

THE WAYNE Dispatch

FEBRUARY 2009

Love Story

Courtney and
Scott Conover
make a great team

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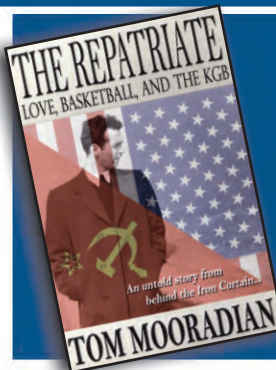
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Happy Homecoming
Wayne welcomes beloved
journalist and friend

See page 9

THE WAYNE Dispatch

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Winterfest 2009 was full of singing, skating, swimming and monkeys. The Wayne Ice Arena hosted the Police vs. Firefighter charity hockey game where the Fire Department came out on top. At the annual Jerry Ball Hockey game, Jerry Ball's dad, Jerry Sr., and brother, Carter Ball, dropped the puck to start the game. The very talented Stage Door hosted a dinner theater show with dinner, drinks and dancing. The Wayne Wheelfest and Chamber of Commerce hosted a Taste of Wayne Dueling Piano show. Jonas Brothers fever was in the house when a Camp Rock show featured a tribute to the popular singing brothers. Whispering Pines Animal Kingdom brought some of their favorite friends to Winterfest. They included a large tortoise, a monkey, baby alligator and hedgehogs.





By Jenny Johnson

They make a great team. Courtney and Scott Conover of Wayne might still be newlyweds but they have the secret recipe to a happy marriage. Courtney Conover, Deputy Mayor of Westland, and her husband, Scott, a professional chef and former Detroit Lion, had many near meetings on their road to love.

Courtney grew up in Westland and Wayne. She attended Elliott and Stottlemeyer Elementary Schools, Stevenson Middle School and John Glenn High School. She graduated from the University of Michigan in 1999 with a degree in communications.

Scott grew up in New Jersey and graduated from Purdue University in Indiana with a degree in Industrial Technology before being drafted by the Detroit Lions in 1991. He played six seasons as an offensive lineman.

Missed Chances

Their paths nearly crossed many times while Scott was a Detroit Lion and later an author promoting his children's book, "Can I Play, Too?" While Courtney was a student in Ann Arbor, Scott frequently visited his publishing company located just blocks from Courtney's dorm.

Scott was on the field and Courtney in the stands during many Michigan vs. Purdue football games. Courtney even attended a Lions game with her parents during the time Scott was on the team.

What finally brought them together? It was a

book and an over helpful publicist.

In 2004, Courtney was working as the communications coordinator at WLND when she was asked to go to City Hall and take a photo of a Westland based author and then Mayor Sandra Cicirelli.

Courtney had also written a book called "Big Lessons for Little People." "I have always known I wanted to write. This book is four stories designed to be read aloud from a parent or caregiver to a child," she said.

Courtney saw the author and a publicist in the parking lot of City Hall. The decision to ask the publicist to read her manuscript ended up changing her life.

Marian Nelson arranged to meet with Courtney. Her first question "Are you single?" surprised Courtney. She showed Courtney a photo of Barry Sanders and Scott. "She told me she has someone she wants me to meet and I said if he is in any way, shape or form related to the game of football, I am not interested," Courtney said. Marian told Courtney, "No, he is really nice. He pulls out the chair for his mom and he's involved in a children's foundation. Just come and meet him."

Scott was appearing at a charity event at Somerset in Troy. "Since I will dress up for the opening of an envelope, I decided to grab a friend and go," Courtney said.

Scott grew up in New Jersey, the oldest of seven siblings. He lived in Michigan while he played for the Lions from 1991 -1996. After he retired from football, he wrote the semi-autobiographical book about a boy, Teddy, and his struggles with physical differences and finding true friendship.

After the book tour, he returned to New Jersey where he began teaching high school and coaching football and track. "The book kind of faded into the background. Proctor Publishing was sold and I started a new career teaching kids," he said.

In 2003, First Page Publishing took over and they contacted Scott. They said they wanted to relaunch his book and have him promote it back in Michigan.

"When I first met Marian she told me 'we have to find you a nice girl'," Scott said. Was Courtney the first girl she had set him up with? "Yeah, Scott was I?" Courtney interjects. Scott assured his wife

that she was the only one. "She told me she met a nice girl she wanted me to meet and I took it with a grain of salt. I didn't take her seriously," he said.



First Encounter

Courtney said when she walked into the One Youth at a Time Charity Gala at the Somerset Collection in Troy in October 2004 she was filled with trepidation. Until she saw Scott.

"When I met Scott face to face there was definitely an attraction, but there was also something else. It was magnetic," Courtney said. Scott said, "I saw her come in. She was in a white dress. I saw a very beautiful, attractive woman and I said 'could that be her?' and I hoped it was."

See **Lucky in Love**, page 4

After meeting briefly and getting their photo taken together, Scott was whisked away to give a speech and then spent the rest of the night signing autographs at Montblanc, an upscale boutique that features fine pens. "I was hoping she hadn't left yet," Scott said.

She hadn't. At the end of the night Courtney found him in the boutique and admired the pen Montblanc gave him to sign autographs. "Why don't you use it to write your phone number and e-mail," he said.

Thus began their long distance courtship. They kept in constant contact via phone and e-mail. They also racked up a lot of frequent flier miles between Michigan and New Jersey. Their long distance relationship was a plus they said.

"We had to communicate. I had to tell him what I was thinking and feeling," Courtney said. "The long distance relationship helped us form a strong bond. We had to mean what we said and say what we meant," said Scott. "When you find the right person for you, 500 miles is not an obstacle," Courtney said.

They talked about everything. They decided that when they did get married Scott would relocate to Michigan since he had already lived there for several years. Plus, thinking of the future, Courtney said, "I'm an only child and I don't want to be pregnant without my mom near."

Back to the beginning

It was June 11, 2006. Courtney thought they were attending a charity gala for one of Scott's former teammates. Scott had other plans.

On the way to the gala they had to stop by Montblanc and get his pen cleaned. Courtney had no idea her life was about to change.

