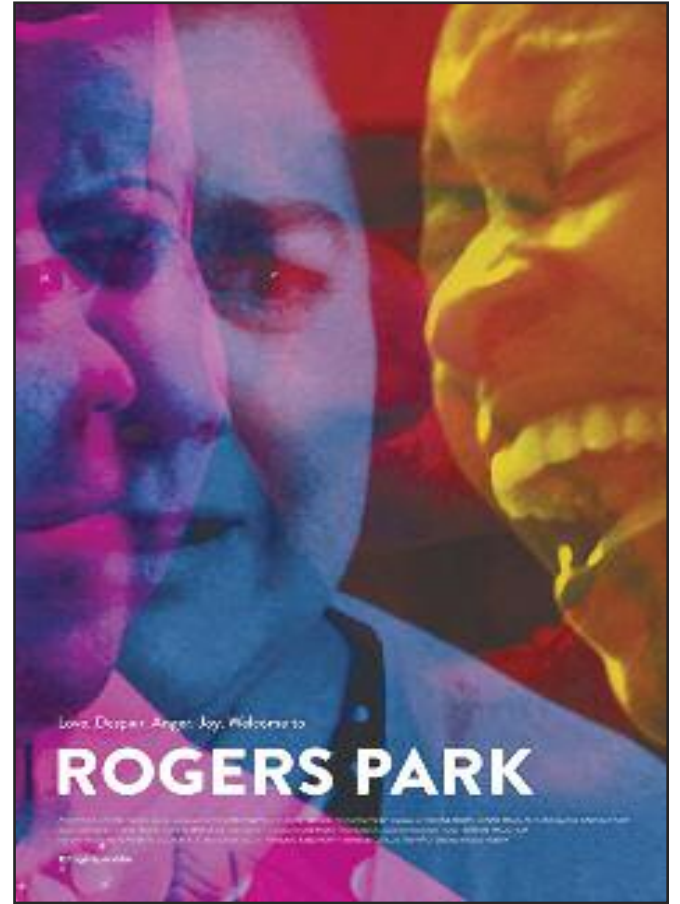
(recommended for families) - \$50 includes:

Viewing of the Short Film "Liz", and "How to Make a Movie" Panel Discussion

Red Carpet Party Access starting at 5:00pm

Meet the Cast and Crew
Beer & Wine (21+ with ID)
Catered hors d'oeuvres

For tickets, to the Champions fundraiser visit <http://www.championsofwayne.org>. Proceeds from the event will be donated to Champions of Wayne, a program whose mission is to transform student obstacles to success by way of an incentive-based mentoring system so that each student graduates in the best way possible.



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Toast of Wayne to raise funds for Wayne Main Street

Wayne Main Street recently announced the date for Toast Wayne, the organization's annual fundraiser. Toast Wayne, formerly Jazz on the Avenue, will take place on Thursday, October 4, from 7:00-10:00 p.m. at the iconic Standard Federal building (35150 W. Michigan Avenue) in downtown Wayne. The event will feature live music, a curated silent auction, strolling appetizers from local restaurants, along with complimentary bar service. Tickets to Toast Wayne are \$35 in advance/\$40 at the door and can be purchased at downtownwayne.org/toastwayne.

What's In a Name?

In preparation for this year's event, organizers discussed updating the name of Main Street's annual event to reflect the event's focus on featuring various local elements. Ultimately, the committee decided to rename the event Toast Wayne. Lori Morrow, Toast Wayne Committee Co-Chair comments, "this event is really about showcasing all that Wayne has to offer, so we wanted the name of the event to celebrate our amazing



Wayne Rotarians enjoy last year's Main Street Fundraiser event.

community."

Celebrating the Best of Wayne

Toast Wayne is a strolling event that features a silent auction and appetizer stations hosted by area restaurants, giving patrons the opportunity to sample delicious, local fare. This year's restaurant line-up

includes: The Avenue American Bistro, Benders, Costas Village, Dairy Queen, Karma Coffee & Kitchen, Motor City Meats, US-12 Bar & Grill, and desserts from the Wayne-Westland school district's William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

In addition to the food selection, organizers are planning to show off Wayne's other talents. Organizers have hired a local band, Sugar Tips, for the event. Many silent auction prizes will also be donated from local businesses. "This year we have more than 10 local restaurants participating in Toast Wayne, we have a great local band, and we are hosting the event in an amazing space. This event truly is a nod to what makes Wayne such a great community" says Kaitlynn Riley, Chair of WMS's Organization Committee. Organizers would also like to recognize major event sponsor Beaumont Hospitals for their support for this important endeavor.

