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THE WAYNE Dispatch

DECEMBER 2009

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A photograph of Santa Claus sliding down a red slide. He is wearing his traditional red suit with white fur trim, a black belt with a gold buckle that says "Santa", and white gloves. He has a white beard and is smiling. His arms are raised in the air. The slide is set against a rocky background.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

CHECK OUT THE SANTA'S FAVORITE PLACES INSIDE

YOUR SOURCE FOR POSITIVE COMMUNITY NEWS



**HAVE A SAFE
AND HAPPY
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SEASON
FROM**

**THE WAYNE
Dispatch**

A JoNa Media LLC Publication

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Santa's favorite places



Santa relaxes in a recliner at Wm. C. Franks Furniture

The holiday season is upon us and we are all scrambling to find just the right gift for everyone on our shopping list. Why not get some ideas and suggestions from a professional. The man in red, Santa Claus himself recently visited the Wayne area and has some great gift giving suggestions.

His first stop was the Wayne Westland Federal Credit Union. Whether you stop by to withdraw money from your Christmas account or cash in change you've been collecting, they can help with your Christmas budget.

Christmas is enjoyed by boys and girls of all ages. At Ashford Court Senior Center they look forward to celebrating the season of giving. When the hectic Christmas Eve dash is over, Santa needs a comfortable chair to relax and put his feet up and he know Frank's Furniture will have just what he needs. Santa wants to make sure he can read the naughty and nice list so he made sure to stop by In Focus Eyecare for a check up.

Our Christmas list might not be as large as Santa's but we still deserve a break during this busy time. While they might not serve warm milk, I'm sure you will find something to wet your whistle at Jake's Again. Need your sleigh

tuned up for the cold winter months? Stop by K & S Auto Service so Ray and his certified mechanics can make sure your mode of transportation, whether it's a car, van, truck, SUV or sleigh, is ready for the winter.

If you are looking for a place to celebrate the holidays, Lifechurch has great music, relevant messages and a great kids program. Gift certificates are always the right size. Give someone the gift of a great meal with a gift certificate from Montana's.

Santa always remembers Mrs. Claus with a special bouquet from My Lady Florist. Hey, Santa sleigh driving can be dangerous. You better stop by Professional Insurance to make sure your policies are up to date. Once that's done he can stop by Tried and True Thrift Store where he always finds great deals on clothes, shoes, books and other gifts. U.S Nutrition Center has shakes and smoothies that can help Santa and all busy shoppers keep their energy up.

With all of the cookies and milk Santa eats on Christmas Eve, he can visit the Wayne Community Center and check out their membership rates. With swimming, skating, and a variety of exercise machines, Santa will work off

those extra calories in no time.

Don't know where you can store all of those Christmas presents until you hand them out? Santa knows Westland Mini Storage has plenty of room. Santa knows just about every tween and teen has some kind of phone on their Christmas list. Wireless Giant can help you find the right one.

The Woodlands of Van Buren is a great place for Santa and his elves to have a post holiday get together. They have their own catering available so Mrs. Claus doesn't have to do the cooking. Mrs. Claus isn't the only one with a busy schedule this month. You can grab a great dinner on your way home from the mall at Toarmina's Pizza or Grandma's Chicken. Or sit and enjoy a delicious meal from Hawthorne Valley. You can get items to fill your fridge at Joe's Market.

Last but not least Santa loves visiting with children. To find children on his Nice list he doesn't have to go any farther than Wayne Westland Community Schools where he is always a welcome visitor. Santa enjoyed his time in Wayne and we hope you find time to visit some of Santa's Favorite places.

Happy Holidays!



Santa's Gift Ideas

Look for additional savings on the coupon giving tree at stores around town



Santa checks out his sleigh insurance with Phil and Dave



Visa gift cards are the perfect gift at the W/W Credit Union



Great golf stocking stuffers at the Woodlands



In-focus the place for designer eyewear



Jakes Again a great place to hang out



Gift certificates are available at Hawthorne Valley



Wayne Rotary Parade

Santa arrives in style to the City of Wayne on Saturday, November 21, 2009



21st Century Schools Committee Recommendations Offer Educational Enhancements



The 21st Century Schools Committee presented their recommendations to the Wayne-Westland Board of Education on November 30, 2009. Along with school closings and boundary changes needed to maximize the district's resources in these challenging financial times, the committee proposed changes that will *enhance education programs and provide increased educational opportunities*.

Take a look at the proposed changes for the children of Wayne-Westland Schools that will ensure that our children will not merely survive, but thrive!

- Adopt a K-4; 5-6; 7-8; and 9-12 grade configuration. Divide the district into two sectors with five K-4 buildings, one 5-6 building, one 7-8 building and one high school in each sector. Keep all children with their classmates from 5th grade through graduation to ease the transition to middle school and high school.
- Provide All Day Kindergarten to every kindergartner in the district.
- Maintain an elementary structured program for the 5-6 buildings with weekly specials and daily recess.
- Provide World Languages and Instrumental Music beginning in the 5th grade.
- Offer full year classes in World Languages in the middle schools to the 7th and 8th graders, requiring at least one full year.
- Offer Gifted and Talented programming at the 5-6 grade level.
- Offer advanced classes beginning at the 7-8 grade level for students who are gifted in particular academic areas.

Change is never easy. "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." (Henry Ford)



Dr. Gregory Baracy checks in on some students from Hoover Elementary. Photo by The Wayne Dispatch

Hometown Superintendent

From classroom to community Baracy gives back

By Jenny Johnson

He has either lived or worked in Wayne his entire life. Dr. Gregory Baracy is proud that his roots run deep in this community. His parents bought a brand new home at Adams Circle and Gertrude in 1952 when Baracy was a baby.