While Courtney was busy looking at pens in the glass case at Montblanc, Scott handed her the piece of paper she had written her phone number and e-mail on the night they met. "When I turned it over it said, 'will you marry me?'," she said. "I wrote it in the same pen we used the night we met," he said.

After tears, smiles and the ring, Courtney said yes and they began to plan their wedding.

Lucky number 7

7-7-07 was a very popular wedding day. Nonetheless, Scott and Courtney felt destined to unite on that day. Scott is the oldest of seven children. His numbers when he played football were 67 and 77. His number for the Lions was 76. Courtney was born in 1977. Scott weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz. at birth. They were married by Judge Sandra Cicirelli in the atrium of the Embassy Suites Hotel at 7 Mile and Newburgh. It was 7:07 p.m. when Courtney walked down the aisle to Scott.



"It was the most precious day of my life," Courtney said.

After a honeymoon in Maui, Courtney returned to her job as Deputy Mayor of Westland and Scott returned to New Jersey to finish his culinary arts training at the Art Institute of New York City. They spent the first months of their marriage in separate states.

"He was home by Christmas and we haven't spent a night apart since," she said.

Now Courtney gets up every morning before Scott has to leave for his early morning shift. "I make it a point to see him off every morning. And I wait up for him at night," she said.

Scott is now a professional chef. In addition to running his own company Fresh Off the Gridiron, Scott is the executive chef at the bistro at Kroger in Northville and a line chef at Iridescence in the Motor City Casino. He is also a spokesperson for Nutrisystem.

Teamwork

After years of playing college and professional football, in 1996 Scott hung up his cleats and was ready for a new career.

Are the two still Lions' fans even with their less than stellar performance this year? "We had some great times. We were the last team to win a playoff game. Some of the guys went on to be Hall of Famers, but the main thing was the comradery. It was like a big fraternity. I will always be a Lions player. It brought me here and that's great," he said.

"Look at where our economy is and how many people are losing their homes and jobs. No ones



life really changes at the end of a game. I will always be a Lions fan. If it wasn't for the Lions, I wouldn't have my husband," Courtney said.

The Conovers attended two Lions games this year. "I am not a good fan. I can't watch it for pleasure. It was my job. I analyze it too much," he said.

Will he watch the Super Bowl? Maybe. His predictions for who will win? "Who ever scores the most!" he laughs.

Scott's years of football have helped prepare him for his new career. Not only does he need the endurance to be on his feet all day and night but he has to work seamlessly with the other chefs.

"You have to be a team player in the kitchen," Scott said. As an offensive lineman he used his hands on the field. He uses them a different way now in the kitchen. "In football I used to use my hands for blocking and now I use them for chopping," he said.

The Conovers both have demanding careers that often have them working long hours. They are a solid team who draw on each other for support and cherish the time they do get together. "We make time and we are fiercely protective of our free time," Courtney said. Sunday morning breakfasts and movies on the couch are among their favorite things to do together.

They look forward to expanding their team someday with children. "Twins run on both sides of our family," Courtney said.

Editor's Note: Scott's book, "Can I Play, Too?" is available at the Wayne Public Library. For more information about Scott's chef services please visit www.freshoffthegridiron.com.

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Meghan Ebbitt attended the Inauguration celebration last month.

Trip of a lifetime

Meghan Ebbitt, Youth Services Librarian at the Wayne Public Library, was just one of millions of people who attended the Inauguration celebration last month. She and her family left on January 17 for the drive to D.C. "We stayed with my uncle who lives in Alexandria," she said.

They left Alexandria, Virginia at 6 a.m. on Inauguration day. They joined the crowd at the Metro trains with hopes of seeing the parade. The 20 minute trip turned into 1 hour 45 minutes. They exited the train and began their trek toward the parade route. They waited at the first of 13 security checkpoints for nearly 3 hours at E and 7th Street and never made it through.

Ebbitt said she was thrilled to just be a part of the day. "It was a great adventure and I can say that I was there for the Inauguration!" she said.

"The best part of the trip was definitely the feeling that we were witnessing history. That we were with such a diverse group of people. Everyone was there for the same purpose, to witness a great change in our country. It seemed that every time I looked around at the crowd of people surrounding me, everyone was smiling, all with the same feeling of hope, excitement, joy. The best part of my trip, was simply being there, with my fellow Americans, witnessing such a historical moment, in a peaceful and prideful atmosphere," Ebbitt said.

Ashlee Baracy's experience at Miss America

By Miss Michigan Ashlee Baracy

My Miss America experience is one that I will NEVER forget. As I woke up Thursday morning, I felt at ease and ready for the journey ahead of me. After sitting down on the plane, the pilot came on to say "we have a problem." Never did I expect to be sitting on a plane that didn't leave the gate for 2 hours. We had to de-plane and board another at the next gate over. Luckily, all my luggage made it on the flight and a kind man behind me was upgraded to first class in which he insisted I take his first class seat! He had overheard that I was Miss Michigan and wouldn't let me sit in coach on my way to Miss America! After taking off three hours late, I was in a mad dash to the Planet Hollywood for the arrival ceremony. I was blessed and thankful to have made it literally seconds before my name/state was called on the red carpet. Good thing Michigan starts with an "M" alphabetically. To my surprise, I was named one of eight Quality of Life finalists out of the 52 contestants honoring my platform work. I am so honored to be recognized for my dedication to breast cancer awareness. My mom's adversity gave me purpose and I am proud to share this accomplishment with her.

The next day, I woke up refreshed to Las Vegas sunshine and IHOP pancakes. I had the pleasure of flipping pancakes in which I successfully caught on my spatula!

We ended Friday with relaxing gondola rides at the Venetian as we were serenaded by the gondoliers and met Joaquin Phoenix. After rehearsal we had the pleasure of modeling in a fashion show on Saturday. My parents and cousins had just arrived and were there to cheer me on! Following the fashion show, we did an autograph session.

