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DECEMBER 2018

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Children and CHRISTMAS



By Carolyn Marnon

Christmas will be here before we know it! As the adults rush around to get the holiday lights up before a blizzard, too much snow or ice accumulates, and get the inside of the house decorated, and bake cookies and shop for all their favorite people, the children are all eagerly awaiting the arrival of the big man in the red suit.

In the very first issue of The Wayne Dispatch (November 2008), former Dispatch editor Jenny Johnson asked children for their answers to some Christmas-related questions. We thought we would revisit the subject to see what is lurking in the minds of our young residents who attend 2nd grade at Taft-Galloway Elementary School (with a few first and third grade responses thrown in where indicated.)

What is Santa's favorite cookie?

Mitchell says it is sugar cookies in the shape of Santa. Trinity also said a Santa cookie. The most popular answer was actually chocolate chip cookies. Other answers included gingerbread, mint, ninja, chocolate and Oreo chocolate.

How in the world does Santa eat all of the cookies and milk that are left for him on Christmas Eve?

He goes in the house and eats them. He never gets full-Jordin
 He probably saves some for later-Alex
 He has powers to eat a lot of stuff like cookies-Mitchell
 He hurries up and eats them be-



Isabella Romero tells Santa what she wants for Christmas at the State Wayne.

fore 24 hours-Trinity

He takes two at a time and drinks the milk fast-Joel

He puts the extras in his bag-George, 1st grade

He has a big stomach-Kail

How does Santa know which homes to visit?

He goes around the world and goes in a line-Jordin

He knows which house by the

Christmas notes-Laine

He has a list to go to good and bad people-Mitchell

He uses a map-Kennedy, 3rd

He's smart-Douglas, 3rd

He checks his list-Trinity

How does Santa get to be everywhere at once?

He uses his magic deer to go places-Douglas, 3rd

He has a reindeer that goes super

fast-Trinity

He is fast at putting presents down-Joel

His sleigh-Alex

How do you recognize Santa in a crowd?

He will have a white beard and say "ho ho ho"-Laine

He has a black belt-Joey

He has a long beard and lots of red on-Joel

He wears a red suit, and his belly is super big-Mitchell

I look for a red and white suit-Trinity

He has a hat, and red and white clothes-Alex

Santa wears red clothes-Jordin

How does Santa get into your house?

He uses his magic-Laine

Sometimes I leave the back door open and Santa gets in-Kail

He uses a secret key and he opens the door and then gives me presents-Jayden

Your chimney or if you don't have a chimney you can put out a key-Alex

He climbs in the chimney-Trinity

If you have kids celebrating Christmas with you, perhaps you can ask them these questions and record their answers and ages. It could just become one of those treasured traditions you will look upon with fondness.



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Holiday Night, fun for everyone

Wayne celebrated the 1st day of December with community fun and activities for all ages. The Wayne Memorial Marching Band performed holiday classics and The Village Dancers kicked off the event with toe tapping sounds of the season. Carolers, Men's Choir, Children's Choir, Bells and DJ filled the night air with festive music. The parade brought in our special guest and Diamond of the Community, Patt Hartford, as well as our new Mayor and new members of the council. Bon fires, horse and carriage rides, petting farm and crafts to purchase and crafts to make all made for an evening of activities for families to take part in. Santa and Mrs. Claus greeted all the good boys and girls of Wayne inside the Historical Museum where they listened to their wishes and gave them a treat bag to take home. While waiting to see Santa, boys and girls could enjoy a huge Lego display, balloon twisting and face painting. Cookies and hot cocoa awaited the children after their visit with Santa. It was a great night for family, friends and neighbors...even the drizzle couldn't put a damper on our holiday spirit!



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Library survey deadline extended

The Wayne Public Library has been doing a survey to find out what residents and library users would like to see at their local library. The library has already received over 130 responses to the survey, but they would definitely like to get more. They have extended the deadline to return surveys to January 3, 2019.