"There is a sense of community Wayne has," He and his wife, Gabriele, and their two children, Courtney and Gregory Jr., enjoy living in a place where neighbors say hello to each other and people look out for one another.

On the job

He is the longest serving superintendent in the history of the Wayne Westland Community School District. For the past 13 years he has been in charge of the district that schooled him. As a student, he attended Jackson Elementary School, which was located at Annapolis and Venoy, and Franklin Junior High, before the pods and enclosures were

added. He graduated from Wayne Memorial High School in 1970. He has spent the past 26 years working in Wayne Westland, first as assistant principal at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center and then assistant superintendent before his appointment to superintendent.

"I love working for a superintendent who comes from the same community as I do. It makes it easier for me as a principal because he understands so well the needs of our community, and he supports us in what we are trying to accomplish," said Valerie Orr, principal, Wayne Memorial High School.

Baracy has earned both a Bachelor and Master Degree from the University of Michigan and a Doctorate Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Wayne State University.

"My dream was to come back and work in Wayne Westland," he said. "I dreamed to be the best teacher I could be and have a fun classroom experience for kids and hope they re-

member and enjoy school."

Baracy said he was a fair student in school. "I enjoyed school," he said. In high school he played football, was in the ski club and the drag club. He also played the trumpet in junior high. He got his first instrument from the Wayne Music Shop in downtown Wayne.

Growing up in Wayne

"We did all of our shopping in Wayne," he said. From stores like Mulhollands and Gladstones, "All of the family's shopping could be done in town."

"It was so natural for us as children to hop on our bikes and head into town and shop," he said. Root Beer floats and nickel candy were some of his favorite purchases. He and friends could spend the day at Kresge and the hobby shop "where you would go to dream," he said.

Baracy enjoyed bowling at Nankin Bowl which was a 12 lane bowling alley across the street from

the State Wayne Theater. He remembers when the dragon was painted on the wall in the theater at State Wayne. "We used to try and wear white," so their clothes would glow when the lights went out.

Most of his childhood memories are like snapshots of Wayne. Visiting the soda counter at Cunninghams, selling newspapers on the steps in front of Kresge, and dreaming about someday owning the little gas station across the street from St. Mary Church are all memories he still cherishes today.

As Baracy grew up his dreams may have changed but not his commitment and dedication to his community. In the City of Wayne he is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Parks and Recreation Board, and a member of the Emergency Operation Response Team. He also chaired the "Save Our Streets and Sidewalks" Committee in 2007.



Wayne Memorial High School to host free community Holiday Night

On December 11th from 6-8 p.m., enjoy dinner, have your picture taken with Santa at the North Pole, make an ornament, decorate cookies, write Santa a letter and win raffle prizes. Wayne Memorial High School will host a free holiday event for all of its feeder school families in the community. Pictured above: culinary skills teacher Lisa Austin, students Krissy Chau, Josh Coffey and Brianna Gabrys prepare cookies for the big event. Austin's classes are baking over 2,000 cookies for the event.

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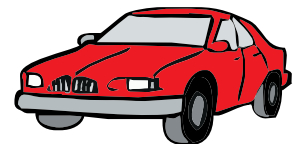
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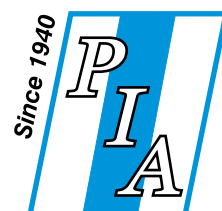
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BARACY, continued from page 5

"I've seen Dr. Bee get involved in areas beyond his job description for the love of his district - his hometown," said Bill Gabriel, school board trustee. He said he feels fortunate to work alongside someone who is "homegrown and proud to serve their own cities where they were born and raised without any other agendas but to do their best for all the right reasons."

Tough choices

The job of superintendent is not always easy. Especially when you have such close ties to the district you serve.

"Because I grew up in this community and know so many of the families I feel deeply obligated to do the best job I possibly can," he said he wants to do "what's best for the kids."

With the current economic distress in Michigan, doing his best gets more challenging every day.

Baracy said the way school districts are funded is "not fair and equitable." The funding allowance should be the same for Wayne Westland students as for any other child in any other district. The other problem is that funding from the state is based on a school district's attendance. Maturing districts, like Wayne Westland, are penalized if they lose students. A loss of 100 students equals \$1 million in funding.

"This is the most difficult job of any superintendent's job. It's frustrating and emotional," he said.

"Greg is a K-12 product of Wayne Westland Community Schools, who is vigilant about doing what is in the best interest of the community. Whatever Greg does, he does with fearlessness and attention to detail. If he is tying a fly, restoring a car or reorganizing a curriculum...it will be done with excellence. Superintendents in southeastern Michigan last about 24 months. Greg's 15 year superintendency has given stability and direction to our schools. His vigilant commitment to the children of our community is a gift," said Bill Gray, school psychologist, Wayne Memorial High School.

In 1994 the district had to close buildings and redraw attendance boundaries. Baracy and much of the current staff were involved in that project. Today these changes are once again upon them.



Dr. Baracy with his puppy in 1958.

"Our team brings a lot of experience and stability," he said. Once the 21st Century Schools Committee makes their recommendation and the Board of Education votes on it, this team will execute these decisions as seamlessly and efficiently as possible with the best interest of all of the students as their focus.

Classroom connection

Every job has its good days and bad days. Baracy has the best solution for overcoming a tough day.

"There is no better way to rejuvenate yourself than to get into an elementary school. When you get into a classroom and see what they are doing, it's all worth it," he said.

At a recent visit to Hoover Elementary School he visited with first and fifth grade students.

Lillian Sturgeon, 6, a first grader in Pam Cusamano's class, showed "how good I can make Ls," to Baracy.

