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MAY 2011



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May 21*



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Lifetime memories made and favors paid

Most of us visit cousins or aunts and uncles for Christmas. Donna and Barry McEachern went to Israel. Their trip to the Holy Land was a dream that came true in December 2010. At Cana, where Christ attended a wedding, Donna and Barry renewed their marriage vows. In Haifa they toured the exquisitely manicured and flowering gardens of the Bahai Faith. Donna rode a camel in Jericho---Barry lost his clogs in the Dead Sea. At a kibbutz restaurant, the only one in Israel serving pork, they ate spare ribs.

The pigs have to stay on an elevated platform, so as not to defile the land of Israel.

Jerusalem was the most interesting city because of age, its many cultures and religions. In the midst of modern shopping malls are small shops and marketplaces, plus street vendors. Donna thinks that the Via Dolorosa is in many ways the same as when Jesus walked that way.

On Christmas Eve they were among the 90,000 people in Bethlehem. The churches and shrines are many; the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is unique because of the many factions involved. The Greek Orthodox religion has the tomb of Jesus---then you have the Franciscans, the Coptics, the Armenians, and the Ethiopians.

In Donna's words---"It was an honor and an often humbling experience to be in the land where three of the world's religions originated. It was such a privilege to walk in the area where Christ was born, lived, ministered to the people, was crucified, died, was buried, and rose again."

Sharron and (Wild) Bill Copland

Footprints of Wayne

Dee Ryan



have been married 50 years. On April 16 about 150 people gathered at the Bailey Center in Westland to join them as they celebrated. It was a surprise done so well by daughter Linda Dugas, her husband, Christopher, and daughter, Samantha, granddaughter, Christina Vega and her husband Tim, along with Billy Copland and his wife, Kim. Their two children, Chase and Carlee, were part of the party secret---they invited Bill and Sharron to come to a Grandparents Dinner-Dance. The invited guests showed up a half hour earlier than the anniversary couple. And yes---they really were surprised. After a delicious buffet meal, with truly yummy desserts, Sharon and Bill renewed their vows under a lighted arch, officiated by their friend and former pastor of St John's Episcopal Church, Father Thomas Wilson.

Matt Miller's April column told you of replacing the windows at Wayne's Historical Museum. Those who've donated to the fund are: DTE Energy, Rork Plumbing, Dan Mason, Ron Marshall, Ann Koch, Uht Funeral, Ortem Assoc., Cheri Hayes, Diana White, Nathan Adams, Burtons Plumbing, Joan Morgan, Warren Attwood, Joan Dittmar, Wayne Rotary, Oakwood Hospital, Lower Huron Supply, Penny Kolloff, Wayne

Garden Club, Ken Reimmer, Hydro Spot, Donna McEachern, Art Carpenter, Tom Daily, Civitan Club, Richard Andrew, Brenda Armstrong, Carol Reynolds, Elizabeth Kidwell, David Dillingham, Robert Nelson, Dottie LaSuer, Matt Miller, Sharon Popek, Connie Chicky, Robin Currier, and United PVF.

Donations are still welcomed. Checks can be made to the Historical Museum/Window Replacement Fund. 1 Town Square, Wayne 48184.

The Wayne Garden Club will be holding their last meeting of the year on May 11. The program is "Great Lakes Alliance: Keep Our Great Lakes Healthy." The speaker is Jamie Cross and the place and time---Wayne Library at 12:30 p.m. Guests are always welcome.

Our City Council has OK'd requests by the Ripple Effect to allow them the use of the city's flower planters. Ripple can also use the water carts and the water. You can sponsor a large planter for \$40.00 or

a small one for \$30.00. Each planter will bear your name or that of a loved one. What a nice gift for Mother's Day, or in memory of a loved one. Checks can be made to Wayne Ripple Effect---34844 W. Michigan Ave. That's the Chamber of Commerce office, so you can also drop by with your donation. For more information, call (734) 740-0606.

Washington St. is greatly diminished with the passing of two longtime and beloved neighbors. Mrs. Eileene 'Jimmy' Thomas lived with her son, Tyrone, while her other son, Danny, lived just across the street. Mrs. Thomas had been a nurse at Eloise and lived a happy and spirited 96 years.

And at the other end of our street we lost Mrs. Barbara Roach. She and her husband, Chris, have been neighbors for more than 35 years. In addition to Chris, Barbara leaves 4 children and 10 grandchildren. Our sympathy to both families---two friends will be missed.



