



# THE WAYNE Dispatch

JANUARY 2009

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## Crowning Moments

MISS MICHIGAN ASHLEE BARACY AND  
ALISSA JENNINGS SHARE THEIR STORIES

**YOUR SOURCE FOR POSITIVE COMMUNITY NEWS**

THE WAYNE  
Dispatch

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**See Inside  
for a pull-out  
section of  
this years'  
Winterfest events**



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Natalie Rhaesa, Miss Michigan Ashlee Baracy and John Rhaesa. The Wayne Dispatch photo by Alissa Jennings

**THE WAYNE Dispatch**

A JoNa Media LLC Publication

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## We Want to Hear From You

The Wayne Dispatch wants to know what you think. How are we doing? Tell us what you like and what you would like to see in the Wayne Dispatch.

Does your church, school, group or organization have an upcoming event? Do you want to let the public know about it? Please send the details at least one month in advance to jenny@thewaynedispatch.com.

Do you know a business that was not mentioned in the paper? Would they like to advertise in a positive news only publication? Have them contact John at 734-641-6550.

The Wayne Dispatch is a monthly publication distributing to the entire City of Wayne. The Wayne Dispatch is a non-partisan publication. The Wayne Dispatch does not include the endorsement of any political candidate or political view. The Wayne Dispatch will continue to be non-partisan and will include only advertisements paid for by candidates with a disclaimer by that candidate. There can be no exceptions.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Tax assistance for seniors

Beginning January 7<sup>th</sup> seniors can make appointments for Tax Assistance. Sponsored by AARP appointments will be scheduled for Wednesdays in February at the Wayne Senior Activity Center. Please call 734-721-7460 for more information.

### School board meeting

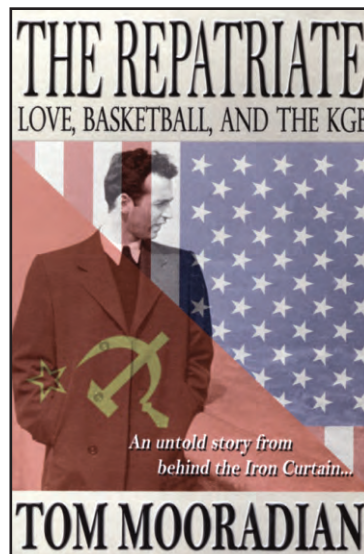
January 12 • 7:00 p.m.

Timothy J. Dyer Service Center  
36745 Marquette, Westland

### City Council meeting

January 20 • 8:00 p.m.

City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Road



### The Repatriate: Love, Basketball, and the KGB

January 27 • 7:00 p.m.

Wayne Public Library  
Local author and former newspaper reporter Tom Mooradian will discuss his memoir detailing his experiences as one of 151 Armenian Americans willingly repatriated to Armenia following World War II. Mooradian lost all freedom yet survived by using his wits and basketball prowess to make a life for himself under the Soviet regime. Copies of his book will be available for purchase and signing at this event. Please call 734-721-7832 to reserve a spot.

## All dogs and cats need to be licensed

It is now required to have all dogs and cats, four months of age and older, licensed. The 2009 dog and cat tags are available for sale in the City Clerk's Office at City Hall. A certificate of rabies vaccination is required. Fees are \$10 for a regular license and \$5 for a spayed or neutered animal until February 27, or for animals under four months of age, or owned for less than 10 days. Beginning March 1, the cost is \$20 for all animals. Replacement or transfer licenses are \$1 all year.



Miss Michigan Ashlee Baracy donated her hair to the Children with Hairloss at the last City Council meeting. Ashlee is pictured above with Mayor Al Haidous and Regina Villemure, founder of Children with Hairloss. Their goal is to provide each child with a hair replacement at no cost, once a year, if needed, until age 21. Organizers invite all to their Children with Hairloss benefit dinner at 6:00 p.m. on January 31 at the Woodlands Premier Golf and Banquet Facility. Tickets are \$30 each. For more information please visit [www.childrenwithhairloss.us](http://www.childrenwithhairloss.us). Photo by The Wayne Dispatch

### After school bowling club

4:00 p.m. every Wednesday at Wayne Bowl (must provide own transportation) for students in grades 3-8, three bowlers per team  
Cost \$5/week includes two games and shoes  
Registration is held at:  
Wayne Bowl, 734-721-7530, or  
Wayne Community Center, 734-721-7400.

### Elementary after school recreation program

Beginning January 21 co-ed basketball league and After School Recreation program for 3-5 grade students at Schweitzer, Roosevelt, Hoover, Taft, and Vandenberg Elementary Schools or Wayne residents. The fee is \$15/resident each; \$20/non-resident each. For more information, please call the Wayne Community Center at 734 721-7400.

### WMHS cheerleading spaghetti dinner

February 9 • 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
Wayne Senior Center  
Adults \$9; Senior/Child \$6

## OBITUARY

### Lothar Ehrenfried Konietzko

Lothar Ehrenfried Konietzko, age 83, passed away December 10, 2008, in Saline, Michigan. Lothar was born on March 15, 1925, in Kalitka, Prussia to Fredrich and Helene (Ulbrich) Konietzko.



Lothar immigrated to the United States in 1954 sponsored by an American pilot, and arrived in New York Harbor on the SS America. Lothar started a new life and career in Wayne, Michigan, where he resided until his death. He was employed with the Associated News Papers and worked as the Chief Photographer for the Wayne Eagle. Lothar won many awards for his beautiful and dramatic photos. He was a founding member and past president of the Michigan Press Photographers Association, past president of the Wayne-Westland Federal Credit Union and V-8 Hunting Club located in Atlanta, Michigan. Lothar was also a lifetime member of the National Press Photographers Association.

Lothar is preceded in death by his parents, his brothers, Siegfried and Wolfgang, and various aunts, uncles and cousins. He is survived by his youngest brother Roland Konietzko of Germany; his children, Karin Konietzko of Wayne, MI, Lothar (Kelly) Konietzko of Charlotte, MI, and Heidi (Michael) Hagen of Muskegon, MI; his grandchildren, Natalie, Stefanie and Alex Lembovski, Olivia and Alexis Konietzko; his nephews Harald, Mathias, Andreas, Norbert (Cindy) and Stuart Konietzko, and niece Hella Konietzko.

Lothar's funeral was held December 13, 2008, at Green Funeral Home in Atlanta, Michigan. Interment took place at Briley Township Cemetery in Atlanta.



Ashlee Baracy, 23, of Westland has a dream. When she was nine years old she dressed as Miss America for Halloween. On January 24 she will compete in the 84th Miss America Pageant from Las Vegas, Nevada and, hopefully, make her dream come true. "If you can conceive it, and believe it, you will achieve it," Ashlee said this is one of her favorite quotes and she believes it.