The first graders understood a little bit of a superintendent's job. From "keeping the schools running" to "helping the teachers do work" they knew he makes important decisions. Fifth graders like Alexeus Waldron said "You know what's going on in the schools," and Rhaegen Schultz said "You're the big boss." But none of them expected that he gets to make the most important decision ever to all students.

"The next time you get a snow day and get to stay home -- that's me," he said.

He said he enjoys getting into the

classrooms and watching the students learn and getting a chance to see instruction in progress.

"I look forward to watching each one of you walk across the stage at graduation," he told the students.

Erica Perdue, Wayne Memorial High School graduate, was editor of the high school newspaper.

"Wayne High hadn't had a newspaper in a few years, so we needed to gain support. Dr. Baracy fully supported the Zebra Print. I interviewed him for an article and the time he took to explain everything in depth was just so unbelievably helpful. Anytime I see Dr. Baracy at a local function he still speaks to me, which amazes me. The fact that an individual who talks to an infinite amount of people every week can remember a student with whom he spoke to years ago proves his astounding ability to work with people successfully while leaving an imprint

of his kindness" she said.

Family life

Baracy's dedication to doing a good job was learned as a child. Baracy's dad was a farmer who wound up in the auto industry and worked at the Wayne Assembly Plant.

"He was a hard worker and instilled that in us," he said. Baracy is one of four boys in his family. His mom was a secretary and worked for Lee Iacocca before she was married. His parents worked to provide a solid life for their family.

He spent his college summers working at the Wayne Assembly Plant. "I earned enough money to pay for my college," he said.

Baracy and his wife Gabi met at Wayne Memorial High School when both were students. They had an accounting class together but didn't start dating until the year after he graduated. They married in 1973. The Zebra tradition continued when his son, Gregory Jr., graduated from Wayne Memorial in 2001 and his daughter, Courtney, in 2004.

Growing up the family spent many evenings and weekends at high school football games, concerts and other school related activities. Baracy feels it is important to live in the town he serves and get the whole family involved in school activities. In his free time he still has to be available to the district. Even if he is on the river fly fishing he is accessible 24 hours a day. "You have to be accountable. Even on vacation. It's the nature of the job," he said.

"Words like devotion, commitment and leadership only begin to describe Dr. Baracy. It's his desire to do what is best for the students of Wayne Westland and his love of the district that truly define him," said Skip Monit, school board president.



Longtime City Councilman Kelly retires

By: Jenny Johnson

Tom Kelly has served the City of Wayne twice. He was first elected to City Council in Jan. 1983 and served until Nov. 1994. His second term ran from Nov. 2001 until Nov. 2009.

The Kelly family moved to Wayne in 1972 and have been proud Wayne residents ever since. Tom and his wife, Bridget, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in January. They have four sons and five grandchildren.

Kelly's interest in the political scene has deep roots. Kelly's passion for public service began when he lived in New York and helped on John F. Kennedy's campaign in 1959. He got out of politics for a while after the assassinations of JFK, his brother Robert and Martin Luther King, Jr.

"I gave up on politics," he said. But when he and his family relocated to Wayne and saw what a fabulous community it was, he became interested again. He was asked by former Mayor Pat Norton to run for City Council.

"This community was so great for us," he said. After living here for 10 years he said running for City Council was a "good chance to pay back and to make a difference."

"When I started on council in '83 I didn't realize that it was going to be life changing," he said. During his tenure there have been many accomplishments he is proud of.

"First and foremost is the new li-



Tom and Bridget Kelly

brary," he said. "We worked on that for 13 years. It's a real beauty." Kelly has a fondness for library programs. He has a master of library science from Long Island University and worked as a library science teacher at John Glenn High School from 1972-1988. He also served on the Library of Michigan Board of Directors when he was a State Representative.

Nankin Transit, the new police and fire stations, and the renovation of the community center are all projects that have been completed during his time in office.

In 1995 Kelly was elected State Representative for District 17. He served six years at the state level, the maximum allowed under current term limits.

Kelly said the experience was unbelievable. When he was first elected to the state level, "I told myself, 'don't be stupid'. I kept my mouth shut and listened and made a difference," he said.

"It was an absolutely unbelievable experience. I got to see every section of the state. The thing that struck me the most was the diversity," he said.

"Politics is the art of compromise. You could have the greatest idea since canned beer but it doesn't make a difference to the people in Marquette."

Kelly said he served with exceptional people in Lansing. He said the atmosphere has changed in the eight years since he has been there. It is much more partisan now.

"It's a mess," he said. "The money is just not there." He said the State has to look into diversifying and investing in a variety of businesses other than automotive.

He may have retired from office but he still has his hand in the political pot. He is working part time as a legislative aide for Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara.

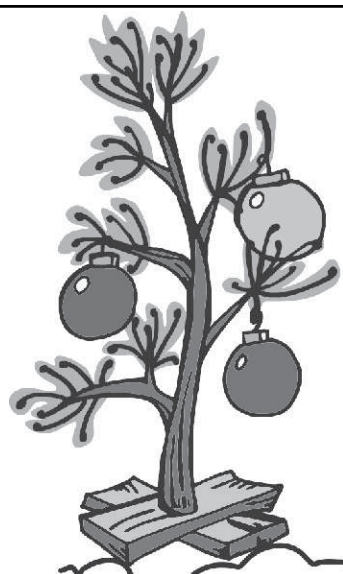
He doesn't know if retirement will keep him as active as his wife. Bridget's days are busy with Rotary, Garden Club, Friends of the Library and other activities.

"She's all over the place. I can't keep up with her," he said. Kelly pays tribute to Bridget for her support for the past five decades. It is not always easy to be the spouse of an elected official. "She has sacrificed too," he said.

He also acknowledged the residents "for their support and confidence over the years."

