

THE WAYNE Dispatch

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Nick Anderson returns from Iraq

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Schools prepare for changes

By Jenny Johnson

The Wayne Westland Community School District will be different next year. Six elementary schools will close in June and two current middle schools will become upper elementary schools. To help families navigate through these changes, the school district has created a transition team made up of parents, teachers and administrators. Their goal is to provide support to students, staff and parents as they go through the transition process. They will focus on communicating and sharing information with each of the schools; planning transition activities for students who will attend new schools next year and problem solving concerns.

One of the activities they have planned is to invite families to their new schools.

"Any school accepting new students will have an open house this spring," said Char Sherman, deputy superintendent, educational services. This gives new families a chance to tour their new schools and meet their principals and teachers.

Students should also be watching their mailboxes. A pen pal program will be initiated for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Each student who is going to a new school will get a welcome letter from a current student at that school. Principals will also send letters to students who will be new to their schools next year.

These ideas have been generated from the parents on the transition team. There is a parent from each school on the team.

"They give us ideas of what parents want," Sherman said. Some of the other things parents have been asking about are:

School start and end times. The times for high school will be 7:10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.; middle school 7:50 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.; Adams Upper Elementary 8:00 a.m. - 2:50 p.m. and elementary schools 8:30 a.m. - 3:20 p.m. for Hoover, Roosevelt-McGrath and Schweitzer; and 9:00 a.m. - 3:50 p.m. for Taft-Galloway.

There will be a Champions program (before and after school care) at the 5/6 grade buildings. There will also be a safety and service squad at the 5/6 grade buildings. The Oakwood Health

"I am proud of the way parents have focused on making the kids feel comfortable."

Char Sherman
Deputy superintendent

Clinic will relocate from Lincoln Elementary School to Adams Upper Elementary School. Bus schedules will be issued in the August edition of Connections, the school district's newsletter, that is mailed to every home in the district.

If parents are not sure which school their child will attend in the fall, they can log on to the school district website www.wwcsd.net and click on the "Locate Your School" icon. Once they enter their address they will see the schools their children will attend. This does not take into effect school of choice students.

While many students in the district will attend new schools next year most of the closing schools are planning special activities to say good bye.

Lincoln Elementary School is planning a variety of goodbye activities.

"It is so important that the students be able to say good-bye. It gives a sense of closure. To me it is like selling your house. You are so excited to change and have a beautiful beginning but at the same time you have so many memories of the house you are in. We need to make sure that we give our students closure and a way to keep those memories while still showing enthusiasm for the positive changes that are going to take place," said Chambers.

Next year she will be the principal at Hoover Elementary School.

At Taft-Galloway the students and staff are excited about welcoming about 90 new families from Vandenberg. Principal Stephanie Miller said the new families have had tours of Taft and have been invited to all afterschool activities. There have also been some parent to parent meetings both at Taft and Vandenberg.

She said the response from Vandenberg fami-

lies has been positive.

"Many are nervous at first. They say the building is too big, but once they walk around they feel much better," she said. In June they are planning a walking field trip for the kids from both schools to meet and visit.

Sherman said all of these activities would not be successful without the cooperation from parents.

"I am proud of the way parents have focused on making the kids feel comfortable," she said.

The reason these changes were necessary is because of reduced revenue from the state and declining student enrollment. It's estimated that enrollment will decline by about 300 students per year.

The school district is projecting about a \$12 million operating deficit for the 2010-2011 budget. In addition to the closing of schools they are pursuing cost containment measures to help save an additional \$4-5 million.

Sherman said, "School closings are not enough," to close the gap in the district's deficit.

"The key is cost containment and the district is working with their unions to seek ways to reduce costs.

We are negotiating with all our unions," she said. No one is being asked to take wage reductions but the district is asking them to take a pay freeze.

This is a huge key to avoiding severe cuts," Sherman said. School districts have been told not to count on help from the state to solve the school funding problem.

"We are still hopeful that Lansing is listening but we can't count on that," she said.

Sherman said just about every school district in the state is in this situation of reducing their budget but Wayne Westland has been much more proactive. They made decisions mid year so they had time to plan the staffing, curriculum and moving in a structured way so they will be ready for the changes that will go into effect in September.

"We will be prepared to run well on day one," she said.



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Wayne soldier returns home from Iraq

By Erica Perdue

Nick Anderson visited students at Hoover Elementary School to thank them for all of the cards and packages they sent him while he was stationed in Iraq.

"I've never seen a real army man before!" Devin Garrippe shouted excitedly when Nick Anderson walked into his classroom at Hoover Elementary School.

Anderson, a 21-year-old lifetime resident of Wayne, joined the army three and a half years ago. He has just returned home after spending eleven months in Iraq.

"I joined [the military] because I wanted to make sure that the other people over there could come home, and for those men and women to come home, more soldiers have to go over there," said Anderson.

While in Iraq, Anderson had many duties besides fighting. He assisted in building a 5,000 square foot barrack for a tanker/infantry unit. He also helped build a gym for the 82nd Airborne Infantry Division and laid a concrete parking lot for the troop medical clinic.

When he visited Hoover Elementary, he explained to the students that he was scared and nervous while fighting the war. He also talked to them about the things he and other engineers built. At one point he held a globe and showed them the distance from America to Iraq.

The students had many questions for him about being at war, what they ate, what he did with his free time and what the weather was like. When he told them he ate chicken every night and the temperature made it up to 150 degrees, the students' and teachers' jaws dropped.

When one student asked what the military is like, Anderson responded: "You know how it is here, how you have to ask the teacher to go to the bathroom? Well it's like that, you have to ask before you do anything."