Sunday, all of us contestants went to an indoor raceway in which I placed 2nd out of all 52 contestants. I even got a trophy. So I guess if this broadcasting thing falls through, I can take up racing. The cars were electric and reached speeds of 45 mph!

Monday was my interview with our panel of judges. As the door opened for me to walk in, I took a deep breath and smiled. I was asked



The Baracy family in Las Vegas at the Miss America Pageant. Her Dad Kevin, Miss Michigan Ashlee and her mom Janet.

about my platform, about our state's automotive crisis, and many personal questions that I hope they got to see a little bit of me. I was able to share a couple personal stories, as well as some statistics, so it felt well-rounded. That evening, I was able to kick back and relax at the Phantom of the Opera. Tuesday started preliminary competition. I had an on-stage question. Wednesday I had my interview for the Quality of Life award. That evening, I competed in preliminary swimsuit and evening gown. I felt like a million bucks stepping on stage in a gown that I had designed. Following the show, was visitation where the top three Quality of Life award finalists were announced. To my complete surprise my name was amongst the three. Our contingency squealed and I ran over to embrace my mom. At that point, I felt as if someone had already placed the crown on my head. To me, nothing compares to being recognized for your devotion to service. Success should not be defined by accolades, but rather by your depth of service.

Thursday started with a talent rehearsal. Good thing I believe in the saying, "bad rehearsal, good performance." I have never stepped foot onto a stage so sticky in my life. Usually we dancers have to saturate our feet in rosin because the floor tends to be slick. Given that my niche is turning, this became a minor obstacle. Thankfully our hostesses bought me some baby powder that

became a quick fix. I have been struggling with recovering from a sprained ankle, my first tumbling pass jolted a pain right up my leg that didn't seem to go away. Luckily, after continuously exercising my ankle and soaking it in hot water before the show, I was able to pull off a self-fulfilling performance. Between rehearsal and the show was a press conference where they announced the placement of the top three Quality of Life award winners. I was announced as 1st Runner-up and awarded a \$4,000 scholarship. As I took the podium, I looked at my mother in the audience and told her that this award is not for me, it is 100% for her. God has blessed me with two of the most wonderful parents and without their love, guidance and support I would not be where I am today.

Before I knew it, I was sitting in the dressing room on Saturday

watching the minutes on the clock just fly by thinking where has this week gone? I turned on my iPod, listened to one of my favorite songs, "Legacy" by Nichole Nordeman.

Minutes before we took the stage, I realized that my legacy will not be defined by a crown, nor will it be defined by my accolades; I truly hope it will be defined by my heart and my compassion for life and service. I stepped foot onto the stage and heard the producer countdown from commercial break, the theater erupted in cheers that instantly brought tears to my eyes. I have never experienced anything like this before. Seeing the sea of "Ashlee" signs and hearing the chants "Mich-i-gan!" was emotionally beyond words. I wish I could have bottled that feeling to keep for a lifetime.

The show felt as if it passed in a blink of an eye. To be awarded a top ten finalist was immensely gratifying. To have the privilege to showcase my talent on national television was icing on the cake. Not to mention adding another \$6,000 scholarship to the \$4,000 I won earlier in the week. What I am even more grateful for, is that I have five more months to serve this state. I will forever be indebted to the Miss America Organization for embracing a platform program and opening doors of opportunity to thousands of young women across the country. I am proud to have Katie Stam representing the face of our great organization. It is so important to find happiness in other's success and I truly couldn't be happier for Katie! I want to thank all of my Miss America sisters for making this the time of my life.

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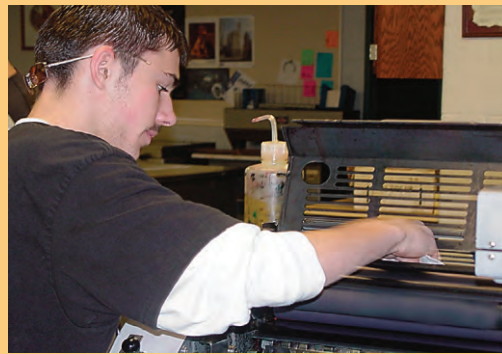
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Help to stretch your food budget

How would you like to get up to \$70 worth of restaurant quality fresh food for only \$30? Crosswalk Community Church, 38600 Palmer, in Westland is part of Angel Food Ministries. This non-profit, non-denominational organization is dedicated to providing food relief in communities throughout the United States.

There are no income qualifications, and the program is open to everyone.

"If you eat, you are eligible," said Pastor Garry Edwards.

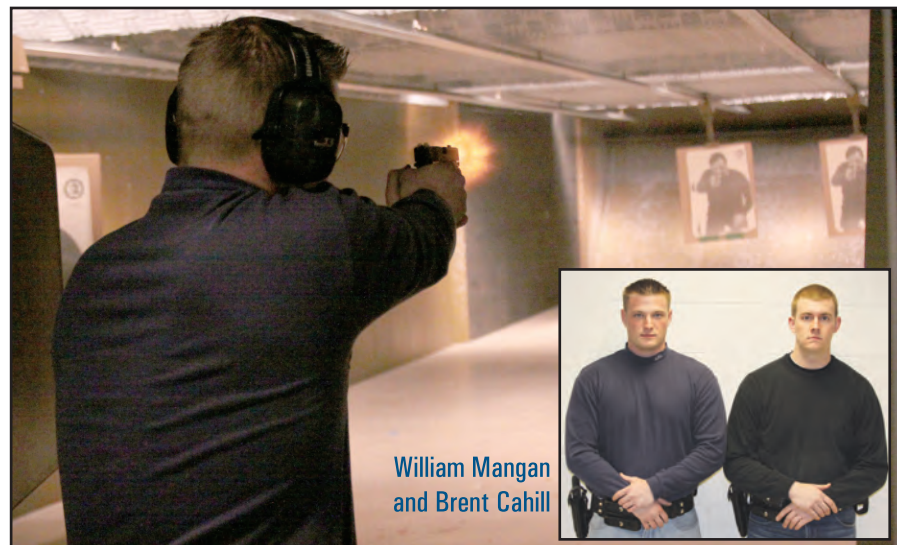
Each month's menu is different than the previous month and consists of both fresh and frozen items with an emphasis on protein

based food. There are no damaged, day old or out dated goods.

