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Dispatch**
MARCH 2011

Valerie Orr

Jennifer Chambers

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O'Brien Drugs in the 1920's. Photos Courtesy of the Wayne Historical Museum.



John F. Cullen



Four Irish Wayne residents Kitty Fitzgerald, Mrs. Cullen, Mrs. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Doyle.

A bit of blarney - I say no!

Since St. Patrick's Day is soon upon us, I thought it would be interesting to look at the Irish heritage in Wayne. If you look at the great influx of immigrants from Ireland, it really began because of the great potato famine in the mid-1840s. Between 1830-1860 approximately 2 million Irish immigrants arrived in America. So by 1850 the Irish started to show up in Wayne.

One of the more prominent Irishmen was Jeremiah O'Connor who was born in County Kerry in 1828 and immigrated by 1845. He owned a general store at the corner of Michigan Ave. and Wayne Rd. Mr. O'Connor donated the land for the construction of St. Mary Catholic Church.

Another prominent Irish businesswoman was Suzie Doolittle. She operated a photography studio for 39 years and was a very active in the Methodist Church. She passed away in 1951 and is buried at Westlawn Cemetery. She was the child of Irish immigrants who owned an 80 acre farm on Michigan east of Howe.

The O'Brien name goes hand in hand with Irish. O'Brien's Drugs was in business from 1908 to 1967. The store was started by Jack's father who was also a pharmacist. Jack ran the store for many years, enjoyed singing in a barbershop quartet and was the father of four children: Karen, Judy, Pat, and

Rearview Mirror

Matt Miller



Mike. Karen became Karen Norton when she married Pat Norton another proud Irishman and the Mayor of Wayne for many years. Mike became the Fire Chief in Wayne, beginning his career with the Fire Department in 1969.

The Cullen Family has been in Wayne for years. John F. Cullen was the Village Attorney in 1890 and was the child of Irish immigrants. John made a run for the state senate in 1900, was a Judge and the grandfather of our former City Manager Pat Cullen. The Cullens were friends with the Fitzgeralds, Doyles, and McCarty's all proud Irish families.

Friendships developed and the Irish stuck together in this new country. But their contributions to the development of Wayne should not be forgotten and should be celebrated this St. Patrick's Day.

I really encourage you to stop at the Historical Museum and to donate to the Window Fund. The museum is open each Friday and Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. or call 734-722-0113.

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WMHS students L-R: Amber Munguia, Makia Edison and Jasmine Jackson were thrilled to run into Val Orr in the hallway. Brendan Craske shows Jennifer Chambers his class work. Photos by The Wayne Dispatch

Hometown girls

Wayne Memorial alumni lead their own schools

By Jenny Johnson

They make a difference everyday in their hometown. Jennifer Chambers and Valerie Orr are both Wayne Memorial High School graduates and from Wayne. Today they walk the halls as principal- Chambers at Hoover Elementary School and Orr at Wayne Memorial.

Chambers attended Taft-Galloway for pre-school and kindergarten and then Elliott Elementary School, Franklin Junior High and she graduated from Wayne Memorial in 1993. Orr attended Walker Elementary, Franklin Junior High and also graduated from Wayne in 1993.

"Jen and I knew each other in high school. We were friends," said Orr.

Chambers was active in band in both junior and high school. She is proud that she still knows the Franklin and Wayne Memorial fight songs.

"I also was very involved in class events such as; building the class float, planning homecoming and cominghome and attending almost every football and basketball game both home and away," she said.

"I always wanted to come back to Wayne.
But it never crossed my mind that
I would one day be principal."

Valerie Orr

Orr played softball and was a member of the student government. She was also the only student representative on the School Improvement Team.

"This is where I learned you can control what happens in your school," she said.

After high school Chambers attend Eastern Michigan University and earned her Bachelor degree in education. She got her Master degree at Marygrove College and returned to Eastern to get her educational leadership certificate.

Orr got her Bachelor degree from Wayne State University and her teaching certificate in math from Eastern Michigan University. She attended graduate school at University of Phoenix.

Chambers began her career with Wayne-Westland 14 years ago as a

paraprofessional for a boy who has Autism.

"He was a great kid who taught me to 'stop and smell the roses'. Then, I was a classroom overload aide and a substitute teacher in the district and completed my student teaching at Edison," she said. She has taught at Taft, Hicks and Hamilton. Last year she was promoted to principal at Lincoln and when the building closed in June she became the principal at Hoover.

"I meet the most wonderful children who teach me so much about learning. It's really hard to complain about anything when you are always around resilient children who constantly flash their gorgeous smiles at you. I work with a staff that cares deeply for children and their well-being. They work so hard every day. We also have support from our par-

ents who come in and volunteer their time," she said.

"A long way down the road I would like to work in Central Office or be a consultant. That's hard for me to think about though because I love working with children everyday. I am enjoying being in my second year as an administrator. I want to focus on learning more about children and how to inspire them to reach their fullest potential. I am extremely blessed with my career," she said.

Orr has been with the Wayne-Westland School District for 10 years. She taught math for five years at Franklin and was then promoted to assistant principal at Wayne Memorial and has been the principal for three years.

"I always wanted to come back to Wayne. But it never crossed my mind that I would one day be principal," she said.