Raising Money for the Revitalization of Downtown Wayne

This event is Wayne Main Street's signature fundraiser and enables the organization to continue its mission of building a revitalized and vibrant downtown Wayne. The organization's efforts have resulted in more than \$3 million in private investment in downtown Wayne since 2014.

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60 seconds on, 30 seconds off

By Carolyn Marnon

Earlier last month, Planet Fitness held a ribbon cutting to officially open their latest facility at 34610 W. Michigan Avenue in Wayne. There are 42 gyms in the P. F. Michigan Group franchise which covers the Detroit area, Grand Rapids, Toledo, Midland, Jackson, Flint, Saginaw and Bay City. The franchisee has been in business since 2008 when they opened their first Planet Fitness at 7 Mile in Livonia.

Planet Fitness overall has about 1500 clubs in the United States and Puerto Rico and has been in operation for about 25 years.

There is much to see at this new gym that residents were eager to see open. A fenced in area at the middle of the gym holds the equipment for the 30-minute workout. A green light comes on to tell you when to start working on a piece of equipment. When the red light comes on, you stop and wipe the machine clean before getting on the next machine. You spend 60 seconds on each machine, rotating between 10 strength machines and 10 cardio-step stations. There is a 30-second rest period between machines. This seems ideal for someone who wants to workout but doesn't know where to start or doesn't want to think too hard about which of all those machines located around the gym to tackle. Some might consider it the no-brainer workout.

If you have certain fitness problems you wish to address, you can consult with fitness instructor Dan Akres. He is at the gym Monday through Friday and wears the bright yellow shirt. He can sit down with you FREE OF CHARGE! and design



Mayor Susan Rowe, members of the Wayne City Council, City of Wayne Department heads and community leaders welcome Planet Fitness to Downtown Wayne.

a program customized just for you.

Don't be overwhelmed with the sheer number of cardio machines that greet you when you walk in. There is also a stretching room, a core-training room, and many other machines that will work out muscles you never knew you had. Fortunately, there is always someone available to show you how to properly use a machine if you get that deer-in-the-headlights look when you come across something new. We all don't just walk into a gym and magically know how to use the equipment. Ask! There is no gym intimidation here!

The best station to some gym goers just might be the easiest one to use—the hydration station. Otherwise known as the water fountain.

Why did P.F. Michigan Group decide to locate a gym in Wayne? Site analytics are used to make real estate decisions. The Group noticed that a significant number of the Westland location's members lived in Wayne. The Group also looks at traffic counts and population density. 6 or 7 years ago, PFMG attempted to lease the site that currently holds

Fresh Choice Food Center.

Abdul Beydoun owns the building that PFMG is leasing. After he bought the building, he "white-boxed" it and then looked for leasees. Abdul also happens to be a member of the Dearborn Planet Fitness and was able to work out a 10-year lease-agreement with Planet Fitness Wayne.

Brian Rief, one of the franchise owners who is also responsible for development of the clubs says Wayne "seems like a close-knit community." He also remarked that the market has embraced Planet Fitness almost since the day the franchise opened their doors. The recession was starting, but selling \$10 gym memberships was not so hard. He says the first 3 years are most treacherous for a small business.

Planet Fitness operates like a family. There are 15 employees in Wayne along with a 3-person management team (manager, assistant manager and 3rd shift manager). Member services representatives check in members and keep the place clean.

Come in to Planet Fitness Wayne

September 6-13 and join for a 25-cent enrollment fee. The basic gym membership is \$10 per month. The Black Card membership, which gives you access to the massage chairs, hydromassage water beds, the tanning beds and the Total Body Enhancement machine, is \$21.99 per month plus a 6-cent tanning tax. Who knew there was a tax for tanning?!

The 23,000 square foot facility is open to everyone. Many people are nervous about joining a gym. At Planet Fitness, they want to help people. If you join, you automatically get a tour, but you can also get a tour before joining.

Peak periods are 5:00-8:00 a.m. and 5:00-9:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday as people head to work or head home from work. Weekends are slow. The gym is open 24/7.