"This is quality stuff," Edwards said. It's not a hand out, it's a hand up. One unit of food can feed a family of four for about one week or a single senior citizen for almost a month.

The next order date is on Feb. 14 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Crosswalk Church. Only cash, money order or bridge cards are accepted. Pre-ordered food can be picked up from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Feb. 28 at the church.

To see the menu please visit . For questions please contact Pastor Edwards at 734-751-0731 or Jennifer Blackburn at 734-325-2274.



William Mangan
and Brent Cahill

City hires two new police officers

The City of Wayne Police Department has two new recruits sworn in to protect and serve. Brent Cahill and William Mangan, both 22, were sworn in on January 20. This brings the Wayne Police Department to 42 officers.

They spent their first week on duty training and qualifying their handguns on the firing range. Next, they will spend a minimum of four months in the field with a training officer. Cahill will train on a day shift with Officer Thomas

Warren and Mangan will train with Officer Ryan Strong on midnights.

Cahill is from Marine City and graduated from Wayne County Regional Police Academy. Cahill said he chose this profession because, "It's a rewarding profession and you get to do different things everyday."

Mangan is from Richmond and graduated from the Macomb Police Academy. Mangan said being a police officer "is highly respected with a good cause and a good group of people."

NEWS BRIEFS

Seniors get tax help

The Wayne Senior Activity Center will be co-sponsoring the AARP's Tax Assistance Program for seniors. Anyone 50 years and older, who files basic tax forms, is eligible to have their taxes electronically prepared and filed for free. Call 734-721-7460.

Smooth travel on the way for Glenwood

Glenwood Road will get a facelift. It is scheduled for resurfacing from Hannan to Venoy in 2010 as part of the 2010 Surface Treatment Program - Urban (STP-U) Funding. Federal and state funds will pay for 80% or \$1,836,100 of the project. Since this is a shared road with Westland, the balance of \$459,000 will be split between the two cities.

Mayor makes history

Mayor Al Haidous has a place in history. Starting next fall, second grade students in the Wayne Westland Community School District will read about him being the first Arab American to be elected mayor in the United States. The new social studies book by Macmillan/McGraw Hill is part of the All Together Series.

City offers discount prescription program

Wayne residents have another way to save money. Free prescription discount cards are now available to all City of Wayne residents regardless of age, income level or existing health coverage. No enrollment or membership fee is necessary. Residents can pick up a discount card from display boxes at City Hall, the Department of Public Works, Building and Engineering Department, Fire Department, Police Department, Senior Activity Center and the Wayne Community Center. This program is made possible through the National League of Cities (NLC) and can be used at more than 59,000 pharmacies. Just show the card at the pharmacy to receive the discount. To check specific pharmacies, call the number or go to the website listed on the card. All pharmacies in the City of Wayne accept the discount card.



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Tom Mooradian tells tale of life behind Iron Curtain

By Jenny Johnson

For years we read his bylines in the local newspaper. He covered the City of Wayne, high school sports and became part of the fabric of the City. It was not a surprise when he decided to write a book after he retired in 2003. It was a shock that his book, of a young man stuck behind the Iron Curtain for 13 years after World War II, was more than just a story of intrigue, innocence, determination and loyalty. It was also the true story of Tom Mooradian.

Mooradian recently shared his experiences and his book "The Repatriate - Love, Basketball and the KGB" at the Wayne Public Library. "This is not an anti-propaganda story. It's about people — good people. It's about when someone is hungry someone else will give them half of their bread," he said.

In 1947, as a 19-year old high school graduate and basketball star, he chose to become part of a group of 151 American Armenians who repatriated to Armenia with the goal of helping to rebuild the country. He chose to go but did not choose to lose his American citizenship.

During his time in the Soviet Union Mooradian stood in long lines for stale bread. He was detained, interrogated and beaten by the NKVD, a predecessor of the KGB. Food was scarce and privacy was non-existent. He learned to live, not as an American, but as a Soviet. He learned to speak both Russian and Armenian and adapted to the culture.

"No one in the US is born with shackles and chains around our feet. Some things are worse than death and that's the loss of liberty," Mooradian said.

How did he survive? Basketball. "I had to make a living. I was alone and there was only one talent I had to offer the Soviets. That was basketball," Mooradian said. He wrote, "Playing basketball gave me the opportunity to see and touch the heart and soul of the Soviet Union as few Americans have done." He played for the Soviet Armenian team and became a national sports figure. He was able to attend and graduate from the Institute of Physical Culture and Sports and also coached junior



Tom Mooradian shares his story at the Wayne Public Library on January 27, 2009. Photo by The Wayne Dispatch

basketball teams.

"As the Iron Curtain melted I was able to meet with so many people, but I never asked names because I knew the KGB would interrogate me," said Mooradian. He also never wrote anything down because he knew it could be used against him later. Details of his life were committed to memory.

Mooradian never gave up the dream of one day returning home. His love for his family and country never subsided. He was approached by an AP press correspondent one day while he was in Moscow. The reporter asked him why he wanted to go back to the United States. "One word. Freedom. My freedom," he said.

After contacting the US Embassy in Moscow he was told he would have to get the Soviet Union to issue him an exit visa before he could go home. His patience finally paid off. In 1960 he was granted his visa and allowed to return home. "I do not know to this day why they let me go but they did," he said.

Mooradian came home and became an award winning journalist. He has received awards from the Michigan Press Association and several Certificates of Recognition for his excellence in journalism. Mayor Al Haidous presented Mooradian with a certificate from Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano.

Mayor Haidous said, "Thank you

for your contribution to this community. You've been a part of us for many years, we hope you feel welcome. This is always your hometown." "I love Wayne because you represent democracy," Mooradian said.

As the former athletic director and basketball coach at Wayne Memorial High School, Bill Hawley had a professional and personal relationship with Mooradian. The two met in the mid 1960s, just a few years after Mooradian returned home from the Soviet Union. "He's a very good newspaper man," Hawley said, "but he was always a little mysterious. I knew he went to the Soviet Union and suffered tremendously but he didn't like to talk about it."