Orr didn't settle on a career in teaching right away. She first thought she would pursue politics but she realized she couldn't fix all of the

See **Ladies**, page 4

Ladies, Continued from page 3

world's problems. She then began to pursue finance and accounting but it was when she was tutoring a middle school girl named Tammy in math that she realized her true calling.

"I connected with her and her family and she turned it around and I loved that feeling," she said. In fact when she married her husband, Brent, in 1999, Tammy's parents did her flowers.

When she took her first education class in college, "I just blossomed."

Today as the leader of Wayne Memorial she wants to make sure all of the students, staff and parents feel like Wayne is their home.

"My vision is to promote the stakeholders of Wayne, give them a voice and teach leadership," she said. "There are a lot of kids who are underserved and they need a voice."

"This was a safe haven for me (as a student) and I want it to be for my kids. I always felt I owed a lot to this school. I had great support and great teachers. School was my safe haven," she said.

Her staff works hard to make sure the environment is a positive one for everyone. "The staff here is so amazing. They never cease to amaze me with their ideas to bring new things for kids," she said.

She is proud of her team's improvements. Scores continue to increase and parent involvement is up by 100s of hours. Suspensions and behavior problems have decreased.

"It's a good culture for the kids," she said. "I feel very blessed to serve my kids here and work with my staff."

Before Orr began her career with the Wayne-Westland School District, she worked for the City of Wayne. She credits her skills she learned as



Jennifer Chambers spends a lot of time in the classroom. Here she is with L-R: Maurella Murphy, Jaylin Wara, AJ Sherman, Aaron Beneteau, Danyell Camp, Brendan Craske, Jobe King, Drake Miller, Ethan Bartush, and Kevin Lail.

a City of Wayne 911 dispatcher with helping her become a successful administrator.

"It took me eight years to get my undergraduate degree. I worked as a 911 dispatcher in Wayne for three or four years when I was going through college," she said. She appreciates all she learned in that position.

"That job really prepared me for administration. I use the skills I learned like how to remain calm in crisis, handle irate people, decision making and problem solving. But the biggest skill I use every day is multi-tasking," she said. As a long time resident and former employee of the City of Wayne, Orr appreciates the connection she has to the community she serves.

Orr and Chambers agree that their connections to Wayne only help to enhance their job. They both appreciate all the Wayne community does for the students in the school district.

"In December we had over 20 families adopted by different community organizations. One day a group of ladies came to our school

and dropped off over 150 hand knitted hats they made. The Wayne Rotary recently dropped off brand new winter coats for children," Chambers said.

Both women feel proud to still be a part of the Wayne-Westland community and have a chance to give back to a community that has given them so much.

"I had such a wonderful childhood growing up in the City of Wayne and attending Wayne Westland

schools. Both of my parents are retired educators here and my sister is a counselor at Wayne High. My parents are also both graduates on Wayne High. I could not imagine being anywhere but a part of this amazing community," Chambers said.

Editor's note: There are many employees of the Wayne-Westland School District who are also alumni of the district. Here are the members of the administration who are proud Wayne-Westland graduates:

Greg Baracy, Superintendent – WMHS; Shannon Blick, Principal of Wildwood Elementary School – JGHS; Mark Cesarz, Co-Principal of Adams Upper Elementary School – JGHS; Kevin Galbraith, Sr. Executive Director of Technology – WMHS; Charley Hallman, Director of High School Special Education – JGHS; Mike McCusker - Supervisor of Maintenance and Operations – JGHS; Tony Spisak, Executive Director of Maintenance and Operations – WMHS; Dyanne Tilley, Director of Middle School Special Education – WMHS; and Sue Wilk, Assistant Principal of the William D. Ford Career-Technical Center - JGHS



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Wayne's Largest Euchre tournament will be held on April 9 at the Wayne Community Center. The Wayne Rotary would like you to be a part of it. Check in begins at 6:15 p.m. and the tournament starts at 7 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person. Prizes will be awarded for the top five point totals. There will be food, beer, pop, coffee, raffles and more.

Bob Gilbert, event organizer, said they hope to have 300-400 people playing Euchre.

"Our hope is to raise close to \$10,000 and this can be achieved with people who want to come enjoy themselves and give back to the community," Gilbert said. The event is a Wayne Rotary fundraiser. To pre-register for the tournament, please e-mail: rjg.euchre@yahoo.com.

LETTERS

CERT Team helps in time of need

Dear Editor,

I, Pamela Brown-Steffen, would like to thank every CERT member and persons who helped or called about helping during our recent "disaster." I heard and felt the explosion as did many of you. I went right down to Wayne Road and seeing the need, just started working. The following people responded:

Tabetha Cummings, Victor Osborne, Kristena Brown, Anne McKolay, Bill Steffen, Tom Bucci, Warren Leake, Doug Beasley, Wally Kavanaugh, Denise Lake, Jessie Lutz and Jason Hood.

Officer Randolph, Unit 449 and

Det. Schmidtke checked on us often to make sure we were ok and to see if we were in need of anything. The DPW responded quickly when asked for cones or barricades for traffic control. The Salvation Army van came around to make sure we weren't hungry and were kept hydrated.

Again even though we did not have a formal notification system in effect, we all pulled together and got the job done. Thank you very much from myself, the neighbors of the tree streets and business owners for helping and keeping our neighborhood as safe as possible.