Nick Anderson signs autographs for a few students at Hoover Elementary School. Photos by The Wayne Dispatch

Anderson was featured in the November 2009 issue of the Wayne Dispatch as our first "Soldier of the Month." Between November and March, he received 90 to 100 boxes filled with items including snacks and hygiene products. He was sent hundred of letters from students and residents of Wayne.

"It's such a great feeling knowing that there are so many people back home that I've never had the pleasure of meeting that care so much about our

men and women in uniform," said Anderson.

Students at Hoover Elementary contributed by sending letters and collecting items for weeks that were shipped to Nick at his base in Iraq.

Nick explained that everyone on his base was excited to see what had been sent to him. "All the things that we received helped out so much, especially on the bases where necessary hygiene products weren't available. Our only source of resupplying those items was the care packages. Also, the letters from the children were such a morale booster," said Anderson.

Jennifer Curry, Principal of Hoover Elementary said: "The students collected goods and sent letters, and they received letters back. They were so excited to see the letters. Having Nick come here made it real for the kids. It brought the real world into the classroom."

Amy Morse, a teacher at Hoover, said that her class was really excited to have Nick visit and wrote down questions in advance.

"It was cool to see him in his uniform like he wears in battle," said student Dejon Smith.

Student Nick Castro said, "He's really nice and he has the same name as me!"

Anderson went outside with many of the classes for recess. Students asked him for his autograph and had casual conversations with the soldier.

"Just knowing that so many people are willing to send a small part of home for the men and women who are fighting overseas means so much," said Anderson, "It's the greatest feeling in the world to know how many people care."

Anderson said that he is happy to be home and able to see his friends and family.

Citizens learn fire skills

By Erica Perdue

Eleven citizens acted as firefighters for a weekend in Wayne by extricating bodies from a vehicle, doing a search and rescue in a smoke-filled house and learning many other firefighting tactics from the Wayne Fire Department.

The City of Wayne's Fire Department held the first Citizens Fire Academy April 16-18. The hands-on look at a firefighter's job gave many participants a new perspective on the work that firefighters do.

"Everything was educational. I have much more respect for firefighters now. It's a lot more work than I imagined," said participant Jason Jablonski.

The demonstrations and practical training allowed the participants to see what the firefighters do, and why they do it. One of the exercises was to extricate an injured person from a vehicle using the Jaws of Life.

"Extricating a person from a vehicle was hard. There is a lot of stuff to think about. The most important thing I learned is how hard these guys work," said Roy Foster, Pastor at Gateway Family Worship Center, "Part of my purpose and reason to become involved in this was to build relations and show my support to these guys."

Deputy Chief Shawn Bell, Lieutenants Bill Thomas and Andy Stager and Firefighters Jeremie Schneider, Cindy Boring, Wael Gharbie, Rob Caccia, Kevin Kimmel, Kevin Bookshire and Cullen McKee all donated their time to assist with the academy.

"I am proud of my guys. They donated their time and worked to-

gether in a true, professional manner. They definitely made it a success," said Bell.

On the last day of the academy, the firefighters blacked out the windows and filled a house with artificial smoke to create an illusion of what a search and rescue in a house fire would be like.

"It was a lot of physical stress. I never thought this work was this tough. The most difficult part was definitely going through the dark house. It's hard work and I have a lot more respect for these guys," said participant Bryan Dixon.

Bell said, "We put [the participants] in tough situations. I am really proud of how well everyone did. We hope that they learned a lot and had a good time."

The firefighters informed the citizens about the physical science and development of fire behavior, including how building and synthetic materials may affect the fire. They were also able to watch the firefighters conduct live fire training to show the progressive stages of fire. They were shown how to properly select and use a fire extinguisher, and how to perform a self-rescue if trapped.

Jablonski and his son Greg said that they enjoyed learning about the different fire conditions and that being a firefighter is a lot more work than they imagined.

"This was an amazing weekend of fun and learning for all involved. It is always great to interact with the Citizens of Wayne because these are the people we serve every day when we put on our uniforms and climb into the fire trucks to respond to emergencies. They are the reason



The Wayne Fire Department taught some of their life saving skills to Wayne residents during their first Citizens Fire Academy.

we are allowed to do the job we love so much," said Lt. Thomas.

The participants toured the fire station and saw the gear and equipment used. They also learned the daily schedule and special assignments that the firefighters do.

"I never knew that they do so much inside the fire station. They clean the trucks and everything else,

they work all the time," said participant Tim Bliven.

All participants were able to participate in rescue scenarios, learn about advanced life support, the stages of emergency medical services, levels of care and what it means to be a paramedic. Basic helicopter training was also taught to the citizens in the academy.

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Down on the farm

I like to connect history with an event from today, with the opening of the Wayne Farmers Market season on Wednesday, May 19, 2010, 3:00 p.m. next to the State Wayne Theater. I thought I would write about farms. To link with an event from today, I believe helps remember the small history lesson in this article.

Wayne was first established as a stage coach stop back to the 1830's and soon became a small cross road village that was mostly trading based not agriculturally based. Farms became an important part of the development but inside the village there were really not many "farms". There were some large lots on the outskirts of the village west of Elizabeth Street and east of Fourth Street but trading was the true beginning of Wayne. The trading aspect of our history became further defined when the railroads located stations in Wayne. This led to farmers in the outlying "Wayne" area a way to get their goods to markets in Detroit and beyond. So farming became important to the people in the village, not only to get a good supply of fresh food but to have jobs working with the farmers to get their grain milled, produce canned and milk processed.