Dee Ryan enjoyed hearing Mooradian's story. She said, "I used

to work with Tom. I never knew all these details. He was my editor for many years. I even have a poem for him. It was you and not my momma who taught me how to use the comma."

P.J. Norton is a history buff and enjoyed reading Mooradian's book. "His story touched me on many levels. It's a story of survival and acceptance," he said.

Mooradian said he has been invited to go back but has so many bad memories "that I don't want to go back," he said.

Someone asked him how he got out. Mooradian said he does not know but he hopes to investigate the KGB files to see who signed his release. "I don't know why I am standing here today and not dead there," he said.

After the book came out, Mooradian heard from one of his former students from the Soviet Union. He is now working for the BBC in France. Mooradian asked what the administration told the students after he left. "They said you had a nervous breakdown and had gone to a sanitarium. We thought you were in Siberia," the student said.

Mooradian was happy to settle into life back in Michigan. He met his wife in 1964 when the two worked together at the Dearborn Guide. They married in 1974 and have two daughters.

Another audience member asked if he had conversations with the CIA or FBI when he returned to the United States. With a grin, Mooradian said "That will be in book two."



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Parks and Recreation makes new Master Plan

The wish list was long. That's just what the Parks and Recreation Department hoped for when they invited the public to a focus group meeting to share their insights and ideas for updating the Master Plan for City parks and facilities.

The Master Plan will help the Parks and Recreation Department plan for new projects and evaluate existing conditions.

Marc Russell from Russell Design, a landscape architectural firm, led the focus group discussion. He asked the group of residents, REC Advisory members and city officials how the parks in Wayne can serve its residents.

Some suggestions included a splash park, dog park, canoe livery along the Rouge River, more pavilions and shelters in parks, more restroom facilities, off-street parking, solar heating and green issues, an additional park on the west end of the City and updating and fixing current equipment.

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

The positive affects of the newly resurrected Wayne Dispatch extend far beyond the borders of the City of Wayne. The December issue featuring the faith, fortitude, and hope of Kim Loveless and Donna McEachern was inspiring. When I learned that my friend who lives in Castle Rock, Colorado was diagnosed with stage III uterine cancer, I was impelled to send her a copy of the paper so she could read this story. The sentiments expressed in the article touched my friend deeply. She called me and thanked me. This article was exactly what she needed to help her through surgery and recovery. I'm pleased to say she is currently cancer free.

You never know how far your words will travel. You may never hear about the lives your paper has touched. I needed to tell you that this lovely little gem, The Wayne Dispatch, has made a difference in someone's life. If I had to wager a guess, I think that it has helped more than just my friend.

Please continue focusing on the positives right here in Wayne.

Paulette Medvecky

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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 or mail information to The Wayne Dispatch P.O. Box 156 Wayne, MI 48184.

City Council Meeting

February 3 - 8:00 p.m.
City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Road

WMHS cheerleading spaghetti dinner

February 8 - 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Wayne Senior Center
Adults \$9, Senior/Child \$6

School board meeting

February 9 - 7:00 p.m.
Timothy J. Dyer Center
36745 Marquette, Westland

Daddy-Daughter Date Night Square Dance

February 11 - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Wayne Community Center
Cost for residents: \$11 parent/1 child
\$15parent/ 2 children
Non-residents:
\$12 parent/1 child
\$17 parent/2 children
Call 734-721-7400 for more information

Classic Movie Night

Featuring "To Catch a Thief"
February 14 - 1:00 p.m.,
3:20 p.m. and 5:40 p.m.
State Wayne Theater
Adults \$2.50/Child 11 & under \$1.50

Chili Cook-Off

February 14 - 6:30- 9:30 p.m.
Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe Rd.
Sponsored by Life Church Canton
Free family friendly event featuring food, DJ and line dancing. Western wear welcome!

City Council Meeting

February 17- 8:00 p.m.
City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Road

Mardi Gras Dueling Pianos

February 21 - 8:00 p.m. to midnight
(Doors open at 7:00 p.m.)
Wayne Community Center
Tickets \$15-Cash bar- 21 and over
Call 734-721-7400 or 734-721-0100 for more information.



Now open in Wayne!

Dollar Daze opens at 32975 Glenwood Road. Pictured (left to right) Hassan Sobh, Councilwoman Donna McEachern, Mohamed Sobh, Mayor "Al" Haidous, Councilwoman Susan Rowe and Councilman Matthew Mulholland . Photo by The Wayne Dispatch

Wizard of Oz auditions

Adults and children needed to audition for "The Wizard of Oz"
Registration starts at 6:30 p.m.
Auditions at 7:00 p.m.
February 23 for kids only and
February 24 & 25 for adults
State Wayne Theater,
35310 Michigan Avenue
SHOW DATES: April 24, 25 & 26
and May 1, 2 and 3.
Call Colleen at 734-721-7400 for musical and dance audition information.

Elementary After School Recreation Program

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

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 per week includes
two games and shoes
Registration is held at
Wayne Bowl - 734-721-7530 or
Wayne Community Center - 734-721-7400.

Little Sticks Hockey Program

Tuesdays from 6:00 p.m. - 6:50 p.m. at the Wayne Community Center
Learn to play hockey (ages 3 and up). Drop in only! No Registration. \$6/residents and \$8/non-residents. Must know how to stand and move a little on skates.
Must have approved hockey helmet!
For more info, call the
Wayne Community Center at 734-721-7400.

Bowling for Alissa

February 28- 2:30 p.m. (kids and families) and 8:30 p.m. (adults)
Wayne Bowl, 36900 Michigan Avenue
Friends and family of Alissa Jennings are sponsoring a bowling fundraiser to help with expenses not covered by insurance.

Cost is \$12 per person or \$40 for a team of 4 at 2:30 p.m. or \$15 per person or \$50 for a team of 4 for 8:30 p.m. Price includes three games of 9 pin no-tap, shoes, pizza and pop. Please RSVP at 734-788-3144.