Pamela Brown-Steffen
Wayne CERT Team Leader

Paul Franks home

By Jenny Johnson

Prayers have been answered. Paul Franks, owner of William C. Franks Furniture Store, was released from the hospital on Feb. 25. He is recuperating at his home, in Plymouth, with his family by his side.

"He's doing fantastic and adjusting to being at home. He's doing really well," said Franks daughter, Stephanie Christesen. "His spirits are very good we're motivated to get back to normal life."

Franks will begin outpatient physical and occupational therapy three times a week for six weeks, Christesen said.

Franks had been in the Trauma Burn Unit at University of Michigan Hospital recovering from burns and other injuries he sustained in the Dec. 29 explosion at his store. Franks was pulled from the rubble. Two other employees, James Zell and Leslie Machniak, were killed in the blast.

The furniture store was leveled and the staff has been working out of their warehouse on Michigan Avenue since January. They have been able to deliver furniture to customers



Paul Franks

who had already placed orders and even place a few orders for customers who knew exactly what they wanted.

Christesen said they do plan to rebuild their store in town and are currently looking for a temporary location in Wayne to house a showroom.

"We have not made any final decisions yet, we are still looking at all of our options," she said. "We want to do what's best for Franks." Christesen said her dad is involved in the decision making. "We've discussed it. He is an active part of everything that's going on," she said.

Cities of Wayne and Westland join forces

By Jenny Johnson

The Cities of Wayne and Westland are more than just neighbors. They are now partners in the pursuit of parks and recreational opportunities for residents of both cities. The Wayne City Council approved the Neighborhood Acceptance Program which will allow Westland residents to receive resident rates at all City of Wayne recreation facilities, classes and special events. This includes memberships, programs and services.

In turn, Wayne residents can also receive resident rates on all recreational programs in the City of Westland. This includes programs and amenities available at the Bailey Center and the Westland Municipal Golf Course.

"We all have to work closer together as communities," said Robert English, acting city manager. "This is the first of what I hope will be many joint agreements between the cities."

"We are going to work together to try to keep the quality of services beneficial to both communities and

to reduce costs," said Mayor Al Haidous.

The benefits of this program are twofold. Wayne and Westland residents will have more recreational opportunities at affordable prices and both cities are hoping to see an increase in revenue to their parks and recreation departments.

Both cities offer a plethora of recreational opportunities for all ages independently. By combining services they will have even more opportunities for their residents to find fun, healthy and family friendly activities at reasonable rates.

"We hope to merge other services together. We want to join hand and hand and reduce our costs and make sure both communities are served," said Haidous.

"We look forward to this neighborhood Acceptance Plan. We hope it is the first of many agreements," said Westland Mayor William Wild. The plan will be presented to Westland City Council on March 7. If approved, the plan will go into effect March 8.



Students "Spread the Love"

The Rev. Susan Mozena (left) and Teresa Jackson (right), patient representative at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne, accepted more than 100 blankets for the Spread the Love program from Wayne Memorial High School students Hailey Diehl, Jesse Sullivan, Robert Parker (kneeling) and Destiny Baker. Marguerite Foshee (back row, right) and Katie Sullivan (back row, left) coordinated the program, in which more than 100 students chipped in.

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English faces challenges ahead

By Jenny Johnson

Acting City Manager Robert English has had a busy two months. In December he became the fifth city manager in the City's 50 year history. Since then he has dealt with the aftermath of the Franks Furniture explosion, negotiations with Ford Motor Company, reduced funding from the state and the closing of the aquatic center. And he's taken it all in stride.

"I try to stay steady especially at times like this," he said.

English began his career with Wayne in 1984 as a water meter reader. In 1985 he became the supervisor of the water dept. He has held dual titles with the city since 1991 when he was promoted to assistant personnel director while still keeping his job as water department supervisor. From there he was promoted to personnel director and assistant city manager. He also spent six years as Department of Public Works director. Today, in addition to his duties as acting city manager, he



Acting City Manager Robert English working in his office at city hall. Photo by The Wayne Dispatch

also serves as the personnel director.

"I've always worked at this pace," he said. He noted Pat Cullen had the same career path. He too began as a meter reader and worked his way up to city manager.

When English first began his tenure with the City of Wayne he had "no career goal to be city manager."

"I owe a lot to John (Zech). He had faith in me," he said. In the past 27 years English has seen just about everything but "nothing like the last few years of budget struggles." He said times were lean in the 1980s but not like this.

"This is a whole new situation and it is challenging but we can do it. We're going to do it," he said.

English said he commends the city employees for their dedication to the city through these tough times. The sacrifices they have made include pay cuts, paying more for their benefits and being reduced from full time to part time.

"Our strongest assets are our employees. They've been great through this and they want to do what's best for the community. I tip my hat to the employees, they've kept us going," he said.

"Revenue coming in is not getting better. We have to find new ways to make income," he said. One of those ways is through joint services.

"We have to work a lot with other communities and that's my background," he said. English has been involved in cooperative benefits purchasing for dental and life insurance with neighboring communities. He said the concept is simple. Having a larger pool of employees makes premiums less for each participating group.

"I'm used to going to other communities and working cooperatively," he said. His administration is currently working on other ways to join services with other communities. He cited the sanitation authority and the

firefighting testing consortium as two ways Wayne has worked with other cities in the past.

