

# THE WAYNE Dispatch

MARCH 2009

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# THE WAYNE Dispatch

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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](mailto: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.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Welcome to Wayne packets

Are you a new resident in the City of Wayne? Welcome to Wayne packets are available to residents opening a new water account and submitting their Property Transfer Affidavit forms at City Hall. The Wayne Rotary Club sponsored the packet which has 28 items. They include: a voters registration form, a free ticket package from the Parks & Recreation Department, "Don't Ditch It...Donate It" brochure, flag etiquette brochure, historical museum brochure, library brochure, "What Every Resident Should Know" brochure, Wayne Rotary Club Brochure, Wayne Civitan Brochures, Fire Department children's coloring booklet, blood pressure recorder, CPR step-by-step guide and medication recorder.

### Fish fry

The First United Methodist Church of Wayne, 3 Town Square (right across from the Wayne Post Office) is having it's 3rd Annual Fish Fry every Friday through April 3rd from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. For \$8 choose from baked or fried fish, baked potato or fries, and coleslaw. Kids meals are \$4 and include chicken nuggets or corn dog and french fries. The United Methodist Women will be serving pie for dessert.

### Habitat for Humanity house

The City of Wayne will soon have its first Habitat for Humanity home. The City Council approved the sale of the vacant land at former 35430 Glover Street to Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne. A new, single family home will be built on the site. This home is sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and contributing sponsor is Whirlpool Corporation. For more information or to volunteer please visit [www.habitatwwc.org](http://www.habitatwwc.org).

### City sells house to school district

City Council approved the sale of a City-owned house at 4113 Hubbard to the Wayne Westland Community School District. The home will be used as a renovation project by the Construction II students at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. Construction will begin in the fall. When complete, the school district will sell this 3 bedroom single family home.

### Board of Review

The March 2009 Board of Review dates are March 16 -18. After they receive their assessments in the mail, residents and business owners can call 734-722-2000 for an appointment with the Board of Review.

### Donuts on the way

Tim Hortons is moving in. The 1600 square foot restaurant will have a drive thru and a dining room that will seat 30 people. It will be located on eastbound Michigan Avenue just east of Fourth Street at the site of the former Bonanza Restaurant.

## OBIT



### EVELYN J. MILLAR

February 11, 2009

82, of Indianapolis, passed away February 9, 2009 at The Forum At The Crossing, Indianapolis, Indiana. She was born on February 9, 1927 to the late Tom and Mildred Archbold. Evelyn was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Millar. She is survived by her sons, David (Cindy) Millar and Tim (Kim) Millar; six grandchildren and sister Carolyn Archbold. Evelyn was a graduate of Eastern Michigan University and was a teacher for many years at Stottlemeyer Elementary School in Westland, Michigan. She was a member of the First Congregational Church of Wayne, MI. Visitation will be held Thursday from 4-8 p.m. at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 34567 W. Michigan Ave., Wayne, MI 48184. A Funeral Service will be held at the First Congregational Church in Wayne, MI at 11 a.m. Friday (in state at 10 a.m.) followed by a luncheon. Memorial contributions may be made to the First Congregational Church, 2 Towne Square, Wayne, MI 48184 or the Alzheimer's Association Greater Indian Chapter, 50 E. 91st Street, Suite 100, Indianapolis, IN 46240.

## 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**  
 March 3 - 8:00 p.m.  
 City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Road

**Café Marquette  
 Dinner Buffet**  
 4:45 - 6:16 p.m.  
 36455 Marquette  
 \$10 for all you can eat  
 March 4 Seafood Bay  
 March 11 St. Patrick's Day  
 March 25 French Night

**Pre School Open House**  
 March 10 - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
 Willow Creek Cooperative  
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 Willow Creek is accepting  
 enrollment into Parent/Tot,  
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 4 year programs.  
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 734-326-0078.

**School Board Meeting**  
 March 16 - 7:00 p.m.  
 Timothy J. Dyer Service Center  
 36745 Marquette, Westland

**City Council Meeting**  
 March 17 - 8:00 p.m.  
 City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Road

**Stage IV Youth  
 Theatre Present**  
 Laffin' School Reunion and

Under Jekyll's Hyde  
 March 27 and 28 - 8:00 p.m.  
 March 29 - 2:00 p.m.  
 State Wayne Theater,  
 35310 Michigan Avenue  
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 Seniors \$8

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Back row left to right: Dee Dee, John, Victoria, Cindy, Mona, Mike, Rachel, Scott, Skender; middle row left to right: Vlora, Julian, Hannah, Vanessa, Violetta; front row left to right: Valin, Daxton.

## Gocaj - Goci Family celebrates 30 years in Wayne

By Jenny Johnson

What started as a family of six with one suitcase in a new land has grown into a multi-generational family and a business with deep roots in Wayne. Mike and Mona Gocaj left their native Kosovo in 1979 with their four children -- John, 9; Skender, 7; Cindy, 2; and Scott, 1. With no car and unable to speak English, Mike got a job as dishwasher at the Red Apple Restaurant and settled in Westland to begin their new life.

While the older children were at school, the younger children spent their days sitting on a milk crate watching their parents work. "We worked everyday," Mona said. "My parents worked everyday while we were growing up. They were trying to put food on the table. That's why we have such a strong work ethic today," John said.

When the Gocajs first immigrated to the United States, they were very poor. "All we had were the clothes on our backs," John said. The teachers at Patchin Elementary School in Westland took the

children to the clothing bank and got them the clothes they needed.

John credits the school system for helping them not only with clothing but also learning the language. Two years after he immigrated, John won his school's spelling bee. The rest of the family was also learning English. The first word Mona learned was "hot". "Because when they would hand me the pans to wash they would say hot," she said.

### Birth of a family business

An uncle soon bought the Clock restaurant and the Gocajs worked there as dishwashers. A few years later they were able to buy into the restaurant called Omegas. In the 1980s they bought the building where US-12 is currently located. The building was formerly the Rock N Roll Funny Farm and in the 1970s hosted acts like Bob Seger, Ted Nugent and Iggy Pop.

Soon the family was running Omega Restaurant and John ran the Wayne Hobby Shop. John added comic books and baseball cards to

the inventory. He even had Desmond Howard, University of Michigan Heisman trophy winner, sign autographs at the store one day.

In 1996 the family opened the Wayne Brewery next door to Omega and offered dozens of micro brew beers. In 1999 they turned both spots into one venue -- US-12. They kept the same homemade favorites from Omega's menu and added more entertainment but kept it a family business.

"It's easy to work with my family. My kids have helped me a lot," Mona said. "This is my parents 30<sup>th</sup> year in business in the City of Wayne," Scott said. Scott has worked in the family business since he was young. "Working with your family is harder but more worth it because in the long run any progress you make is for the whole family," Scott said. At a young age he started bussing tables and getting tips from the waitresses. "The money motivates you,"



Skender, John, Scott, and Cindy in 1979.



Red Wing autograph session.



he said. Scott then moved on to washing dishes and worked his way up from there.

Today Scott runs the day to day operations under mom and dad's watchful eye. "We keep telling them to stay home but they won't," Scott laughs. Mona is in the kitchen everyday whipping up daily specials like meatloaf and mashed potatoes. "She makes the pizza sauce everyday," said daughter-in-law Rachel. Mike takes care of cleaning the parking lot and hosing down the sidewalk out front.