Kelly may not be sure what his future plans are but one thing is definite, he and Bridget will continue to be proud Wayne residents.

"We're not going anywhere. This is home," he said.



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21st Century Schools makes recommendations

By Jenny Johnson

The 21st Century Schools Committee has prepared their recommendations for the Wayne Westland Board of Education. In an effort to save the district close to \$11 million they are suggesting the district close seven elementary schools. They are Hamilton, Kettering, Jefferson-Barns, Lincoln, Madison, Patchin and Vandenberg. This will also require redrawing attendance boundaries and shifting students to the 10 elementary schools that will remain open. Edison, Graham, Hicks, Walker-Winter and Wildwood students will attend Marshall, Stevenson and John Glenn. Elliott, Hoover, Roosevelt-McGrath, Schweitzer and Taft-Galloway students will attend Adams, Franklin and Wayne Memorial.

The committee is also recommending the district reconfigure grade levels to K-4, 5-6, 7-8 and 9-12 buildings. Marshall and Adams will become fifth-sixth grade upper elementary schools and Franklin and Stevenson will become seventh-eighth grade middle schools. These changes will

help save the district \$6 million.

The district will "still offer high quality programs but it must be fiscally responsible," said Jeff Rahmberg of Rahmberg, Stover and Associates.

It is proposed that all 10 elementary schools have all day kindergarten for the 2010-2011 school year.

After that it will be decided on by the budget. At the fifth-sixth grade upper elementary schools, students will be offered expanded learning opportunities like band and vocal music classes, world languages and talented and gifted programs. At the seventh-eighth grade level students will be given the opportunity to take foreign language classes that will count toward their high school requirement.

"This will not solve all of the problems. Wayne Westland will still have to look at other cost saving measure," he said.

Some of these measures include approaching all employee groups to consider salary and step

freezes, investigating reductions in employee benefits, and looking at staff reductions of non-mandatory and non-grant funded personnel.

Rahmberg said the recommendations the committee has proposed are sustaining solutions and not quick fixes.

Rahmberg told the committee "you are all here to try and help make this a better school system and to make education programs even better."

Dr. Baracy said this plan "Does not include any other anticipated cuts." They have heard from the State that there may be more cuts made to the school budget in January.

All proposed changes have to be reviewed and voted on by the Board of Education. Their next meeting is at 6:00 p.m. on Dec. 7 at Stockmeyer Auditorium.

Changes will go into effect for the 2010-2011 school year. For more information on the 21st Century Schools recommendation, please visit www.wwcsd.net and click on the 21st Century Schools icon.



Pastor Larry Mack

Life greater than dreams for pastor

By Jenny Johnson

If you can dream it, you can achieve it. That's the message Larry Mack, pastor of Greater Than Dreams Church, wants to share with his congregation and his new community. Mack opened his church on Michigan Avenue just west of Wayne Road two months ago and he is happy to be here.

"I love the City of Wayne," he said. "I always wanted to be in the heart of a City." When the opportunity for locating to Wayne came up, he did not hesitate to take it.

"Somehow in so many ways God opens doors and you have to go through that door," he said.

He said he looks forward to becoming involved in the City. He has recently joined the Chamber of Commerce and supported activities at Wayne Memorial High School.

"I love what I do. It is such a joy. I am experiencing some of the best times of my life now," he said.

Mack was in the military when he first thought about serving God. He said he always knew that God had a plan for him. Mack and his wife, Marketa, who is also an ordained minister, have been married for 16 years and are both pastors at the church. Their two daughters Micaiah, 12, and Mariah, 8, also help out.

With a congregation of about 400 people Mack said, "I believe every time you open the doors our church is full." The church has a children's ministry, men's group and women's group and in 2011 Mack hopes to start a Bible School. He uses music

and multi media during worship services.

"It helps me illustrate my message," he said. "I am thankful to have people come out. I want to give them a good foundation and inspire them to not only dream but live their dream." He said his multicultural church services people from the metro Detroit area and even Ohio. The non denominational church welcomes everyone. They have a 9 and 11 a.m. service on Sunday and a 7 p.m. service on Tuesday.

Mack would like to invite the community to visit the church. They are planning a holiday play called "Family Christmas" at 4 p.m. on Dec. 20 at Greater Than Dreams Church, 35118 Michigan Avenue.

"I want you to live life greater. I want to help you connect with your dreams and to teach people how to know God for themselves," he said.

"It helps me illustrate my message.

I am thankful to have people come out.

I want to give them a good foundation and

inspire them to not only dream

but live their dream."

Pastor Larry Mack
Greater Than Dreams Church

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Seussical the Musical

Wayne Parks & Recreation, Stage Door and Actor's Community Theater present Seussical the Musical (based on the stories of Dr. Seuss) December 4, 5, 11 and 12 at 8pm and Dec 5, 6, 12 and 13 at 2pm at the State Wayne Theater Tickets on sale now at the Wayne Community Center. Directed by Michael A Gravame/Musical Direction by Ken Pletzer.

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

Attention Shoppers!

Wayne Parks & Recreation is hosting Drop-N-Shop from 1:00-8:30pm on Saturday, December 19. Children in kindergarten through sixth grade will enjoy swimming, ice skating, arts & crafts, a movie, wallyball and other fun games. Cost is **\$17** resident and **\$22** non-resident and includes pizza, pop, snack and skate rental 10% off each additional child in the same household.



Take-A-Break Days!!

Day Camp for kids will be held December 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30, 2009 from 7:30am-5:30pm. Cost is **\$26/day** resident and **\$33/day** non-resident. **Register for all six days and get the 6th day free!** *Field Trip Days December 22 and 29 are an additional \$5 each* 25% off each additional child in the same household. Activities include swimming, ice skating, arts & crafts, field trips and more. For children kindergarten through seventh grade. Register now at the Wayne Community Center.