Some of the changes English wants to implement include using more technology.

"Technology should work for you," he said. The city council packets are now available on the city's website for the public to review. English said he would like to put more information on the website too.

"We should be more transparent," he said.

He is also planning to "restore a working relationship with the business community," he said. Another area he wants to develop is "to rely on citizens and volunteers to help us in areas we can no longer provide. The City cannot do everything anymore. We need citizen involvement," he said. "You've got to involve everyone."

These efforts take a lot of time and English said he is lucky to have an understanding family. English and his wife, Barbara, have been married 13 years. They have five kids, five grandchildren and two more on the way. Spending time with his family is his favorite pastime. Most of them live within walking distance.

"It gives you a great relief," he said. "Relaxing with my family recharges me." He makes sure he is available for the grandkids school and sporting events.

English said one of the benefits of living in the community where you work is the short commute. It's very easy to spend quality time with his family.

"You should live in the community. Any decision you make should affect you as well. This is my hometown and I want to give back to my community," he said.

English graduated from Wayne Memorial High School in 1973 and has lived in Wayne or Westland for his whole life. All five of his kids also graduated from Wayne Memorial. A third generation of the English family is now attending Wayne Westland schools.

How long does he hope to stay with the city? He said, "My goal is to take it a day at a time and move forward. I want to see us get back to where we were and we will."

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Champions program pays off for many

By Erica Perdue

Several students at Wayne Memorial High School were given new motivation to get good grades and the results are paying off.

The Champions of Wayne program is a program to help students work past their normal academic achievements by setting them up with a mentor. The students met with their mentors regularly throughout the semester to keep up on grades and problems.

Students who met their goals receive a \$200 check. The checks were presented at a banquet last month.

"It gave me stability and support to make me see that I could be successful. It gave me a reason to get my grades up," said senior Carli Bailey.

Champions of Wayne was initiated by WMHS school psychologist Bill Gray. Gray asked for assistance from a former Distinguished Alumni, Richard Helppie. Helppie graduated in 1974. He is the founder and managing partner of Vineyard Capital Group.

Helppie and his wife, Leslie, started a foundation to help meet the needs of medically and educationally challenged children. The Helppie Family Charitable Foundation is where the money for the Champions program comes from.

"My favorite thing is seeing the positive impact on the students. Their personal stories are testimony to the strength of the human spirit and special testimony to the grit of Wayne," said Helppie.

At the banquet, the students were allowed to speak in front of family, friends, mentors and Helppie. Those who spoke showed their gratitude



(Above) Richard Helppie congratulates Alex Driessche for his success in the Champions program and presents him with a check for \$200. (Left) Dr. Baracy and Richard Helppie listen to how the Champions program helped Alesha Starr. Photo by The Wayne Dispatch

for the program. Helppie spoke before the presentation of the checks.

"I get it. I was a student here. Everyone needs someone to make a difference in their life," Helppie told the crowd.

Wayne Westland Community School District Superintendent, Greg Baracy, was a mentor in the program.

"This program gave me a great opportunity to connect with students

throughout the school. It allowed me to connect with a young man who is very special to me," said Baracy.

Baracy served as a mentor for Eric Pohl. He thanked Pohl in front of the crowd for allowing him to be his mentor.

"It was great to know a guy like Dr. Baracy could find time to come out to see me," said Pohl. "I had a lot of support from other people too, especially St. Mary's."

Pohl exceeded his grade point average goal. Baracy said he was impressed with Pohl's success in such a rigorous curriculum.

Pohl spoke in front of the crowd of his fellow classmates, his mentor, his mother and Helppie.

"I understand times are tough so it's really great that this could happen. God bless you, Mr. Helppie. This sure was helpful and meaningful," said Pohl.

Helppie said that it was Gray, WMHS principal Valerie Orr, the district's support and just a little time and funding from the Helppies.

"In a broad sense, Wayne Champions is about community. Adult sponsors – champions – giving their time and energy to teach young people about the disciplines needed to pursue a goal," said Helppie.

He said that program is realistic and teaches student about the real world that awaits them after high school.

"Goals are set and pursued. Achievement levels are not compromised. Students are learning that there is no guarantee. Students learn that no one gets any place by themselves," said the donor. "The real-life lesson taught is if the right combination of talent, effort and luck come together, one can receive recognition and reward."

Every student who received a check was smiling. Every time a student's name was called the crowd cheered. Some students raised their GPA's from below 2.0 to 3.0 and some students earned 4.0s with the new motivation and support they received from the Champions of Wayne.



