

# THE WAYNE Dispatch

MAY 2019



## **FAST TRACK TO VICTORY**

**WMHS Alumni Wins  
BIG 10 Championship**

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# Wayne Memorial alumni wins big on the track

By Carolyn Marnon

Anavia Battle, a recent graduate of Wayne Memorial High School, is accomplishing great things in track and field at Ohio State University. Although we were not able to talk because of her busy collegiate schedule, Anavia answered some questions via email about her success.

**It is my understanding you recently won the Big 10 title in the women's 200 meter in Ann Arbor. Is that correct? Also, that you received silver in the 200m last year at the Big 10? Was this indoor or outdoor track?**

Yes, you are correct. I won the 200m indoor Big Ten Title in 22.80 seconds. Last year, at the 2018 outdoor Big Ten Championship, I received silver in the 200m clocking in at 22.94.

**Are you a sophomore at Ohio State majoring in Health Professions? What made you choose this major?**

Coming into college I wanted to be in the field of Health Professions and later on become an OB-GYN, but I've changed my major to EHE or Early Childhood Development, to become a kindergarten teacher once I graduate from The Ohio State University.

**You were track MVP three years in a row at Wayne Memorial?**

Yes, this is true. After freshman year, I received Most Valuable Player award every year after that. I hold the relay records and individual sprint event records (100m, 200m) there at WMHS.

**Do you want to run professionally after graduating from college? What does professional running entail?**

I would like to continue my track career professionally after college, and if it happens sooner than expected then so be it. But being a professional athlete is similar to being under any other pro team (NBA, NHL, NFL). You're chosen by a brand to represent (Nike, Adidas, Puma, Asics, Brooks etc.) to compete for on the track. In order for a track athlete to become a professional of course they must have fast times but also be



Anavia Battle, a Wayne Memorial High School Alumni and track and field star at Ohio State University is a Big Ten Division I Champion.

able to represent yourself and the brand in appropriate manner and with respect, also be a coachable athlete, and to do all the right things even when no one is looking.

**What has been the biggest difference/change for you running in high school vs. college?**

The biggest difference for me running is the difference in competition and training. I'm running against top athletes everywhere I perform and with training it's what most of my time is held by other than school.

**Are (4x100, 100 and 200) the only events you compete in?**

I compete in almost every sprint (4x400, 100, 200, 400) but I'm mostly known for and execute the

100m and 200m really well.

**Is your favorite thrill in track still coming around the curve during the 200m? If not, what is?**

That is correct! I live for the turn! Off the track I would say my thrill is being able to be around such

a good atmosphere before competition or when I step on the track, I often get pep talks from my coaches and teammates to keep my head focused and encouraged to win or just run at my best ability.

**What it was like to win the 200 this year?**

To win the indoor Big Ten title this year was a great moment for me. After the race was finished I looked at the clock and burst out in tears because I did what I came to do which was win but doing that I became number one in the world, broke the school record, obtained the Big Ten conference indoor 200m record and PR'd. It was a magical moment for me; it was my first individual championship.

**I have heard you want to run in the Olympics. Is this true?**

The Olympics is something I would love to be a part of. To do this it mostly depends on training and taking care of your body. Going to practice every day and reminding yourself why you need to work hard is something I always do, because I wanna see my goals and dreams come to life, so I practice with heart and being ready to work every day.

**What are your running goals for the future?**

My running goals for the future would be to win Nationals or be in the top three on the podium.

After college go pro.

**What is the biggest race you have won and why?**

So far I would say the biggest race I've won would be this past indoor season Big Ten 200m. Best experience!



Battle competes at the University of Michigan indoor track. Photo by Peter Draugalis

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Memorial Day parade

The Wayne-Westland Memorial Day Parade will be back this year! Plans are underway for the parade to be held on Sunday, May 26. The parade will begin at John Glenn High School at 1:00 p.m. and will conclude with a Remembrance Ceremony at the Westland Veterans Memorial Garden behind the Westland library. The event is being hosted by VFW BOVA Post 9885.

### Park Clean-ups

The Parks and Trails Committee has scheduled a clean-up for the following parks. Please consider helping the committee finish the project and beautify a few Wayne parks in the process.

Park Clean Ups are also scheduled as follows:

**Washington Trail:**

May 18; 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Avondale Park:**

June 1; 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Waltz Quadrangle:**

June 22; 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Forest Park:**

July 13; 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### Understanding Alzheimer's and dementia

Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of aging. Come learn about the impact of Alzheimer's; the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia; stages and risk factors; current research and treatments available for some symptoms; and Alzheimer's Association resources. This event will be at the Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Rd, on



After leading the the Pledge of Allegiance at the Wayne City Council meeting in April, the Webelos Group of Pack 247 presented a special gift to Wayne Police Chief Ryan Strong for his assistance in helping them complete one of their requirements and to the police department for their incredible service to the City of Wayne and its citizens.

Thursday, May 9, from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Powell or Christi Powell for more information at (734) 776-6519.

### Naloxone (Narcan) training

With the growing use of opioids, more overdoses are occurring. Time is important. You will learn how and when to administer Narcan. The training will be held on Friday, May 10, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at HYPE Athletics Western Wayne, 4635 Howe Rd. The class is free, but it is limited to the first 40 people. Please contact Lenny

### Fix a flat workshop

Spring weather is perfect for getting out on your bicycle, but do you know what to do if you get a flat tire? Learn how to change a flat bike tire so that you can keep on rolling! Hosted by the Wayne Public Library and Wayne Bicycle Shop, this event will be on Saturday, May 11, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. at the Wayne Public Library.