The Stellwagen Farm was one of the biggest farms in the area. Their farm was on Michigan Avenue just west of the railroad viaduct and went all the way west of the Ford Plant. There were a couple of houses for various Stellwegens and jointly they farmed all of the land there. Their farm had large fields with hay, corn and a good head of cattle. In 1950, the farm was sold for the construc-

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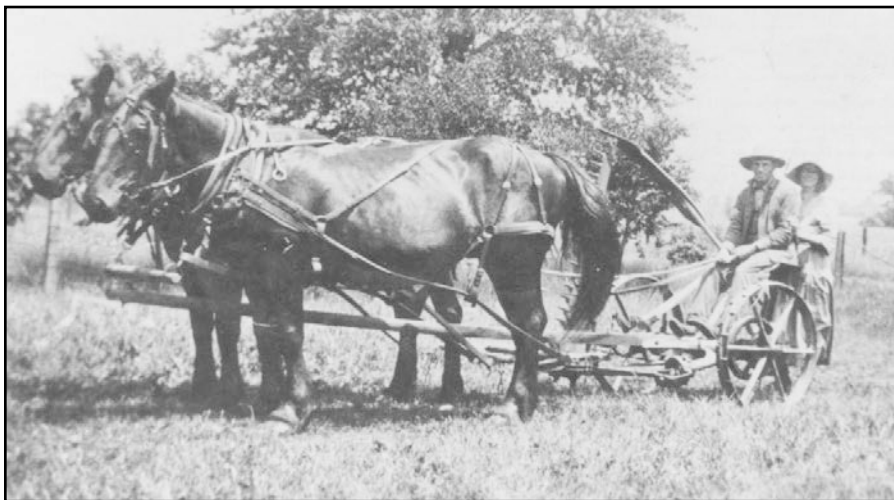
Matt Miller



tion of the Ford Plant which opened in 1952.

Another large farm was the Meriman Farm. Located on the north side of Michigan Avenue east of Meriman Road (conveniently named). This farm encompassed more than 100 acres and produced corn and wheat. They had a large grazing pasture for sheep in the low lying land by the river. Wool production was big in Wayne. All along the river were grazing pastures and sheep roamed freely. During the shearing season, hundreds of pounds of wool were sent on the Michigan Central Railroad. Their farm was sold and became Westlawn Cemetery and part of Woodbrook Sub.

East of the village was the Venoy Farm on Michigan Avenue. The farm land went south along Venoy Road to about Annapolis Avenue. The Chubb Farm was on the north east corner of Michigan Avenue and Venoy and went all the way north of the river to Norwayne. The Blounts had a big dairy farm on Howe Road going east along the south side of Michigan Avenue. This is where our current Police Station is located. James Cory had a large tract farm on the east side of Howe Road south of the railroad. His main crop was the production of mint and he also



AJ and Stella Branton on their farm on Hannan Road in 1922. Photos Courtesy of The Wayne Historical Museum



Filling the silo at the Merriman Farm about 1903.

processed the plants into peppermint oil - I am sure it smelled pretty good over there. The property was sold and became the site of the war housing trailer park and dormitory (remember my February article). The Warner Family owned a farm on the south side of Michigan going east from Fourth Street all the way to Howe Road. They had orchards, fields and sheep. This encompasses Arby's, the new Tim Horton, Jeff Benson Auto Sales, Simply Self Storage and the Wayne County Engineering Building. To the north and west were larger farms owned by the Carpenter's, the Hix's and Branton's. These farms were production farms all taking advantage of the rich soil to produce hay and corn.

It was probably so peaceful on these farms, with no close by neighbors, planes or cars. I can imagine the warm July breezes coming in across the fields. What a difference from today. Many years of toil and labor was spent on these farms.

Just tilling the soil with a horse and plow was extremely difficult. Today, the farmers all have modern equipment but work hard too. Hopefully, my article has inspired you to think of what was here before. I have one request; please come and support the Wayne Farmers Market. This is an opportunity to get farm fresh produce, beautiful flowers and home made bakery items right here in Wayne. I look forward to seeing you at the market on May 19th!!

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 join the Wayne Historical Society. The Historical Society has interesting programs about history. Contact Gloria Rowland, President of the Wayne Historical Society, at (734) 729-1277 for more information. You can also contact me at matt@thewaynedispatch.com with any questions or comments.



Hay fields at Carpenter's Farm. Photo Courtesy of The Wayne Historical Museum

Non-Homestead Tax Renewal on May 4th Ballot



On May 4, 2010 voters in the Wayne-Westland School District will be asked to renew a tax on the business community that represents a substantial portion of the General Fund Operating Budget. The millage provides \$19.5 million in estimated revenues to the school district. This is a non-homestead millage; it does not apply to an owner-occupied primary place of residence.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Is this ballot proposal a new tax?

A: **No.** This is a renewal of a millage first passed in 1996 for 15 years. It is simply a continuation of the current levy.

Q: Will my residential school taxes increase?

A: **No.** This is a non-homestead property tax and does not apply to your primary place of residence. The proposal does not affect the taxes of owner-occupied primary residences. Approval will cost primary homeowners nothing.

Q: Who pays the tax?

A: Owners of Commercial, Industrial, and some Personal Property pay the tax. For example, owners of businesses, apartment/rental units, and some vacant property are responsible for paying this non-homestead property tax.

Q: What if the millage is voted down?

A: The district would lose \$19.5 million in revenue with no way to replace those funds. At that point, the district would be forced to make very drastic reductions in programs or services to offset the loss.

Q: How much will this cost homeowners?

A: **Zero.** For primary residence homeowners, the tax is \$0, regardless of the value of the property.