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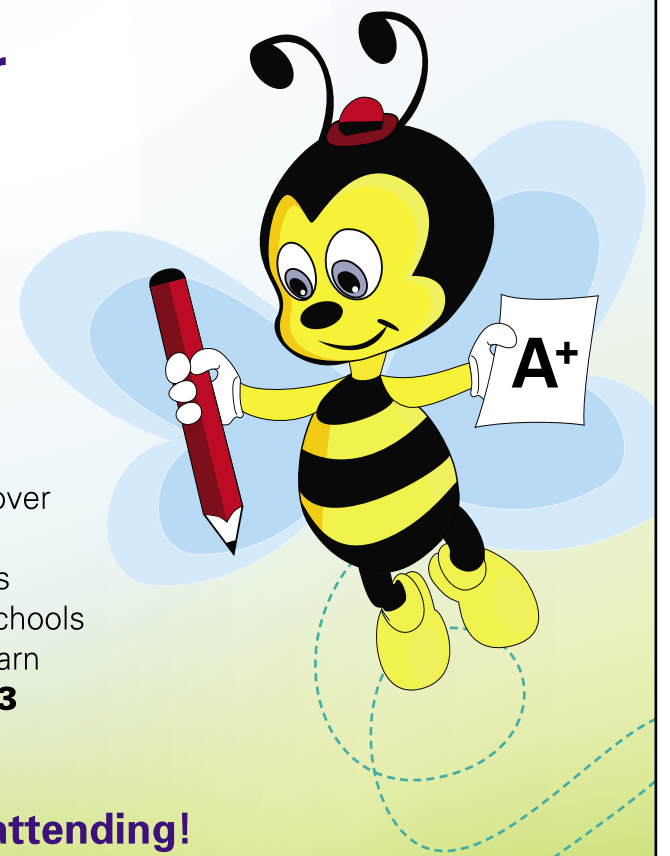
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NEWS BRIEFS

Dueling Piano Show

The Wayne Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Mardi Gras Dueling Piano show on March 18 at the Wayne Community Center. Tickets are \$15 each or \$120 for a table of 10. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. For more information or tickets, please call the chamber at 734-721-0100 or e-mail jill@waynechamber.net.

Dairy Queen opens

The wait is over. It's been a long winter without favorites like blizzards, peanut buster parfaits and waffle bowl sundaes. The Dairy Queen on Wayne Road will kick off their 53rd year of doing business in Wayne this week. For the first week hours will be weather permitting. Regular hours are from 11 a.m.- 10 p.m.

Safari Night

The Wayne Memorial High School Z-PAC is hosting a Zebra Safari from 6-10 p.m. on March 25 at the Dyer Senior Center on Marquette in Westland. The safari is an annual fundraising dinner to raise money for the farewell dinner for the senior class.

There will be silent and live auctions, raffles and door prizes. Tickets are \$30 per person or \$200 for a table of eight. Tickets are available at the office of Wayne Memorial High School. The culinary arts program at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center will provide dinner.

Retirements

They will be missed. Wayne Westland School District Deputy Superintendent Charlotte Sherman announced her retirement at the February school board meeting. Sherman began her career with the school district in 1974. She will retire effective June 30. Wayne City Attorney Richard Clark announced his retirement at the February 15 city council meeting. He will also retire this spring. He has practiced law for 38 years in Wayne and been the city attorney for 20. "This is the only place I've ever practiced law," he said. "It's the best job anyone could have."



Michelle Langa, teacher, 2011 Spelling Bee Winner Sydney Watson, Dr. Greg Baracy and Franklin Principal Sandra Brock with the middle school spelling bee winner.

Health & Wellness Expo in Wayne

Spring into Health! Dorsey Schools is sponsoring a FREE Health and Wellness Expo on Saturday, March 26th from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The expo will be held at the Dorsey Schools campus located at 35005 West Michigan Avenue in downtown Wayne. If your New Year's resolution to get healthier hasn't progressed much, or you are worried about summer creeping up on you, come join us! You can learn important tips on getting and staying healthy, prevention through easy lifestyle choices, and meet a multitude of health and wellness experts from the community to help you on your quest for a fitter, healthier you! A variety of health, fitness, nutrition, and medical information will be available. Everyone is welcome to attend this FREE event!

City qualifies for SAFER Grant

The City of Wayne Fire Department has been approved to receive the SAFER Grant in the amount of \$1,179,455. This grant will cover a portion of wages and benefits for up to six additional firefighters for two years. If the City accepts the grant they will have to cover the rest of the expense through the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 budget.

Wayne 1947

The Wayne Historical Society is presenting a slide show titled "Wayne 1947" at their meeting on March 10 at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

AARP Tax Assistance Program for seniors

The Senior Services Office is taking reservations for this year's tax program. This FREE program will be held at the Wayne Activity & Banquet Center (old senior center) at the corner of Sims and Wayne Road. Dates of preparation will be each Wednesday through April 13. Assistance is done by appointments only. All tax returns are e-filed for your convenience. Donations to the program are appreciated. Please call 734-721-7400 for appointment.

Kid's Zone

The Wayne Community Center now has an area for your children while you exercise or participate in any event in the building. It is for walking toddlers to children nine years old. Kid's Zone is in the viewing area and offers an interactive area including a soft play structure, five-sport play station, GEO trax train set, legos and more. Please call 734-721-7400 for prices and more information.

Coming soon

The City Council approved the site plan for Baba's Kabob and Chicken a new Mediterranean restaurant that will open in Wayne next month. It will be located on westbound Michigan Avenue at the site of the former Lia and TJ's Donut shop. The restaurant will seat 48 and have a limited menu offered through their drive thru. Their hours will be 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. daily. In addition to the restaurant, they will offer catering.

Board of Review

On March 21-23 the Board of Review will hear appeals on 2011 assessed value, tentative taxable value poverty exemptions and property classification. To schedule an appointment, please call 734-722-2000. Wayne residents should receive their notice of assessments the first week of March.