### Downtown cookie stroll

For the past three years Wayne Main Street has produced a Choco-

late Walk event around Mother's Day weekend. In 2019, WMS wanted to try something a little different, so this year it will be hosting a Cookie Stroll and hanging basket sale on Saturday, May 11. Patrons will have the opportunity to stop at different downtown businesses to pick up delicious gourmet cookies while checking out each store. Additionally, Wayne Main Street will be holding a hanging flower basket sale in Derby's Alley. Tickets for this year's event will be \$15 or 4 tickets for \$40. To purchase your tickets online visit [downtownwayne.org](http://downtownwayne.org). To get your tickets by phone call the office at (734) 629-6822 or stop by the Wayne Historical Museum (1 Towne Square) to purchase your tickets in person.

### Women of Wayne

Nicole Conklin and Tyler Moll will present a program on the history and role of women in Wayne. They will talk about what daily life was like over time. They will also highlight contributions to the city made by significant women. The program will be Thursday, May 9, at 7:00 p.m. at the Wayne Historical Museum.

### Rummage sale

First United Methodist Church of Wayne is holding their Spring Rummage Sale May 16-18. Hours: Thursday, May 16, and Friday, May 17, open 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 18, open 9:00 a.m.-noon. Saturday is also bag day: Purchase a bag for \$3.00 or \$6.00 and fill with your choice of items in the hall. The church is located at 3 Town Square in Wayne, across from the post office.

See **Briefs**, page 7

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

# A Place to Paddle

## Rouge Rescue will focus on LR Water Trail efforts

Rouge Rescue, the annual volunteer-led effort to clean up the Rouge River, will be happening all over the Rouge watershed this spring. Here in Wayne, volunteers will concentrate their efforts on opening logjams along a 3-mile stretch from Commerce Court to Goudy Park.

The goal is to continue momentum on the recently designated Lower Rouge Water Trail, a collaborative effort between 10 communities, including Wayne, Wayne County and a number of organizations to develop a water trail along the Lower Branch of the Rouge -- from Canton to the Detroit River.

The vision is to have the 29.25 mile LRWT open to canoeing and kayaking. Most of the LRWT traverses through land owned by Wayne County Parks made up of forest and wetlands. Further downstream near the mouth of the river, paddlers can experience the unique industrial history of the Rouge River with the massive Ford Rouge complex, suspension bridges and a freighter or two.

Friends of the Rouge, the lead organization in the water trail effort, recently hosted an open house about the LRWT at the Jefferson Barns Community Vitality Center, where they unveiled preliminary strategic plan. The meeting was well attended by many stakeholders, who provided input about what they would like the LRWT look like. Many Wayne residents attended the meeting.



Friends of the Rouge break up log jams on the river.

While there are many amenities being planned, including canoe/kayak launches at places like Venoy Dorsey Park and in Dearborn, the biggest obstacle to making it a functional trail are the dozens of logjams that choke the river.

Volunteers have been working on opening the river in Wayne for many years, and it is considered the inspiration for other communities, including Canton, Dearborn, Inkster and Westland, getting involved.

Of course, the logjams are a recurring issue, especially after high water events in the spring. Organizers of the Wayne Rouge Rescue event are hoping to get about 25-30 volunteers who can work in the river and help open up the logjams.

"We really want to help keep the momentum for the water trail. I've always said Wayne has a unique opportunity. It boasts a great river corridor that is underutilized," said Kurt Kuban, one of the Rouge Rescue organizers.

Kuban and Wayne resident Mathew Mulholland founded the non-profit organization River Restorations, which has supported Friends of the Rouge and the LRWT concept from the beginning. Over the years, they have also worked closely with the City of Wayne administration, which also supports the LRWT.

"I grew up playing on the Rouge. It was in my backyard. It's amazing how much cleaner the river is than when I was younger. I would love to

see families have the ability to canoe or kayak together on our river. That's why we do what do," Mulholland said.

Rouge Rescue will take place on Saturday, June 1. Volunteers will meet at Goudy Park at 9:30 a.m. From there will shuttle to work sites. Work will conclude by 1 p.m. Kuban said volunteers should be prepared to get wet -- and dirty.

So, if you want to help make the LRWT a reality, please call Kuban at (734) 716-0783 to register and for more details about Wayne's Rouge Rescue event. You can also email him at [kurtkuban@gmail.com](mailto:kurtkuban@gmail.com).

For more information about Rouge Rescue, visit <https://therouge.org/rouge-rescue>.

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Wayne Main Street hosted it's Third Annual Downtown Spring Clean Up. Pictured are some of the more than 150 volunteers who participated in this important effort. Photo by Maxwell Cameron

# Volunteers help clean-up Wayne

On Saturday, April 27, Wayne Main Street held it's Third Annual Downtown Spring Clean Up. More than 150 volunteers participated in this important effort. Every year Wayne Main Street organizes a Spring Clean Up to help promote the beautification of downtown Wayne through volunteerism. Volunteers spent three hours picking up trash, sweeping sidewalks, and raking up leaves and other debris around the downtown. Not only did residents pitch in and help with the event, but a number of other community organizations participated in this year's clean-up including the Wayne Memorial High School JROTC Team, Healthy Wayne, the Wayne Rotary Club, and the Wayne Chamber of Commerce.