LETTER

To the editor,

Members of the Wayne Figure Skating Program attended the last City Council Meeting on April 20, 2010 and spoke from the heart on what a wonderful figure skating program we have in Wayne and how much this program means to all of us. What was not conveyed however is the true financial picture.

We understand the City is in difficult financial times right now. From the numbers we've seen however, the City is not losing money on the ice rink. We realize it is a big expense to run and maintain the rink, but what the City takes in from our Club and the hockey teams, it is coming out ahead. In fact, the rink is projected to profit over \$12,000 in the coming year.

Our Figure Skating Club fully supports itself. We do not get any money from the City to run our program. In fact, our Club contracts ice from the City. We pay a monthly bill to the City of around \$2,000 a month for each month the ice is up and running. We have several ideas on how the City can make even more profits from this rink in the future. We would be willing to discuss our ideas at the City's convenience.

Our kids and parents are like a family. We cannot just pick up and move to another rink for a year. It

is not that simple. In most figure skating programs you have to be a member of that club for at least three years in order to try out for their ice show and other events. Shutting this rink down even for one year will devastate our programs. Once the skaters, teams and coaches are disbursed it will be almost impossible to pull them back to Wayne to start these programs all over again.

The girls and boys who skate on this ice are wonderful kids. In these economic times so much has been taken away from our kids already, after school programs and athletics along with other city programs and activities it would be a true shame to cut yet another thing. What will our kids have left?

Choosing to keep the Wayne ice arena open is not only good for our kids, but the City as well. In the grand scheme of things we realize \$12,000 is not a lot of money, but every little bit helps. If you keep this rink open you will not only be saving our kids and our program, but jobs of coaches and others as well.

Mr. Mayor, and Members of the City Council, please do not shut down our rink!

Sincerely,
The Wayne Figure
Skating Booster Club

OPINION

Time for tough decisions is upon us all

It's decision time. The City of Wayne faces a \$3.5 million budget deficit. City Council has decided to ask the voters to pass two proposals that could help offset some of that deficit. Whether the proposals pass or not, Council will still have to make some tough decisions on reducing staff and services.

The voters of Wayne also have a tough decision. They have been asked to help their city. With the stagnant economy, high unemployment rates and reduced property values, many residents are struggling to pay their bills. No one is looking for bigger bills these days.

The employees of Wayne have to decide if they are willing to sacrifice some of their income to help the City. They have been asked to take a 5% reduction in their pay and a pay freeze for two years.

On the threshold of such important decisions it's important to remember why they are necessary. It's not just because of the reduced property values and revenue sharing or the idling of the Ford plant. It's because Wayne is more than just a name on a map. It's a community and for it to continue, everyone needs to pitch in and help.

What does community mean to you? It's time to decide. Does it mean waving hello to your next-door-neighbor as you make that weekly trip to the curb with your trash each week? Or meeting up with fellow health enthusiasts at the community center to walk the track or swim? How about being able to take for granted that when it snows your streets will be plowed or when you have to dial 911 someone will be on the other end of the phone to get the help you need?

If you want your community to maintain some of these city services and a sense of community then you should decide to vote yes on Proposals 1 and 2.

While the current budget deficit is certainly not good news, it is a good opportunity to figure out what kind of city we want Wayne to be and to make some decisions that will help get us there. It is a chance to look outside the box and maybe even take some chances that can help put Wayne on the road to recovery. These are some things we think are worth looking into.

Research revenue generating options that might help to offset some programs or services that are in jeopardy. Are there services we can offer to other municipalities? Are there partnership agreements with other cities or businesses that we can seek out that will generate income for Wayne?

There must also be a solid plan to bring new business to Wayne to help diversify the tax base. Since running a city is like running a business, let's talk to some local business owners and get their ideas on how to make Wayne more business friendly. Many businesses have operated in Wayne for more than 50 years. How are they doing it?

Technology can be a useful tool. Are there ways technology can help streamline communication, make tasks more time efficient and offer cost savings?

Let's also keep the lines of communication open. Residents and businesses need to let council know what they think and want in Wayne. Coming to council meetings is a good start. The Cobalt Research Survey was a great idea. Continuing Town Hall meetings is also a good plan. Keep offering opportunities to bring as many productive ideas to the table as possible. Communication is the key to any successful plan.

Wayne is made up of great people and there is no shortage of pride now we have to work on the progress. Let's make sure Wayne continues to be a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit.

Think of the kind of community you want to live in. That's our opinion. What's yours? We welcome comments at editor@thewaynedispatch.com.

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FITNESS CLASSES AND ONE ON ONE TRAINING

What's on the May 4 Ballot?

Wayne residents will see four items when they are in the voting booths on May 4. The City of Wayne is asking residents to approve two proposals.

Proposal 1 is asking voters to amend the city charter to levy an additional ad valorem tax of one mill for five years. If it passes, this proposal will generate \$550,000 per year and be used for police and fire services.

Proposal 2 is asking to levy up to .4635 mills. The purpose of this proposal is to restore the total City operating millage to the maximum

allocated rate of 15 mills. If approved this millage would generate an estimated \$255,000 in the first year for the City of Wayne. These funds can be put in the general fund and used at the city council's discretion for any city departments.

The City is facing a \$3.5 million budget deficit and hopes to lessen the cuts to city services with these two proposals.

The Wayne Westland School District is asking for a 15- year 18- mill renewal on non homestead property. This will not affect owner operated primary residences. Homeowners will not pay this tax.

If approved by voters this proposal will generate \$19.5 million for the district's general fund. This represents 18% of the school district's budget. These mills were originally approved by voters in 1995 and are set to expire this year. This proposal is a continuation of and not an additional millage.