Since opening, Planet Fitness Wayne has been hitting member projections and has had a positive impact on the community. Stop in soon and check them out if you need a gym. If not, watch for them as they partner with the community on events in the future.

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Sanders removed from November ballot

By Carolyn Marnon

On August 28, the Honorable Robert J. Colombo Jr of the Third Circuit Court ordered "The Wayne County Clerk must immediately remove Christopher J. Sanders from the ballot as a candidate for Mayor in the City of Wayne, Michigan in November 2018 general election for the reasons stated in open court on record," in the case of Robert W. Boertje and John P. Rhaesa v. Wayne County and Cathy Garrett in her capacity as Wayne County Clerk.



A statement from Scott Ruark, Mr. Boertje's attorney reads: "Judge Colombo absolutely made the right decision. There is no question that the affidavit submitted by Mr. Sanders should have been rejected by the County Clerk. Mr. Sanders altered the affidavit because he

couldn't truthfully state that he didn't owe fees. Therefore, the affidavit was facially invalid, and the County Clerk's Office had a legal duty to reject it. Mr. Sanders should have been instructed to submit a new affidavit and also advised that submitting the affidavit with knowledge that he owed fees could result in a felony charge. Had this been allowed, the affidavit would be meaningless. This case was one more necessary step in moving our city in the right direction. Bob Boertje continues to correct the errors of our government."

This issue was initiated by Wayne resident Bob Boertje who had also led the recent effort to recall Mr. Sanders from his seat as a Wayne councilman. Mr. Sanders lost the recall election to present councilman Jeremiah Webster.

Mr. Boertje and Mr. Rhaesa filed an Emergency Motion for Preliminary Injunction and Order to Show Cause claiming the Wayne County Clerk unlawfully certified Mr. Sanders as a candidate for office in the upcoming November 6 election.

And that immediate action was required because ballot language had to be finalized and sent to the Secretary of State on September 7th.

In addressing the Wayne City Council on September 4, Mr. Boertje said Judge Colombo "chose to hold Mr. Sanders accountable" for signing an affidavit of identity form attesting that all campaign finance reports have been filed and all fees/fines have been paid. Mr. Sanders signed the form with "no" next to the area about the reports and fines. He was found to be non-compliant by signing the form, although he did avoid perjury by writing "no" before signing.

According to the court records, Mr. Sanders had outstanding fines and fees totaling \$4,000 at the time of submitting the affidavit. Mr. Rhaesa was informed in April he had outstanding fees and paid those fees 3 days later. Mr. Sanders has not paid his fees. Wayne County claimed it was too late to make changes to the ballots. Evidence brought before Judge Colombo did not support the

claim.

Although Mr. Boertje initially filed with the court to have Mr. Sanders' name removed, he said his attorney, Scott Ruark, suggested that Mr. Rhaesa's name be added to the complaint to cover all possible basis for it to be denied. Mr. Rhaesa said he was added in case the judge needed to see there was a victim in the case; he would be the victim if Mr. Sanders were allowed to continue on the ballot after doing the wrong thing with the filing forms.

According to Attorney Scott Ruark, "When I was first asked to take on this case by Bob, there didn't appear to be anything illegal about Mr. Sanders running for Mayor in the same year that he was recalled or because he owed campaign finance fees. Due to my respect for Bob, I investigated what happened and once I received all the documents from Wayne County, my eye immediately went to Mr. Sanders' handwritten "No" on the Affidavit of Identity. Once

See **REMOVED**, page 12

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Removed, Continued from page 11

I saw that, I told Bob there was a case and I got to work. During the recall campaign, Mr. Sanders had Wayne County remove the special election based on an alleged technicality. I wasn't going to allow a technicality to derail this case so it was my decision to include Mr. Rhaesa as a plaintiff because there was a potential argument that Bob lacked standing. I completely disagree with Mr. Sanders' statement that his removal from the ballot was in contrast with Judge Colombo Jr.'s ruling in the recall case. In the recall case, Wayne County supplied the petitions to Bob and then Wayne County claimed the petitions weren't proper. Here, Wayne County had a legal duty to verify that the Affidavit of Identity was facially valid and didn't omit any re-

quired information. By writing "No" next to the Campaign Finance Compliance Statement and Attestation, Mr. Sanders omitted required information because the instruction on the back of the form states, "Do not sign or submit this affidavit unless you are able to agree with the facts set forth in the Campaign Finance Compliance Statement." Mr. Sanders could not agree with the facts, so he wrote "No" and Wayne County should have rejected the affidavit. Judge Colombo Jr.'s ruling was absolutely correct because had he ruled the other way, it would have created a giant loop hole for anyone who owed campaign finance fees and the affidavit would serve no purpose. My grievance in both of these cases has never been with Mr. Sanders, it's been with the government and its failure to follow the law."