### Family pride

Sister, Cindy, is a nurse at Providence Hospital and owns All Star Coney Island in Howell.

Brothers John and Skender returned to their homeland after the war in Kosovo in 1999. Skender helped train police officers and John served as a translator. "I wanted to try to free my old country and to support the US military," John said.

Skender was a Westland police officer and the Michigan Police Officer of the Year in 2002. He died in a car accident in June 2004.

Now Mike and Mona have another generation. All nine grandchildren enjoy spending time with

their family at the restaurant.

After a sleepover with their grandparents, they often come to US-12 for breakfast. "Nona makes hashbrowns. She grates the potatoes herself and we have homemade hashbrowns, eggs and toast," said granddaughter, Hanna, 11.

Sometimes the grandkids help. "We like cooking with Nona," she said. This comes in handy when Mona hosts up to 50 family members for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners at US-12. The feasts are lovingly cooked by Mona.

### All are family

The Gocajs have a way of making all of their customers feel like family. "I like to see my

Last family portrait with Skender.

New Omega Restaurant Opening.

customers everyday. They are like my family," Mona said. "They come in all the time to visit Mona," John said. "Our strength is this community. We are tied to the hip with the community. It has educated us, clothed us, took us in and now we are giving back."

The Gocajs open their doors and their hearts to their neighbors. US-12 is often the site of fundraisers. They recently began charity poker nights as a way to help non-profit groups raise money for their organizations.

Scott said, "Our family has a commitment to ourselves and our community. Without the community you can't have anything."

Even now that the economy is slow the family sees potential. "This is a great town with nice people. Business is tough wherever you are. But things will turn around. They always do," John said. He remembers in the 1980s when many of the waitresses at Omegas were laid off from the auto companies.

### Come for the food

"Mom is still in the kitchen everyday cooking up special recipes," John said. The food is the creation of Mona and head chef, Art Laramie. He

has been with the Gocajs for just over a year and is recognized in the 2009 Guinness Book of World Records for cooking the largest commercial burger. Art made a 131.8 pound burger that took 13 hours to cook in the oven.

What's best on the menu at US-12? "Everything I make is the best. I put love in everything," Art said. Among customer favorites are the fresh fish, Hawaiian chicken sandwich on a pretzel roll with grilled pineapple and their new sandwiches on spinach and tomato wraps. "And they love Mona's specials," he said. Especially her stuffed cabbage rolls.

The Gocaj family says the steak bits and pizza are among their favorites. The pizza dough is made fresh everyday. The grandkids also like the french fries. And yes, US-12 has a full children's menu. "We are all about the food. Our menu is great. After 9 p.m. we are an entertainment venue. At night we have a DJ and live bands. We are very versatile," John said.

It's also a great place for a business lunch. They have wireless internet too.

### 30 years and going strong

"We've been here 30 years and have had a very good time," Mona said. She said pretty soon she will retire, but her kids and grandkids doubt they will be able to keep her out of the kitchen. Some days she will stay until midnight. Mona is proud of what her family has accomplished.

"I've never been more happy," she said.

US-12 is located at 34824 West Michigan Ave. Stop by sometime and say "Hi" to the Gocajs. They can't wait to see you!

Mike

Skender, Mona, Scott and Cindy.



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The City of Wayne wants you. They are looking for volunteers for their Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. This is a program that educates residents about disaster preparedness including fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. Trained CERT members will be able to be an asset in their neighborhoods or workplaces if a disaster strikes. The next CERT training program will be from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on March 14; from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on March 15 and 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. March 16 at the City of Wayne Fire Station, 3300 S. Wayne Road.

For more information or an application, please visit the City's website at [www.ci.wayne.mi.us](http://www.ci.wayne.mi.us), or contact Lt. Shawn Bell 734-722-1111 ext.1405 or Officer Matt Spunar 734-721-1414 ext.1535. There is no charge for classes.

## LETTERS

The Wayne Dispatch: I often shop at The Acorn Shoppe. Besides the beautiful displays, tempting gifts and knick-knacks, my main reason for going to the store is visiting with a special woman named Kim. She is so open and caring, that talking and sharing with her is like being with a life-long friend.

Before Christmas I shopped there to find a special gift for my new grandson, Hero Thomas, born the day after Thanksgiving. I purchased a Willow Tree sampler with a touching message to hang on the wall in his room. Kim was very happy to hear of my new grandson and of course I only had wonderful things to say about him.

Friday, February 13, I was on my way to somewhere else when I felt an urge to visit Kim again. I turned right around and made my way to her shop. There she was, despite all that she has gone through, glowing with beauty and joy. Her attitude is contagious and I felt the same joyfulness, even though I had recently experienced a tragedy in my family. My little grandson, my daughter Julia's first child, our beautiful little Hero, had passed away on New Years Eve.

After Kim and I had looked for an appropriate gift for my husband on Valentine's Day and other generalities, she asked how I was doing. I told her of my loss and grief. She immediately began to cry and hugged me hard and long, tears welling in my eyes. I felt such warmth and concern in her embrace and I was comforted. Before leaving the store with my gift for my husband and other purchases, (there is always some special little thing that you need) she said that God told her to give me and my daughter each a Willow Tree statue named "Hero". The little card with the statue reads "Hero, we honor thee, keeping safe your memory". I was so surprised and humbled. I tearfully and respectfully accepted the precious offering. As I thanked her with feelings of bittersweet appreciation, I silently thanked God for bringing such a loving, caring woman into my life. I will always remember the great kindness she showed me on that day. I know, too, that whenever I feel sad, or happy, Kim is someone who will be there to share with. She is like a warm soft blanket that you can put around your shoulders for warmth and comfort anytime you visit her shop.

Sincerely, Mary E. Baryo - Wayne Resident

P.S. I am writing this in order to publicly thank Kim for what she has given me, not only for the statues, but more importantly, for a piece of her heart.

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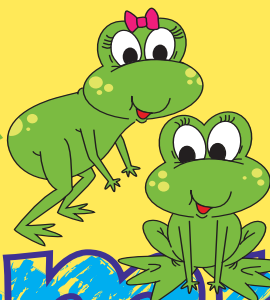
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# Hop, Skip, Jump

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**Tuesday  
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**9:00 to 10:00 am**

*If you cannot attend the Round-up during the day, the school offices will be open from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. on March 31 so that you may register your kindergartner.*

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# City pursues Federal Stimulus Package funding

City of Wayne officials are aggressively pursuing funding from President Barack Obama's stimulus package. Infrastructure, water and sewer, and emergency management are possibilities of projects that may be able to get approved.

According to Ramzi El Gharib, City Engineer, the City has applied for four different road improvement projects. They include resurfacing Newburgh Road from Michigan Avenue to Glenwood at a cost of \$524,000. This has the best chance of receiving funding, El Gharib said, because it is high on the priority list.

Other projects the City is pursuing are resurfacing Elizabeth from Michigan Avenue to Annapolis. This would remove and replace parts of the concrete pavements at a cost of \$1 million. Resurfacing Annapolis from Merriman to Elizabeth would cost \$3 million and resurfacing Second Street from Annapolis to Glenwood would cost \$2 million.