Learn to Swim Program:

Winter I: Registration: December 23 to January 2. Tuesday/Thursday classes run January 4-28.

Winter II: Registration: January 28 - February 5. Tuesday/Thursday classes run February 8 through March 4; Saturday classes run February 13 through April 3.



Attention Schools, Service Groups, Clubs, Churches & Organizations!

Your group can host your Fundraising event Friday nights at the Wayne Aquatic Area. Please call TJ Gunther at 721-7400, ext. 1310 or email tjgunther@ci.wayne.mi.us for more information.



35th Annual City of Wayne Winterfest

Saturday, January 30, 2010, sponsored by the Wayne Chamber of Commerce.

Please don't miss these exciting events! Health & Wellness Expo from 10am-5pm (Vendor spots available for \$10 per vendor - call 721-7400) Comedy Dinner Theatre at 6:30pm Dance, Gymnastics and Cheer Showcase and much more!



Mardi Gras Dueling Piano Show

presented by the Wayne Chamber of Commerce and City of Wayne Wheelfest, Saturday, February 13, 2010, at the Wayne Community Center. Doors open at 7pm. Show 8pm-midnight. Food will be available for purchase. Cash bar available. For Adults 21 & Over. **\$15** per ticket OR **\$120** for table of 10.

Notary Services

Please note that **Notary Services** are now available at the Wayne Community Center. Call 721-7004 for appointment.

Don't forget!

Member Appreciation Days are December 30, January 27 and February 24.

Health & Wellness Holiday Specials:

***\$35.00 off** one year memberships for those who sign up from December 5 - 30. ***One Month Membership Special \$15 Resident; \$25 Non-Resident** can be purchased December 5 - 30 ***Winter Walkers Pass - 30 visits for \$30/Resident; \$60/Non-Resident** to be used December 5 to March 31 ***Massage Specials - 25% Off** if purchased December 5 through December 30 (limit 2 per customer).



Senior Lounge and Office is now located at the Wayne Community Center!

Register for the Newcomer's Orientation NOW!

Last Wednesday of each month from 11:00am-12:00pm. Learn to be active and register for classes/programs throughout the year.

Wayne Senior Services Program and Wayne Sometimes Travelers are offering the following trips:

Tuesday, December 8

to Caesars Windsor

Thursday, December 10

to Marshall Michigan Cornwell's Dinner Theatre *featuring* "Grandma Cancelled Christmas" and Grandma's traditional-style turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

Saturday, December 19

Detroit Symphony Orchestra
Home for the Holidays

Thursday, January 28

Motor City Casino

Saturday, February 13

Turkeyville's Dinner Theater *featuring* "Murder from the Heart"

Tuesday, February 16

Mardi Gras and Caesars Windsor

Sunday, March 7

to Ford Community & Performing Arts Center *featuring* Shirley Jones

Tuesday, March 23

to Firekeepers Casino - Battle Creek

For Information on these and other scheduled events call 721-7460.

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Walk'n for Walz

There is a growing need and responsibility in our community to provide options that give people the opportunity to safely walk, run, or wheel. The benefits of walking - whether for utilitarian or recreational purposes - can be beneficial in terms of improved environmental and personal health, reduced traffic congestions (give your car a rest and bike or walk to work or the store), enhanced quality of life, economic rewards (such as reduced health care costs and depending on auto ownership), etc. And everyone can do it!

Now here's where you come into play. On Saturday, December 5th, 2009 the

City of Wayne will be kicking off "Walk'n for Walz" at the Wayne Community Center during the 35th year celebration. We are looking for our community to come together and improve personal and community health by walking/jogging 10,000 steps and raising \$10,000.00 for Walz play structure at Avondale Park. Your goal is to reach 10,000 steps (and seek pledges along the way) by the build of Walz play structure in the early fall of 2010. Now this will not happen overnight, and the following guidelines will assist in your journey.

- To avoid injury, work up slowly and discuss your exercise plans with your physician.

- Pedometers will be available for purchase starting December 5th. We are seeking \$20.00 per person. Your \$20.00 can be donated or brought in through pledges.

- Start wearing your pedometer

Don't let the well dry up

Nathan Adams



each day for two weeks and don't do anything to change your normal routine. At the end of two weeks, take a look at how many steps you are taking each day. After two weeks, review your progress and decide if you are ready to add some steps to your goal.

Your goal is to reach 10,000 steps (and seek pledges along the way) by the build of Walz play structure in the early fall of 2010.

Continue in that manner until you reach 10,000 steps in one day!

- If you are not one to walk outside during the winter, visit the Community Center to walk on the indoor track (winter walking passes available for \$1.00 per day), join a deep water walking/running class or join the Senior Indoor Miler's Club on Fridays.

- Our goal is to keep you active for the rest of your life. Along the first year you will improve your health (if you perform 10,000 steps at least 5 days a week you will gain greater benefits such as weight management) and be a part of a fund raiser to build Walz Park play structure at Avondale Park to meet the needs of play and physical activity for children, adolescents, and adults in the community.

Remember each step taken is a step closer to Walz play structure at Avondale Park!



Jr. Miss crowned

Wayne Memorial High School senior Jordan Leigh Berry won the title of 2010 Wayne Westland Junior Miss. She is pictured with her parents Jodi and Steve Berry.

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Citizens learn job of police officers

By Erica Perdue

The perception that citizens have of police officers tends to be constructed by the depiction of the police force on television. The Wayne Police Department approached this perception six years ago, when they started the Citizens Police Academy.

Officer Tom Warren, who is in charge of the program, said, "[This program] is intended to open the lines of communication between the community and the police department."