Wayne Main Street would like to recognize and thank Professional Insurance Associates for providing re-



freshments for our volunteers and Lower Huron Supply for donating all the garbage bags for this event. The City of Wayne, including the Department of Public Works and the Wayne

Fire Department, is very supportive of this initiative and we would like to thank all of the city employees who participated in the clean-up.

Finally we want to encourage residents to get involved in making Wayne look even better. The city's

Parks and Trails committee is organizing a number of park clean-up events in the coming months. Wayne Main Street will also hold a Fall Downtown Clean Up event this October, which you can find out more about at [downtownwayne.org](http://downtownwayne.org).

**Celebrate Mom this Month!**



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## Wayne Westland Federal Credit Union is Now a Shared Branch!

Wayne Westland Federal Credit Union (WWFCU) is now an official CO-OP Shared Branch. Being a shared branch means that non-members can conduct a variety of transactions at WWFCU.

As long as credit union members have a valid ID and their account number from a participating credit union, they can perform the following transactions with a teller in the lobby:

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- Deposits
- Loan Payments
- Cashier's Checks – \$2 fee per check if under \$1,500
- Money Orders – 50¢ per item
- Credit Card Cash Advances - \$15 fee (no American Express advances)
- Loan Advances
- Night Drop
- Coin Machine – 10% fee
- Rolled Coins
- Cedar Point Ticket Discounts

"Being a Shared Branch brings a lot of benefits to credit union members," states WWFCU CEO Thelma Dasho. "They can access their accounts when they're away on vacation or keep their credit union account if they move out of state."

The CO-OP Shared Branch network offers over 5,400 branches nationwide. To locate a shared branch, credit union members can visit [co-opcreditunions.org/locator](http://co-opcreditunions.org/locator) or call 888-748-3266.

Wayne Westland Federal Credit Union began in 1954 based on the credit union "people helping people" philosophy. As a community-chartered credit union, it puts its members first in all it does. WWFCU's mission is to provide premium financial services to its member-owners and the communities of Wayne County by providing: first-class service, excellent rates and financial education. Learn more at [www.wwfcu.org](http://www.wwfcu.org).



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## NEWS BRIEFS

**BRIEFS,** Continued from page 4

### Family game night

The Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Rd., will be hosting Family Game Night on the first Wednesday of the month through June. The next date is June 5. The festivities start at 5:30 p.m. Try out a new game or challenge your family members to a classic! There will be a wide variety of board games—favorites like Monopoly, Connect 4, Parcheesi, and Clue—as well as some new games you might not have experienced yet! Drop in for a few minutes or stay for hours. All ages are welcome!

### Charity car show

The Wayne Masonic Lodge, 37137 Palmer Rd, Westland, invites you to their 2019 Charity Car Show. All cars are welcome. The entrance fee is \$15 which includes a goodie bag and a t-shirt. All proceeds go to benefit Rainbow Girls and Demolays. The Car Show is on Saturday, June 8, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. There will be raffles, prizes, music, a food court and a live auction. For more information, call (734) 721-7950.

### Book signing event

Books on the Avenue, 35622 W. Michigan Ave, will be hosting a book signing on Saturday, June 8, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Come celebrate the release of *The Silence of Silver* and support your local authors! Join authors Bridget Leanne and Carl Joseph Cascone for a meet and greet and book

signing. Copies will be available for sale. *The Silence of Silver* is a story about the strength and love of the Plata family while they deal with an accident that leaves their father and husband stuck within himself.

### Hell from the Heavens

Come listen as author John Wukovits shares the story of WWII's greatest kamikaze attack. Nothing could have prepared the crew of the USS Laffey for the moment when the small ship was targeted by no fewer than twenty-two Japanese suicide aircraft for eighty minutes. But the Laffey somehow survived, and the gutted American warship limped from Okinawa's shore for home, where the ship and surviving crew would be feted as heroes. Mel Gibson has signed on to direct the film adaptation of this book, starring Mark Wahlberg. John will be at the Wayne Public Library on Tuesday, June 18, at 6:30 p.m.

### Firefighters charity BBQ

Join the Wayne Firefighters for their 3rd Annual Wayne Firefighters Charity BBQ on Saturday, June 22, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The event is held at the fire station, 3300 S. Wayne Rd. Cost is \$5. Advanced tickets are not necessary.

Firefighters will be serving up your choice of hamburger or hot dog, chips, drink and dessert. There will be a bounce house, face painting, ice cream and more! If you have questions, call Fire Administration (734) 722-1111.



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Vincent E. Roberge  
Manager

# Investments in Wayne continue

By Carolyn Marnon

Wayne Community Development Director Lori Gouin recently shared the 2018 Community Development Annual Report. Current businesses are investing additional funds into their businesses and new businesses are opening. Residential properties are being bought and sold.

According to the report, "In 2018, eight (8) homes were obtained through Wayne County's home foreclosure program. Each home was completely renovated on the interior and the exterior. These homes are then sold to homeowners (not sold as rentals). The value of these homes is driven up by these renovations and in turn is helping to drive up the value of homes in the surrounding area."

The 2017 assessed value of the homes ranged from \$20,800-\$36,800. The city obtained the homes and then was reimbursed for them by HP SNAP and FHP Investments who then renovated the homes and sold them. The homes sold for \$68,400-\$140,000.