City officials should know within a few weeks if any of these projects have been approved. City Manager John Zech said if these projects do not receive funding from the federal stimulus package, they will not be completed this year. Michigan will receive \$850 million from the federal government for transportation and infrastructure updates. The Michigan Department of Transportation will receive \$732 million to update interstates and highways like I-275, I-75 and US-12. Wayne County will receive \$24 million with \$18 million being used on county roads like Wayne Road and Merriman. The cities within Wayne County will split \$6 million to improve their roads. Only roads on the federal road list are eligible for federal funding. In Wayne these roads include John Hix, Newburgh, Elizabeth, Annapolis and Second Street.

The City is also in the process of submitting plans for water and sewer projects. Water and Sewer Phase 10 includes water main and sanitary sewer main replacement in the area of Annapolis, Stellwagen, Hubbard and Gloria. Other candidates for stimulus funding are improvements to the controls and flotation devices at the equalization basin located in Dynamite Park and updates to the Stellwagen lift station which is a pump located near Vandenberg Elementary. It helps pump sanitary sewage from Van Born to the system near Michigan Avenue.

These plans are due by May 1 and a decision will be made later in the year.

## Wayne BPW helps prepare students for life

They have years of life experience and are generous enough to share it. That's why the Wayne Business and Professional Women annually host the Reality Store at Wayne Memorial High School. This program gives all freshmen a glimpse of the real world that's waiting for them after graduation.

The Wayne Business and Professional Women hosted Reality Store at Wayne Memorial High School. This program is a life lesson for all ninth grade students. "Each freshman chooses a career they would like to have and they are given a checkbook with one month's salary," said Mary Ann Ellis, Reality Store chairperson.

In their English classes they determine marital status, number of children and health benefits. Armed with a monthly salary minus taxes the fun begins. As they move through the Reality Store they must make tough decisions about housing, satellite vs. cable tv, what kind of car to buy, childcare options, utilities, health and auto insurance, and many other decisions, she said.

The Reality Store is designed to give students the real life experience of earning wages and budgeting to support themselves and their family.



## Rotary Host Pizza Party for Seniors

The Wayne Rotary Club hosted a Pizza party for senior residents at the Wayne Tower Apartments on February 18. They donated a Nintendo Wii so the senior and disabled residents can get some exercise while having fun. Students and staff from Wayne Memorial High School had a great time helping out too. Photo by The Wayne Dispatch

# Money from heaven

It started with a returned phone call and ended with the installation of an appliance. When my neighbor asked me if I could stop over and give him my opinion on something, somehow I knew that I would soon be gathering my tools. And although I was correct, it also gave me the subject for this month's column.

Unless you live in the middle of the wheat fields of Kansas, or perhaps in the Australian Outback, you probably have neighbors. While most of us do in fact have neighbors, how many people are fortunate enough to also call them friends? *I, for one, am very lucky to have neighbors that I consider friends.* And part of being a friend is being there when they need you. Now, while I don't consider installing an appliance on a Sunday night fun, the verbal jabs and joking that come with the job are more than adequate compensation.

Part of the reason I chose to live on Biddle Street was because I already knew several of the families on the street. It wasn't because they threw great block parties, but rather because the people really enjoyed the friendship of their neighbors. There was a great sense of community present.

Shortly after I moved into my home, I was working on the side of my garage while my vehicle was being serviced at the local Wearmaster shop. Since I was told

## On the Bright Side

Hal Hultman



that it would be a few hours before they could get started on it and I had things that needed to get done at home, I had asked the shop owner if they could take me home and then pick me up when it was done, rather than sit in the grimy waiting room reading past issues of Muffler Monthly. I was busy hammering away when my neighbor who lives next door came over to investigate who was making this noise on my property. She said she was suspicious because she had heard the noise, but didn't think that I was home because my vehicle was gone. I thanked her for her concern and then resumed my work, knowing that I had neighbors who cared.

Whether it be a trip to Metro airport, having your walks shoveled when you are out of town or just having someone water your flowers while you are gone, it's having great neighbors that make you enjoy coming home each day. *Now, if only that one family down the street would bring in their empty garbage cans on collection day.....*

Hal@TheWayneDispatch.com



# It's great to be a teen in Wayne

The city of Wayne is home to thousands of teenagers. The six beautiful schools (four elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school) occupy quite a bit of time for these teenagers, but Wayne has much more to offer. The six square miles of land provide an abundant supply of activities for pre-teenagers, teenagers, and young adults.

Michigan brings great spring and summer weather for outdoor fun. To utilize this weather Wayne has 17 amazing, well-maintained parks. The multiple parks have various attributes, making it easy for every teen to find something to do.

The Soroptimist Park, Play 4 All Boundless Playground, was just finished at the end of summer 2008. It is a universally accessible playground. It is a wonderful park for everyone to enjoy.

Goudy Park, located behind Wayne City Hall, has a remarkable setting on Thursday nights throughout the summer. Every Thursday night there is a live concert

## A Fresh New Look

Erica Perdue



at the amphitheater in Goudy Park. There are often tribute bands playing and the show is free. Almost every teen wants to see a live concert and having that opportunity in your own city, for free, is simply amazing.

Another popular event in Goudy Park that attracts everyone from kids to seniors is Wheelfest. Wheelfest is a festival that takes place every year in late August. It typically runs Thursday through Sunday. There are all sorts of events, like carnival rides and car shows. Concerts take place every night and there are vendors set up all throughout the park. It is a great and fun way for teenagers to spend their last days of summer vacation with their friends.

Although there are many

fascinating things to do for teens outdoors in Wayne, the Wayne Community Center on Howe Road offers some intriguing activities indoors. There is a recreation facility that was just renovated in the early winter of 2008. The Recreation and Exercise Club offers a healthy way of passing time. There is a cardio room, weight room, sauna, steam room, whirlpool and indoor track. Parents and teens can spend time together working out, the perfect bonding opportunity.

Also in the Community Center is an indoor, heated pool. The pool starts at zero depth and gets as deep as seven feet. There is a kid slide and built in pool toys to entertain smaller children while the teenagers can enjoy The Lava Loop, a larger slide.

When swimming and exercising don't sound appealing, there is another option, ice skating. The indoor ice skating rink is a big hit amongst teenagers. It is a great place to hang out with friends or take someone out on a date.

Another popular place to spend time with friends or go on a date is the State Wayne Theater. Every Thursday through Sunday there are movies playing at inexpensive rates. On Thursdays it is ninety-nine cents for everyone, an affordable rate for a teen.

The Wayne Bowling Alley is also a well-known place to teenagers. Whether on a league or just bowling with friends and family for the night, it is a great place to hang out.

Wayne is a great city for teenagers to live or visit. There are intriguing activities constantly available for everyone to participate. From parks to an ice arena, concerts to exercising, and movies to bowling, Wayne is always a magnificent place for teens to be.

**Editor's note:** Erica Perdue is a 2008 graduate of Wayne Memorial High School. She was editor in chief of the school newspaper and a teen journalist for the Westland Observer. She is now attending college full time studying journalism. She plans to be a print journalist.