Quilt, Continued from page 7

born Quilting Society range in age from about 40-80. Henrietta says she has belonged for 9 or 10 years. The group likes to do charity work and has made over 1000 quilted islette covers and baby blankets for NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) babies.

The quilting group meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month. They have a business meeting on the 2nd Thursday and then do something fun on the 4th Thursday such as a quilt-in, making handmade ornaments that will be for sale on a lighted tree at the quilt show, or making items for TIP or the NICU. Henrietta is the only member of the Quilting Society that lives in Wayne.

"Publicity is what we need most," says Henrietta regarding the upcoming quilt show. In the past, the show was held in April and was held at the museum in Dearborn. The museum is not handicap-accessible so the show was changed this year to the church. "I can't say enough about

everybody that has worked on this quilt show."

Besides the quilts to view, there will also be vendors. Kathy Connor makes patterns for quilt embroidery under the name "Smith Street Designs" that can also be found at Bits 'n Pieces quilt shop in Wayne. Stained glass, purses and wallets, quilts and books will also be for sale. Admission, good for both days, is \$8. Children 10 and under are free. Parking is free and the church is handicap-accessible. First Presbyterian Church of Dearborn is located at 600 N. Brady. The show hours are Friday, October 19, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and on Saturday, October 20, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

There will also be a raffle. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. First prize is a full/queen bed quilt made with origami cranes that each member helped sew. Second prize is a twin bed quilt of maple leaves. Each member helped make the leaves and then one of the members put the entire quilt together. Third prize is a stained glass hanging.

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

OBITUARIES

Edward D. Marman - 78, of Wayne, Michigan, passed away on Thursday, Aug 2, 2018.

He was born July 10, 1940 in Dayton, Ohio to Richard M. Marman and Marie C. Repp. He graduated in 1958 from Roosevelt High School in Dayton, and received a BA in English and a teaching certificate from Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio in 1964. He later earned an MA in Education from Eastern Michigan University and a Master of Library Science degree from Wayne State University.

Ed taught English and Humanities at Graham High School in St. Paris, Ohio from 1965-1970, then in the fall moved to Wayne, Michigan where he taught English and served as a Media Librarian at various junior high schools in the Wayne-Westland School System. He retired from teaching in 1995. Ed's interests were wide and varied. Among them were reading, photography, ceramic tile-making, education, classical and sacred music, pipe organs, cooking, making chocolate, travel and all things Irish. He founded the Detroit Metro Chapter of the Irish-American Cultural Institute in 1981. He served on the Wayne-Westland (later Wayne) Library Board from the mid-1980s, leading that board as president from the early 1990s through the building of the present library in 1996 to the present date. Also during his retirement, Ed served as editor of the Comprehensive Index for Eire-Ireland, An Interdisciplinary Journal of Irish Studies, published in 1999. As a result of that effort, he was invited to speak on the topic at Oxford University in England.

Ed is predeceased by his mother, Marie C. (Repp) Pickering, and his father, Richard M. Marman. He is survived by a brother, Gary Pickering, and a sister, Nancy (Pickering) Teegarden; one niece and two nephews; five close cousins and a number of close friends. Ed will be greatly missed.

A Memorial Service celebrating Ed Marman's life will be held on Thursday, August 16, at 11:00 am at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile Rd, Livonia, MI 48152. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Wayne Public Library or Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Wayne, MI, arrangements.



Weiser, Norma Gail - 97, of Dearborn, Michigan died on August 24, 2018. Beloved wife of the late Nate Weiser. Cherished mother of Karen Berley and Kendra (Patrick) Faber. Loving grandmother of Sara (Kevin) Keeling and Carlee Faber. Great-grandmother of Julian and Angela Keeling. Services were held at the First United Methodist Church of Wayne on Wednesday, August 29, 2018. Interment was held at Glen Eden Cemetery in Livonia. The family suggests memorial gifts to The American Heart Association. Please view memorial at www.uhtfh.com.