All Saints, Inc broke ground on a new office building in 2018. The 4,383 square-foot building, located at the former Frank's Furniture site on the east side of Wayne Rd. between Michigan Avenue and Glenwood, represents a \$450,000 investment. According to their website, "Saints Incorporated was begun in 1978 to assist persons with developmental disabilities, including those with mental illness and other disabilities, to reach their fullest potential of community involvement and person independence." Paul Kennedy, the owner, says they are not far from moving into the new building, hopefully by this summer.

Tim Judge, owner of Metro Storage, proposed a 95,000 square-foot self-storage building with 70,000 feet of rentable space when he purchased land next to the Wayne Police Department on Michigan Avenue. At the time, he thought construction would be underway by mid-2017. Those at Wayne City Hall thought the \$3 million-dollar project would generate more than \$100,000 in property taxes annually, of which 90% would be retained by the Downtown Development Authority. The project is cur-

## Businesses that submitted zoning applications in 2018:

Akier Hair Salon - 36040 Michigan Ave.  
 All in Harmony - 4310 S. Wayne Rd.  
 Amazing Grace Church - 36016 Michigan Ave.  
 Books on the Ave. - 35622 Michigan Ave.  
 Bullock Equipment - 34605 Brush  
 CDI Head Start - 33640 Michigan Ave.  
 CHI Home Improvement - 32413 Michigan Ave.  
 Costas Village Bar - 35228 Michigan Ave.  
 Crown Castle - 36225 Michigan Ave.  
 Driver's Seat - 34210 Michigan Ave.  
 Eagle Mechanical - 3040 S. Wayne Rd.  
 Elite Whips, LLC - 32215 Michigan Ave.  
 Gammons Medical - 35640 Michigan Ave.  
 Gonder & Associates - 38500 Michigan Ave.  
 International Food Supplies - 31805 Michigan Ave.  
 My Shoetique 3015 - S. Wayne Rd.  
 Party Vibe 3103 - S. Wayne  
 Planet Fitness - 34610 Michigan Ave.



Wooshin North America (a car body specialist) invested \$20 million dollars by moving into a 467,594 square-foot facility on Van Born Road.

rently in a holding pattern.

The Senior Alliance recently applied to MHSDA (Michigan State Housing Development Authority) for low-income housing tax credits for the assisted-living complex they are planning in partnership with Wallick Communities (based in Ohio). "The planned project, if approved, will be a 70-unit affordable assisted living

community for individuals who are ages 55 and up that will encompass 4.7 acres of our campus," says David Wilson, The Senior Alliance Director of Business Development and Communications. "It will be a combination of 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom units with rents starting at 30% of the area medium income. If approved, we anticipate being able to

break ground in the first half of 2020."

In an email, David wrote "Our agency is optimistic on the future for the remaining portions of our campus, and we always welcome input from the public and other community partners that would like to discuss potential plans for development." Attwood Gardens, the planned project, is expected to be a \$14.5 million-dollar investment.

The Michigan Avenue Retail Development which is slated to be developed on Michigan Avenue West is a \$7 million investment, per the annual report.

Twenty-five zoning applications were submitted in 2018. According to Ms. Gouin, "A zoning application is the first step in opening a business in the City of Wayne. This application, once approved, allows the individual to begin the process to have their building inspections done and work towards obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy."

City of Wayne-owned properties were sold. Seven residential properties, five of which were vacant lots, were sold for a total of \$13,500. The Wayne Activities and Banquet Center sold for \$165,000. A vacant parcel on Van Born sold for \$105,000. At the time of the report, the former Building and Engineering Building was pending at \$190,000.

Beaumont Hospital-Wayne is investing \$3.5 million into a State-of-the-Art Breast Care Facility.

Other investments within the City of Wayne include \$850 million dollars by Ford Motor Company to make the new Ranger at the Wayne Assembly Plant and \$1.3 million investment for a status release gate; Ground Effects Ltd. (supplier of interior and exterior accessory components for the auto industry) invested \$6 million in a new location in Wayne; Wooshin North America (a car body specialist) invested \$20 million dollars by moving into a 467,594 square-foot facility on Van Born; Planet Fitness invested \$4.5 million by opening a location in the old Save-A-Lot store on Michigan Avenue; and Taco Bell invested \$1.8 million by demolishing and rebuilding on their site at Venoy and Michigan Avenue.

## Students plant trees for the environment

As part of their Fourth Grade curriculum, students from Hoover Elementary School walked to Attwood Park to participate in Arbor Day activities last month. The exuberant classes of Amy Morse and Andrea D'Amico could be heard approaching the park before they could be seen.

Twenty-three students were selected to read a statement or fact based on their studies of the land, water, conservation and ecosystems at a tree-planting ceremony attended by city officials and community members. Each class formed a line of students to shovel dirt into the hole where a Red Sunset Maple was being planted.

Through a partnership with Friends of the Rouge, the 4th grade classes at Hoover have been planting trees for Arbor Day for over 10 years. The classes also have a grant allowing them to create a community garden at a park by Roosevelt-McGrath Elementary.

After posing for pictures with the trees they planted, the students were allowed to visit the Playscape. The energy level suddenly shot sky high as the group thundered over to the play structure to expend pent up energy before returning to the classroom.

Photo by Natalie Rhaesa



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# Cycling in Wayne

By Carolyn Marnon

May is National Bike Month and exciting things are happening or have happened in Wayne that involve bicycling.