Trish Hampton of Mark Chevrolet presented Zelle Anne Thatcher of Unique Images with a \$1,000 check for the Children with Hair Loss organization. Photo by The Wayne Dispatch



The PLANE Truth

In mid-January I flew out to Phoenix to spend a week with my daughter and also escape from the bitter cold that had Michigan in its grip. As I sat back into my seat while the aircraft was being de-iced, I gave thought to how much air travel has changed since my first flight in the early sixties.

My first flight ever was in a propeller driven airplane, and *NO, it wasn't a Sopwith Camel!* I remember that it was a grade school field trip with the sole purpose of exposing us youngsters to the thrill of an airplane ride. I lived in a suburb of Chicago then, so we departed from O'Hare International and flew for what seemed like eternity, but in reality it was probably only a 20 minute flight. Of course, back then we had to leave the terminal building and walk out to the airplane and then climb the stairs up to the aircraft, much like they still use for Air Force One today. If it was raining, they handed out umbrellas. Today those are considered potential weapons and banned by the FAA.

Smoking was also permitted in the airplane, but I don't recall any of the 3rd graders lighting up. True to the era, you always wore your Sunday best when traveling.

On the Bright Side

Hal@TheWayneDispatch.com

Hal Hultman



Nobody dared board the plane wearing flannel pajama bottoms and fuzzy slippers.

I suppose that this is more of a personal pet peeve, but people then did not feel compelled to bring their entire life's possessions on board and then try to cram them in the overhead bins. Instead, they chose to check their bags at the curb and then board the plane with nothing more than a magazine in hand.

Overall, my flight was uneventful except for Mr. Fidget sitting next to me.

For some unknown reason, he felt compelled to dig through his backpack every 20 minutes, all the while flailing his arms and elbows about. He did this so much that I almost forgot about the wad of keys in his pants pocket that were digging into my thigh.

Oh well, a small price to pay to be able to see my daughter again in only four hours.

2009 - 2010 WWCS Schools of Choice Program

Wayne-Westland Community Schools will offer district residents a Schools of Choice program for the 2009 - 2010 school year for students in Kindergarten through grade eight. The Schools of Choice program provides parents the opportunity to move their child from one school to another within the boundaries of the school district **PROVIDED** there is room available in the school. Transportation to and from the school of choice must be provided by the parents or legal guardian.

School district residents who would like their child to attend an elementary or middle school other than their school of residency must submit a 2009-2010 Schools of Choice application. These applications will be available in every Wayne-Westland school by **Friday, January 30, 2009.**

Schools of Choice applications for elementary school students will be accepted in the Pupil Accounting Office at the Board of Education, 36745 Marquette Road, Westland, between January 30, 2009 and March 2, 2009. Schools of Choice applications for middle school students will be accepted in the Pupil Accounting Office at the Board of Education, 36745 Marquette Rd., Westland between March 9, 2009 and April 20, 2009.

No new Schools of Choice applications will be accepted for high school students. Applications received according to these timelines will permit, if space is available, selected students to begin the 2009-2010 school year in their school of choice. If more students apply for a grade/building than there are openings, a random selection process will be used to select students. The names of students not selected at this time will be placed on a waiting list for the 2009-2010 school year.

NOTE: Current Schools of Choice students must reapply to remain eligible for the program.

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Chili Cook-Off

Saturday, February 14, 2009

6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

at the

WAYNE COMMUNITY CENTER

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lifechurch meets at Johnson Elementary
at 8400 N Hix, Westland MI 48185.

734.634.2697

lifechurch meets every Sunday and has two
worship services at 9:15am and 11:00am.

lifechurchcanton.org



Jonah Hurley is a 4 year old boy who was diagnosed in March with stage 4 neuroblastoma, a type of cancer rarely found in children.

Wayne Rotary tea time

By Jenny Johnson

The Wayne Rotary Club invites you to a Best Friends Forever Tea and Fashion Show at 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 8 at St. Mary's Activity Center, 34530 Michigan Avenue. Cookies, finger sandwiches, tea, coffee and punch will be served. American Girl items will be raffled off too. All proceeds will help the family of Jonah Hurley.

Jonah Hurley is a 4 year old boy who was diagnosed in March with stage 4 neuroblastoma, a type of cancer rarely found in children. Jonah is a bright, fun-loving little boy who is fighting for his life. This benefit is to help the Hurley family with medical expenses not covered by insurance and other expenses incurred due to Jonah's illness.

Pre-sale tickets are \$12 for

adults and \$8 for children 3-12 years old. Kids 2 and under are free. At the door, tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. Tickets are available at St. Mary's School Office, the Wayne Chamber of Commerce and The Acorn Shop.

Donations can also be made to the Children's Neuroblastoma Cancer Foundation. Their mission is to encourage and support research to reveal causes and discover effective treatments of neuroblastoma. Children's Neuroblastoma Cancer Foundation is a registered nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

Please make checks payable to: Wayne Rotary Club. For more information, please call Gayle Rediske at (734) 502-3202.

Three school board seats available

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools Board of Education announces the following Board terms:

Two (2) four (4) year terms commencing July 1, 2009 and expiring June 30, 2013.

and

One (1) one (1) year term commencing July 1, 2009 and expiring June 30, 2010.

The election of the three members of the Wayne-Westland

Board of Education will be conducted in a regular school election on Tuesday, May 5, 2009. The filing deadline for vacant School Board positions is Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Filing for School Board positions can be done through the office of the City Clerk of Wayne located at:

Wayne City Hall
3355 S. Wayne Rd
Wayne, MI 48184

CITY OF WAYNE RECREATION & PARKS & RECREATION EXERCISE CLUB

www.ci.wayne.mi.us

Daddy-Daughter DATE NIGHT

with Good Old Fashion Country Square Dance
Wednesday, February 11, 2009
Wayne Community Center 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Pictures will be taken starting at 6:00 p.m. Dance 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Celebrate Valentines Day by attending a Square Dance with your little sweetie! Of course, there will be **dancing, refreshments, a flower corsage** for your favorite girl and a **picture** for them to remember this special night. If dad can't come maybe step-dad, grandpa, an uncle or big brother can. If you have more than one daughter, bring them all!!!