While Ashlee has been busy preparing for the Miss America Pageant, she has kept a full schedule of appearances for her Miss Michigan reign. She said she averages about one appearance a day. Ashlee enjoys the opportunities to talk about her platform -- breast cancer awareness and education. It is a cause very near and dear to her heart.

"I am grateful that the crown has given me a vehicle for me to make a difference. The crown is a megaphone for your voice," Ashlee said. Ashlee's mom, Janet Baracy, is the inspiration for Ashlee's platform. Ashlee's dedication to breast cancer awareness and education has made a big difference. She has launched the website for daughters or caregivers of breast cancer patients and survivors.

Ashlee has partnered with Meijer on a Journey to Good Health magazine that features her mom's journey through breast cancer. Dr. Pepper and Snapple are donating a portion of sales from all Diet Rite and Figi water sold at Meijer to funding for breast cancer.

Ashlee and her mom are involved in Relay for Life, Making Strides, Race for the Cure and have even lobbied in Washington D.C. for more funding for breast cancer. They lobbied with the state legislator in 2006. Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow signed a promise bill. A senator from



# Dare to Dream

By Jenny Johnson

## Miss Michigan reaches for the crown

Illinois, Barack Obama, was there and spoke in favor of the American Cancer Society.

Ashlee's mom, Janet Baracy, was diagnosed with Stage 3 invasive ductile carcinoma in April 2003. Janet discovered the lump in the shower. It didn't show up on a mammogram. She had a doctor's appointment scheduled in July but decided not to wait. The mammogram came back negative but they did a biopsy too. "I initially told the surgeon I was too busy for the biopsy. They knew as soon as they opened me up. I didn't ignore mine, but I was already a stage 3. The tumor had only been growing for 3-6 months, "

Janet said. This whole experience has been life changing for the entire family. "You can't take chances or put anything off," Janet said.

Ashlee promotes self examination wherever she goes. She has passed out self exam cards.

"My mom found her tumor in the shower. We have at least 10 minutes to ourselves in the shower. Take that time once a month to do a breast self exam," she said.

Janet said she gets calls all of the time from other families who are fighting the cancer battle and want to know how to help their loved ones. She tells them don't try to make the sick person

feel out of place. "After I lost my hair, and would go out of the house with a scarf on, Ashlee would wear a bandana on her head so I wouldn't feel out of place," Janet said.

Sending dinner is also a welcome gift, Janet said. On chemo days, Janet's family would send over a fridge full of food for Ashlee and her dad. "My husband, Kevin, had a break and didn't have to worry," she said.

"When my mom was sick, she kept photos of her family around her to help give her strength.



## Dream, Continued from page 3

When she didn't want to keep fighting, the photos reminded her why it was important. "I believe an optimistic attitude can help so much," Ashlee said. "We laughed more than we cried that year," Janet said.

Ashlee's goal is to bring optimism and hope to others. That's why it is



Ashlee and her Mom Janet Baracy.

important to her to visit sick children. "I truly do believe in miracles and if I can do anything to help brighten a day and help someone become a victor and not a victim, I will," she said. She and her mom recently visited a little girl at Beaumont Hospital who was having chemotherapy and had lost all of her hair. "She wouldn't touch my crown," Ashlee said. "My mom told her that she had lost all of her hair when she had cancer too and not to worry because it would grow back. There was a look of relief on the little girl's face and she said 'it will?'. With everything else, no one had told her that her hair would grow back. Just telling her that made a huge difference for that little girl. That's what it is all about." After that, the little girl happily touched the crown.

Someone else will soon benefit from Ashlee's desire to help others. She recently attended a Wayne City Council meeting with members of Children with Hairloss. She donated eight inches of her hair to the organization.

Why did she choose Wayne for this special presentation? "The City of Wayne has a special place in my heart. My parents were raised here and I was born here," she said. Born at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital, Ashlee lived in Wayne until she was five years old.

## Road to Miss America

Since Ashlee was crowned Miss Michigan in June, she has kept up a full schedule of local appearances while also preparing for the Miss America Pageant. It's been more than a full time job. While she has completed her bachelors degree, she has to put her pursuit of her masters degree on hold

## MISS AMERICA Quick Facts

- 1921** First Miss America competition is held.
- 1935** Talent is added to the competition.
- 1945** First scholarship grant (\$5,000) is awarded to Bess Myerson, the first college graduate to serve as Miss America.
- 1950s** The Miss America Scholarship Fund reaches over \$250,000.

### There have been five Miss Michigan's crowned Miss America. They are:

Kirsten Haglund: Miss Oakland County - Miss America 2008

Kaye Lani Rae Rafko Wilson: Miss Monroe County - Miss America 1988

Pam Eldred Leny: Miss Detroit - Miss America 1970

Nancy Flemming Lang: Miss White Lake - Miss America 1961

Patricia Donnelly Harris: Miss Detroit - Miss America 1939

### How much scholarship money will be awarded to Miss America contestants?

More than \$340,000 including the following:

Miss America	\$50,000
First Runner Up	\$25,000
Second Runner Up	\$20,000
Third Runner Up	\$15,000
Fourth Runner Up	\$10,000
Finalists 6-8	\$ 7,000 each
Finalists 9-10	\$ 6,000 each
Finalists 11-16	\$ 4,000 each
36 Non Finalists	\$ 3,000 each
3 Preliminary Talent Winners	\$ 2,000 each
3 Preliminary Lifestyle and Fitness Winners	\$ 1,000 each
7 Non Finalists Talent	\$ 1,000 each
Miss Congeniality	\$ 2,000
Quality of Life Winner	\$ 6,000
Quality of Life Runner Up	\$ 4,000
Quality of Life Second Runner Up	\$ 2,000
Charles and Theresa Brown Scholarships	\$25,000

**What are the competition categories?** Preliminary competition includes Artistic Expression (Talent); Presentation and Community Achievement (Interview); Presence and Poise (Evening Wear); and Lifestyle and Fitness (Swimsuit). The final night of competition includes the Lifestyle and Fitness, Presence and Poise; Peer Respect and Leadership; Artistic Expression; and Top Five Knowledge and Understanding competitions.

**What is the Platform?** In 1989, the Miss America Organization founded the platform concept, which requires each contestant to choose an issue about which she cares deeply and that is of relevance to our country. Once chosen, Miss America and the state titleholders use their stature to address community service organizations, business and civic leaders, the media and others about their platform issues. After Miss America is selected she embarks on a year-long national speaking tour. As a national spokesperson and advocate, Miss America travels approximately 20,000 miles a month, to a different city every other day, addressing diverse audiences, increasing awareness and promoting her chosen platform.

until after her reign as either Miss Michigan or Miss America is over. Right now she is enjoying every opportunity and experience.