Voters will also be asked to vote for one candidate for a four year position to the Wayne-Westland Community Schools Board of Education. The candidates are: John Goci and Karen M. Wilkie. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on May 4.

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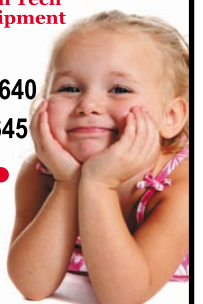
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Angeline Driscoll, Joe Barrow and Manager Leah Cooley are happy to help all the customers that stop in at Tried and True Thrift Store.

Tried and True, the little store that could

By Jenny Johnson

It was a perfect fit when the Tried and True Thrift Store on Michigan Avenue was for sale in spring 2007. A fixture in downtown Wayne, Tried and True, had operated for years nestled in the foundation of the old Kresge store.

David Bourque, Resource Center Director of Services To Enhance Potential (STEP), was already familiar with the store. STEP, located in Wayne too, had provided volunteers in the past to assist with many of the store's tasks. Through teamwork and input by other employees, an idea formed – would STEP be able to purchase Tried and True, and transform it into a profitable enterprise in Michigan's economic storm?

STEP did make the purchase and the transformation began. Today, when you enter the brightly-colored store, you immediately notice the beautifully organized rows, shelves and racks of merchandise.

"Our Sales Associate Staff have acquired a number of great community work skills under the direction of Leah Cooley the Store Manager. Associates are involved in all aspects of the retail operation: assisting with donation sorting, marketing, display, stocking, merchandising, janitorial, cashier, and even helping to develop financial reports," Bourque said.

Customers are often overheard complimenting the employees on the store's cleanliness and wide range of

goods. The employees are always friendly and helpful.

Employee Carrie S. said, "I like working here because I help customers out, and I put things on shelves, and I greet the customers, too."

This story could simply end now, telling the tale of the surprising success of the little thrift store. But there is one more notable detail. Each of Tried and True's employees has a disability. The store employs thirteen men and women, plus a number of substitute employees, all of whom have specific job responsibilities. Denice A. said, "I love my job. It takes a lot to keep me away from the store."

"The Tried and True community work experience has given an opportunity to people, who have at times been marginalized in community life, an opportunity to show what a great contribution they can and do make every day," Bourque said.

From vacuuming the floors, displaying clothing, operating the cash register, to greeting each customer, everyone has a job.

Mary Ann M. said, "I help the customers with their donations, and I like to make money, too!"

Aubrey U. said, "I just like being here. My co-workers are all nice."

The combination of practice, persistence and pride has paid off for each of the employees. And, indeed, for the little store that could.

Students Go Green

By Erica Perdue

Roosevelt-McGrath Elementary School has been named an official Michigan Green School. The students and faculty celebrated this title on Earth Day by participating in an outdoor clean up of the school's property.

"We're doing this for earth day! I love earth day," shouted student Cali Tomaszewski.

The school has a designated "green team". These students give up their recess every Wednesday to collect the papers the classes have recycled.

The green team, along with all of the other students, spent their afternoon on April 22 outside raking and bagging leaves, picking up sticks and cleaning up any trash in the schoolyard.

Second grade teacher Kathy Steiner is in charge of Roosevelt-McGrath's recycling and green team. She said, "These kids have had so much fun today. They've been talking about it all week. They are going

to be the ones that save the Earth."

Donna Colaianne's first grade class said they learned it's important to not destroy the Earth, but to clean it up instead. "They were very excited to be cleaning up and all of them participated," said Colaianne.

Student Mellissa Cox said they moved "like 2,000 sticks!"

Included in the ten criteria the school has done this year to be a Green School are: adopting a Red Panda from the Detroit Zoo, instituting an energy saving program in the school that has decreased energy consumption by 20 percent each month, creating a birdhouse habitat, establishing a natural Michigan garden and several other items.

Steiner will be accepting a Green School Award in May for Roosevelt-McGrath. "This is a very honorable award that I am gracious to accept," said Steiner, "I am so proud of the kids and of us for going green!"

"Cleaning up is good and it makes me happy when I help the earth," said student Jalen Amando.



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- Tax records for the last six years
- Records of pension plans, education, medical, and employment
- Current household inventory

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City plans for worst

By Jenny Johnson

At their April 20 meeting, City Council received a proposed budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. This version of the city budget is \$16,880,639 -- which is \$3.5 million less than the current budget. This budget does not reflect any revenue from the passage of Proposals 1 and 2 or any savings from the employees agreeing to a 5% pay reduction and two year pay freeze.

The proposed budget includes reducing the police department from 38 to 27 officers and the fire department from 20 to 14 firefighters and emergency dispatchers from eight to five. Staffing in the building and engineering, city manager, finance, personnel, public works and parks and recreation departments will be reduced. The total number of full time City employees will be reduced from 116 to 73.

The administration also recommended: reducing the 29th District Court budget by \$100,000; closing the swimming pool from Labor Day until June 30, 2011; closing the ice arena at the Wayne Community Center from May 15, 2010 until June 30, 2011; and transferring \$2.9 million from the DDA budget to the general fund.

Residents and employees spoke out on their thoughts about the proposed cuts.

Wayne Firefighters Local 1620 would like to support Proposals 1 and 2," said Ken Chapman, Firefighter.

"By working together hopefully we can get through this economic catastrophe."

"By working together hopefully we can get through this economic catastrophe."

Ken Chapman, Firefighter

"Wayne's a resilient community. We take our hits but we bounce back," said Mark Blackwell, resident.