Dorsey Schools Complimentary "Lunch & Learn" Event

What direction is your life going? Dorsey Schools will host its complimentary Lunch & Learn presentation on Saturday, March 12, 2011, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Dorsey Schools campus located at 35005 West Michigan Avenue in Wayne. Enjoy a complimentary lunch, free career exploration, campus tours and hands-on demonstrations. Learn about opportunities that could make your future a more successful one! For more information, please call (734)595-1540.

Unistrut expands in Wayne


With a \$606,263 tax credit approved by the Michigan Economic Growth Authority, Unistrut International Corp. will be able to expand its Wayne facility and create an additional 86 jobs over a five year period. Unistrut makes barbed and razor wire, structural solutions for electrical distribution devices, HVAC equipment, refrigeration, plumbing and other structural support products.

Do you have news that you want to share in the News Brief section of the Wayne Dispatch? Please send your requests to us at jenny@thewaynedispatch.com or call 734-641-6550.

reducing expenses to achieve YOUR GOALS

Achieving **financial goals** sometimes requires making adjustments to your family budget. Quite often, cutting back on expenses can generate the largest results in the shortest period of time. It's **not how much you earn** in your lifetime, **but how much you spend** that can keep you from achieving your goals.

So, if you have a **financial goal** in your life, take a look at your spending as a way to **save** the money to achieve that goal. Here are just a few helpful tips:

- 
- Reduce grocery expenses
 - Cut down on meals out, vacation travel, and expensive hobbies
 - Cut consumption of non-nutritious beverages
 - Do home maintenance and repair jobs yourself
 - Spend less for clothing and personal care
 - Reduce trips to the beauty or barber shop
 - Purchase a more economical car
 - Use the public library instead of buying books and magazines
 - Give fewer gifts or spend less on gifts

Need help getting started? To take advantage of this great offer, become a member of the **Credit Union** today. As a member of **Wayne Westland Federal Credit Union**, you will have full access to the **Accel** program, a **FREE** financial education and counseling program. If you already are a current member of **Wayne Westland Federal Credit Union**, you can call **Accel** directly at **1-877-33ACCEL (332-2235)**.



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Brian and Nick at ICON Computer Solutions are ready to help you with all your computer needs. Photo by John P. Rhaesa of The Wayne Dispatch

ICON Computer has the solution

By Jenny Johnson

If you've got a computer problem, they can fix it. ICON Computer Solutions owner Brian Ewanciw and computer technician Nick Schuette repair about 100 computers a month. They do anything from virus removal to installing new programs to replacing batteries and much more. And they have same day service for most repairs.

ICON has been open since October on westbound Michigan Avenue in Wayne. They were previously located in Ypsilanti. Ewanciw said he lives in Wayne and had driven past the building numerous times. "I had my eye on it," he said. "I love this location."

They provide a wide range of computer services for laptops and desktop computers as well as in-home repairs and set up. They specialize in both residential and

commercial customers. ICON is more than a computer repair shop, they sell monitors, desktops, laptops, chargers, keyboards, speakers, accessories, parts and security camera systems. If you are looking for a custom built computer, they can do that too.

"Tell us what you are going to use it for and we can build what you need," he said.

"I've always been in electronics. My family owned a satellite business and I started working at 14," Ewanciw said. "I like that it's something new every day."

If you have a computer problem or question or are in the market for a new system, stop by ICON Computer Solutions. Their hours are 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday. Check them out at 734-729-4266 or www.iconpcsolutions.com.

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Congressman Hansen Clark and Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis meet with Representatives from LiUNA. Photo by John P. Rhaesa of The Wayne Dispatch

Member of Obama's administration visits city

By Erica Perdue

U.S. Secretary of Labor, Hilda Solis, visited Wayne to show support of the Wayne LiUNA training program and the Union's "Build America" effort.

LiUNA is the Laborers' International Union of North America. They have three training institutes and apprenticeships in Michigan including the one in Wayne.

Solis has been the secretary of labor since February 2009. Creating clean energy jobs is one of her top priorities. The Department of Labor's mission is: To foster, promote and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers, and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights.

"The skills these young people are gaining will help conserve energy, which is something we all need to do," said Solis.

The "Build America" program was started in 2010. The cause is to restore America's competitiveness, create jobs and ensure a positive legacy for future generations. The program is focusing on school facilities, highways, bridges and water resources.

Solis started her visit by speaking to six students, the first six in the weatherization program. They told her about what they hope to achieve in the future. One student wants to

open her own hair salon after she finishes the weatherization program. She said the program has helped her learn how to save money in her business. Solis told the students that they all have potential.

"The president wants to see more of this. [The president] is pushing for good demonstrations of training and building skills like this in young people," Solis said.

The LiUNA weatherization program trains students in energy efficiency in homes across North America.

It is a hands-on program that has received college credit recommendations from the American Council on Education.

"The recession has hit manufacturing jobs the hardest. I'm happy that these opportunities are available, it's important to have programs like these," she said.

LiUNA employees did a hazardous material (HAZMAT) demonstration to show Solis what they do in the program training. Several employees have been working with HAZMAT for over ten years and explained to Solis that safety is the top priority in this and all of their courses.