The Wayne Police Department has been working with Brightmoor Maker space, a charity that teaches young people to improve their making skills, for some time. Representatives from Brightmoor recently came to the police department to collect abandoned bicycles that had been piling up.

The police department makes every effort to locate the owners of the bikes, but it is not always successful. Rather than putting the bikes in the dumpster, property room supervisor Lt. Schmidtke arranged for the donations. Police Chief Ryan Strong says, "They will also take bicycles in any condition since they are able to fix the bicycles at their facility This allows every bicycle to be put to good use."

Bikes have been donated to other charitable organizations in the past. "Brightmoor Maker space is unique in that they are able to take ALL of our bicycles and put them to good use," says Chief Strong.

Chief Strong shared several tips to increase the probability that your bicycle will be returned if it goes missing. First, always lock your bicycle. Second, don't leave it sitting in your front yard. Record the serial number and provide the number to the police if your bike is ever stolen. The police department holds onto bikes for six months before they are disposed of.

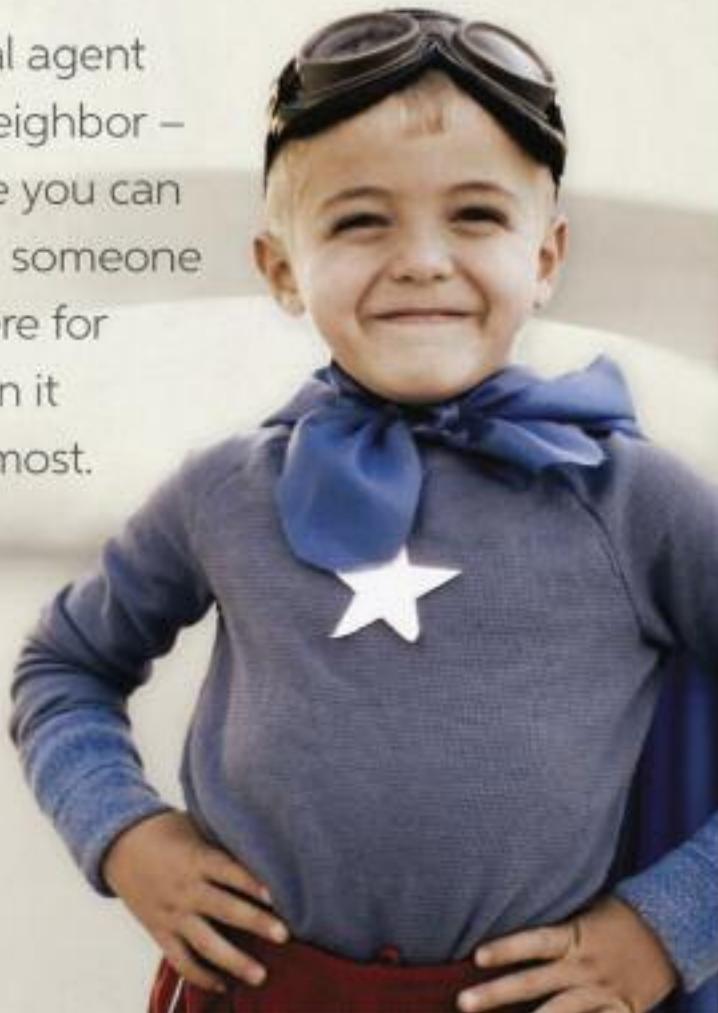
Wayne has a bicycle club! The Wayne Bicycle Club season opening ride will be Thursday, May 9, at 7:00 p.m. Bring your bike and meet at the front of the State Wayne Theatre. The club rides are every Thursday, weather permitting, at 7:00 p.m. and meet outside the theatre. The club has a Facebook page with up-to-date



Lt. Schmidtke arranged to have the bicycles donated to Brightmoor Maker Space. information about rides. All are invited to ride for as long as they are able.

While you are enjoying the spring weather on your bicycle, be sure to notice various locations throughout downtown where bicycle racks and hitches have been installed.

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# Mother and daughter share their love of music

By Carolyn Marnon

Karen Lawrence, also known as Zoom, was born at Annapolis Hospital in Wayne in 1959. She has lived in Wayne her entire life, or has she? She says she has lived in the same house on Wayne Rd. her entire 61 years, but the house has changed addresses, originally being in Wayne, but later being changed to a Romulus residence. Her mother was a teacher with the Wayne Public Schools; her father worked at Ford in Wayne.

She says her parents would have parties in the basement with every kind of music. At about 3-4:00 a.m., she would hear the blues music wafting to her room, and it would have her mesmerized.

Zoom performed the blues for 20 years and travelled all over the world. At 17, she performed with a pop band. Her first gig was at what is now the Crystal Bar and Grill in Westland. It was an upscale supper club then. She would also include 1-2 blues songs in her repertoire. Her favorite song was Journey's "Lovin', Touchin', Squeezin'.

Playing in bars and at festivals, Zoom travelled around the area-Westland, Dearborn, Detroit, Hamtramck. She later branched out with Zoom and the Blue Diamonds, playing all over Michigan and Canada. She also did some appearances with other bands.

She recalls singing the National Anthem at the old Tiger Stadium. She says she was wearing a navy blue and white suit and her heels would stick to the ground.