RESIDENT COST:

\$11.00 (per couple)

\$15.00 (1 dad, 2 daughters)

NON-RESIDENT COST:

\$12.00 (per couple)

\$17.00 (1 dad, 2 daughters)

Registration is limited to the first 230 people, so please pre-register at the Wayne Community Center. For more information please call the Wayne Community Center at (734) 721-7400.



MOTHER - SON Swim Night

Enjoy time with your son swimming while Daddy and Daughter dance the evening away. Doors open at 6:15 p.m.

\$1.00 each for Mother and Son

TICKETS:
Adults \$2.50
Children \$1.50
(11 & Under)

STATE WAYNE THEATER

Classic Movie Night

Saturday, February 14, 2009
Valentine's Day Showing of
"To Catch A Thief"
Alfred Hitchcock's 1955 Classic
starring Cary Grant & Grace Kelly
Showtimes: 1:00 p.m., 3:05 p.m.,
5:10 p.m. & 7:15 p.m.

35310 W. Michigan Avenue • Wayne
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Show the one you love how you really feel this Valentine's Day - treat them to a relaxing massage.



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Home is where the heart is

I often try and think about what the City looked like before Urban Renewal. I envision tree lined streets with beautiful old homes. Actually, I am not too far off. Right in the center of town, approximately 150 houses were removed for Urban Renewal and for the creation of the eastbound Michigan Avenue lanes. This number astonishes me. All of these families had to move somewhere else and give up their well loved, beautiful homes.

This month, will be a lesson in architecture and will spotlight a few of the grand old homes of Wayne. Take a few moments and really look at the pictures and make the connection with the house and you too will see each unique feature on the building.

One of my favorite homes was the Cady-Cadwell home. The home at 35446 Norris was located at the northeast corner of Norris Street (now Michigan Avenue East) and Elizabeth Street. This location is approximately in the parking lot of the old Farmer Jack, not the old, old Farmer Jack location at Michigan Avenue West and Second Street. This wonderful example of Italianate architecture was a fine home. Italianate houses are almost always two or three stories, have low-pitched roofs with widely overhanging eaves with decorative brackets. There are tall narrow windows with elaborate crowns above the windows. This type of home construction was most popular between 1850-1880 and was common in most midwestern towns experiencing growth during that time period. As is evident in this home, it reflects many of the attributes of Italianate architecture.

This was the home of Samuel Alonzo Cady and his wife, Lydia. Mr. Cady was a state inspector for schools and his wife was a school teacher in the Wayne School. This was a convenient location as the school was just one block to the west at Norris and Sophia. Later the house was referred to as the Cadwell home. The Cadwells owned a grocery store and butcher shop at the northwest corner of Newberry and Brush Streets. Again the Cadwell's store was about one block south and east from their house. A

Rearview Mirror

Matt Miller



short commute to work and most likely they would have walked to the store.

Another grand old home at 35440 Park was the Jamieson home at the northeast corner of Park and Elizabeth. This location is about where the western edge of Metro Mall is located. What a spectacular example of Gothic Revival architecture! These homes are identified by the steep cross gabled roofs with decorated verge boards. The verge board is the decorative gable trim on the overhanging portion of the roof line. The highly decorated flat roofed porches are a common feature as well as the front bay window. Can you imagine the amount of craftsmanship it took to build such a wonderful home? The Jamieson house was a perfect example of Gothic Revival architecture.

The Jamiesons were a very prosperous family in town. They owned an insurance agency and were real estate agents. The Jamiesons were also involved in subdividing land, even today there is the Clark and Jamieson's Addition Subdivision in the center of town.

The Pickett home at 35348 Norris Street was a charming little house. Basically, this location is the parking lot in front of Papa Romano's on Michigan Avenue East.



Cady-Cadwell home. The home at 35446 Norris was located at the northeast corner of Norris Street. Photos courtesy of The Wayne Historical Museum - Wayne MI.

Victorian Queen Anne houses are identified by steep pitched roofs with a dominant front-facing gable usually meaning a long narrow house. There are patterned shingles on the gable end commonly referred to as "fish scales," and two cantilevered windows, one small projecting off the front and one bay window on the side. As with most Queen Anne houses, the Pickett house's windows are clear panes of glass and do not have the mullion bars or cross bars in the window. The most distinctive feature of this house is the spindle work on the porch railing and the porch frieze (the decorative border) at the porch roof line.

As hard as I tried, I could not find anything about the Pickett Family. Joseph Pickett is shown as the taxpayer of the property and in 1904, the value of the home was \$1,000.00 and the taxes for the year were \$6.00.

When looking at these houses one can almost envision the peaceful streets and the scale of neighborhoods right in the middle of town. The removal of these houses was a mistake but at the time the goal was to work towards the creation of a better place to live. Quite ironic when you take down 150 houses. I am not sure that was accomplished because today we are still dealing with the decisions of the past. The identification of the houses was researched in "A Field Guide to American Houses," Virginia & Lee McAlester, Alfred A. Knopf Publisher, New York, 2000.

As with all of my articles, you can learn more about Wayne's history by visiting the Wayne Historical Museum (734) 722-0113. The museum is open each Friday and Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



The Jamieson home at 35440 Park Street.



The Pickett home at 35348 Norris Street.

Don't let the well dry up

Played any basketball lately? Built a snowman or made a snow angel? In the summer, do you walk to the park and play on the playground? How about climbing a tree? I still enjoy doing that as long as I am not too high since I am intimidated by heights. As I drive and exercise past various environments each day, I see less people moving (this includes children, young and mature adults). I don't see families playing tag. No kids or adults playing baseball. I look up and see no tree forts -- must be no life in the trees.