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NEWS BRIEFS

BRIEFS, Continued from page 4

Rusty trike flea market

The Second annual Fall Rusty Trike Flea Market in Downtown Wayne hosted by the Notre Dame Council 3021 of the Knights of Columbus will be Saturday, October 13, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Come and find that one-of-a-kind item you never knew you wanted or needed. The Notre Dame Lounge is located at 3144 S. Wayne Rd. Food and drink will be available. Also come listen to the 1960s Folk Revival Trio. They will perform three times during the market starting at noon.

Bicycle club cemetery tour

Join the Wayne Bicycle Club on Saturday, October 13, for their Annual Cemetery Bike Ride tour. Hosted by the Wayne Historical Society, the tour will visit 2-3 local cemeteries for 10-15 minute historical presentations about important Wayne people buried there. Come

out and enjoy the fun and learn about the founding fathers of Wayne and others buried here in Wayne and help the Historical Society. To help continue the tours every year, a \$5 donation to the Wayne Historical Society is requested. Please bring correct bills as they will not have change. The ride starts at 7:00 p.m. Contact the Wayne Historical Society for more information.

Halloween/Zombie Ride 2018

Join the Wayne Bicycle Club for their Annual Halloween/Zombie ride on Saturday, October 27, from 8:00-11:00 p.m. Dress in your favorite Halloween costume and let's haunt the streets of Wayne! There will be a give-away of a \$25 gift card for best costume and \$25 for best decorated bicycle.

Ride-in Halloween movie

The Wayne Bicycle Club is hosting a Ride-in Halloween Movie at the

Wayne Bicycle Shop (35858 W Michigan Ave) on Saturday, October 27, at 10:00 p.m. For more information, call Brian at (734) 722-3672.

Peace memorial update

Mike Buiten, Building and Engineering Department for City of Wayne, updated city council on the efforts to revitalize what many have called the Veterans Memorial next to the Wayne Public Library. He said it's actually the Peace Memorial. B&E is working on a design for a structure over the fountain. Wayne resident Vern Amos appealed to the council to change the name to Veterans Memorial so that outside funding could be more easily obtained to maintain it.

Teal ribbons appear

September is National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and to recognize that, Turn the Town Teal is the national campaign to create awareness of the cancer and its subtle symptoms. Independent Carpet One of Westland owners and employees gathered recently in Wayne to tie biodegradable, USA made ribbons to trees and lightpoles in the downtown area. For more information, visit www.turnthetownteal.org

Scarecrow reception

The annual Wayne Main Street Scarecrow Reception will be held in Derby's Alley on Wednesday, October 17, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Winners of the Facebook voting contest and the in-person voting contest will be announced at this time.

Take time after the scarecrows go up on September 29 to view all the entries so you can vote for your favorite.

Senior housing to be built in Wayne

The Senior Alliance (TSA) has partnered with Wallick Communities, a senior living community developer, to turn an unused 3.5 acre portion of TSA's 32.7 acres of land into affordable senior housing. If funding goes as planned, the apartments would be ready in late 2020-early 2021.

Attwood Gardens would be a 69,700 square foot, three-story senior living building that would contain 70 apartments (56 one-bedroom and 14 two-bedroom) with parking. The location near Attwood Park and Beaumont Hospital, Wayne is also a bonus for this senior housing development.

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17 going on 117

By Carolyn Marnon

Creighton Wodarski claims he is 17 going on 117.

Born in Toledo, the majority of his life has been spent in Wayne. His extended family has lived in Wayne for almost 80 years. He and his mother live in the house his grandparents purchased in 1943. It is the house where his mom grew up and now where Creighton is growing old. And what an old soul he is.

One would be surprised when encountering Creighton for the first time. His style of dress is certainly distinct for a high school student. He loves shopping online and at thrift stores for clothing spanning the eras



Creighton Wodarski, an old soul following the blues.

of the 1900s to the 1940s. He wears two-tone shoes he found online. "I like dressing like this. I feel comfortable in it," says Creighton. "Creighton's an old soul," chimes in his mother, Mabelle Hamlin.