Since the library millage was approved by the voters last August, it is important for residents to make their library "wants" known. The library will begin receiving the additional money once the winter tax bills go out. New books are being purchased. Once the library knows what the roof repair cost is, a full budget with expanded services can be developed. The library is anticipating it will be able to offer greater operating hours, more programs and services, and more new books, DVDs, audiobooks and magazines by February, 2019.

There are three ways you can complete the survey:

1. See page 7 of November's The Wayne Dispatch to fill out the survey.
2. Go to the website at <http://www.wayne.lib.mi.us/> and complete the survey online.

3. Stop by the library, 3737 S Wayne Rd., noon to 8:00 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 5:00 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays to fill out a survey and check out the new books!

The library will be having a special holiday family story time on Wednesday, December 12 from 6:30-7:15 p.m. The reading of *Gingerbread Baby*, decorating of gingerbread cookies, some holiday games and music will be free at this family event geared for children ages 2-12. Call 734-721-7832 ext. 623 during library hours to register. This is a great time to have fun and complete the survey at the same time!



City hires police officers

Three new Wayne police officers pictured with Chief Al Maciag were sworn in at the November 20 City Council meeting. Congratulations to Keith Williams, Michael Bolton and Jonathan Marcyan. Officer Marcyan and Officer Williams both recently graduated from the Wayne County Regional Police Academy.

Newly elected Wayne City Council sworn in

By Carolyn Marnon

Former city councilman John P. Rhaesa was sworn in as City of Wayne Mayor at the November 20 city council meeting. "I look forward to serving the city. I just want to see our city come back together and start getting back to work and have our council work together as a team and work with our administration to make Wayne a better place," said Mayor Rhaesa to the audience. "We need more police officers, and we want more police officers in our city." He concluded by saying, "It's going to take the citizens to want to bring the city back. It's something we're all in or all out. We have to be all in together to make Wayne better. So if we can be all in, we can do this together."

Councilman Anthony W. Miller was sworn in to serve his second term in office. "I hope we can find common ground, all of us. I find that it is important for us to find common ground. That we have now been elected to serve all and not a few. Thank you to the residents in this community for placing your trust in me and the honor of being able to



Councilman Anthony Miller, Councilman Phil Wagner, Councilwoman Kelly Skiff, Mayor John Rhaesa, Councilman Jeremiah Webster and Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Porter.

serve you."

New Councilwoman Kelly S. Skiff said, "I want to thank the voters for allowing me this opportunity to serve you in this way. I'm overwhelmed with gratitude, and I thank you."

New Councilman Phillip A. Wagner added, "It's exciting to be here. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but I am up to it."

City council interviewed three applicants December 4 prior to the regularly scheduled city council meeting for the unexpired councilperson

term of John P. Rhaesa. The city council voted 5-1 to approve former councilman Kevin Dowd to fulfill the Ward 2 council seat until November 9, 2020. Milton French and Keith



Councilman Kevin Dowd

Butkovich also applied for the position.

Kevin Dowd has been a Wayne resident for 19 years. He recently completed a six-month appointment after councilman Christopher Sanders

was recalled. In that short time he says he was able to develop key relationships with the city management team and respective department heads as well as with the other council members. "Experience has taught me to always weigh both sides of the discussion before making critical decisions," Kevin said in his letter requesting consideration for the open council position.

Mayor Pro-Tem Thomas E. Porter and Councilman Jeremiah Webster complete the sitting council.



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Small Business Saturday an overwhelming success

Downtown Wayne was abuzz November 24 as businesses throughout the district welcomed customers looking for holiday gifts and great deals. Paul Sposite, Wayne Main Street Board Member, comments "November 24 was Small Business Saturday, which is not only the unofficial start of the holiday shopping season for many of Wayne's businesses, but is also an important national movement to raise awareness about the importance of supporting local businesses".