## Wayne Westland signs contract

The Wayne Westland Board of Education and the teachers union, the Wayne Westland Education Association, have agreed on a new four year contract from August 26, 2008 – August 27, 2012. The WWEA voted to ratify the contract and the school board approved the contract at their February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

The agreement includes a 6.25 percent salary increase that will be spread out during the four year contract. Teachers will also retain their health care benefits through MESSA, but will now pay a \$480 co-pay, a deductible of \$100 (single) or \$200 (family) \$10 office, and \$25 emergency room visit co-pays.

Class size will be reduced by one student beginning with the 2009-2010 school year.

In a joint letter sent to all district employees and families, Superintendent Greg Baracy and WWEA President Nancy Strachan wrote, "We recognize and regret the impact the turbulent labor relations environment has had on the community. It is understood that strikes are illegal and collective bargaining must be done in good faith. In this regard, the Board and the Teachers' Association have incorporated a no-strike, no-lockout provision in the new collective bargaining agreement. Both parties are committed to moving forward in a positive fashion to improve and enhance the educational environment in the district."



## The king and his court

Wayne celebrated it's coming home in February, the winner was Renaldo Powell. Pictured from left to right: Jeremy Vandegrift, Renaldo Powell - King, Robert Woodson, Eric Story and Matthew Mills. Photo by The Wayne Dispatch



CITY OF  
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A SPECIAL SECTION TO THE WAYNE DISPATCH:

# Spring BROCHURE 2009



## STATE WAYNE THEATER

THURSDAY - All Seats

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### CLASSIC MOVIE NIGHT



**March 27-29**

Clint Eastwood Weekend  
1966 Classic

**"The Good, The Bad and the Ugly"**

starring Clint Eastwood

\$2.50 Adults/\$1.50 Children & Seniors

**April 23**

Jack Nicholson Birthday Celebration  
1974 Classic

**"Chinatown"**

starring Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway

\$2.50 Adults/\$1.50 Children & Seniors



**May 22-24**

Memorial Day Weekend Showing  
1957 World War II Classic

**"The Bridge over the River Kwai"**

(winner of 7 Academy Awards, including Best Picture)

starring William Holden

\$2.50 Adults/\$1.50 Children & Seniors



**June 20**

Summer Celebration  
1980 Classic

**"The Blues Brothers"**

starring John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd  
plus a special performance by the

Salute to the Superstars Tribute to the "Blues Brothers"  
Special - Movie and the Concert for only \$7.00!!

**Celebrating  
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(734) 326-4600 or check out the website  
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The State Wayne  
Theater is open  
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Adults **\$2.50**/  
Children 13 and  
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Seniors **\$1.50**  
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**FRIDAY, APRIL 10th**

# The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual MARSHMALLOW Drop

**FREE PROGRAM**

The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Marshmallow Drop will be held on **Friday, April 10**, at Anderson Ball Field (next to the Wayne Community Center). The first drop will be held at 10am for walking toddlers to age 4 and children with a disability, the second drop is for ages 5-7 and the third for ages 8-10 years old. **This program is free!**

# Bunny Breakfast

Limited to the first 200 people.

Tickets are now on sale at the Wayne Community Center for the Bunny Breakfast on **Friday, April 10**, 10:45am-12pm **\$4/resident \$5/non-resident** includes pancakes, sausage, juice, Arts & Crafts & Clowns.



**APRIL 13 - 17th**

# Spring BREAK Day Camp

*Take-a-Break Days!!*

Take - a - Break Days! Spring Break Day Camp for children kindergarten through seventh grade. April 13 - 17, 7:30am-5:30pm at the Wayne Community Center. Activities include swimming, ice skating, arts & crafts, a field trip and more! **\$26/day resident \$33/day non resident** \*25% off each additional child in the same household-Register for all five days and get the 5th day free!

**JUNE 15th - AUGUST 31th**

# Summer DAY CAMP

Summer Day Camp Registration begins April 1<sup>st</sup> for Camp **June 15-August 31, Monday through Friday, 7:30am-5:30pm**, at the Wayne Community Center for ages 5 - 8 and 9 - 13. Daily and weekly fees offered. First week payment due at registration. 10% discount off each additional child in the same household-child must be registered for a minimum of 5 days. Activities include swimming, ice skating, arts & crafts, games, weekly field trips and more!



# Basketball and Soccer SPORTS CAMPS

**Dates TBD**

Resident **\$30**/Non-Resident **\$40**  
includes T-Shirt and ball.  
For boys and girls grades 4-9  
Monday - Friday 10am-12pm

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# Softball

**Registration now through May 8**

for the 2009 Wayne Youth Girls Softball Program.

Ages 7-9 Instructional Coach Pitch League/

Ages 10-13 and 14-16 Slow Pitch Leagues.

Parent or legal guardian, a copy of birth certificate and registration fee are required to register.

**\$70 Resident/ \$80 Non-resident** \*Parents !

**\*PARENTS! We need volunteer coaches\***

# U.S.S.A Adult Softball League

**New Teams register after March 2**

**for any remaining openings - deadline is April 6!**

Monday - Women's League, Tuesday - Men's D League; Wednesday - Men's D League; Thursday - Co-ed League; and Friday - Men's D & E League. \$560 Team fee includes one umpire per game, Playoffs and League/Playoff Awards. **\$100** due at registration. Call 721-7400 to sign up or email [swinkelman@ci.wayne.mi.us](mailto:swinkelman@ci.wayne.mi.us)





# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



**MARCH 27 - 29th**

Stage IV Youth Theatre  
Presents...

## "Laffin' School Reunion"

by Keith Jackson

## "Under Sekyll's Hyde"

by Tim Kelly

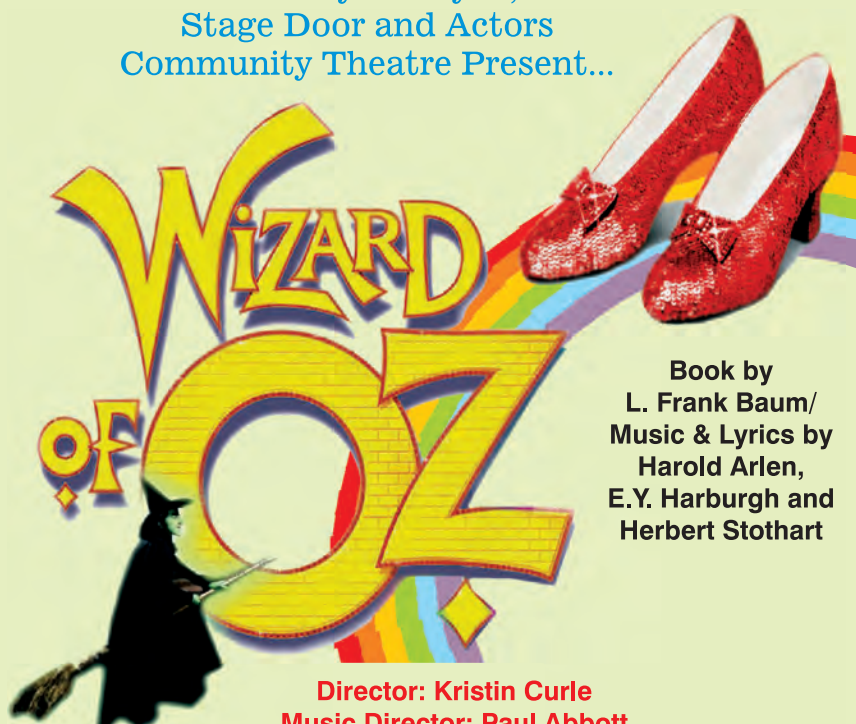
March 27 and 28 at 8pm and March 29 at 2pm

Tickets sold at the door only - Adults **\$10**/Students and Seniors **\$8**

State Wayne Theater, 35310 Michigan Avenue, Wayne

**APRIL 24 - 26th MAY 1 - 3rd**

The City of Wayne,  
Stage Door and Actors  
Community Theatre Present...