The program starts in September and meets weekly through November. Participants learn aspects of the daily operations of the police department. They are also given an insight of why police officers perform certain duties.

"I liked that it was hands-on," said Cyndie Holbrook, one of nine participants in the program. "We did fingerprinting, radars and lasers and took a tour of the jail and departments."

The 11-week program included various topics such as firearms training simulator, road patrol, use of force, school liaison, SWAT teams, understanding the criminal justice system and many more.

Participant Bonita Wojewski said, "The simulator was my favorite. It made you think about how police officers react and how quick you have to be in different situations."

Tina Davis added that, "Working hands on with the policemen opened my eyes to all of the different aspects of the police department and showed me how quick an officer has to make decisions on sporadic occasions."

One topic covered was defense mechanisms. Marlene Farago said that she was intrigued by learning about the, "defense tactics and pressure points."

Holbrook stated that she enjoyed the program and wished it had lasted longer. Some of the most memorable things to her were when the school liaison came in, the defense mechanisms and the K-9 dogs.

Ron Wojewski stated another pleasant experience with the program: "We were able to see the human side of the officers; they talked about their families. We saw them as something other than a badge and from the other side of the



Back-Left to Right: Officer Tom Warren, Ron Wejewski, Mayor Al Haidous, Jerry Chaffin, Captain John Williams. Middle-Left to Right Bonita Wejewski, Marlene Farago, Justyna Piernicka, Veronica Jablonski, Front, sitting-Left to Right Jason Howton, Tina Davis, Cyndie Holbrook.

**"It was 11 weeks
thoroughly enjoyed."
Bonita Wojewski**

uniform."

There were different officers there to talk at different sessions of the academy so the participants were able to see and hear many stories. Davis said, "Learning the different rules and regulations the officers themselves have to abide by was beneficial to see that the every day citizens are not the only ones who have to live by society's rules."

At the last class, Mayor Haidous spoke about his appreciative feelings towards the police officers and participants of the program. Chief Williams was also there to talk and recognize the academy members. Participants received an award for their completion of the course.

"It was 11 weeks thoroughly enjoyed," said Bonita Wojewski.

The seventh Citizens Police Academy will be held next fall. Applications can be inquired about starting in late spring of 2010.

CITY OF WAYNE NOTICE OF RENEWAL PERIOD FOR 2010 DOG & CAT LICENSES

ALL CATS MUST NOW BE LICENSED IN THE CITY OF WAYNE

The 2010 dog & cat tags will be available for sale in the City Clerk's Office at City Hall on December 14, 2009. All dogs & cats four months of age or older must be licensed (certificate of rabies vaccination required) and wear a collar with current tag attached. Tags obtained by February 26, 2010, will be at a lesser fee.

Fees during annual licensing period ending February 26, 2010

Regular license	\$ 10.00*
License for spayed or neutered animals	\$ 5.00*

Fees from March 1 thru December 29, 2010

Regular/spayed or neutered animals	\$ 20.00
Replacement license (all year)	\$ 1.00

*Dogs & cats under four months of age or owned for less than 10 days qualify for these rates at any time of the year.

Mary E. Carney
City Clerk

Home for the holidays

I realize that I am very fortunate to have had a great childhood. To this day I can still remember with great fondness many of the gifts that I opened under a tinsel laden Christmas tree 50 some odd years ago. In the beginning they were gifts from Santa, handcrafted at the North Pole. Later on as I got older, they were gifts that I had painstakingly selected from the Sears & Roebuck and Montgomery Ward Christmas catalogs. My parents gave both my brother and I a set dollar amount from which we could compile a list for them to choose from. While I don't remember the dollar amount, it seemed generous. But then again, at that time I was earning 15 cents a week for polishing my dad's wingtips. Wow, 60 cents a month so that he always had a shine on his shoes!

I will also always remember the time in the early 70's when my brother and I were headed to Pennsylvania to spend Christmas with our parents. We were all set for the 600 mile trek when our car broke down somewhere in the middle of Ohio along the turnpike. There were no cell phones then so we hitched a ride with a truck driver to the nearest motel from which we made a collect call to my parents. Being Christmas Eve, there were no auto parts stores open for the next few days so we were stranded. Perhaps that is why I love the movie Planes, Trains and Automobiles so much. Knowing my mother quite well, I am sure that the house was all decorated in anticipation of our arrival, but seeing no other option, my parents loaded up their car with the

On the Bright Side

Hal Hultman



gifts, homemade Christmas cookies, tools for the car repairs and headed West to meet us at the motel. We celebrated Christmas in a motel room along the turnpike and we made the most of our precious time together.

It was then that I realized that everybody celebrates the holidays in their own way. Some by choice, and some by circumstance. We weren't alone at the motel either. There were the employees that had to work, the truck drivers that weren't able to be with their families on that special night and of course there are those who don't have families. Perhaps they don't have families by blood, but there was a sense of family that was being shared by those truck drivers exchanging tall tales over a hot cup of coffee.

At this time of year especially, let's not forget to think of those that are far from home and their loved ones. Whether it be our soldiers deployed all over the world, the individuals that must work the holidays so that our daily routines are not interrupted or perhaps the neighbor down the street that has no one to call on them and check upon their welfare. And while we are at it, let's also work for peace on earth.

Hal@TheWayneDispatch.com



Tiana Beavers welcomed representatives from Habitat for Humanity, Thrivent Financial and the City of Wayne to her new home on Glover Street.

City welcomes newest residents

By Jenny Johnson

It was her first party at her new home. Tiana Beavers and her three children, Terrell, De'Trell and Kiana are proud to be Wayne's newest residents. Their home on Glover Street is the first Habitat for Humanity home built in the City of Wayne.

They invited City officials, Habitat volunteers and Thrivent Financial representatives to their ribbon cutting in the kitchen of their new home.