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PERFECT MATCH

Wayne resident gives ultimate Birthday gift

"It's not even just getting a kidney. It's that someone cares that much." - Mark Giese

By Jenny Johnson

It's a gift not everyone can give. Wayne resident Carrie Shelton will give her friend, Mark Giese, an extra special birthday present this year. She will give him one of her kidneys. Mark will turn 45 on May 18, the day before their surgery.

"I've known he's needed a kidney forever," Shelton said. "At Christmas I was talking to him and he said his blood type B positive is the second hardest blood type to find a kidney for. I told him I had B positive and that I would donate a kidney to him if I could."

Shelton said she always donates blood to the American Red Cross but just received her card in December that identified her blood type.

She said when she made the offer, the room went silent. Giese was diagnosed with Juvenile Diabetes at seven years old. He had a kidney and pancreas transplant 19 years ago. The new pancreas cured his diabetes but the anti rejection medication was toxic to his kidney so it has continued to debilitate over the years. He is currently on dialysis three times a week for five hours each time.

Shelton said kidney transplants have a higher success rate when they come from a live donor and she is happy to do this for Mark.

"He would do it for me in a minute. He has the biggest heart," Shelton said.

Be a Donor

Did you know that one organ donor can save up to eight lives? Every day 18 people will die waiting for an organ donation and there are over 100,000 people currently on the organ donation list. How can you help? By registering to become an organ donor. You can register on the national registry at www.organdonor.gov. You should also:

- **Designate your decision on the back of your driver's license**
- **Tell your family about your donation decision**
- **Tell your physician, faith leader, and friends**
- **Include donation in your advance directives, will, and living will**

Organ donors can be deceased or living. Living individuals can donate one of the two kidneys, a lung, part of their liver, pancreas or intestines. Single kidney donation is the most frequent living donor procedure. Tissue donation such as amnion, skin, and bone as well as blood, marrow, blood stem cells, and umbilical cord blood can also be done as living donors. Generally, living donors should be physically fit, in good health, between the ages of 18 and 60, and should not have or have had diabetes, cancer, high blood pressure, kidney disease, or heart disease.

Giese said he warned her "this is a hard thing and this is going to be harder on you that it is on me" he said. He then gave her the phone number to his transplant coordinator at UM. On Dec. 20 the initial blood work was done and in January Giese got the call he couldn't believe.

"Carrie called and told me it was a good match. I was on my way home from dialysis. I had to pull over. I was all teary eyed. I've never had a girl do something like that for me," he said.

The decision may have been

easy but the testing and matching is quite involved. In addition to blood work, Shelton had a CT scan, chest x-ray, urinalysis and psychological review.

"I spent a whole day at U of M," she said.

Shelton's biggest hurdle was making sure her two daughters felt comfortable with her decision.

She said one night the three of them were sitting on the couch and Shelton casually asked what they would think if she had the opportunity to donate a kidney to someone.

"They both said 'Oh my God'

that would be so great," Shelton said. But they admit when they came across Shelton sitting at the table preparing a living will, "that made it a little more real," said Alyssa, 17.

But they still supported their mom.

"I say she goes for it because you're going to save someone," said Ashley, 15. They also know Mom will have to rely on them for a few weeks after the surgery.

How will the girls help and support their mom?

"Help around the house a little more," said Alyssa.

It was important her girls understand why she is doing this. "I want them to see if you can help someone you should help someone," she said.

Shelton said before she made her final decision she wanted to make sure her girls would have options if they ever needed them. Her team of doctors told her that diabetes does not run in her family and if either of her daughters ever needs a kidney, they can donate to each other. Plus, "If I ever need a kidney I go to the top of the list," she said.

The five hour surgery will be laparoscopic for Shelton. She has an eight doctor team. Her and Mark will go into the operating rooms side by side. She will have a total of

See **Gift**, page 4

Gift, Continued from page 3

three incisions- two for the cameras and one to remove the kidney. Giese's part of the surgery will last up to eight hours. Doctors will also do some work on his pancreas.

Shelton will remain in the hospital for two to three days and then she will have to recuperate at home for at least two weeks- no lifting or driving. Giese will have to stay in the hospital five to seven days so doctors can monitor him for signs of rejection.

Mark, who lives in Waterford and works 12 hour night shifts at GM in Flint, travels to Livonia three mornings a week for dialysis. He said he has been on a transplant list with the University of Michigan Hospital and in a paired transplant program in Toledo but never expected he would get his kidney from someone he knows. He has one sister who also had Juvenile Diabetes and their other sister donated a kidney to her years ago.

"It's overwhelming. I'm in a state of shock. Every time I talk about it I get teary eyed," he said. "It's not even just getting a kidney. It's that some-



Carrie's daughters, Ashley (left) and Alyssa, support their mom's decision to donate a kidney to her friend.

one cares that much."