Heather Hamilton, a figure skating parent, asked the council to reconsider closing the ice arena. She said the arena is projected to make about \$12,000 this year for the city.

"So many of those children need places to go. We need to keep things open for our youth," she said.

Many skating students and parents spoke out on behalf of the ice arena and the community center.

Hannah Hamilton has taken swim, dance and skating lessons at the Wayne Community Center and also been a member of the youth theater program.

"I have learned a lot," she said.

Paul Diebolt is a lifeguard at the aquatic center and his wife used the pool to train for the Senior Olympics where she won three gold medals.

"It's a place of joy, a jewel for the city," he said of the community center.

Resident Chris Sanders said he has fond memories of the outdoor pool at the community center.

"Everyone wants their programs but at a time like this emergency services are essential," he said.

If Proposals 1 and 2 pass and all city employees agree to the wage reduction and freeze, council will still have to cut about \$2 million from the budget. Council will have two budget study sessions at 7 p.m. on May 5 and May 11 and there will be a public hearing on the budget at 8 p.m. on May 18. All meetings are open to the public and will take place at City Hall.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Public hearing for budget

There will be a public hearing on the proposed 2010-2011 budget and millage rates at 8 p.m. on May 18 at City Hall. The budget must be approved by City Council and will go into effect on July 1.

Post Office

Marla J. Larsen-Williams, real estate specialist for the United States Postal Service, met with City Council to discuss the postal service's plan to continue to service Wayne. While the current post office building will be put up for sale in order to consolidate operations, the postal service is committed to providing retail services in Wayne.

"The post office will not be closing our retail service to the community," she said. If they are not able to lease back the front portion of the current building, after a sale, the post office will look for at 1500-2000 sq. ft location in Wayne.

"The good news is the core of the post office is staying in Wayne," said Mayor Al Haidous.

The postal workers will move their operation to the Westland branch and still deliver mail to Wayne.

Fire Department Open House

The Wayne Fire Department will host an open house from 12-4 p.m. on May 1 at the Fire Station on Wayne Road. They will serve hot dogs and lemonade and give station tours and live demonstrations of how to use a fire extinguisher, spray an actual fire hose and install a child safety seat. There will also be the following demonstrations: 1 p.m. hazardous materials, 2 p.m. high angle rope rescue and 3 p.m. vehicle extrication.

Help Support Three Day

Wayne Tree Manor, 35100 Van Born Road, Wayne will host a Dinner Dance at 6:30 p.m. on May 7. Tickets are \$30 per person and are available at Wayne Tree Manor. Proceeds will go to the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure three day walk which will be Aug. 13-15 here in Michigan. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 734-728-3020.



The 2009 Police and Firefighter of the Year were recognized at a City Council meeting. (L-R) Police Chief John Williams, Police Officer Terrence Springer, Mayor Al Haidous, Firefighter David Wylie and Fire Chief Mel Moore.

Police Office and Firefighter of the year

The Wayne Police Department has named Officer Terrence Springer as the Police Officer of the Year. Springer is the school resource officer at Wayne Memorial High School. He has been a role model and mentor while ensuring the safety and well being of thousands of high school students.

The Wayne Fire Department has named Firefighter/EMT-P David Wylie as the Firefighter of the year. Wylie has been a member of the Wayne Fire Dept. since 1995. He has been instrumental in bringing the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to the city.

Change for Wayne

The Parks and Recreation Department has started a program called Change for Wayne. The program offers residents and businesses a way to adopt, advertise or sponsor one of the recreation department's parks or facilities.

"We are looking for revenue streams to help preserve our services," said Nathan Adams, Director Parks and Recreation. Advertising opportunities can be in the form of adopting or sponsoring a park, sport field, trail, park bench, exercise area, program or activity. The financial donation will help fund, construct or renovate the park or facility. More information is available online at www.ci.wayne.mi.us or by calling 734-721-7400.

Friends need help

The Friends Committee is planning to help a neighbor in need on Saturday, Sept 11. Volunteers will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Wayne Banquet and Activity Center, 35000 Sims Avenue. The committee is looking for potential candidates. The house must be owner occupied and in need of exterior minor repairs like painting and cleaning. Volunteers and donations are also welcome. If you want to help or donate, please contact Peter McNerney at 734-722-2002.

Volunteers to plant community garden

A community garden will soon be growing in Wayne. The Goodwill Garden will be a partnership between the Parks and Recreation Department and the 29th District Court. It will be tended to by juvenile and adult offenders who need to complete community service hours in the City, as well as volunteers. They will plant, weed, water and harvest the garden.

The garden will be on city-owned land on Michigan Avenue just east of the police station. There is no cost to the city for this project. All materials and supplies will be donated by Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency. All produce will be donated to low income families and outreach centers like St. Mary Church. At 9 a.m. on May 7 volunteers from AmeriCorps will gather at the site to begin planting.

Join Spring Fling '10

It's time for spring and for Liberty Hill Housing Corporation's third annual Spring Fling fundraiser. From May 10-14 dozens of volunteers will spruce up two Liberty Hill homes in Wayne and Westland. These homes need renovations including landscaping, painting, electrical upgrades, new doors and windows. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 12 they will be working at 4220 Randolph in Wayne.

If you would like to donate, contact Executive Director Peggy Frankie at (734) 722-4980 or pfrankie@libertyhillhousing.com.

Survey results

Initial results are in from the Cobalt Satisfaction Survey. Of the 1500 residents who were sent surveys, 378 completed and returned their survey. According to Cobalt this is an above average response group. The survey shows areas of high importance to residents are fire and emergency services, snow removal, curbside leaf pick-up, district court, senior citizen programs, Community Center including the REC center and swimming pool, library services and crime control. Areas that residents viewed as less important include the city calendar, website, tree replacement, recycling services and fireworks. Once the results are completed they will be available on the city's website.