Book by  
L. Frank Baum/  
Music & Lyrics by  
Harold Arlen,  
E.Y. Harburgh and  
Herbert Stothart

Director: Kristin Curle  
Music Director: Paul Abbott  
Choreographer: Sue Schuler

April 24 & 25 and May 1 & 2 at 8pm

April 25 & 26 and May 2 & 3 at 2pm

Tickets on Sale April 1st at the Wayne Community Center

**\$15** Adults/ **\$13** Students & Seniors/ **\$10** Kids 12 and under

Presented with special permission by Tams Witmark.

**APRIL 16-17th**



# ROCKIN' Through the Years

## DANCE RECITAL

Thursday, April 16, and Friday, April 17, at the Stockmeyer Auditorium. Pre-sale tickets are **\$4** on sale Monday, March 24, at the Wayne Community Center - **\$6** at the door. Children 3 and under are free.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 24th**

## "Off to the Races" for Rotary and Recreation

- **Silent and Live Auction**
- **Horse Racing**



The Wayne Rotary Club and Wayne Parks and Recreation "Off to the Races" will be held **Friday, April 24th**, at the Wayne Community Center - Admission **\$15** per person - Cash Bar Available - Silent and Live Auction featuring items in all price ranges. Tickets available beginning March 15th, at the Wayne Community Center or from Wayne Rotarians. More details to be announced.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 15th**

# 2009 FUN RAISING GOLF OUTING



2009 "FUN RAISING" GOLF OUTING will be held at Gateway Golf Club on **Wednesday, July 15**. Details to be announced.

**Hole sponsorships are available.**



**SATURDAY, MARCH 14th**



**THE WAYNE  
AQUATIC AREA  
LEARN TO SWIM  
PROGRAM**

Register for Saturday Classes March 9th through 13th for **classes beginning March 14th**. Call 721-7400 for class times and fee information.

**Please Note: the Aquatic Area will be closed April 3 - 9 for annual maintenance.**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22nd**

**Spanish  
for Seniors**

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Activity  
CENTER**

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Learn Spanish?  
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SENIOR ACTIVITY  
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SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER-

35000 Sims (734)721-7460

Is hosting a Spanish for Seniors  
Introductory Class on

**Wednesday, April 22nd, 11am-11:30am**

Meet the Instructor and learn about the classes  
beginning **Wednesday, April 29th**.

**FRIDAY, MAY 8th**

**SENIOR  
LAW DAY**



17th Senior Law Day Friday, May 8th held at  
the 29th District Court at 8am

**\$3** includes Continental Breakfast, Informative  
Workshops, Lunch at the Senior Center  
and a very *funny* mock trial.

Registration and fees due by  
Friday, April 24th.



**ICE FOR SALE!**

The Wayne Ice Arena has ice available  
March 16 - May 21

**\$145 hour/ Monday - Thursday Prime Time**  
**\$100/hour Monday - Thursday after 10pm and**  
**All Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays**



**Free Indoor Pool or Ice Party for 25 people with purchase of 10 sheets of ice!**

Off-ice Strength & Conditioning Program in newly renovated  
Fitness Center! **Call Jeff or Steve at 721-7400**

**\*The 2009 Wayne Figure Skating Ice Show "Summer Time"**  
**will be held May 1st, 2nd and 3rd\***

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# I know a guy...do you need a guy?

Is there a **Henry** at Henry's Service Station? Oh yes...definitely yes. According to Jerry DePoole, one of Henry's mechanics, Henry Coe is on the job every workday morning.

What's remarkable about that? Well, Henry is eighty-four.

**Henry** and his late wife, **Lea**, moved here from Tennessee in 1948. He took a job at Great Lakes Steel and after working constantly changing shifts, opened a gas station at Michigan and Venoy. In 1965 he moved to Van Born and Merriman. The Wayne Road location has been home to Henry's since 1968.

The new building was started in August of 1994. A family member, Scott Sherman, an architect, created the beautiful service station. All Henry had to do was figure out how to pay the bill. No loans from banks, because they feared the land under the old station was contaminated. An old friend, **Harold Rediske**, of Uht Funeral Home, loaned Henry the money for the new station. Later when Henry needed a credit reference, Mr Rediske again came to help. He told the inquiring company, "Henry was never a day late or a dollar short on my loan to him."

In addition to Henry, the other employees at his service station are his son-in-law, **Jack Rogin**, **Dave Grietzen**, **Greg Taylor**, **Keith Hubbard**, **Jerry DePoole** and all around go to gal and receptionist, **Becky McGill**. Not to be left out...**Turbo**, the 21 year old cat who makes herself at home atop the computer.

## Footprints of Wayne

Dee Ryan



Henry has two children, **Susan** and **Reniford**, and four grandchildren...**Justin**, **Jack**, **Brad** and **Tyler**.

Henry's Service Station has been taking care of our Wayne Police cars for most of thirty years. In Henry's words..."Once in a while they've gone somewhere else, but they always come back here." And that's because of good service by **Henry Coe**.

I know a guy...do you need a guy? This guy, **Rich Ballinger**, can work wonders with your computer. If it's not working, Rich will fix it. If it's slow, Rich can make it fast.

In fact he can do it all. He offers complete computer repair and maintenance. Jeff Martin, over at City Hall, recommended Rich to us...his company, **Computers Galore**, will rid your computer of Spy Ware, which is a sneaky tracking device, and put in a protection plan which includes anti virus software. Rich can build a computer for your needs or set up a wireless (WIFI) network for you. He also sells computer hardware and if you need a part that can't be found easily, Rich will find it for you. Do you have an old computer that you'd like to ditch,

but it contains too much information? Rich can wipe the hard drive, which will get rid of all your old personal files. And yes, he can set up protections for your children so that they have access only to what you want them to have.

**Rich** and his wife, **Doris**, belong to the Westland Full Gospel Temple on Palmer, also known as the 'Soup Kitchen Church'. With assisting others, they conduct a children's Sunday School Service. They have two boys, **Travis** and **Seth**...the latter is home schooled by his Mom, **Doris**. **Doris** was born in Wayne and went to St. John's Lutheran School.

So if you need a guy...now you know the guy. By appointment at (734) 238-0454.

It's really not in my contract to do book or movie reviews, but...**Tom Mooradian's** book, "Repatriate: Love, Basketball and the KGB" is great. Part a John LeCarre spy story with dashes of Joan Collins. It's a fine read.

The movie, "Frozen River" has just come out on DVD. Mellissa Leo is up for a best actress award at the Oscars. Small movie, big drama as Leo teams up with a Mohawk Indian to smuggle immigrants into the US from Canada.