Shelton and Giese have known each other for about five years. Shelton's boyfriend, Mark, is a childhood friend of Giese.

"I first met Carrie at one of Mark's Memorial Day parties," Giese said. "I grew up with that whole family." They all wanted to donate but didn't

have the right blood type.

Giese said Carrie's gift will offer him freedom he hasn't had. "I will not only feel better immediately but I will have some time to relax. Now I am constantly rushing to point A to point B. I have no time to date or to go on a vacation." Between work and dialysis, Giese's days are full. "After

surgery I will feel a lot better and have a normal life again. It's just unreal. Right now I can't do a lot of things, some days I just feel wiped out."

Giese said he has been careful to take good care of himself.

"I do the best to do my part. I work out, watch everything I eat. I try to rest. I need to get some more rest," he said. He is ready for his surgery. The doctors have told him this will be his last transplant. "I feel really good. I'm excited."

The road has been rough for Giese. He lost his eyesight for awhile. Doctors didn't think his eyesight would come back but the first transplant did help. He almost lost his leg and has endured lots of surgeries. But it doesn't keep him down.

"I don't stop. I just keep going. You can't lay down and stop," he said.

Shelton said it's the least she can do for her friend.

"It's really not that hard. My life is not going to change and his life is going to change completely. He will instantly feel 100% better and after recovery I can resume a full life. They give us two kidneys for a reason- we have one to give," she said.

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1207 S. Wayne Road • Westland, MI

Help build a playground

By Erica Perdue

The City of Wayne is having another community build project May 18 – 20 to construct a new playground at Walz Park.

The park is located on Forest Avenue and Hubbard Street, east of Venoy. Wayne Baseball Association uses the four fenced-in baseball diamonds at Walz as their home field. It is 11.07 acres with a picnic area, shelter, tables, benches and a paved parking lot.

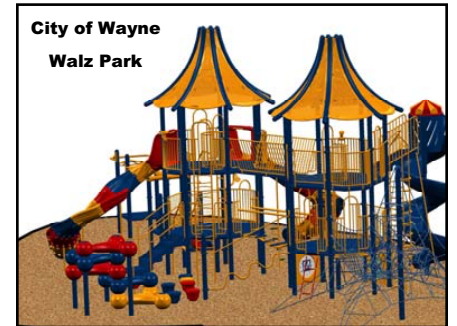
The play structure that will be built will replace the wooden play structure that has been removed. The new one will be ADA accessible and cater to children ages five to 12.

Features of the new playground include: lookout towers, spiral and racing slides, upper-body training aids, toddler and therapeutic swings, activity panels, webscape and youth/adult fitness equipment.

"This playground is a community build project so we are seeking volunteers to help us build and food/beverage donations from community businesses," said Nathan Adams, Director, Parks and Recreation.

The city has been doing successful community builds for over a decade.

Funding for the playground has come from several sources: a \$40,000 Wayne County Grant, \$40,000 in Community Development Block Grants (\$20,000 from last year and \$20,000 from this year) and donations. The Wayne Community Center has been collecting pop cans for the funding



"We chose Walz because we haven't done anything there in awhile and we really wanted to remove the wooden structure that was there."

Juan Bradford

"It's been a couple of years since our last project, Soroptomist Park, which we collected pop cans for. We continued collecting them to raise money for this build," said Juan Bradford, Building and Grounds Supervisor for the City of Wayne.

"We chose Walz because we haven't done anything there in awhile and we really wanted to remove the wooden structure that was there," said Bradford.

Pop can donations and golf outing fundraisers, like the North Pole Classic, raised \$5,690 for the Walz Community Build Project.

For more information about volunteering, call the community center at (734) 721-7400.

Don't miss College Fair

By Erica Perdue

Wayne Memorial High School will host the 2011 College Fair on May 12 from 4 – 7 p.m.

All district students and parents are invited to attend. It will be in the WMHS Media Center. Seventy universities, colleges and community organizations will be at the fair to provide information and answer any questions.