"So many were nay-sayers about making investments [into these programs] but they're living proof that it is worth it," said Solis.

"This is a preview of what is to come. This is a growing industry that has taken off," she said.

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Rocks represented ripples of support for the revitalization of downtown Wayne.

Ripple Effect hosts first fundraiser

By Jenny Johnson

The Ripple Effect has made waves in Wayne. They raised \$2200 at their first fundraiser, a Hops and Schnapps, at the Avenue Sports Grille.

Jennifer Rickard, Ripple Effect board member, said the goal of the group is to create a vibrant walk able, visually appealing downtown.

"This is absolutely a grass roots citizen's movement. We are all property owners and we need to do what we can," she said.

Members of the Ripple Effect were thankful for those who supported their fundraiser.

Sherrie Brindley told the sellout crowd their participation is just helping to "build momentum for the revitalization effort. This is just the beginning of what you're going to see in downtown Wayne."

"This is truly a community event," she said.

"Goals cannot be attained without funding," Rickard said.

Their goals include attracting and retaining businesses and residents in Wayne.

"We need to bring the City of

Wayne closer to its full potential," she said. Later this year the Ripple Effect will send in an application for Wayne to become a Michigan Mainstreet community. The Mainstreet program works with communities to help revitalize their downtown districts.

In the meantime they plan to start making small differences in the downtown area. They are looking for suggestions on how to enhance the downtown, support for their fundraisers and ambitious and positive volunteers to help with their effort.

"We love the city we live in and want to beautify it," Rickard said.

"We can make a difference in this community. When we work together we can make big things happen," said John Rhaesa, Ripple Effect board member.

For more information you can visit www.waynerippleeffect.com.

They meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Chamber of Commerce on Michigan Avenue. Their meetings are open to the public, stop by and share your ideas on revitalizing downtown.

THE WAYNE Dispatch

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Leading Ladies

The Wayne Dispatch is a monthly publication direct mailed to the entire City of Wayne.

Zebra Print earns its stripes

By Erica Perdue

The stripe print of the zebra mascot represents the pride in Wayne Memorial High School students, which is why in late 2007 when the newspaper was reborn they chose to title it 'The Zebra Print.'

The first issue came out in January of 2008. It's a free newspaper. In the beginning there was not a newspaper class so the staff was freelancing. At that time there were two writers, a graphics guy and the advisor, Heather Koch. At the start of the new semester in early 2008 a newspaper class was formed.

The Zebra Print won nine awards last year from the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association: the gold for overall newspaper production, five awards went to the artist and other awards for photo stories and various articles.

"When I came here five years ago I volunteered to start a newspaper. I did newspaper and yearbook at Glenn and I missed the rapport of having a newspaper staff," said Koch.

This year there are 18 students on the staff: an editor-in-chief, section editors, reporters/photographers and an artist.

"I've been really amazed by this great group. It's small but I'm impressed," said Koch.

The Wayne Westland School District Superintendent, Dr. Greg Baracy, said the paper is impressive.

"It resembles a high-quality newspaper. The articles are fair, balanced and credible. The appearance is like that of a national newspaper," Baracy said. "The student reporters have always demonstrated maturity and are respectful. Those are both good qualities of any reporters."

During newspaper class the staff plans the paper on the white board. A few students stand at the board with the magic wand of a marker and draw out their ideas for stories, layouts and photos. Then the rest of the staff shouts out in agreement or disagreement.

"We have a wide range of topics to cover here and I really enjoy it," said J'entill Neal, entertainment co-editor.

The story-planning process is organized chaos and the product is a newspaper they are proud to provide.

"My favorite part of the newspaper is definitely the staff. We're like a family - loud, dedicated, friendly and reliable," said Samantha Kilburn, editor-in-chief.

Koch describes Kilburn as her "go-to" girl for good stories.

Andrew Laitinen is the infamous staff artist. He has a reputation around the building for being the only staff artist. His cartoons are featured every month and he draws "Wayne" the zebra, the newspaper's own version of the school mascot.

"I like seeing my work printed," Laitinen said.

Koch said that she is proud of the artist and he is very creative.

"He's one to watch. He will make it far with his incredible talent," said Koch.

Shane Kommer is the sports editor and said that deciding to join the paper was one of his best decisions.

Baracy said that the Zebra Print is an "outstanding program ... one good enough for other districts to imitate."

Students who were staff on the Zebra Print in 2008 and 2009 have gone on to pursue journalism and




Front row, left to right: Samantha Kilburn, Samantha Grubb, Marion Castaldini. Second row, left to right: Amber Frost, Derrick Lipke, Valarie Green, Kyle Saavedra, Kaileen Horvath, Jennifer Troost. Third row, l to r: Heather Koch, Sarah Taylor, Alec Lee, Dan Malcolm, Courtney Hooper. Top, left to right: Demarrea Johnson, Andrew Laitinen, Shane Kommer. Not pictured: J'entill Neal.

graphic design careers. The very first editor-in-chief of the newspaper writes for the Wayne Dispatch Newspaper and is approaching graduation with her bachelor's in journalism.

With Koch's leadership, talented students and the school's admiration for the newspaper, the Zebra


Print will continue to report news and entertaining stories to all of WMHS.