In order to promote Wayne's Small Business Saturday efforts, Wayne Main Street held their Fourth Annual Small Business Saturday kick-off event at Karma Coffee & Kitchen (35634 W. Michigan Avenue, Wayne, MI 48184). More than 140 shoppers attended the event, which included free coffee and tote bags, as well as a \$1,000 gift card giveaway to local businesses. "The purpose of this event is to encourage residents and folks from surrounding communities to shop in Wayne. Each year our kick-off continues to grow; this



Kim White-Jenkins welcomed Santa to her shop, Helium Studio, when he was in Wayne recently.

year's event was the largest yet. We are also hearing a lot of positive feedback about the event from our local merchants", comments Maxwell Cameron, Executive Director of Wayne Main Street.

This year the organization also partnered with the State Wayne Theater and Jack Demmer Ford on A Visit With Santa which took place at the State Wayne Theater. More than 70 children had the opportunity to visit with St. Nick and get a free photo with the man in red.

Small Business Saturday is just one of the ways Wayne Main Street is working to promote shopping in downtown Wayne.

This is the third year that the organization has partnered with the Wayne Downtown Development Authority on a holiday marketing campaign, which includes print ads, online and Facebook promotions, including additional gift card giveaways.

For more information visit Wayne Main Street's Facebook Page at facebook.com/wayne-mainstreet.



Happy Holidays

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Community steps up to help homeless man

By Carolyn Marnon

It all started with a post on Facebook that had Wayne resident Jamie Butts venting her frustration about how the Kroger at Michigan Ave. and Merriman Rd. had thrown almost all the worldly goods a homeless man had into a dumpster. The homeless man, Gordon, had been living behind the Kroger and Subway for the past 7 years in a makeshift shelter with a tent that protected him from the elements and gave him a place to rest his head each evening. "I always knew where to find him," wrote Jamie.

Her November 8 posting read, "I'm so heart broken and LIVID right now! Most of our community knows of Gordon. The sweetest most polite homeless man I know around here. Well I just saw him at our Walgreens and he told me that Kroger kicked him out of the back of the parking lot where he was staying. They threw out ALL of his stuff!!!! His blankets, his tent.... everything! Gordon has nothing but his backpack and his bike! I'm trying along with Gina Baker to do everything we can to help him! I just had to vent, how heartless people can be!!!!!!?!"

Many good-hearted people in Wayne came together to offer help in whatever way they could—coats, blankets, boots, warm gloves, tents, food-whatever might help him through this unfortunate time. Brian Fleming took Gordon with him to Thanksgiving dinner. "We like him," Brian said. "He always has a smile and is gracious." Several commented that they knew Gordon and expressed what a nice guy he was despite his homelessness. Jamie and former Wayne resident Gina Baker



The community stepped up to help local homeless man, Gordon, when the home he had lived in for seven years was recently thrown in a dumpster.

"I have once again gained faith in humanity and see there are still good people out there with hearts of gold!"

Jamie Butts

have looked after Gordon for several years after having formed friend-

ships with him. Gina says he has been to her house for family dinners on holidays, and she once demanded that he sleep on her couch because it was super cold one night.

Jamie tells the story of meeting Gordon at Walgreen's one winter. It was cold; he was sitting outside. She asked if he was okay and offered him \$20. He turned it down, asking if she had just \$5 so he could get a sandwich. She let him sit in her car for the next 45 minutes to get warm while they got to know each other. Even now, when he sees Jamie, he asks how her 7 year old son is.

Twiniece Jones helped get Gordon a government phone to use. Jamie gave him her phone number. Michele Curtis, who works for the Veterans Administration (VA) investigated what she could do for Gordon.

Employees at the Palmer House in Westland were able to get Gordon a motel room at the Mona Lisa in Inkster after his "home" was dumped. Gordon would come around and help clean up and do odd jobs at the Palmer House. Palmer House wrote "Gordon is a beautiful person and a hard worker. He shows up everyday to help with our parking lot and patio, garbage, etc. Many times, he comes early in the day and asks for an advance, and he always shows up that night to fulfill his commitment."