The Art of Norman Rockwell will be at the Detroit Institute of Arts between March 8 and May 31. A docent from the DIA will be at the

Wayne Library on March 10 at 7:00 p.m. to give us a presentation of his works with a slideshow and a descriptive talk about the artist and his illustrations. We all remember his popular scenes from the Saturday Evening Post: **Christmas Homecoming**, **the Four Freedoms** and **Triple Self-Portrait**, being just a few. If you can't get to the Art Institute, this program will be the next best thing. And if you can, this presentation will give you a sneak peek of what you'll see when you visit the exhibition.

A doubly good meeting of our Garden Club. First, a return visit from **Gary Philips** of **Back Yard Birds** in Plymouth. He entertains as he instructs us on the habits, likes and dislikes of our backyard inhabitants. This year being so cold, he says bird feeders are an open invitation to any and all wildlife. The other good thing is the Garden Club will donate up to \$3,000.00 for landscaping at the Wayne Historical Museum.

Artman's Nursery will do the upgrade. Also, the Club voted to use \$1,170.00 that was raised as a memorial to **Lynn Higgs'** sister, **Barb Stuart**, toward the Motawi Tile Project at the Wayne Library. Wait...wait, I'm not through. A matching amount of \$1,170.00 was also given to the tile project.

The Civitans are having their Grand Giveaway on March 6. Tickets are still available and **Dick Clark** would be happy to sell you one. Just give him a call at 722-0160. The name **Grand Giveaway** means you can win a lot of money that night. In addition, a book will be placed in our Library with the name of each ticket holder. Very nice...

**Susan Rowe** tells me that the Civitans are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. So happy, happy half a century.

We must mention the passing of two long time members of our Wayne Garden Club and the Wayne Community: **Marilyn Archumbalt** and **Evelyn Millar**. We shall remember them with great fondness.

dee @thewaynedispatch.com



The Wayne Road location has been home to Henry's since 1968. Photo by The Wayne Dispatch



# Individualists and good people

One of the things that I have always liked about Wayne is that we are an accepting bunch. Our town is made up of rich people, poor people, somewhat odd people and some down right wholesome folks. What some call "good people." I think Floy Warner was "good people" and her story is one of simple living and hard work. Whitney Ballantine, attorney for Floy's estate, said "the entire Warner Family was individualistic; Floy used to walk around town in a straw hat, coveralls and a brush cut, yet everyone loved her" (Wayne Eagle, July 20, 1960). A person like Floy has almost become extinct in American society. She was born in the same town where she died, never married, lived with her sister Maud and was quite a woman about town.

Floy is depicted on the Wayne History Mural and was chosen as an important historical figure because during a time when an unmarried woman would often live on the fringe, Floy owned a business, was educated and was an ardent believer in preservation. So much so, that upon

## Rearview Mirror

Matt Miller



her death on April 22, 1958, at the age of 82, she left the City \$18,000 for the establishment of a museum.

I got a personal glimpse into her life and life in the Village of Wayne by reading her diaries; she kept a daily log of her life. It almost feels too personal, but to read them is fascinating. Each entry explains the business conducted that day, how many batches of laundry, the weather that day, who she saw during the day, some happenings in town and her work on the farm. Floy lived almost her entire life at the southeast corner of Michigan Avenue East and Fourth Street. This is where Arby's and Johnson's Express Carwash is located now. Before those buildings were there, there was a fine Dutch

Colonial home, a greenhouse, a barn and Floy's business, the Wayne Steam Laundry.

Floy's appreciation for the beautiful in life was quite prevalent. She was a prolific gardener; the greenhouse was filled with beautiful flowers. She was an avid painter of scenic landscapes and a photographer of nature and people. Her little farm was very self-sufficient; there were orchards, flowers, vegetables, vineyards, a chicken coop and beehives.

She was so in tune with nature and her surroundings that I believe her spirit was connected with the land. On May 17 & 18, 1947 she writes that "everything is beautiful, fruit blossoms everywhere...everything is so beautifully green and blossoming." Later that year she writes "the insects are so noisy in the evening but the birds are silent." Just these touching words look into her soul, that she noticed the simple small details of life and found the peace she needed to live a hard life as well as share her gifts



Floy Warner

Photo courtesy of The Wayne Historical Museum.

with us today.

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. You can also contact me at with any questions or comments at [matt@thewaynedispatch.com](mailto:matt@thewaynedispatch.com).

## Welcome class of 2022

Hop on in. The Wayne Westland Community School District can't wait to welcome the Class of 2022. All 17 elementary schools in the Wayne Westland School District will host a Kindergarten Round-Up for incoming kindergarten students and their parents at 9:00 a.m. on March 31. Parents will have the opportunity to tour the school, meet the principal and kindergarten teachers, discuss the curriculum and review registration materials.

Incoming kindergarten students will get the chance to visit the kindergarten rooms, make a craft and meet the teachers. They will also receive a school t-shirt and a backpack full of school supplies.

Children who will be 5 years old by December 1, 2009 are eligible for kindergarten.

Parents unable to make the Round-Up during the day can register their child that evening from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at their school.

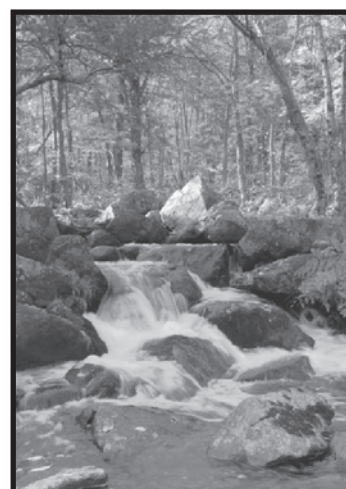
Parents should bring the following items to register their student: original birth certificate with raised seal, current

Children who  
will be  
5 years old by  
December 1, 2009  
are eligible for  
kindergarten.

immunization records, three proofs of residency, valid driver's license or state ID card with current address, and a completed physical form.

All day kindergarten is available in nine schools. They are: Roosevelt-McGrath, Elliott, Hicks, Jefferson-Barns, Lincoln, Patchin, P.D. Graham, Wildwood and Walker Winter.

For more information or to see which school your child will attend, please call 734-419-2096.



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# Historical Museum gives the gift of history

By Jenny Johnson

Members of the Wayne Historical Commission brought history to life and to the classrooms of second grade students in the Wayne Westland Community School District. "Wayne History in a Box- A Present from the Past" was created to not only meet the curriculum guidelines for second grade but to also give the students a lesson in Wayne's rich history.

Darlene Hawley and Lois VanStipdonk, members of the Historical Commission, dressed in period costumes to present a history lesson to a captive audience at Taft-Galloway Elementary School. "Lois is dressed up like she came right out of the past. I am dressed the way your great great grandma probably dressed," Hawley said.

Hawley asked the students if they completed their homework assignment. Each student was asked to find the oldest thing in their home. Christa Paul raised her hand. "I found a candy dish. It was my grandma's," she said. Autumn Provonsha found a photo of John F.

**"Your personal history is where you came from, who your relatives are, what they wore, where they worked, did for fun and ate. Everyone has a personal history."**

**Darlene Hawley**

Kennedy. She brought it with her to show the guests. Other treasures the students found lurking in their basements, bedrooms and in cabinets included coins, dolls, dishes and old baseball cards.

"Your personal history is where you came from, who your relatives are, what they wore, where they worked, did for fun and ate. Everyone has a personal history,"



Darlene Hawley shares Wayne history with a class students at Taft Elementary School. Photo by The Wayne Dispatch

Hawley said.