On January 15<sup>th</sup> Ashlee leaves for Las Vegas and will stay at the Planet Hollywood Resort with the rest of the Miss America contestants. She has already met all of the contestants when they were together in California for three weeks filming the reality series Countdown to the Crown. There are four episodes that will air at 10 p.m. on TLC beginning January 2<sup>nd</sup> and leading up to the live coverage of the Miss America pageant on January 24<sup>th</sup>. "It gives viewers a behind the scenes sneak peak of the pageant," she said.

Ashlee said reality television is an experience she is glad she had, but does not want to repeat.

"We spent a lot of time in a room with no windows, but it was a great bonding experience. I had a blast. It was great to meet all of the other girls. They all got along really well. The fear of the unknown was abolished," she said.

Ashlee said that it is a myth that pageant contestants do not get along. She said she keeps in touch with many of the girls and can't wait to reunite with them in Las Vegas.

"All of the girls are extremely smart and bright. They want to further their education and the Miss America pageant is a great program for that," she said. Last year the Miss America Organization and its state and local organizations awarded over \$45 million in scholarships. It is the largest scholarship provider for women. Ashlee has won about \$20,000 from the Miss Michigan Pageant and almost \$20,000 for the local and state Junior Miss pageants.

If crowned Miss America, Ashlee knows the demanding schedule she will keep. The current Miss America, Kirsten Haglund, is from Farmington Hills. "Kirsten has given me some insight to what the job entails. You are always on. This is a selfless job. You have to have a heart to give to people," she said. She compares it to being a business woman with the goal of marketing the organization. Since she is pursuing a masters degree in marketing, Ashlee thinks she is just the one to help promote the organization.

There is also a lot of travel. For the one year reign, it is Miss America, a traveling companion, and two 50



## Dream, Continued from page 4

pound suitcases. But it is something she has dreamed of since she was a little girl dressed up for Halloween in a puffy white dress with a sash. This year she will wear a winter white evening gown for the Miss America pageant.

Ashlee has also been busy practicing her talent for the pageant. She will do a jazz dance to "Big Time." She has danced since age 2 at Encore Dance Academy in Westland. Her dance family is very proud of her. They are just some of Ashlee's supporters.

Over 100 friends and family members will travel to Las Vegas to watch Ashlee's quest for the crown. Marvaso's Italian Grille in Westland will host a Miss America party the night of the pageant. Ashlee said win or lose she is happy to have this chance. "This is a one shot opportunity. I want to make the best of it and take in the whole experience. Just being on the stage that night is so great," she said.

After the pageant and her reign, Ashlee's plans include breaking into a top ten television market as an anchor or health reporter. She would also like to become a pageant

director for a local pageant that could help girls get to the Miss Michigan pageant. "I want to give back to the program that has helped me so much," she said.

After winning the local and state Junior Miss titles in high school, Ashlee first competed in the Miss Wayne County pageant as a junior in college but did not win. She later won Miss Washtenaw County and competed for the first time for Miss Michigan. The following year she won Miss Wayne County and then went on to win Miss Michigan. "It's come full circle. Miss Wayne County was my first local pageant and two years later it was what I ended with. It is nice to end it with winning my home county," she said. Ashlee hopes to go out on a winning streak too.

**"This is a one  
shot opportunity.  
I want to make the best  
of it and take in  
the whole experience."**

Ashlee Baracy

Watch Ashlee on Countdown to the Crown beginning on January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 p.m. on TLC. Will she win the crown?

Find out live on January 24<sup>th</sup> on TLC!



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# New Year's Resolutions

2009 is in its infancy and already the New Year's Resolutions made just days ago have begun to fall like the bowling pins at Wayne Bowl. Of course, probably the most common resolution is to eat healthy, exercise more and lose weight. That's an easy pledge to make on a full stomach once you've made your third trip to the trough at your favorite New Year's Eve party buffet line. After all, people went to a lot of trouble to make these dishes. We wouldn't want to offend anyone by not sampling the fruits of their labor. Especially if their fruits include some form of chocolate.

However, another commonly made pledge is to spend *more* time with family and friends and spend *less* time at work. Unfortunately for some people, the choice to spend less, or in some cases, *no* time at work, has already been made for them by cutbacks in hours or even job layoffs.

The current economy has finally caused some people to re-evaluate their priorities in life and that is a good thing. When most of us reflect

## On the Bright Side

Hal@TheWayneDispatch.com

Hal Hultman



back on great memories, it's usually that of a memorable family vacation trip and not that of the car that got us there. We often think of the fun we had while sitting around the campfire sharing stories and little thought is given to the new RV parked nearby. After all, it's just a material thing. Ask any child, if given a choice, would they prefer their father to work six days a week, 10-12 hours a day, to provide them with the biggest house and best gifts, or would they prefer that their dad just be home at a normal time to go for a bike ride or perhaps fishing? I think we all know the answer to that question.

Remember, no one on their deathbed has ever said, "*If only I had spent more time at work*".



Kimberly Loveless and Pastor Alex Rahill of the Life Church Canton and friends pray for our community. Photo by The Wayne Dispatch.

## Survivor celebration spreads message of hope

By Jenny Johnson

The store was full of people, love and support for Kimberly and Brad Loveless. The soothing music, inviting aromas, smiles and hugs were abundant. It was the one year anniversary of Kimberly Loveless being attacked as she was leaving the Acorn Shop. Instead of dreading the day, she decided to mark it with a Survivor Celebration. She invited the community to join her at the store and offered many deals that kept the line at the cash register long all evening.

Santa even strolled through, passing out candy canes to the crowd.

"Give me a hug" was called out by Kimberly many times as new people walked through the door. "It's going great. I'm holding up," Kimberly said.

At 7:30 p.m., the time she called 911 after her attack, Pastor Alex Rahill from Life Church of Canton joined her and the rest of the crowd in front of the door to the store and offered a blessing. "We came here to celebrate Kimberly's survival. At the same time and place that Kimberly was stabbed, we are here to celebrate hope," he said. "We are not here because she was stabbed or robbed or left for dead. We are here tonight because Kimberly is a symbol of hope. When God's heart touches our hands and we help each other, that's hope," he said. "You have all helped Kimberly. You cared enough to help and bring hope. Keep

bringing hope," he said.