At a gig in London, Ontario, Zoom was scheduled to open for her



Karen Lawrence, also known as Zoom, at the America's Got Talent auditions.

favorite blues singer, Koko Taylor, for one night. This was about 1990. Three weeks later, "out of nowhere" Zoom says, she got an eight-week European tour. The tour had her singing in France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Amsterdam and Spain.

Blues music is "about life. This coffee is hot...My back hurts...etc" says Zoom. She says she sang with the Chicago Blues Festival and travelled non-stop from 1990 to about 1999/2000.

Her travel slowed drastically in 1998 when her daughter Airey was born. She continued to perform, however, saying "You don't turn anything down" while she worked tirelessly to now support her daughter.

She became dedicated to raising her daughter and bought Airey her first 88-key electric piano when she was 2 years old. With one finger and by ear, Airey taught herself to play "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" "Joy to

the World," and "Silent Night." Airey says she doesn't remember any of this, but she does say her first memory was learning "Jingle Bells" when she was 3.

Airey remembers that her grandma liked jazz music and would play cassette tapes on car rides. Her grandma also liked going to concerts.

Airey was in the band in middle school and high school. As a high school freshman, she performed in the talent show, playing piano and singing "Stay" by Rihanna, and winning first place. "It was completely unexpected!"

Airey has been to music camps in Wisconsin. She says she auditioned for Interlochen and AMDA College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts in Los Angeles. An only child, Zoom wanted to send Airey to a performing arts school.

Not long ago, Airey and Zoom each auditioned for "America's Got Talent." "I thought it would be fun,"

says Zoom. There were about 6000-7000 people there. Zoom says all those people believed in their talent. "How many people believe in their selves and working toward a goal?"

Airey is now following in her mother's musical footsteps, pursuing a career in blues.

Airey says her love of blues began when she saw the Woody Allen movie, Blue Jasmine. She was blown away by the song "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" sung by Lizzie Miles and started studying Lizzie. The movie has become one of her favorites.

When she was 19, Zoom says they were going to a doctor's appointment when "Salty Dog" came on the radio. "Mom, that's me!" exclaimed Airey. Zoom goes on talking about a competition put on by the Detroit Blues Society which will send people to Memphis, Tennessee to compete with other people from all over the world. Although no prizes are awarded to youth competitors, the critique participants receive is just as prestigious.

Zoom says she called Steve Soviak of DBS touting the talents of her daughter who only sings 1920s-1940s blues. She played Steve a recording of Airey's "Salty Dog" and said he told her the hairs on the back of his neck were standing up.

Airey was sent to Memphis to perform at Silky O'Sullivan's where she received invaluable criticism, both good and bad.

Steve says big-time blues movers and shakers in the Detroit area have taken notice of Airey. When talking

See **Music**, page 12

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# Wayne's first cookie stroll coming soon!

Wayne Main Street's Cookie Stroll will take place in downtown Wayne on Saturday, May 11, from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Wayne Main Street anticipates a sold-out event this year with more than 150 people expected to participate in the stroll.

Wayne's Cookie Stroll will begin in Derby's Alley located at 34924 W. Michigan Avenue, 48184 at 11:00 a.m. Each Cookie Stroller will be provided with a cookie box and a map of the more than 14 participat-

ing businesses. Strollers will be invited to explore our historic downtown and pick up delicious gourmet cookies at participating businesses. An assortment of beautiful potted flowers and hanging flower baskets from Garden Fantasy Greenhouse will be available for purchase in Derby's Alley. This year's gourmet cookies have been provided by the Wayne-Westland Schools Culinary Arts Program that is known throughout the area for their wonderful cre-

ations. "The Cookie Stroll is an important event for our downtown. After hosting several successful chocolate walks, we are bringing a new and exciting event to Wayne" says Kaitlynn Riley, Board Member for Wayne Main Street. Tickets to this event are \$15 each, or 4 for \$40. Tickets can be purchased in advance at downtownwayne.org or by calling the WMS office at (734) 629-6822. A limited number of tickets may be available the day of the event if the

event does not sell out. Join community members from Wayne and folks from surrounding communities to enjoy gourmet cookies, buy flowers for mom or the garden, and shop and explore downtown offerings.

Proceeds from this event benefit Wayne Main Street's programs and services. The event is being sponsored by Wayne's Downtown Development Authority, the Wayne Dispatch, the William D. Ford Career Technical Center and Imperial Press.



Airey B performs the blues. Photo by Jane Cassisi Photography.

## Music, Continued from page 11

about the Memphis competition, he said when Zoom called him several years ago, the DBS was considering several other singers who thought they should be sent. When he heard Airey, he thought, "Here's a 19-year old black girl who doesn't want to sing Beyonce and Top 40."

What makes her special? "I call it

a growl," says Steve. "This girl has a growl that you don't hear much anymore. The old singers from the 20s and 30s used to growl."

The mother/daughter duo has performed together at the Scarab Club. Steve says when Airey performed there, the audience "bolted out of their seats and gave her a standing ovation."

On Valentine's Day, they per-

formed together at Costa's Village Bar in Wayne. Having raised her daughter on her own, Zoom's goal is for the two of them to work together one day.

Airey's short-term plans are to get more musicians, have a steady band, and get her name out there. She'd liked to do an EP with original music and make music videos. She has also set some long-term goals for herself, including playing at Carnegie Hall, playing with an orchestra and going to Europe.

Back in February, Airey was featured on Local 4's Live in the D: Music Monday where she performed "Salty Dog."