Then I go inside the Wayne Community Center. Here, people are swimming, ice skating, and exercising. However, still very few people are taking advantage of the benefits of moving! The selected few I see moving indoors and outdoors on a daily basis look happy, healthy, confident, and energized. I am no psychologist, but I believe that people just don't try hard enough to move. Some retirees say they're too busy. Twenty year-olds tell me, "It's too hard" or "I'm too old!"

After all, it's easier to take a pill than it is to walk every day or eat a healthy diet. Apparently, even this is still asking too much of a patient: on average patients take their medication only half of the time. Whether people are trying to adhere to a new lifestyle or a new medication, human behavior is hard to change and compliance is never perfect.

Chronic diseases such as cancer, heart disease, arthritis, and diabetes are almost entirely the result of decades of unhealthy living. Starting today, we need to put emphasis on prevention first, then treatment. It's time to make wellness a part of your daily life. Adapting to a healthy diet (nutrition), being regularly active (exercise), and maintaining those

**Keep up
with me**

Nathan Adams



behaviors (psychology) for the rest of your life.

In the coming months, I will provide you with the tools of prevention! Exercising on the playground while your children play; learning to eat, move and sleep your way to a long vibrant lifestyle; kicking the excuses; being positive and informed; decreasing your stress and more! You will need only a few ingredients: desire, discipline, effort and a smile.

A person recently asked me, "When are you going to slow down?" I said "Never!" I am not going to allow life to move past me. I am moving with it. Someday when the man upstairs takes me, I want to be on the move, maybe sledding downhill on my toboggan. You, too, should not accept a life of limitations. Do the things you used to do or the things you want to do. Smile and have fun with it. See you on the move!

Keep up with me!

Editor's Note: Nathan Adams is the Health & Wellness Supervisor for the City of Wayne Parks & Recreation Department. He oversees all operations and programs for the Aquatic Area and Recreation & Exercise Club. Nathan holds a B.S. in Exercise Science and Cardiac Rehabilitation with certifications from the National Strength & Conditioning Association and Aquatic Exercise Association

You can contact him at
Nathan@TheWayneDispatch.com

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Want a garment personalized with original embroidery? Call **Linda Story**. Need some alterations? Call **Linda Story**. Need a 'bun' warmer to sit on at a hockey game? Linda Story is the gal to see. Linda, a native of Iron Mountain, has been sewing since seventh grade. She was taught by her mom, grandma and a next door neighbor, who happened to teach home economics. You'll see her embroidered book bags, for adults and kids, at the Wayne Library. She's also made "I Love My Garden" aprons for our Garden Club.

This Christmas an "I Love Grandma" sweatshirt with hearts and all the grandchildren's names made someone very happy. She can make you happy too, by embroidering most anything you wish on a stadium blanket, shirt, or just about anything you own. Her number is (734) 326-3487.

Two quilts made by Linda are firefighter's logos from different parts of the country.

Visiting firemen collect tee shirts or other emblems from fire departments while on vacation. Now Linda has put them together in a memorable fashion. Linda has a son, Richard, who is a firefighter in Hazel Park. She has two grandchildren, Janie and Lilah and is married to the Manager of the Wayne Historical Museum, our own Richard Story. His mom, Winifred, lives in one of the senior apartments here in Wayne.

Claire Hammons, a third grader, has written a play. Her classmates at Hoover School presented it under

Footprints of Wayne

Dee Ryan



her direction. Was this a play about cute little animals or a storybook princess and prince? Not even close. This was a play about the Dewey Decimal System.

Our young author describes the need to find a way to catalog books by subject, so that we can find them easier. And why was it called the DEWEY Decimal system? To quote Mr. Dewey from Claire's play, "Because I thought of it". Our Wayne Library plans to honor Claire in some way, but aren't you glad to know about a young girl doing such good things at Hoover School?

Aren't neighborhood parties the best? The Biddle Street Bunch get-togethers are always fun. Hosted this year by **Pam and Heather Dobrowolski** with plenty of good food and warming drinks this was special to me because I, who live on Washington Street, was made a Biddle Street regular. Thanks to **Jean Smoes, Kathy Bonathon, Leslie Delphus, Barb Wootton, Betty Spaw, Sharon Gilbert, Marilyn Sawyer, Heather and Pam Dobrowolski, and Pam's mom, Ruby Kovarik**, I'll be a proud member of the BSB forever.

The Holiday trimmings at the Historical Museum have all been put

away until next year, thanks to **Christine Blinn, Carol and Barb Cockrum, Louise Steinhauer, Miriam Shurlow, Bridget Kelly, Lynn Higgs, Kathy Koveleski, Shirley Castaldini and Cheryl McPartlin**. As members of our Wayne Garden Club these gals know how to pitch in and get things done, quickly and efficiently.

The train display at the museum has also left for now, but the word is that next year there'll be many more trains running. The large carriages will be stored at the DPW for the season and that floor space will be filled by railroads galore. Museum Manager, **Richard Story**, was happy to tell me that 165 people visited during December and that many kids had their pictures taken with Santa.

Tene's (pronounced **Tenay's**) has been on Wayne Road next to Cobb's Drugs for five years. A full service hair salon run by **Tene**, it shares space with the boutique managed by

mom, **Sandy**. Sandy offers one of a kind clothing in sizes small to 5X, or as she says "from petite to big and beautiful". To go with the clothes are handbags, shoes and jewelry, and Sandy will lay-a-way items for you. At this time, Tene is looking for a nail technician to supplement her hair salon. She employs two stylists, **Tina** and **Diane**. Sandy has two employees, **Roxanne** and **Shantel**. The salon hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10am - 6pm. The boutique is open Wednesday through Saturday 12 noon - 6pm.

Motawi Tileworks of Ann Arbor has been commissioned to create a forest landscape scene, consisting of over 100 handmade tiles, for a wall in our Wayne Library. This will be an original piece of public art for the City of Wayne. Donations are appreciated and tax deductible. Checks may be made to The Friends of the Wayne Public Library; memo Tile Project. The address: 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne MI 48184.

DEE@THEWAYNEDISPATCH.COM



Motawi Tileworks forest landscape scene for the Wayne Library.

Dennis Zagata - WMHS 1973 ALUMNI

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