Kimberly said, "One year ago when you all did my benefit, I promised I would come back to the Acorn Shop. I am proud of everyone who does good work in this world. Thanks for having such a good heart. Thanks is not enough, but I hope this shows you how much I care about you all."

Well wishers and supporters held candles and sang Christmas songs during the blessing ceremony. "I admire Kimberly for the spirit she has shown and her attitude," Cindy Schofield said. Paulette Medvecky said, "This is a wonderful showing of what Christmas is all about. She is a strong person who has a lot of faith."

"It is very over whelming and touching how strong our community is," said Brad Loveless of the support he and Kimberly have had all year. Pastor Rahill said, "Kimberly and Brad are like their store, both are revived and renewed and a source of hope. She's a symbol of hope."

The Loveless' hope they can make a difference for others who are struggling to survive. They recently attended one of the fundraisers for Alissa Jennings, the 8-year old girl from Wayne who is battling a malignant brain tumor. It gave them another glimpse of the goodness in people.

Kimberly is thrilled to be able to give back to someone who needs it. She raffled off a Mr. and Mrs. Claus set. All of the funds were donated to Alissa.

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A SPECIAL SECTION TO:

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# WAYNE WINTERFEST 2009



**Wayne Community Center**  
**January 22-24**  
**Schedule of Events**

**Wayne Parks and  
Recreation Department**  
4635 Howe Rd • Wayne, MI 48184  
**(734) 721-7400**  
[www.ci.wayne.mi.us](http://www.ci.wayne.mi.us)

It's cold and snowy outside. Why not spend the weekend inside with the family having a great time? That's the idea behind the City of Wayne's annual Winterfest from January 22 - 24. Visitors to the Wayne Community Center will have several choices for fun.

## **Thursday, January 22, 2009** **Winterfest Fitness Special**

6:00 am - 8:00 pm Aquatic Area and 6:00 am - 9:00 pm REC  
Enjoy our renovated Recreation & Exercise Area including the fitness area, dry/wet saunas and whirlpools, or hike over to the Aquatic Area for the pool and indoor track. Cost is \$1.00 for residents and \$2.00 for non-residents.

## **Parent Tot Swim Special**

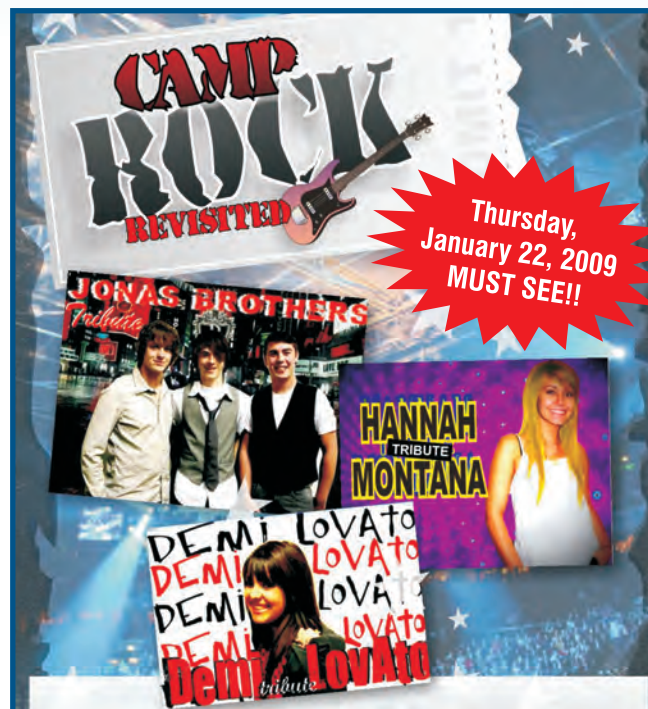
10:30 am - 3:30 pm. The cost is \$1.00 for residents and \$2.00 for non-residents.

## **Open Swim Special**

4:30 - 6:00 pm. The cost is \$1.00 for residents and \$2.00 for non-residents.

## **Co-Ed 4 Person Wallyball Tournament**

Begins Thursday, January 22, 2009, and ends Saturday, January 24, 2009. Cost is \$40.00 per team of four (\$5.00 for each additional player). The price includes T-shirt and refreshments. Double elimination - limit 8 teams. Prizes for first and second place winners. Call (734) 728-2900 for more information.



## **Jonas Brothers Tribute Band Pizza Party**

Featuring Camp Rock Revisited from Ontario, Canada and a live Jonas Brothers Tribute Band with special guests Hannah Montana Tribute and Demi Lovato Tribute on Thursday, January 22, 2009 at the Wayne Community Center. Doors open at 6:00 pm and the show is from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. The cost is \$15.00 per person, includes show, pizza and soft drinks. General admission seating. Reserve a table for 10 people for \$150.00. Tickets are on sale at the Wayne Community Center. Call (734) 721-7400 for more information. All proceeds for this event benefit Wayne Youth Services.





## WINTERFEST - SCHEDULE OF EVENTS JANUARY 22 - 24, 2009

THE WAYNE  
**Dispatch**

### Friday, January 23, 2009 Winterfest Fitness Special

6:00 am - 8:00 pm Aquatic Area  
6:00 am - 9:00 pm REC

Enjoy our renovated Recreation & Exercise Area including the fitness area, dry/wet saunas and whirlpools, or hike over to the Aquatic Area for the pool and indoor track. Cost is \$1.00 for residents and \$2.00 for non-residents.

### Parent Tot Swim Special

10:30 am - 3:30 pm.

The cost is \$1.00 for residents and \$2.00 for non-residents.

### Open Swim Specials

6:30 - 8:00 pm.

The cost is \$1.00 for residents and \$2.00 for non-residents.

### Parent Date Night at the Aquatic Area

6:00 - 10:00 pm

Join us at the Aquatic Area for a night especially designed for kids to have fun, play games, slide down the volcano water slide, swim and make new friends. Not only do the kids get all this action packed into one night, they also get pizza and pop! Parent Date Night is for ages 6 -10. Check in at 5:45 pm; activity/swimming from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm; and pizza, pop & games from 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm. What to bring: bathing suit, towel and lots of energy. The cost is \$7.00 for members, \$10.00 for residents, and \$13.00 for non-residents. "Mugsy Sent Me" Combo - \$42.00 for members; \$45.00 residents and \$48.00 non-residents.

### "Mugsy Sent Me"

### 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Winterfest Dinner Theater Show

6:30 pm



This event is an interactive roaring 20's comedy dinner theater show. The cost is \$40.00 per person and includes the performance, dinner, and open bar. The doors open at 6:30 pm with the show starting at 7:00 pm. This is a Stage Door sponsored event. Call (734)

721-7400 for reservations. Parent Date Night Combo - \$42.00 for members; \$45.00 residents and \$48.00 non-residents.