Wayne Westland Schools accepts School of Choice

Wayne Westland Community Schools is accepting applications for students in kindergarten through fourth grade who are not Wayne Westland residents for the 2010-2011 school year. Students must reside in Wayne County though. Applications will be accepted from May 10 - Aug. 23 at the District's Administrative Offices at 36745 Marquette in Westland.

Applications are available at www.wwcsd.net/intra-county-schools-of-choice. For more information, please call the instruction department at 734-419-2083.

NEWS BRIEFS



Iron Man 2 plays at State Wayne Theater

The State Wayne Theater will start playing first run movies on May 7 when they premiere Iron Man 2. Ticket prices will be \$7.50 for adults after 6:30 p.m. and \$4 for children 11 and under and senior citizens 62 and over.

This will be the beginning of the State Wayne Theater showing first and second run movies and operating seven days a week. They will be the only theater in the country to offer both first and second run movies at the same time.

Two theaters will continue to show second run movies for \$1.25 on Mon.- Thurs. and \$2.99 Fri.- Sun for adults and \$1.99 for children and seniors.

For a complete movie listing, visit www.ci.wayne.mi.us or call 734-326-4600. State Wayne Theater is located at 35310 Michigan Avenue.

Memorial Day parade

The annual Wayne-Westland Memorial Day parade will begin at 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 30. Line up will begin at Town and Country Bowling Alley at the corner of Avondale and Wayne and will proceed south on Wayne Road to Veterans Memorial in Wayne.

Relay for Life

The Wayne Westland Relay for Life will take place from 10 a.m. on May 22 until 10 a.m. on May 23 at Jaycee Park on the corner of Wildwood and Hunter in Westland. For more information, please contact Sarah Sherwood at 248-663-3403

New business growth

There are more than just daffodils blooming in Wayne this spring. Several new businesses have opened their doors. Some of the newest developments joining the business community include: Avenue Sports Grille, Karma Coffee, NY Gourmet Deli and PNC Bank, formerly National City Bank.

Coming soon to Wayne are: Hierarchy, a mixed martial arts facility; Tim Hortons and Rex's Family Restaurant is coming back. Please remember to shop local and visit all of the great Wayne businesses.

Music and Mostaccioli

Westland Free Methodist Church, 1421 S. Venoy, Westland is hosting a "Music and Mostaccioli" fundraiser at 5:30 p.m. on May 22. Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased through the church office, 734-728-2600. Seating is limited. This event will feature a string quartet concert followed by a mostaccioli dinner and a dessert auction. All proceeds will be used to send a seven person missions team to Bulgaria Aug. 5-15.

Election Results

The results of the May 4 election will be posted on the Wayne Dispatch website at www.waynedispatch.com.



Wonderland in Wayne

The Wayne Actors Community Theatre will present "Alice in Wonderland" at 8 p.m. on April 30, May 1, 7 & 8 and at 2 p.m. on May 1, 2, 8 & 9 at the State Wayne Theater, 35310 Michigan Avenue. Tickets are \$15 Adults; \$13 Students/seniors and \$10 Kids 12 and under. This show is not recommended for kids under 8. Tickets are on sale at the Wayne Community Center or at the door. For more information, please call 734-721-7400 or email cmeyer@ci.wayne.mi.us.



While they were just short of breaking the world record, they still raised over \$10,000 and had over 550 participants. Pictured are Cathryn Neracher of My Trivia Live, Guinness World Record representative Mike Janela and Rotary President Bob Gilbert at the World's Largest Euchre Tournament.

Wayne Rotary attempts World Record

By Jenny Johnson

What does it take to break a world record? The Wayne Rotary Club almost found out. They attempted to break the World's Largest Euchre Tournament record. While they came a little short there will still be many winners due to the money they raised -- about \$10,000. Rotary President Bob Gilbert said the profits will be used to fund scholarships and literacy projects in Wayne schools. The tournament had 588 participants.

Guinness World Record representative Mike Janela was at the tournament to verify the results.

"My role at the Euchre tournament was to serve as an independent, third-party witness to the proceedings. It was my responsibility to ensure that the counting methods agreed upon by the organizers and GWR were carried out properly and that all procedures to meet the guidelines for breaking this record were undertaken," he said.

Jana has witnessed "a number of other records, including "Highest altitude wind generator" in San Juan, Argentina; "Largest serving of roast pork" in Mérida, Mexico; and "Highest commercial decelerator descent" in Las Vegas.

He gives some tips to others who may want to attempt a world record.

"The entire process of trying to set or break a Guinness World Records achievement is run through our web site, www.guinnessworldrecords.com. People can apply to break an existing record or submit a proposal for a new record. All new record proposals must meet the four criteria established for all Guinness World Records: they must be measureable, quantifiable, verifiable and breakable. This entire process is free for all applicants," he said.

However there is a fee if you want a Guinness World Records adjudicator at an event. The costs for this service vary depending on location, length of event, and any number of other variables, Janela said.

"My favorite part of working for Guinness World Records is being a witness to history. To travel to so many different places and meet so many unique and interesting people is truly incredible, especially since they all have the same goal: testing the limits of human ability. While sometimes an attempt at breaking a world record might fall short, as it did in the Euchre tournament, it still amazes me seeing what people inspired to strive for greatness will do to get their place among the world's greatest record breakers," he said.

The Wayne Dispatch is proud to present...