He's only been dressing like this for a few years. His unique style came about after a good friend of his died. The shock of being the one to find his friend resulted in PTSD (Post-traumatic stress disorder), on

top of the panic attacks and Asperger's Syndrome he already deals with. He also suffers from hypochondria. Intense counseling and his music are what help him thrive.

"Blues is what I play," says Creighton. "It's not about being sad. It's about the life of a human being... what somebody goes through."

"Music is the drive in me," he says. "I got into the blues about age 3. My grandpa gave me some blues CDs, and I would listen each night. My grandpa met a lot of old blues players. My grandpa got into the blues because of my great-grandfather, who ran a juke joint in San Antonio in the late 1940s. When I was

little, my grandpa would give me a nickel to put in the jukebox to play blues."

Creighton's grandpa was able to make deals with local dee-jays to clean up after a show. This would get his young grandpa into shows to see Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Lighnin' Hopkins and John Lee Hooker.

Creighton comes from a very musical family. He has a 1938 Gibson guitar from his Great-Aunt Blue who



Creighton Wodarski spends time with famed musician Little Sonny (center) and his son, Aaron Willis, Jr.

had a tremendous influence on him. He's related by a marriage in the family to Uncle Dave Macon, a banjo player also known as The Dixie Dew-drop, who is in the Country Music Hall of Fame. "I'm lucky to have a family that encourages me to play music."

A senior at Wayne Memorial High School, Creighton has been a member of the Detroit Blues Society for about a year. With over 10 guitars in his collection, he's also a songwriter. He picked up a guitar at age 12 when his uncle showed him how to play his first few chords. From there, Creighton went on to watch and listen to the old masters, trying to copy them.

During the US 12 Cruise last July, Creighton strolled up and down Michigan Avenue in downtown Wayne playing his guitar and singing. "I want to represent Wayne. I'd like to inspire people to music in general."

School is important to Creighton and his family. After graduation, he

would like to attend Henry Ford Community College and then University of Michigan-Dearborn to study to become a software engineer. He likes technology and marketing. Eventually, he'd like to run for mayor of Wayne. In the meantime, he would be happy to just meet the mayor.

He recently played at PJ's Lager House in Detroit. "I don't do it for the money; I do it for the exposure," he said. If you would like to see this old soul for yourself, he will be playing at Costas Village Bar, 35234 W. Michigan Ave., on Saturday, October 13, at 6:00 p.m.

You can find Creighton on his website <https://creightonwodarski.wixsite.com/bpcw> and on Facebook (search for Blues preacher Creighton). He chose "blues preacher" because "like a preacher preaches the gospel of God, I preach the blues wherever I can."

Parting words from Creighton: "I didn't choose the blues. The blues chose me."



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2018 Scarecrow Show dates announced

Wayne Main Street is welcoming Scarecrows back to Downtown Wayne. The organization recently announced the program dates for this year's Scarecrow Show. Now through September 24, community members will be able to register to participate in this year's event. Those who are interested in participating can do so by downloading an entry form online at downtownwayne.org/scarecrows or by registering in person at the Wayne Historical Museum (One Town Square, Wayne). The entry fee for this year's event is \$20 or \$15 for returning participants who already have a frame.

Scarecrows will be on display throughout Downtown from September 29 through November 3. Community members are encouraged to visit each of the more than 70 installations while exploring Wayne's historic downtown. Residents and visitors will also have the opportunity to vote on their favorite Scarecrows. Wayne Main Street will host a Voting Contest & Reception in Derby's Alley (34924 W. Michigan Ave) on Wednesday, October 17,

Scarecrows will be on display throughout Downtown from Sept. 29 through Nov. 3.

from 4:00-7:00 p.m. The event will feature live music as well as donuts and cider from the Dexter Cider Mill. The 2018 Scarecrow Contest Winners will be announced at this event.

Downtown Scarecrow Show

Launched by Wayne Main Street in 2013, Wayne's Scarecrow Show has become a signature event for Downtown Wayne. Angie Jarman, Wayne Main Street Committee Member and Scarecrow Project Manager, comments "This project is an amazing community activity that truly brings our community together. Every year I am so impressed by the entries we receive. Each Scarecrow really adds to the unique feel of Wayne's historic downtown."

Annually this project draws thousands of visitors to Downtown Wayne to view the over 70 scarecrows installed throughout Wayne's commercial district.



2017 Scarecrow Entry by Brooke and the Girls. Photo by Angie Jarman



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