### Winterfest Open Skating Extravaganza

7:00 - 8:30 pm

The Wayne Figure Skating Booster Club is sponsoring an Open Skating Extravaganza.

The cost is \$5.00 per person and includes skate rental.

### Saturday, January 24, 2009

### Winterfest Fitness Special

8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Enjoy our renovated Recreation & Exercise Area including the fitness area, dry/wet saunas and whirlpools, or hike over to the Aquatic Area for the pool and indoor track. Cost is \$1.00 for residents and \$2.00 for non-residents.

### Monkey on Display



Come and see the live monkey in the Community Center Lobby from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Whispering Pines Animal Kingdom will also provide a few animals to pet. Cost: FREE!

### Pancake Breakfast

9:00 - 11:00 am

The Wayne Memorial High School Cheerleaders are hosting a pancake breakfast. The cost is \$4.00 per person and includes a pancake breakfast with sausage and juice. This event is limited to the first 250 people.



### 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kiddie Karnival

9:30 - 11:30 am

The Wayne Youth Team invites you to participate at the mini Kid's Karnival! Get eight tickets for \$1.00. Redeem your special "star" tickets at the prize table!

### Northpole Classic

10:00 am



Join the Wayne Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, in cooperation with Fellows Creek Golf Course, in this annual golf outing! Break out your clubs and meet us at 10:00 am for golf, beverages and hot dogs! The cost is \$20.00 per person. It is a shot gun start, two man scramble format. Please call (734) 721-7400 for more information or to register.



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### Winterfest Mini-Show

11:30 am - 12:30 pm

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### Golden Hour Hot Fudge Sundae Sale

12:00 - 8:00 pm

The Golden Hour Club will be serving Sanders hot fudge sundaes in the Community Center lobby.

### Open Swim Specials

12:00 - 2:30 pm & 3:30 - 6:00 pm

Cost is \$1.00 for residents; \$2.00 for non-residents.

### Sneak Peek Showcase

12:30 - 2:30 pm

The Wayne Community Center Dance, Gymnastic, Cheer & Baton classes give a sneak peek of their skills and recital routines. Our 200 students range in age from 3 to 15. All shows are open to the public and are free!! Come out and support your local talent.

### WYHA 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Skills Competition

1:00 - 4:20 pm

Attention all Wayne Hockey players and coaches. Test your hockey skills (hardest shot, accuracy, speed and puck control). Come be a part of the fun. Open to all W.Y.H.A. players and coaches. \$10.00 per skater. All participants receive a T-shirt and score card.

### Wayne Benefit Hockey Game

4:45 pm

Wayne Police Department vs. Wayne Fire Department. The cost is \$2.00 per person or \$1.00 per student.

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**



### Taste of Wayne, featuring Dueling Piano Show

7:00 pm

The Wayne Chamber of Commerce and Wheelfest Commission present Taste of Wayne from 7:00 - 9:00 pm, with the Dueling Piano Show from 8:00 pm - Midnight. Admission is \$15.00. Reserve a table of 10 for \$150.00. Admission includes Taste of Wayne tickets. Adults 21 and over. Cash bar. Tickets are available at the Wayne Community Center (734-721-7400) or the Wayne Chamber of Commerce (734-721-0100).

**Taste of Wayne participating restaurants include:**

Papa Romano's/Mr. Pita, Hickory Barbecue, William D. Ford Career Technical Center Culinary Arts, Happy's Pizza and U.S. Bar and Grill.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wayne Civitan Euchre Tournament

6:30 - 11:00 pm

The Wayne Civitan Club is hosting a Euchre Tournament. Must be 18 years or older to participate. Registration begins at 6:30 pm and the tournament begins at 7:00 pm. Cost is \$20.00. Contact Dick Clark at (734) 722-0160, Monday - Friday between 9:00 am - 5:00 pm for more information. SPECIAL: \$5.00 extra to get into the Dueling Piano Show after the Euchre Tournament (depending on availability).

### Wild Winter Aqua Festival

7:00 - 10:00 pm

With the dark days upon us, what better cure for the winter blues than a party? Join us in beating the blues by the pool! The evening includes games, arts & crafts, swimming, pizza, and cardboard boat races! See who can build the best boat out of only cardboard and duct tape. Prizes will be given out to those who have the fastest boat, best design, and for the boat that can hold the most people. Cardboard boat must be built and brought in the day of the festival. The cost is \$7.00 per person or \$5.00 each for a family of 4 or more.

### #91 Jerry Ball Memorial Hockey Game

7:30 pm

The Wayne Ice Dogs Midget A vs Garden City Midget BB, sponsored by Wayne Youth Hockey. Cost is \$7.00 per person. All proceeds will go to the Jerry Ball Memorial Scholarship & Endowment Fund. Chuck a Puck, 50/50 raffle, and silent auction. SPECIAL: \$5.00 extra to get into the Dueling Piano Show after the game (depending on availability).



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	Residents	Non-Residents
One Month	\$39.00	\$50.00
Three Month	\$110.00	\$135.00

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

DISCOUNT SPECIALS MUST BE PAID IN FULL!

	Residents	Non-Residents
Adult (16-54)	<del>\$225.00</del> \$180.00	<del>\$300.00</del> \$240.00
Monthly Payment	\$25.00	\$33.00
Senior (55+)	<del>\$180.00</del> \$144.00	<del>\$240.00</del> \$192.00
Monthly Payment	\$20.00	\$26.00
Husband & Wife	<del>\$405.00</del> \$324.00	<del>\$545.00</del> \$436.00
Monthly Payment	\$45.00	\$60.00
Husb./Wife Senior	<del>\$315.00</del> \$252.00	<del>\$425.00</del> \$340.00
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## Alissa's Christmas Surprise

By Jenny Johnson

She thought she was just returning some library books with her mom, but she was wrong. When Alissa Jennings walked into Hoover Elementary School, she was stunned to see Miss Michigan, Ashlee Baracy, sitting in the office. Then she realized Baracy was waiting for her.

"You're my second Miss Michigan I have met," she told Ashlee. But that wasn't the only surprise Alissa had waiting for her. The Wayne Dispatch and its advertisers threw a Christmas party for Alissa, her sister, Brooke, and both of their classes.

More than 50 students were invited to have a pizza party with Miss Michigan. They were treated to pizza, pop, cookies, chips, and even Christmas presents. Alissa and Ashlee signed autographs for the students while Brooke handed out candy canes.