Councilman Al DaMitio said, "This is a fabulous place. We are fortunate to have Habitat in our town and to have another new citizen in Wayne. Welcome to the City."

Alice Dent, Habitat Executive Director, thanked the sponsor of the house, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans turning "love into ac-

tion." Thrivent Builds with Thrivent Financial has funded 1300 Habitat homes across the country. They presented the Beavers family with a photo album.

This 1200 sq. ft. four bedroom ranch, which has one and a half bathrooms, a basement and a garage, will hopefully be full of warmth, love and wonderful memories.

"This house was built with a lot of love," Dent said. Habitat officials presented the family with a bible and a tool box.

To qualify for this program, Tiana had to contribute 250 hours of sweat equity and pay a down payment for her home. Habitat families are offered 20 year, zero percent mortgages. Dent said Habitat is a hand up, not a hand out.

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Credit Unions provide affordable products and services. In June 2009, Datatrac, Inc. research group shows Credit Unions to offer higher dividend rates and lower loan rates.

Credit Unions have less concentration in the market. The top 5 bank holding companies have 22% of the bank offices with 37% of all domestic deposits while the top 5 Credit Unions have 2% of the offices and 10% of all deposits. CREDIT UNIONS HAVE A LOT OF ROOM FOR GROWTH.

Credit Unions have higher Capital. Not counting the TARP money received by Banks, Credit Unions average 9.6% Capital to Banks 8.3% Capital.

Credit Unions have a Cooperative Structure. CEOs and Management are not given excessive salaries and excessive bonuses as are Bank CEOs and Management.

Credit Unions create Customer (Member) Intimacy. This has always been difficult for a bank to emulate. Customer Intimacy is considered to be the most powerful value proposition that an organization can build. It commands the deepest and longest lasting member loyalty and helps Credit Unions to organize and anticipate the needs of the members at greater speeds.

Member Trust. For 21 years in a row, up until the American Banker discontinued its survey in 2005, Credit Unions have ranked substantially higher than banks in customer trust. When this statement was presented in several surveys, "My financial provider does what's best for me not just its own bottom line.", Credit Unions were ranked 68%. A recent CNN Money survey question asked, "In which institution are your savings the safest?", Credit Unions received 51% of the votes compared to the regional banks receiving 10%, the Community Banks receiving 18% and the National chain of Banks receiving 21%.

Credit Unions did not cause the current crisis. Credit Unions current losses have been more a result of being caught in the "backwash" of the broader financial and real estate markets.

This is why Credit Unions were formed. Let us not forget that the current economic environment is the same type of environment that gave rise to Credit Unions in the first place. Credit Unions have everything it takes to continue their safe and sound lending and savings practices today as they did in 1909.

"Today, as we have throughout our history, Credit Unions like ours are playing an invaluable role by providing stability in financial services, maintaining a ready source of affordable credit, and offering our members a safe and sound depository for their savings," said Thelma Dasho, CEO. Credit Unions are built on a tradition of people helping people — a tradition that continues today and that captures the spirit of America.



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SOLDIER of the Month

Andrew Sterling pictured with wife Caitlin and daughter Hailey



★ ANDREW STERLING ★

Support a Soldier

By: Erica Perdue

Andrew Sterling attended St. Mary's School until the end of his eighth grade year, and then moved on to Wayne Memorial High School. Andrew is currently stationed in Iraq and is there until July. His wife Caitlin Sterling and his daughter Hailey Sterling still live in the area.

For those who didn't read about the program in the November issue of the paper, every month the address of a soldier from Wayne who is currently overseas will be published, with permission of course.

The amount of participation with the first 'Soldier of the Month' has been incredible. I am astounded and so impressed with everyone in the city for how much they have contributed! I love hearing people tell me what they sent, and Nick loves it too. Every time he receives something he tells me about it and how excited he is! We definitely want this to continue. It really proves what a great community this is.

I want to give a special thanks to Hoover Elementary School for the amazing amount of items they collected. Students wrote letters and brought in items to send, I was awe stricken when I picked up all of the items. Thank you Hoover staff, students and parents!

Help us remind another soldier that his hometown appreciates his bravery and that we are thinking of him.

Andrew's address is:
Andrew Sterling
HHC 308th BSB, Unit 105
COB Basra
APO, AE 09374

He would love to receive cards from the residents of the Wayne area. Small gifts that can be sent include snacks and hygiene products (no liquids).

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Mural adds beauty for patients

What once was a simple electrical box has been transformed into a welcome escape for patients, families and staff of the Intensive Care Unit at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital. This collaborative effort between Mary Thieffels of Tree Town Murals and staff members at Oakwood is a botanical scene titled "Calder-Moore Garden."

Work continues at Ford Plant

Ford Motor Company is continuing their work to transform the Michigan Truck Plant to the Michigan Assembly Complex. There are four buildings on the 226 acre site and Ford Motor Company is investing \$500 million to update the Stamping, Body and Final Assembly plants. Plans have not been announced yet for the Wayne Assembly Plant. When complete the Michigan Assembly Complex will manufacture the 2011 Ford Focus which is smaller and more fuel efficient than the sports utility vehicles previously manufactured at the site.

City Planner Matt Miller said the Wayne Planning Commission approved a site plan that includes adding loading docks to the Stamping Plant, replacing more than 90,000 sq. ft. of roofing in the Final Assembly Plant, replace fencing, repair the parking lot and complete a landscape plan.

Inside the plant the assembly lines are being equipped with a flexible body shop, standardized equipment in the paint shop and a common build sequence in the final assembly. This will make it possible to produce more than one model at one plant.