Zoom is quick to point out "I am her greatest promoter. I'm not momager." She thinks Airey is unique because most young people are not interested in old music like blues, jazz or folk music. "I'm in awe of her liking this old times music. It's admirable to like not what's popular. She's passionate about it" Zoom says of Airey.



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- Wear a wide-brimmed hat.
- Wear sunglasses that block 99% of UV rays.

**Protect Your Children, Too!**  
Studies show that children receive up to 80% of their exposure to damaging UV rays by age 16. To help them safe, follow the same precautions as you would for an adult, but be sure to choose sunglasses that fit their smaller faces. Have impact-resistant lenses with quality frames, and have lenses large enough to shade the entire eye.

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# Wayne Memorial students see Hamilton performance

By Carolyn Marnon

Seventy students from Wayne Memorial High School's 11th grade English classes were able to attend a matinee performance of the musical *Hamilton* at the Fisher Theater last month. Over 2000 students from high schools throughout the Detroit area attended the *Hamilton* Education Program, also known as EduHam.

After being greeted by a cast member, students from the 15 participating high schools took to the stage to perform original projects inspired by educational materials and the musical. This was followed by a Question and Answer session with members of the touring company.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute partnered with producers of *Hamilton* and the Miranda family (Lin-Manuel Miranda composed, wrote and starred in the Broadway production of *Hamilton*) to create EduHam for Title-I eligible high schools. The schools are invited to integrate Alexander Hamilton and the founding era into classroom studies and then to see the musical as part of a mission to improve the teaching and learning of American history. Detroit is one of 16 cities that are on this special educational tour for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020.

According to the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History website, "Before the students see the show, their teachers guide them through a unique, hands-on class project using Gilder Lehrman Institute resources to introduce the students to the people, events, and documents of the founding era. In addition, the students learn how Lin-Manuel Miranda, the creator of *Hamilton*, incorporated primary sources into the songs he wrote for the show and use that knowledge to produce their own performance pieces."

"I love talking about our EduHam experience," said Wayne Memorial teacher Kristi Pipok "I heard about the program when it was launched in New York, then again when the show started touring in Chicago. I didn't realize that it was coming to the Detroit leg of the tour until the fall when a friend in another school district told me that she had applied to the program for her school. I did some



Wayne Memorial students perform at the Fisher Theater in Detroit for members of the cast of *Hamilton*.

digging, got the blessing of our administrators here at Wayne Memorial, and applied to the program for our school. Luckily, in January I was notified that our school was selected to participate."

She goes on to say, "For students to attend the production, they each had to create a performance piece transcript that was submitted to the Institute. Every 11th grade ELA (English Language Arts) student completed a creative piece that they performed in front of their class. It was decided that we would implement the project in the 11th grade English classes because it blended well with our literacy standards and the adaptation unit we start in the third marking period. 11th grade students are also all in an American History course, so they were able to use prior knowledge to help support them as they dug into some difficult primary documents.

"After each student or student group presented their creative piece, the 11th grade English team was tasked with selecting the strongest performance to record and send to the Gilder Lehrman Institute. The Institute viewed submissions from each of the 34 schools attending our program date and selected 15 student groups to perform on stage.

"The 11th grade English team chose Alana Parks and Jaylen Corbin as our strongest performers. They spent time over midwinter break and composed a song that imagines the final letter that Alexander Hamilton sent to his wife Eliza Schuyler-Hamilton before he leaves for his duel with Aaron Burr. In their planning, they composed a haunting piano-driven melody to back the lyrics that show Hamilton's hesitation to leave his wife, and Eliza's realization that she will lose her husband. "Jaylen and Alana have been so incredibly humble about this whole experience and said that they really didn't expect to be selected to perform, however, their lyrics, staging, and performance show just how talented these two juniors are."

Jaylen Corbin said being on stage "felt surreal. The adrenaline definitely fueled what was happening, and I didn't really process it until I got off the stage. I learned that enough collaboration and drive can really bring a project to life, and that project can lead to unexpected rewards." Jaylen feels the play uses modern elements that many of today's youth enjoy, like hip-hop. "Since kids tend to listen to and memorize songs, the historical elements of the lyrics keep history rele-

vant as a form of entertainment."

Alana Parks found the entire experience "extremely exciting. I love performing, so the adrenaline rush was unreal. I learned that performing in front of people you don't know is a lot different than performing in front of people you do know, and it's almost easier. The musical adds an emotional touch to the story. Something the textbooks can't do. It forms a much deeper connection to the characters involved, and an understanding that they were real and emotional people, not just historical figures."

When asked if she had done something like EduHam before, Ms. Pipok replied, "I haven't done something like this before, but I am planning on keeping my eyes out for more opportunities like this for our students. Many of our students have never had the chance to see a professional theater production, and *Hamilton* is the reigning juggernaut of the theater world, so it really feels like a once in a lifetime opportunity for our kids. The theater is an amazing place. It opens our eyes to new people, new experiences, and new ideas. I would love to be able to give more of our amazing kids the chance to be a part of the theater world in such an intimate way."

# Stevenson students head to national competition

By Carolyn Marnon

For the first time since Wayne-Westland schools started participating in History Day, two students will be heading to College Park, Maryland to compete in National History Day at the University of Maryland June 9-13. The top two competitors in each category at the Michigan History Day state competition advance to the national event.