Before the pizza arrived, Ashlee had a chance to talk to the students. "Do you know some of the most special gifts you can give are love, family and friends? But there is a free gift you can give to anyone at anytime. It is a smile," she said. Ashlee said she was happy to be able to celebrate the holidays with Alissa, Brooke and the other students at Hoover.

Ashley had a special gift for the sisters. They each got posters to wave and T-shirts to wear while they watch Ashlee vie for Miss America on January 24<sup>th</sup>. "So on the night of Miss America, you can be Ashlee's



Brooke Jennings (Alissa's sister), Miss Michigan Ashlee Baracy and Alissa after the party.



**"God gives us  
strength and Alissa  
gives us strength.  
She tells me  
'Mom we are going  
to get through this'  
and I believe her."**

Nicole Jennings

number one fans," said Janet Baracy, Ashlee's mom. Ashlee signed Alissa's shirt "To my best friend, Alissa. Love, Ashlee."

All of the students were happy with the party and special guest. The Jennings sisters were very happy to be able to share such a great experience with their friends. Brooke said the party was fun. "The best part was doing the autograph signing," she said with a smile.

Alissa has been home schooled since she was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor in September, but has made a few visits to her classroom. She attended the Halloween party and about three weeks ago she was able to come and stay for the whole day. The kids like seeing Alissa too.

"I liked the whole entire party, but I am always excited when Alissa comes," said third grader Devon Gilbert. "I am happy to see Alissa," said Maria Blackburn, third grade. Cameron Salt, fifth grade, said his favorite part of the day was when Miss Michigan and Alissa started signing autographs. "I am going to show mine to my mom, dad and sister," he said.

Jennifer Morgan is a fifth grader in Brooke's class and is Alissa and Brooke's cousin. "I'm glad to see Alissa and her mom again. I haven't seen Alissa since her surgery," she said. "It's also pretty cool to see someone who is going to be on TV," she said of Miss Michigan.

In a community that continues to support neighbors in need, Alissa's mom, Nicole, is so thankful for the party for her girls, everyone who participated in Alissa's fundraisers, and the school for all of the cards and well wishes. It meant the world to her to see the smile on both of her girls' faces. The past few months have been trying.

"We are dealing with it as a family and doing everything we can to support Alissa," said Nicole. We are keeping as much normalcy as possible. We have a great support network," she said. But their biggest supporter is Alissa herself. "God gives us strength and Alissa gives us strength. She tells me 'Mom we are going to get through this' and I believe her," she said.

**Editor's Note:** Thank you to the advertisers who made this party possible: Papa Romano's: Pizza, Wayne-Westland Federal Credit Union: Christmas gifts, Mary Dennings: Cookies, City of Wayne Parks and Recreation: Swimming passes and movie passes to the State Wayne Theater, The Wayne Dispatch: Hats, pop, candy and chips.



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The Jennings family (front) Alissa, Brooke, (back) Nicole and Jeff at the fundraiser for Alissa last month. Photo by The Wayne Dispatch

## Good News for Jennings Family

By Jenny Johnson

Christmas came early for the Jennings family. Since September, Alissa Jennings, 8, of Wayne has been battling Atypical Teratoid Rhabdoid Tumor (AR/RT). This is a highly malignant and aggressive brain tumor that grows at a rapid rate and is found primarily in children. The results of a December 16<sup>th</sup> MRI showed the tumor is smaller. "We've been waiting two months for this," said Nicole Jennings, Alissa's mom.

The past three months have been difficult. It started with a headache, vomiting and a sensitivity to light on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. "I took Alissa to the hospital in sunglasses and with a blanket covering her head to block the light. It came out of nowhere and we caught it just in time," said Nicole.

Alissa has gone through 31 chemotherapy and radiation treatments. In January she will have another round of chemotherapy. "They call it maintenance chemo. She will have to be in the hospital for at least three days. It depends on how her little body handles it," Nicole said. Because the tumor has shrunk significantly, it shows the treatment the doctors are using is working.

In the meantime, the family is very happy to have good news to share. "If I don't have the brain tumor anymore, I am going to call and tell you," Alissa said to her principal,



The Jennings family

Jennifer Curry.

Friends and family have hosted successful fundraisers for the family. You can still help by making a donation in Alissa's name at the Wayne Westland Federal Credit Union, 500 S. Wayne Road, Westland. The family is very thankful for the success of Alissa's fundraisers. "Now my husband can take a day off work and be with her for all of her treatments too," Nicole said.

More good news is that the Make a Wish Foundation has decided to grant Alissa a wish. Her top three wishes are meeting the Jonas Brothers, meeting Hannah Montana, or having a tea party with the princesses at Disney World. "Granting a wish for her put a huge smile on her face," Nicole said.

Nicole gives daily updates of Alissa's courageous journey on [www.caringbridge.org/visit/alissajennings](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/alissajennings). Well wishers can also sign in to her guest book and send her a message of hope.



# Clang, clang, clang went the trolley...

Prior to our current road and highway system the countryside was covered with a vast network of train tracks and single car trains called interurbans. They were all part of the D.U.R. (Detroit United Railway) and the trains that served the Wayne area were part of the Detroit, Jackson and Chicago Electric Railway. Stations were located throughout the area. Wayne had a nice waiting room, freight warehouse, freight office and electric generation plant at the southeast corner of Michigan Avenue West and South Wayne Road, basically in the parking lot of Chase Bank. It was considered a fine building with brown brick and a terra cotta clay tile roof. There is a model of the station at the Wayne Historical Museum. The station was a busy place where you could wait for trains, buy a newspaper and eat a snack while watching for your train. The tracks were so busy that at the high point there were 40 streetcars each way, every day that passed through Wayne.

Interurban service began in Wayne in 1898 and lasted through 1929. This was quite an accomplishment for the City. A stop meant that it would be an attraction for customers and help build the business district. There were two lines that ran through Wayne. The main line was on Michigan Avenue and it continued on Michigan Avenue all the way to Jackson and points west. The interurban also turned on Wayne Road and headed north to Plymouth and later Northville and Farmington. This route took you along Wayne Road to Cady's Corner (Wayne and Cherry Hill Roads), then