Editor's note: Prior to the Zebra Print, the Hi-Lite was a student run newspaper printed monthly at Wayne Memorial and supervised by Bill Brooks. If you remember or wrote for the Hi-Lite, tell us what you remember on our Facebook page, facebook.com/thewaynedispatch.



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TOM LYNCH

Many ways to help in the community

They call it "A Zebra Safari", and it's a fundraising dinner to benefit many student activities at Wayne Memorial High School. On March 25, you can experience a culinary delight at the Dyer Adult Senior Center, 36745 Marquette. Prepared by staff and students at the William D. Ford Career-Tech Center, the dinner will start with hummus and pita, cheese and crackers, fruit and veggies, coconut chicken and sweet and sour meatballs. Michigan salads with nuts and dried cherries will be followed by the main course: Prime Rib and fish. You can have pasta with a choice of sauces and a variety of vegetables. Or you can skip all the healthy food and go right for the desserts---French pastries and chocolate covered strawberries!

Seventy people turned out for the first Zebra Safari in 2006. Last year there were 200.

The committee (Chairperson: Chris Spehar; Co-Chair: Colleen Williamson; Treasurer: Beth Gendron; Secretary: Sheri Bartz; and parent volunteer co-coordinator: Sue Webb) have great hopes that this year's dinner will be even more suc-

Footprints of Wayne

Dee Ryan



cessful. Tickets are \$30.00 or \$200.00 for a table of eight. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 7:00 p.m.

The Zebra Parent Advisory Council (Z-PAC) is also seeking gift donations to be used for the silent auction, raffles, and live auction, to be held throughout the evening.

Wayne Memorial's Principal, Valerie Orr, a 1993 graduate of WMHS, has many tickets and would love to sell you one---or many more. Call her at (734)-419-2206. She does ask that you purchase your tickets by March 15.

Another event, which will raise funds for scholarships, is planned for March 15.

Each year The Ladies' Literary Club offers \$1000 to a young lady

from Wayne Memorial and the same amount to a John Glenn graduate. Both young women are always outstanding students and it's the Club's pleasure to award them with college funds.

After years of rummage sales and bake sales Ladies' Literary decided just to have a fun evening filled with word games, prizes, delicious refreshments, and a chance to enjoy the company of your friends and neighbors. You'll take home a book of your choice, some homemade baked goods and an up-to-date reading list of best selling books.

No need to buy a ticket---your donation to a splendid cause will help two deserving young women get started on their chosen career path.

We hope to see you at the First Congregational Church, at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15th.

A Detroit Institute of Arts docent will present "Fakes, Forgeries and Mysteries" at our Wayne Library on March 29. As the radio commercial says about it---"is it Rembrandt or Rembrandt?" The speaker will explain how museum experts work behind the scenes, using science, including x-rays, and also art history research to reveal the DIA's greatest mysteries. Many of the discoveries are from the museum's own collections. As an example, they are currently examining works by Monet and Van Gogh to determine if they are by the artists, or are forgeries. Please make a reservation for the Tuesday evening program by calling (734) 721-7832.

Wayne's Garden club will present 'The Petticoat Ladies' as their March program. Called "Charmers and Cranks" the ladies will feature women who are in each category.

The performers dress in the costumes of the era they represent, and for this program one of the 'Cranks', will be Carrie Nation complete with hatchet. This will be one of the last times to see these gals perform, because they will be disbanding in May. If you'd like to attend, please give me a call---729-1203. It's at the Wayne Library, on March 9 at 12:30 p.m.

An overflow crowd---friends and relatives of Sharon and Ron Gilbert came to the J R Bar last month. They will be raising their one-year-old grandson, Trevor, after the sudden death of their daughter, Chelsea. J R's held a 6-hour benefit to raise funds for the family's expenses. Sharon's sister Karen was on hand, as were their dear friends, Marilyn and Jeff Bayer. A large group of the Gilbert's neighbors came from Biddle St: Jean Smoes, Pam and Tom Dobrowolski, The Wootton-Hammons families, Karen and Don Talaga, and Marilyn and Bob Sawyer.

If you were unable to attend the benefit, and would like to contribute 'a little something' for Sharon, Ron, Trevor, and the memory of Chelsea---the Wayne-Westland Credit Union has set up an account. It's The Trevor D. Gilbert Trust Fund.

Remember, life is brief, but love is long.

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CITY OF WAYNE AND A PORTION OF THE CITY OF ROMULUS NOTICE OF LAST DAY FOR VOTER REGISTRATION FOR WAYNE-WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ELECTION TO BE HELD

MAY 3, 2011

A Wayne-Westland Community Schools Election will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2011, in the City of Wayne and the Rudgate Clubhouse in the City of Romulus. Persons who wish to vote in this election must be registered to vote by April 4, 2011 and possess the following qualifications:

- * Citizen of the United States
- * Michigan resident for 30 days prior to May 3
- * Eighteen (18) years of age on or before May 3

Voter registration application can also be made at an office of the following agencies:

Secretary of State
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Department of Public Health
Michigan Rehabilitation Services

City of Wayne electors who have moved to a new address within Wayne or City of Romulus electors who have moved to a new address within Romulus, should notify their respective City Clerk's Office.

Publish: March 4, 2011	Ellen Craig-Bragg City Clerk City of Romulus	Matthew K. Miller City Clerk City of Wayne
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