Wayne residents answered the call and donations came in to pay for additional nights at the motel. The motel helped by upgrading Gordon to a larger room after the first few nights. Jamie took photos of receipts and sent them to the donors to show how their money was used.

"I have once again gained faith in

humanity and see there are still good people out there with hearts of gold!" wrote Jamie on the new facebook group Helping Gordon that she set up. "He was ecstatic," she said when she informed him of the additional nights at the motel. "He cried once we went outside and told me that all these people are his guardian angels!"

Jamie reported that Gordon was eventually able to get VA paperwork done. The VA picked him up from the motel at the end of November to take him to a new VA shelter in Detroit. They will take care of him while he is on the waiting list for housing. They are also helping him get his license reinstated and getting his VA benefits going. In the meantime, Jamie is storing anything Gordon was not able to take with him to the shelter.

"He was in really good spirits and wanted me to tell everyone thank you so much, and he appreciates everything that everyone has done for him," wrote Jamie on Helping Gordon. "He's excited for this chapter in his life and knows that our community had a big hand in him taking these steps. He's going to call me when he gets to the shelter and settled in. I'm so happy for him and so proud of our community!"

Jamie also noted, "Gordon is a very sweet and kind man that a lot of people who have interacted with him knows this. I've been looking out for Gordon for over a year now. Some people just want to be negative while others have love and compassion for someone who is struggling. For those that have prayed, checked in on and helped Gordon, I thank you from the bottom of my heart!"



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Merry Christmas

From THE WAYNE Dispatch

John and Natalie Rhaesa & Staff



Wayne Memorial High School Team 313, The Bionic Zebras.

Help the Wayne Bionic Zebras build their robot

Team 313, The Bionic Zebras is an after-school program at Wayne Memorial High School. The program provides students with educational opportunities to learn and engage in STEM- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math skills.

The Team aspires to become a major contender at the FIRST International Competition. Every year, all of the teams in the FIRST Robotics program are tasked with constructing a robot in six weeks. The robot uses electronics, pneumatics, motors, gears and more.

But to build the robot, they need

help. To purchase the parts, they need to build their robot, they need to raise \$4000.

They are looking for sponsors who would like to support the team. They have sponsorship levels from \$10- \$5000. Each level has different benefits. For example, a business or organization who makes a \$250 donation will receive a bumper sticker and their logo on a banner, t-shirt, robot and in the business plan.

If you would like to support the Bionic Zebras, please contact Donnie Castaldini, coach at dcastall@ford.com or 313-407-7711.

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Vincent E. Roberge
Manager

Who's that coming down the street?

By Carolyn Marnon

You might have seen them recently—the amber lights on top of cars patrolling the neighborhoods of Wayne. The Wayne Neighborhood Watch Patrol began using the amber lights during their patrols on Tuesday, December 4.

The volunteer-based neighborhood patrol members use their own cars and their own gas while out on patrol each evening. The new lights were paid for by the volunteers themselves.

“Last night was my first night out with the lights,” said WNWP founder Brian Ewanciw. “I feel they really helped to identify us to residents and also Wayne PD as I drove past officers officers last night. I’ve seen several posts on facebook about residents saying they seen us out and about. We will have to wait and see the numbers after a few months to get a real feel on crime stats to see how well they work on deterring crime.”