## Rearview Mirror

Matt Miller

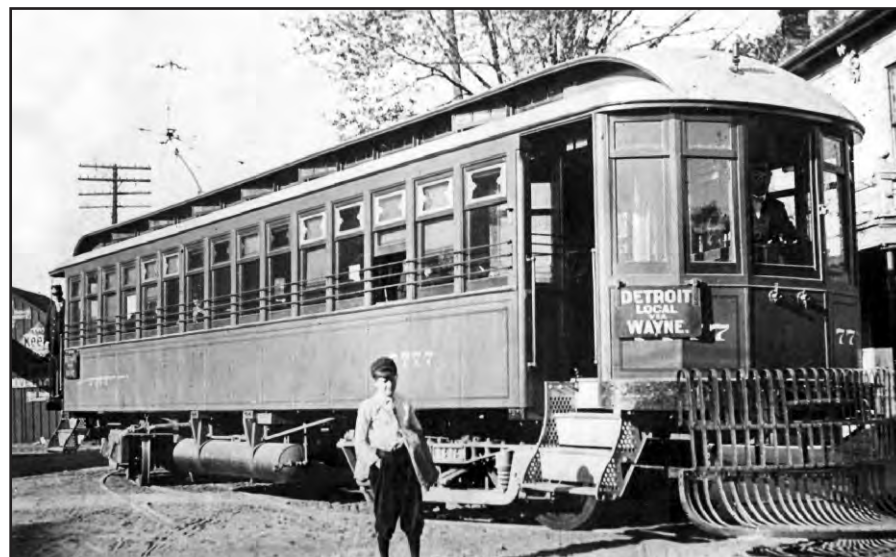


turned west on Cherry Hill to Newburgh and headed north to Newburgh Village (Newburgh Road and Ann Arbor Trail) and then west along Ann Arbor Trail into Plymouth.

The trolley cars were quite large and self-contained. The interurban was a single car train that was about 50 feet long and painted green and yellow in the early days and later a dark red. They housed the motorman's cab, the passenger seating area and freight in the rear. On board there were two employees, a conductor and motorman. The motorman drove the train and the conductor took tickets and called out stations as the streetcar approached the stop. The conductor also helped with crowd control and looked out for the welfare of his passengers.

Wayne had half-hour service on the line, alternating between limited, express and local cars. The limited cars stopped only at Dearborn, the express made stops at Eloise and Inkster, and the local stopped at all main road crossings. If you flagged them down, the motorman would stop and permit you to board. The fare to Detroit was fifteen cents; a nickel allowed a ride to Eloise, Hannan Road or Cady's Corner. Mileage books could be purchased for a penny a mile.

While doing research I ran across this interesting story and thought I



The Detroit Local via Wayne coming from the north on Wayne Road, turning the corner to go to Detroit. Photos courtesy of The Wayne Historical Museum - Wayne, MI.



Detroit United Railway Plymouth car on bridge.

would share it with the readers. Since chestnut trees were very thick around the village, kids would collect the chestnuts and sell them on the streetcar. Those young entrepreneurs would gather the nuts and sell them for five cents a glass. The chestnuts at the time were big and sweet and were a special treat for the passengers. The most fun was getting chased out of the woods by the farmer.

Unfortunately, the automobile and better roads made it impossible

for the interurban to compete and they were forced to cease operations. With our high gas prices, pollution and traffic congestion, these streetcars really would be nice to have again.

This and many other interesting facts are all available at the Wayne Historical Museum. Come and visit and learn a bit about our history. If you have any comments, please contact me via e-mail at [matt@thewaynedispatch.com](mailto:matt@thewaynedispatch.com) or at City Hall at 734-722-2000.



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# Patrick J. Norton Recreation and Exercise Club dedicated



Patrick J. Norton and Mayor Al Haidous are joined by past and present members of the City Council, City Administration, and the Parks and Recreation department for the ribbon cutting of the new recreation and exercise club. Above: Nathan Adams, Health and Wellness supervisor, doesn't miss a chance to get the crowd exercising. Photos by Stan Shelton The Wayne Dispatch



**By Jenny Johnson**

It was his idea to have a community center that provided a wealth of recreational opportunities for everyone. Now 30 years later his vision is complete with the newly renovated and universally accessible facility. The Patrick J. Norton Recreation and Exercise Club was officially dedicated on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Norton and members of his family were proud to gather with current and former members of the City Administration and Parks and Recreation staff for the ribbon cutting.

"He left a great mark on the city he served. He gave 29 years of service to this community. Pat Norton will be remembered for a long time as a great leader," said Mayor Al Haidous. Norton served on the City Council from 1964 -1993 and was the mayor from 1970 - 1975 and 1979 - 1991. "Plans that he initiated are being completed today. The downtown revitalization is just one example. We appreciate all that you did for this community," Haidous said.

Ted D'Pulos, retired Parks and Recreation Director, said he recalled his first conversation with Norton in the parking lot of the former NBD bank. "Pat told me we needed a community center, but money is going to be a problem and you probably won't get the support of the City Council," D'Pulos said. "But we got it done. In 1978, in 24 inches of snow, we had the dedication of this building. This building did its job for a long time. As the need changed and people got more involved and thought more about their health, the needs of the building changed. That's the building we have here today. It's fantastic and it all started with you Pat," he said.

## Former principal offers scholarship to Wayne Memorial student

**By Jenny Johnson**

A former teacher from Adams Middle School, Earle Chorbagan, and his wife, Billie, have made an investment in the future. They are sponsoring the Adams Middle School/Wayne Memorial High School Scholarship. This fund will give a \$1,000 scholarship to a current high school senior at Wayne Memorial High School. "I had help from the GI Bill after World War II and I wanted to be able to offer the same chance to someone else," Chorbagan said.

Chorbagan was employed by the Wayne Westland Community School District for 32 years. He was the assistant principal at Adams Junior High for 25 years. Chorbagan is also the one who initiated the district spelling bee, appropriately titled the Annual Earle Chorbagan District Spelling Bee, that is held at Adams Middle School every February. It tests the best fifth through eighth grade spellers in the district. Each year Chorbagan is proud to award

the winners with a plaque and brand new dictionary.

Now Chorbagan is happy to be able to give back to the district with a scholarship fund. The initial funding for the scholarship is \$20,000. For the first two years, the scholarship fund will award a \$1,000 scholarship. After that it will be 5 percent of the amount, depending on the interest earned.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must have attended Adams Middle School for at least two years and must graduate from Wayne Memorial High School. The scholarship is not based on need, but the recipient has to have good grades, be of good character, and plan to attend a college or university.

The counseling department at Wayne Memorial High School will select the winner, but the Chorbagans will meet the first recipient. The purpose of the scholarship is to assist the youth of the neighborhood in attaining their

educational goals.

According to Aggie Kubrak, Senior Executive Director of Instruction, this is one of the larger scholarship funds in the district. "They are so genteel and generous," she said of the Chorbagans.

Chorbagan said he hopes this sets a model for others in the community to help students succeed.



Billie and Earle Chorbagan present Dr. Gregory Baracy with a check for the Adams Middle School /Wayne Memorial High School Scholarship.