By Erica Perdue

Taiwan Shelton has made his career overseas. He grew up in Wayne and now lives in a little two-man room in Iraq. His current job is being a master driver for the vehicles in Iraq. He trains 350 soldiers in a month to get their MRAP (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected) license. His unit also goes out on missions with the Iraq army.

Taiwan's parents, Judith and Stanley Shelton, owners of J&S Portrait America, still live in Wayne. Stan is a photographer for the Wayne Dispatch.

Letters, snacks and personal hygiene products would be much appreciated by Taiwan. These items can be sent to:

We are still looking for members of the Armed Forces to feature in the Dispatch! Please contact us if you know of anyone overseas who would like to be featured in upcoming issues!

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Milestones, memories and making a difference

The Business and Professional Women (BPW) will be celebrating their 80th anniversary. The women will gather at the music room at The Henry Ford Estate in Dearborn. Invitations have gone out to members, former members, and those who have assisted the club. Although the National Organization has dissolved, and the State group has weakened, the Wayne members are still going strong. According to Mary Ann Ellis, Corresponding Secretary and Co-Chair of the dinner, this is the result of their local projects. These include a fund-raiser at the Community Center for Kimberly Loveless of the Acorn Shop, a chicken barbeque along with Rotary, for little Alissa Jennings, and taking part in the Christmas Tea with Parks and Rec. Each year, BPW also puts on the Reality Stores at both John Glenn and Wayne Memorial High Schools. That's the hands-on program which teaches students how to be smart shoppers, by comparing all types of products and services. Trees have also been planted in memory of Hazel Neel and Arlene Reid.

Going through old scrapbooks and newspaper articles, Ms. Ellis charts the advancement of women in the workplace. If you can imagine, in 1950, a Ms. M. Porteus did a demonstration of a dial phone. In those years many women were in business with their husbands or were clerks, tellers, and secretaries. As the years go on, more women were managers, primarily of banks; at the phone company and Edison. An old news item: the BPW hosted a meeting at Wayne County General...the subject was a commu-

Footprints of Wayne

Dee Ryan



nity hospital for Wayne. Of course that hospital became a reality as Annapolis Hospital.

Along with Mary Ann Ellis, the current members are: Charlotte Adams, Amy Allen, Kathy Beeny, Bev Blankertz, Harriet Buck- Treasurer, Helen Glandon, Betty Hoeffel-Vice-President, Sheila Julin, Cathy King, Kathy Mahoney, Donna McEachern, Paulette Medvecky-President, Pat Nielsen-Recording Secretary, Anna Petrou, Marie Pleuss, Judie Quinn, Darlene Rozenbaum, and Beverly Shackelford.

We hope you have a joyous evening of celebration and continued success for your fine organization.

As noted in last month's Dispatch, Girl Scout Troop #21266 sold 100 boxes of cookies for soldiers stationed overseas. But did you know that that it was the good folks at Harry J. Will Funeral Home that paid all the costs for shipping those cookies to our troops?

Also at the same establishment...have you noticed Jim Henley's new hair-do? Or should I say his 'no hair-do'? It makes a statement, and the statement is one of love and support for his sister-in-law, Susan Nagy, who is undergoing chemotherapy. Susan is April Henley's sister, and I know you all join



Tom Lynch and Councilman Jim Henley of Harry J. Will Funeral Home, delivering boxes of Girl Scout cookies to the Wayne Post Office to send to Wayne soldiers of overseas. Photo by The Wayne Dispatch

me in wishing her a swift and complete recovery.

Betty Young was in town; staying with JoAnne Hanson. (Betty, and her late husband Dave, owned D&D Hardware for many years.) Her daughter, Patty, brought her to Wayne and daughter, Kathy, took her back home to Cape May, NJ. While here Betty saw many old friends, - Phyllis Stein, Lois Press, Betty Dryer, and Carol Weyand, and just about everyone on Riversedge Drive. One very warm afternoon at JoAnne H.'s, were Betty, 'Bobbi' Wootton, Laura Rowland, Joelyn Yurich Stier, and Karen Mulholland. Now this is what I want you to know about Betty Young. She is a roving reporter, a "man on the street" if you will. She goes out on the avenues of Cape May looking for human interest stories.

She then gives a report to her condo association. One day she found a man singing on the street...so she stopped and sang with him. That's our Betty Young isn't it? When I grow up I want to be just like her.

Y'all remember Jesse Austin don't you? He used to bring those beautiful Cadillac cars to our summer festivals. Jesse called to tell me that Saturday, April 3, between 11am and 12 noon, on Van Born, someone did an act of kindness. A lady driving a white jeep station wagon, stopped, picked up an injured goose from the middle of Van Born and gently placed it to the side of the road. Mr. Austin was touched by this deed and wanted us to know there are still Good Samaritans among us.

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 Buy One, Get One
FREE
 With purchase of 2 beverages. Excludes other offers. Expires 5/31/10

Avenue Sports Grille
 Pulled Pork Sandwich with Fries and 16 oz. Draft
\$3.99
 Expires 5/31/10

Avenue Sports Grille
 LUNCH SPECIAL
 Burger, Fries and 16 oz. Draft
\$4.99
 Expires 5/31/10

Avenue Sports Grille
 DINNER SPECIAL
 Appetizer and Dinner For Two
\$19.99
 Expires 5/31/10

Avenue Sports Grille 734-895-7300
 3632 Elizabeth Street • Wayne (Corner of Elizabeth and Michigan Avenue)
 HOURS: Monday - Friday 10AM - 2AM • Saturday 11AM - 2AM • Sunday 12 Noon - 2AM