Hawley asked the students if they knew what a museum is. "Stuff from the past," called out the students. "Today we have brought you gifts from the past to teach you about Wayne," she said. All of the gifts came in a wrapped box and were on loan from the Wayne Historical Museum.

She told the class that Wayne used to look vastly different than it does today. People in Wayne used to live on farms. "What do you see if you look out the window of your house," she asked.

A house, school, cars, railroad tracks, signs and stores. "Guess what your great great grandma would see? Grass, snow, flowers and wilderness. They would not have seen cars, airplanes, paved streets or stop signs," Hawley said.

Hawley told them how Native Americans used to live in Wayne and long before there were cars parked on every corner, the common mode of transportation was horses and later trains.

Children in the 1800s did not have a lot of toys. They had to make their own toys. She showed the students dolls made out of corn husks and drums made out of animal hides.

Schools were different too. Students attended a one room school

house. They saw the slates students would write their lessons on with chalk. There were no computers, telephones or even electricity. Books were rare and often made of cloth like the Cinderella book she brought that dated back to the 1800s.

One item that made an impression on the students was a large white bowl. The chamber pot.

Hawley explained how children of long ago used the pot in the middle of the night when the outhouse was too far away. "Aren't you glad you have indoor plumbing and electricity?" she asked.

The Historical Museum has been at the center of Wayne for a long time. It began as the City Hall. It was also a police station and the fire department headquarters before becoming the museum.

Each of the students received a brochure to the museum and an invitation to bring their family and walk through Wayne's wonderful history. Before they left, there was one more lesson.

"Always look for old things to protect and save," Hawley said.

They will someday tell your story.

*Editor's Note: The Wayne Historical Museum is open to visitors from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Friday and Saturday and by appointment Monday through Thursday. For more information call: 734-722-0113.*

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(Pictures left to right), John and Andrea (orphan at Casa de la Nina). Lois and Leda buy text books with donations from St. Mary's of Wayne, for Maria Mazzarello School. Birthday party for orphans at Casa de la Nina.

# Wayne Rotary members help Honduran children

By Jenny Johnson

It takes a village to raise a child. The rural village of Santa Cruz de Yojoa in Honduras recently got some much needed help from Rotary members of southeast Michigan and Ohio. They have spent the past two years raising money for and building a seven room school with indoor plumbing. Three members of the Wayne Rotary Club just returned from Honduras. Dave Carpenter and John and Lois VanStipdonk were thrilled to see the school ready for the new school year, which begins in February.

"The parents were just finishing up with some of the interior painting," John said.

Rotary members initially helped to raise over \$55,000 for the school. But in August 2008 there was a huge increase in steel and the project needed an additional \$18,000 to complete the steel roof on the school.

"We had it in a month. We just asked people," John said. That is just a tribute to the generosity of the Rotarians. Rotary International provided the grant money to furnish desks, chairs, whiteboards and books for the school, he said.

This was just one of the tasks of the Hearts and Hands for Honduras project. This project was created by Rotarians from Michigan, Ohio and Honduras. In addition to building the school, they are putting in a clean water filtration system and renovating a former warehouse into a health clinic.

Carpenter and the VanStipdonks spent 10 days

**"You actually feel like you accomplish something."**

**Lois VanStipdonk**

**"In knee deep muddy roads we were part of a medical, dental and vision brigade."**

**John VanStipdonk**

helping with these endeavors.

"You actually feel like you accomplish something," said Lois. They got to help get medical equipment ready for the clinic and they traveled deep in the rural mountains to administer healthcare to natives.

Even the harrowing journey up narrow unpaved mountain roads didn't deter them from helping those in need.

"On one side of the road was the mountain and there was a 1000 foot drop on the other side. It was very precarious," Lois said.

"In knee deep muddy roads we were part of a medical, dental and vision brigade," John said.

There were two general practitioners, a pediatrician, an eye doctor, and a dentist who

traveled with them.

"With a bull horn we hung out the windows and announced we were here to address their medical needs," John said.

About 300 people from the mountains started arriving on foot. The brigade set up two tents and used the two room school but did not have electricity.

John said, "I had to hold the flashlight for the dentist so he could see in their mouth."

Lois worked in the makeshift pharmacy helping a pharmacist fill prescriptions. All children were given a parasite antibiotic for parasites because of the poor quality water they drink.

The VanStipdonks also had another project that is near and dear to their heart. They helped at Casa de la Nina (house of the girl), a school for 21 girls aged 5 - 21 who are in foster care.

"We have gotten American sponsors for all of the girls," Lois said. In fact, she and John sponsor 8-year old Andrea.

The Wayne Rotary Club sponsors 12-year old Carmen. About six Wayne Rotary members have also sponsored some of the other girls. Students at St. Mary School in Wayne held fundraisers to buy books for the students at Casa. Last year they raised \$750 for books for the fifth graders and this year they raised \$1000 for books for the fourth

See **Help**, page 17



(Pictures left to right), Digging a trench for sanitary sewers at the Santa Cruz School, built by Rotarians. Villagers of Santa Martha waiting for dental and medical services. Volunteer Rotarian dentist at work pulling teeth.



**Help, continued from page 16**

grade students in Honduras, Lois said. The Interact, which is a branch of Rotary at Wayne Memorial High School is currently raising money to buy books for the first grade students.

While in Honduras, Lois helped take 18 of the girls from Casa shopping for their back to school outfits--blue and white uniforms. Each girl got a uniform, 2 pair of shoes, gym clothes, and a backpack.

With all of the poverty around Honduras, the City of San Pedro Sula is surprisingly urban. They even have a mall. That's where Lois and other Rotarians took the girls. It was about half the size of Westland Mall, Lois said.

"It's a strange mixture of very poor and very modern," Lois said of Honduras. "The poverty there is much worse," she said.

After all of the shopping, the Rotarians hosted a birthday party for four of the girls complete with pizza and birthday cake. "We had 15 pizzas delivered on the back of a motorcycle," Lois said.

Each of the girls American sponsors send birthday and Christmas presents.

**More Help on the Way**

The new medical clinic in Santa Cruz is right on the town square. The mayor donated a city building which was a former warehouse. Rotary members from Ohio donated medical supplies and equipment. The clinic will have volunteer doctors and nurses and will have regular hours to serve the people of Santa Cruz.

In just a year and a half, the Rotarians have helped build a school, supply a medical clinic and

foster 21 girls as well as helping with the clean water initiative.

"This is because of the generosity of the people and Rotary from Southeast Michigan and Ohio," John said.

The VanStipdonks have been to Honduras several times. Their first trip was in February 2007 when the idea for the school was first discussed.

"That's when we figured out what we wanted to focus on and what was needed," said Lois.

John has been back three times and Lois four. Lois is already planning her next trip probably later this spring or summer. She plans to throw another birthday party for the girls at Casa.

Why did they choose to help in Honduras? The three hour flight and central time zone make it an easy trip.

"There's no jet lag," Lois said.

"The advantage of having done this project in Honduras is that they are friendly to the US and they have established Rotary Clubs," John said.

Plus most of the people are very poor and need the help.

"We live in the local community but we also live in the world community. We won't see world peace until we can help all people live a decent life and have the ability to have a job, clean water and a safe place to live," Lois said.