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# Wayne a great community with great people

Do you remember the **Wayne Dairy**? It was started in 1928, by Horace Phillips, with thirteen employees and four trucks for the home delivery of milk. Robert Phillips, Horace's son, told me about his Dad and the dairy he owned. The dairy delivered milk and ice cream to restaurants. They also delivered milk, both white and chocolate, in tiny half pint bottles to the schools.

Horace was born in a log cabin in Vulcan. That's in the Upper Peninsula. As a boy he brought home what he thought was a stray puppy, but turned out to be a wolf cub. He trained it so well the cub would follow him to school.

But back to the dairy...the original store was on Glenwood, across from the Washington school. It moved to Main Street, about where Blockbuster is now. In 1936 a dairy bar was added, offering cones, sundaes, milk shakes, banana splits, and sodas. Does anyone make sodas anymore?

Horace Phillips was the first President of the Wayne School Board and served from 1945 until 1952.

## Footprints of Wayne

dee @thewaynedispatch.com

Dee Ryan



The Wayne Dairy closed in 1962...but the memories are still here.

Did you see the new Christmas tree at our Library? Donated by **Lois and John Van Stipdonk** and decorated beautifully by Gail Rediske, it follows the theme of "hats off for reading" with a top hat at its very tip.

**Goodfellows night** at Jake's Again was successful with a take of at least \$6,000.

Many great gifts were auctioned or raffled. They included Red Wing and Piston tickets and spa getaways. Did I hear boos when the Detroit Lions tickets were offered for bid? I must have imagined that. Lynn and



Wayne residents Pam and Tim Perdue enjoyed watching the Detroit Red Wings beat the Chicago Blackhawks 6-4 during the Winter Classic at Wrigley Field in Chicago on New Year's Day.



Melissa Simnicki, Fire Chief Mel Moore and Jeff Bennett. Melissa and Jeff work with CVS to help with community fundraising.

Jerry Higgs won a champagne basket for being the longest married couple. Fifty years...congratulations to you both. Pam and Tom Dobrowolski won four tickets to the Ford-Wyoming Drive In. Should we send some scouts out to make sure there's no necking?

Meanwhile, at the Community Center, many ladies gathered for their annual **Christmas Tea**. It also benefits the Goodfellows. Paulette Medvecky, Director of the Wayne Library, and her daughter, Jennifer Sulfridge, had look-alike tables decorated with Christmas trees. Kay and Tina Butler, Bev Blankertz, Donna McEachern, Mary Ann Ellis and Julie Green were at Paulette's table. Jennifer's table seated teachers and staff from Lincoln Elementary School. Their food included ham rollups, a new recipe for pumpkin dip, and Weight Watchers pumpkin muffins followed by non Weight Watchers chocolate peanut butter bars.

I stopped by **Button and Cuffs**, which has moved to two doors west of Elizabeth Street on westbound Michigan. Eric Freedman was putting finishing touches on the store, which will offer men's dress suits and shirts, do alterations, and carry all types of men's accessories.

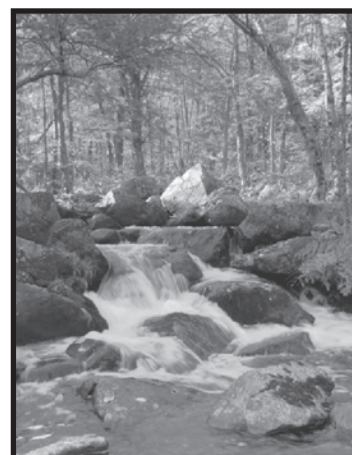
The owner of the store, Andre Dixon, found that the old store was just too small. Always a good sign, Mr. Dixon!

**US-12 Helps Charities Raise Funds** - Brothers Scott and John Goci, owners of US-12, have found a way for local charities to raise money and hopefully help their business as well. Charities can raise several thousands of dollars with very little effort by participating in US-12's **FREE POKER TOURNAMENTS**. There will be free-roll earnings up to \$1,000.00 their will also be cash games available as well as blackjack.

Help support these local charities and enjoy an evening out among co-workers, family and friends. Sunday, January 11th, through Thursday, January 14th, proceeds will support the Wayne Fire Department; Sunday, January 18th, through Thursday, January 21st, proceeds will benefit the Wayne Chamber of Commerce; and Sunday, January 25th, through Thursday, January 28th, proceeds will benefit the Wayne Rotary Club.

**Tom Dobrowolski**, Past Commander of VFW Post 3323, wants everyone to know how proud he was to march in the Christmas parade as part of the Honor Guard with The current Commander, Greg Slooup, and Past Commanders, Don Van Elandingham and Ron Schlim. They had new camouflage uniforms, berets, and brand new boots...which left them feeling like real 'tenderfoots' by the end of the parade.

Happy New Year Wayne...may it be a good one for us all!



## Uht Funeral Home

DIRECTORS:

Harold L. Rediske, Jr.  
Harold L. Rediske, II • Robert J. Gilbert

35400 Glenwood Road | Westland, MI  
(734) 721-8555 | Fax: (734) 721-8999  
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**TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER**

**FREE ROLL TOURNAMENTS**

**U.S. 12 POKER ROOM NOW OPEN!**

**COME OUT AND HELP LOCAL CHARITIES**

**For the Benefit of The Wayne Firefighters Local 1620:**

**Sunday, January 11 through Thursday, January 14th**

Michigan Lic. # M 43894

**Check out our new lunch and dinner specials. • Catch all your sporting events here!**

**Monday: \$1 domestic bottles - Tuesday: \$2 Long Islands + \$2 domestic bottles and Coronas**

**Wednesday: \$3 shots (exclusions apply) + \$5 bombs**

**Thursday: \$3 shots (exclusions apply) + \$2 domestic bottles**

**Friday/Saturday: \$2 domestic bottles + \$2.50 well drinks + \$3 shots (exclusions apply) + \$5 bombs (10am-11pm)**

**Sunday: Pizza and draft special.**

**34824 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE • WAYNE • 734-722-3170**



As a Wayne-Westland student, your child will enjoy the advantages of an award-winning school system that...



- Has earned 14 Golden Apple awards for MEAP scores
- Has earned two Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School Awards
- Offers 15 types of AP courses that let high school students earn college credits
- Equips every classroom and media center with computers and new technology to enhance students' computer skills
- Offers before-and-after-school programs at 13 of its 17 elementary schools
- Offers Full Day Kindergarten at nine schools and a Magnet Kindergarten program for young fives
- Offers online courses and dual enrollment college opportunities

*At Wayne-Westland Community Schools, we're constantly updating our curriculum to align with advances in education and technology.*

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