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Pearl Harbor memories

By Jenny Johnson

Nate Weiser, former owner of Weiser Recycling and Wayne Rotary member, is a Pearl Harbor survivor. He was in the Air Force and stationed at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 when Japan attacked the U.S. Naval base in Hawaii. Weiser joined the Air Force in 1940 with two friends and was stationed at Pearl Harbor for 13 months before the attacks.

"On the morning of the attack we went to eat breakfast at the mess hall," he said. He was standing in line when Japan started bombing

the island, he said.

"We heard a big bomb go off at the hangar at the end of the runway. The hangar had ammo in it and exploded," he said.

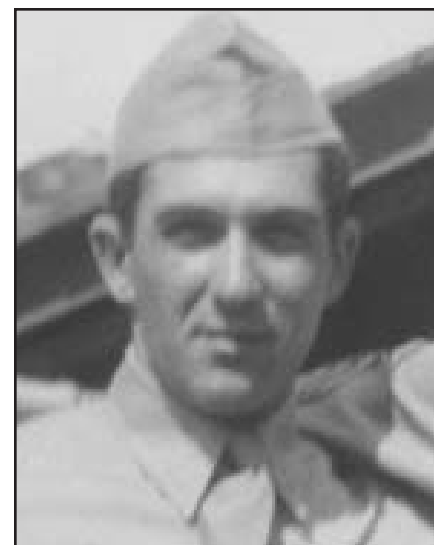
The next explosion was very near where they were eating. All the dishes smashed and Weiser could see the airplanes in the sky. He said he saw the goggles and red scarves of the pilots.

"I told my friend Dan, 'The Japanese are bombing our island,'" he said. Weiser said a sergeant told them to run and hide in the residential area since the Japanese were

bombing military targets. They stayed there for a day and a half before they returned to base.

Weiser served more than five years in the Air Force. He was in the Pacific for 2 ½ years and then sent to Europe in early 1943. Today he and his wife, Norma, are retired and have two daughters, two granddaughters and a great grandson on the way.

As the anniversary of Pearl Harbor approaches, it is a perfect time to honor and remember all of our past and current members of the armed services.



Nate Weiser

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You can make a difference this Christmas

Jake's Again is the place to be on Dec. 10. Between 5pm and 9pm Jake and Kelly will host their annual Goodfellows "No Child Without a Christmas." It's an auction and raffle and a darn good party. WPON has promised signed sports memorabilia, Beaver Creek Resorts will offer campsites, and my favorite... Laurie and Danny Phelps will come to your house and cook a wonderful meal. Danny is the chef at Papa Vinos.

A Garden Club Member, Susan Powers, will offer a basket of gardening tools plus...get this...2 hours of gardening...at your garden.

Tom Tyler will be in the kitchen turning out sloppy joes and hot dogs, Steve Lebowsky, a big contributor will be on hand, Steve Englebreton will provide the sound system and it'll be Bill Brooks 'the voice of Wayne High' doing the auctions and raffles.

Kelly and the girls; Katie, Jenny, Donna and Amanda have scoured all of Wayne, obtaining gifts from the generous local merchants. Donations also may be made at the bar.

FYI...Larry will be drinking Dr. Pepper and spending money. And if you haven't been in Jake's for a while, please know that he has 6, count 'em 6 new smoke eaters which will add to your comfort for a fun evening, with all the proceeds going to the Goodfellows.

"Bus Drivers, Barmaids and Firemen, OH MY!". Wayne Professional Firefighters, Local 1620, Wayne Westland bus drivers and the barmaids hold their annual Goodfellows party on Dec. 12, at US12. Time? From 5pm to 10pm. Tickets are \$20.00

Footprints of Wayne

Dee Ryan



and that includes domestic beer, wine and well drinks until 7pm. The auctions and raffles start at 6:30pm. Cathy Lutkenhoff tells me they have TVs, hotel rooms, "a ton of stuff" from Northside, a chiminea from Artman's Nursery and she happily noted they've received cash donations from DTE, Wayne Westland Credit Union and also from Henry's. Famous Dave's is sending over 3 large serving trays of wings, and the US12 will have other munchies as well.

Lt. Shawn Bell is President of the Goodfellows and Chief Mel Moore is Vice President.

While at the Fire Station, Capt. Ken Chapman, President of Local

1620, told me about Christmas plans for the 5 firefighters who have to work that day. "They're our second family." The firemen on duty along with their families will be treated to a wonderful dinner. Depending on who's cooking that day, it could be prime rib or turkey. Capt. Chapman went on to say, "Santa is good about working around their schedule, so they can open gifts at home before coming to work." And yes, they love it when Wayne folks bring in treats and baked goods.

"Operation Warm Coats", a Rotary Club program to bring warm outerwear to school children, was launched on November 16. Members brought coats to Jefferson-Barns School, and later in the month did the same thing at Vandenberg and Lincoln Schools. Bob McClellan is chairman of "Operation Warm Coats", and Lois and John VanStipdonk who helped give out the warm clothing, want to thank Uht Funeral Home for storing the coats until they

could be brought to the schools.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Rev. Gregory E. Rowe whose wife, Juanita, died on Nov. 10, after a long illness. A Gathering and Memorial service was held at the First United Methodist Church on Sunday, November, 15. A parishioner, Dottie LeSuer, says the church was filled to capacity as members of the congregation came to pay their final respects to Mrs. Rowe.

We also send condolences to family and friends of Iola Carrico and Edna Watts, both longtime members of the Wayne Garden Club. Both women will be missed.

Although we've ended this column on a sad note, this coming Christmas Season is a time for all of us to be hopeful that the spirit of the season will bring us all good cheer.

To Quote Tiny Tim..."God Bless Us, Everyone."



Students at Vandenberg Elementary School show off their new coats received from the Wayne Rotary Club.



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