Wayne Police Chief Alan Maciag



A privately-owned Wayne Neighborhood Watch Patrol vehicle with the newly approved amber light on top and WNWP identification magnet on the door.

met with the group and approved their use of the amber lights under the amended Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL) which now allows their use. “I believe that the lights will give the group more visibility and make

the citizens aware that they are out helping to patrol our streets. I believe that this is a positive thing for Wayne. The neighborhood watch group's premise is to ‘observe and report’ any suspicious or criminal ac-

tivity to the Wayne Police Department. The group is an asset to the police department and the community given our low staffing levels at the police department. Many nights our patrol officers are extremely busy and are going from call to call leaving little or no time to patrol our businesses and neighborhoods. The Neighborhood Watch patrol adds additional ‘eyes and ears’ on the street to report crimes or suspicious activities.” Resident and patroller Chris Miller notes, “I think they will make a bigger impact on us patrolling and pushing out some of the crime in this city. With our hazard lights, most people probably thought we were having car troubles until they got up on us and seen our patrol signs on our vehicles.”

Resident and patroller Vern Amos adds, “I think the new light will help a lot. More people will be able to see it and know we are out there to help keep our neighborhoods safe, and the bad guys will see us coming and get out of town.”

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NEWS BRIEFS

Christmas event

The First United Methodist Church of Wayne is hosting an all-ages family Christmas event. The Star of Christmas Party will be held Sunday, December 9, at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There will be crafts, refreshments and a movie. No fee for admission, but a suggested donation of hats, mittens, gloves or scarves is requested. Parents must stay with their children. The building is handicapped accessible. The church address is 3 Towne Square in Wayne (across from the Wayne Post Office). You must r.s.v.p. to attend. Call the church office at (734)721-4801 or e-mail fumcww@yahoo.com Provide your name, number attending, and contact information.

Lessons in carols

Come join St. Mary Catholic Church on Sunday, December 9, 7:00-8:00 p.m. for a celebration of the Advent season with readings and music from the adult choir. A perfect way to prepare for the Christmas season at 34530 W. Michigan Ave.

Mexican band, dance and food

St. Mary Catholic Church, 34530 W Michigan Ave, will be hosting Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass on Wednesday, December 12 from 6:00-10:00 p.m. This bilingual celebration is in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The celebration will be enhanced by a Mariachi band and traditional Mexican dance. The evening will be completed with delicious Mexican food and drink following Mass in the Activity Center. All are welcome.

New medication disposal box at police department

The Wayne Police Department now has a medication disposal box in the lobby. Residents are encouraged to bring their unwanted/unused medications to the police department to properly dispose of them. Items accepted are pills, tablets, capsules, patches and pet medications. Items not accepted include liquids, EpiPens, creams or gels, needles, thermometers, sprays, vials and inhalers.

The Wayne Police Department would like to thank the Rite Aid Foundation and KidCents for donating the disposal box.

Help provide Christmas Dinner at Wayne Towers

Community activist Lenny Powell was able to call on the support of many in the community to arrange a bountiful Thanksgiving dinner for the residents of Wayne Tower Senior Living Apartments last month. About 80 people attended the festive dinner.

Lenny is back at work calling on the community to come together and support a Christmas dinner for the senior residents on December 15 at 4:00 p.m. Lenny is looking for donations of green beans or green bean casserole, corn, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, rolls, pies or cakes, pops and waters, flatware, plates, trash bags, and small candies to hand out. He is expecting this dinner will have about 100 attendees. He is requesting that all donations be at Wayne Tower by 3:30 p.m. for

set up. Food needs to be cooked and ready to serve. If you have any questions or would like to donate, you can contact Lenny Powell through his Facebook page www.facebook.com/lenny.powell

Photo preservation lecture

Westland Historic Village Park will be hosting a Photo Preservation lecture on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at their location at 857 N. Wayne Rd.

Do you have photo albums or shoe boxes full of negatives? Have you ever wondered how you can preserve them? Kenneth Hafeli, a local Historian, will explain how you can preserve your photographs.

Christmas music

Come to the Notre Dame Lounge, 3144 S. Wayne Rd, on Friday, December 14, 6:00-11:00 p.m. and listen to Steve Thomas and his saxophone serenade you with the Sounds of Christmas. A cash bar is available. Food is available: 3 tacos for \$1, taco salad for \$3, and nachos for \$3.



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