Stevenson Middle School eighth-graders Alissa and Alana Gildersleeve finished in the top two in the Group Exhibit category. The theme for the competition this year is "Triumph and Tragedy in History."

Alissa and Alana researched the work of nobel-prize winning scientist Marie Curie. A statement from the girls reads: "Our names are Alana and Alissa Gildersleeve. We are going to compete in Maryland for National History Day! We chose Marie Curie as our topic for NHD since our grandfather had the same illness (aplastic anemia) that Marie Curie died from. Thankfully, our grandfather was able to get radiation treatment due to Marie Curie's studies. We chose to work together since we are twins. Being partners was the logical thing for us to do. It was really cool to find out that Marie Curie used to carry test tubes filled with radium in her pockets. Some of her clothes are still radioactive today. Overall we had a great time competing in National History Day, and bonding with friends."

Local students who competed at Michigan History Day on Saturday, April 27, are involved in accelerated social studies at Stevenson Middle School. Once per week during their



8th graders Alissa and Alana Gildersleeve with their group exhibit on Marie Curie who did research on radioactivity and won two Nobel Prizes in physics and chemistry.

social studies class-time, the students devote their time to working on a project that explores local, state, national and world history.

8th grade teacher Sharon Sullivan and 7th grade teacher Lynn D'Angelo started the program four years ago. This will be the 4th year their students have competed at the state level.

There are five categories a student can compete in: an individually written paper, a documentary (group and individual), website (group and individual), exhibit board (group and individual) and performance. The top three competitors at the middle school competition in each category move on to the Regional History Day competition. This year, Regionals was at the Detroit Historical Museum. The top three at Regionals headed to Michigan History Day.

The students also worked with librarian Kathy McComb. Sharon says

Kathy is vital for this project. "She sets up websites, teaches about primary and secondary sources, how to make an annotated bibliography. We'd be lost without her."

The students are interviewed by judges at each level of the competition. They can then use the information they have gleaned from that interview to further work on their project and fix it before the next level of competition.

Last year, then-7th grade student Greta Diroff did her presentation on Rosie the Riveter. She contacted the Yankee Air Museum for help. At the state competition, Greta won the Elly Peterson Award for Michigan Women's History. She donated her display to the museum to be added to their Rosie the Riveter display. This year, Greta is doing a presentation on Japanese internment camps. Sharon says Greta met someone at Regionals who led her to someone

with a personal connection which she is adding to her display for State.

Sharon says students should be passionate about whatever topic they choose to explore. 8th grader Madison Sullivan (no relation to Sharon) said "When I heard our topic was Triumph and Tragedy, I thought of major wars, and wondered if my great grandparents were in any wars. I found out that my great grandparents were in World War II. When I read more about WWII, I came across information related to Omaha Beach and started to wonder what it was. Sharon Sullivan sums it all up. "History Day is a wonderful opportunity for students to dig deeper into history topics that interest them. Students learn life-long skills that they will use in high school and college. It is wonderful to see their passion and creativity."

The following Stevenson Middle School students placed in the top three of their Regional History Day category and represented Stevenson Middle School and Wayne-Westland Community Schools at the State Michigan History Day competition.

### Group Documentary

7th grade Audrea Beene and Jolene Tran Vietnamese Immigration

### Individual Documentary

8th grade Teya Adham There is No Alice Paul, There is Suffrage

7th grade Brady Isaacson The Invasion of Poland by Germany 1929

7th grade Savannah Brinkmeier Korea under Japanese Rule

### Group Exhibit

8th grade Alana and Alissa Gildersleeve Marie Curie: A Great Discovery With A Tragic Ending

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# High School to dedicate Athletic Hall of Fame

Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth Street, Wayne, is excited to announce the dedication of the Wayne Memorial High School Athletic Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame had been part of the Wayne-Westland Athletic Hall of Fame that was created to honor area athletes and their accomplishments and to encourage community pride. The original HOF was housed at Jake's Again Lounge. Original members of the Wayne-Westland Athletic HOF were comprised of community members, athletes and coaches from St. Mary's, John Glenn High School and Wayne Memorial High School.

The new Hall of Fame will be housed in the Alumni Arena on the Wayne Memorial High School campus and will be comprised of individuals that have been identified as having a direct connection to Wayne Memorial High School. The list below are members of the Wayne Westland Athletic Hall of Fame the committee felt met criteria for inclusion in the Wayne Memorial High School Athletic Hall of Fame.



Wayne Memorial Alumni Arena

The ceremony will be held on Friday, June 7, at 6:00 p.m. in Alumni Arena. Individuals, team members, family members and friends of those listed are invited to attend.

The event is also open to the general public.

## Wayne Memorial High School Athletic Hall of Fame

- Wendy A. Bostwick (Reynolds)
- Dick Brewis
- Bill Brooks
- Doris Busuito
- Dale Butler
- Jim Chronowski
- Cedric Dempsey
- Donald D. Domke
- Anthony (Tony) Drager
- Kim (Schwartz) Fallow
- Michael J. Goin
- Don Haney
- Kevin Hankerson
- William Clark Hawley
- Chuck Howton
- Don L. Mason
- James J. McPartlin
- Rodney Ott
- Walter Ott
- Theodore D'Pulos
- Eugene "Udge" Piscopink
- Thom Piscopink
- Kim Poteau-Foster
- Larry Quartuccio
- Anthony (Tony) Robertson
- Pollis Robertson
- Pat Sheridan
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- 1983 State Championship Volleyball Team

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