John likens it to the famous Jewish belief, "If you save one life, it is as if you've saved the whole world. This fits what the Rotary does and what we and 1.2 million other Rotarians are doing," he said.

"What Lois and I accomplished in Honduras we didn't accomplish by ourselves but with many other Rotarians," John said.



Wayne Mayor, Al Haidous, Redford Township Supervisor, Tracey Schultz Kobylarz, and Westland Mayor, William R. Wild, at the State of the County. Photo by The Wayne Dispatch

## Hard work and sacrifice helps provide bright future for Wayne County

In his seventh State of the County Address, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano told the audience at the Cherry Hill Village Theater in Canton, "We are in the midst of the most severe economic downturn since the Great Depression."

He said county officials have learned to work smarter and do more with less just like a lot of families in Wayne County. "Families have to live within a budget and they expect their government to do the same," he said. Ficano has reduced the Wayne County staff by 1,500 since he took office in 2003.

It took hard work and sacrifice but Ficano said, "We have balanced the county's annual budget for the sixth consecutive year without a tax increase."

Wayne County is helping people in many ways. The Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program has kept 600 people from losing their homes. This program has become a national model and was even highlighted on Dateline NBC.

Ficano cited the TURBO - Transforming Underdeveloped Residential and Business Opportunities program as another success. It has created \$400 million in new investments and 2500 new jobs by turning vacant fields and abandoned buildings into productive businesses.

"Job creation and job retention has been and will remain our top priority. A transformation of our economy in Wayne County is based on new technology, new industries and a new way of doing business," he said. Ficano noted the film industry, the emerging Aerotropolis around Detroit Metro Airport and the auto industry as possible avenues for new jobs in the region.

"But our trademark will continue to be the automobile industry. We're not about to give up our trademark no matter what is said in the media. Many of the high-tech jobs of the future will be auto related," he said. One in every 10 jobs in the United States is related to the auto industry.

Wayne County has also joined Oakland and Macomb counties to develop the first mass transit plan in more than 50 years. The light rail will run along Woodward Avenue this spring.

Plans for a line between Detroit and Ann Arbor, right through Wayne, are next.

Ficano said the mass transit plan is a great opportunity for President Barack Obama's stimulus package. "We will lobby aggressively for funding," he said.

"There are signs of a bright economic future," Ficano said.



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## St. Mary Catholic School earns level of distinction

Students aren't the only ones who learn. At St. Mary Catholic School the teaching staff has embarked on a three year learning process. It has recently earned them a prestigious School of Distinction title from the Detroit Archdiocese. They are the only non-public school in the Archdiocese to receive the award this year.

"We are very pleased. This was an entire team effort," said Jaylee Lynch, Principal. The school is already accredited by the Michigan Non Public Schools Accrediting Association MNSAA. This distinction has put them at the highest level of accreditation.

To earn the School of Distinction they had to complete two goals that demonstrated effective school improvement, Lynch said.

The first goal was to measurably increase the computer literacy of the teaching staff and to combine technology with teaching and learning strategies. They began the process in February 2005 with installing wire drops and routers in each classroom. Teachers now use a

program called Schoolminder to take attendance and keep track of student records. "There is a lot less paper now," Lynch said.

Teachers also use a program called LEARNPORT which helps teachers plan lessons using technology. Each classroom also has their own website and teachers use it to communicate with parents and can post study guides and classroom photos.

The second goal began in the spring of 2006 and was to implement curriculum mapping. This is a compilation of content, skills, and assessments that a student experiences at each grade level. The program keeps track of what is being taught in every class in order to identify any gaps or repetitions in the curriculum and to build a true picture of the students' experiences to ensure every student is learning and progressing, Lynch said.

Lynch said the teachers were committed to accomplishing these goals. "I am very proud of them. They had meetings. They learned. They taught each other and worked with



Superintendent Sister Mary Gehringer and Associate Superintendent Susan Leslie presented the students and staff at St. Mary Catholic School with their School of Distinction award and banner at a special mass on February 3rd.

each other and it is because of that total team effort that we were awarded a School of Distinction," Lynch said.

It is such a pleasure to be here with hardworking staff members,

great parents and students.

I love it and I wouldn't change jobs for anything," said Lynch.

St. Mary Catholic School has 278 students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

### Nominations needed for James J. Poplin

The City of Wayne is seeking nominations for the James J. Poplin Distinguished Service Award. This award is given yearly in memory of Jim Poplin, a longtime city employee and friend. The award represents a person/volunteer who has contributed five or more years in the recreational field. All nominations are due by March 31, 2009.

Nomination forms are available at the Wayne Community Center, City Hall, Wayne Public Library, Senior Activity Center, or online at [www.ci.wayne.mi.us](http://www.ci.wayne.mi.us).



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# There is more to Wayne than meets the eye

We are all creatures of habit; we go to the same restaurants with our families, shop at the same stores for our clothes and groceries and all too often are afraid or don't feel we have the time to try something new. Now is the time to break out of your comfort zone and take notice of the many choices that are presented to you each day that are often missed. There are many businesses within our community that go unnoticed or are forgotten about due to daily routines. These are businesses both new and old that work hard every day to provide the best service possible to our community. With this in mind, I have decided to focus my column on the accomplishments of our local businesses and their stories in hopes of awakening you to all your community has to offer...there is more to Wayne than meets the eye.

Have you ever visited the golf course in Wayne? Yes, Wayne has a

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**Jill Gaudet**



golf course. **Woodlands of Van Buren** on Ecorse Road is located in Wayne and is home to many of our communities' annual golf outings. The Woodlands is a public 18 hole course complete with pro shop, banquet facility and pub. Open year round, the Woodlands is a great place to hold events, stop in for lunch, or to hit a few balls to relax after a long day.

The trends seem to be going toward 24 hour service, you find grocery stores, drug stores and a few restaurants open late to serve your needs but are there any in Wayne? **Scooby's Coney Island** on South

Wayne Road is open 24 hours a day to serve you a hot, tasty meal. Under new management since last year, Scooby's offers a variety of specials each day at affordable prices. They are committed to their customers and have established quite a regular group due to their menu and open doors. The next time your stomach rumbles consider stopping by Scooby's to pick up something great to eat.

Wayne is also home to the **Outdoor Fun Store**. Outdoor Fun Store Co. opened its doors for business in 1999 in the City of Wayne with only one employee, Daniel R. Wright, the founder and current President. At the time they sold only a relative few residential backyard swing sets and accessories. They have grown quite a bit from their humble beginnings and will be celebrating their 10 year anniversary this April. Over the years they have developed into a multimillion dollar

company selling over 10,000 residential and commercial recreational products across the USA and many other countries around the world. They contribute their success to their use and development of their website ([www.OutdoorFunStore.com](http://www.OutdoorFunStore.com)) and hard working employees who really care about the success of the company. The next time you think about adding to your outdoor accessories think Wayne.

The businesses listed above are just a small sampling of the immense assortment of businesses Wayne has to offer. Although our lives are hectic and it's often easy to just go with the daily routine, challenge yourself to reach outside of the box and visit some of your local businesses. You'll be surprised at what you may find. For more information on local businesses, please contact the Wayne Chamber of Commerce at 734.721.0100.

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