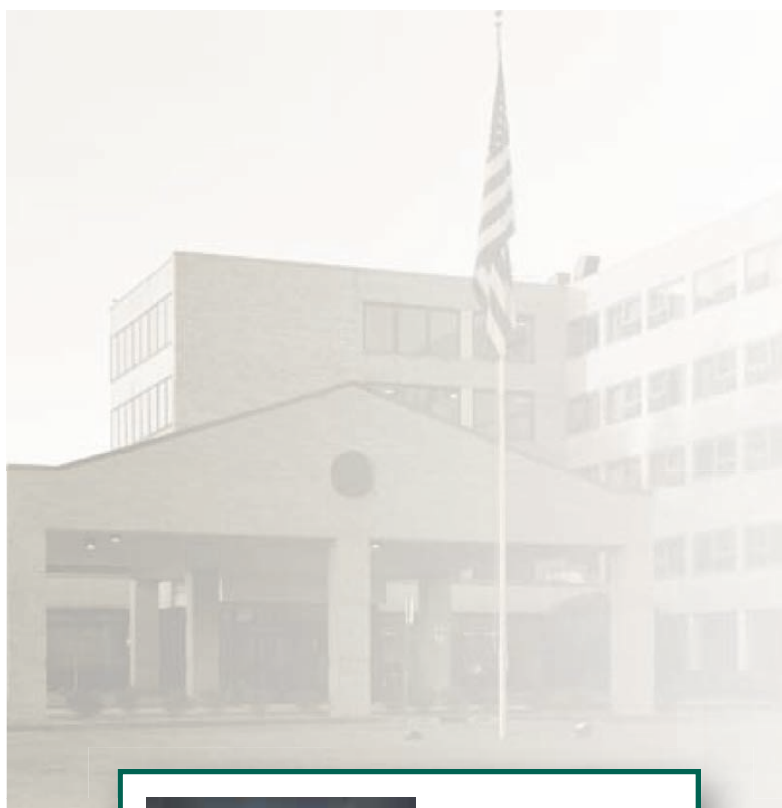
"In addition to all of this, Wayne Westland Alumni who are currently attending a wide variety of universities and colleges will host a panel discussion," said Jan Tomlinson, the

director of the Upward Bound Program at WMHS.

"We went last year and it was very informative. We will be going again this year as well to try to narrow down my daughter's choices as well as see who has the best programs for her field of study," said Jennifer Widner-Gietzen. "Wayne High does a great job putting this on!"

Food will be provided and prizes will be given out to those who attend. Tomlinson said that it promises to be an invaluable opportunity.

For more information, please call 734-419-2256.



Oakwood Annapolis Hospital
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community on maintaining a healthy heart.

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He completed his medical training and
fellowship at Sinai-Grace Hospital. Dr.
Pujara has the following mission: "The care
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interventional cardiology.

To register for this event please call
800.543.WELL (9355)

DATE: Tuesday, May 10, 2011

TIME: 6 to 8 p.m.

LOCATION: Oakwood Annapolis Hospital
Conference Room 1
33155 Annapolis Street
Wayne, MI 48184

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NEWS BRIEFS

Flower Planting Day

The Wayne Ripple Effect will sponsor this year's Flower Planting Day at 8 a.m. on May 21. The public is welcome to join in and help plant the flowers in planters that will be placed in the Downtown area.

The gathering location has not been determined yet. Please check www.therippleeffect.com for updates.

Students on a Mission

Students from the Youth Group at Crosspointe Community Church will spend a week in the Hollygrove neighborhood of New Orleans in July. Working with Americorps they will help clean up homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina. They will be helping families rebuild, paint and landscape. The cost for each student to attend this mission trip is \$500. They are collecting donations and holding fundraisers. If you would like to help make it possible for these high school students to help, please contact Andy Pugh, pastor of student ministry, at 734-721-7410.

Tree City USA

For the 15th year in a row Wayne has been designated as a Tree City USA from the Arbor Day Foundation. To qualify for this honor, the City must demonstrate a commitment to community forestry by meeting certain standards like having a tree department, a tree ordinance, a community forestry program and an Arbor Day observance.

Rummage Sale

First United Methodist Church, 3 Town Square, will hold a Rummage Sale from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. on May 13 and 14 and 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. on May 15.

Memorial Day Parade

The Wayne-Westland Veterans Parade Council will host the 2011 Memorial Day Parade at 1 p.m. on May 29. The parade will begin at the Wayne Ford Civic League on Wayne Road in Westland. It will proceed north on Wayne Road to Ford Road and west on Ford Road to Westland City Hall.

School district names new deputy superintendent

The Wayne Westland Board of Education approved the appointment of Paul Salah to the position of Deputy Superintendent of Educational Services. Salah will assume the position when Char Sherman leaves at the end of June. Salah has been with the district since 2001 as a special education teacher, assistant principal and principal at Marshall Middle School. He is currently the senior executive director of instruction.

Search for City Attorney

The City Council received 15 proposals from lawyers or firms interested in applying for the position of city attorney. They interviewed six candidates for city attorney. Current City Attorney Richard Clark will retire in May. At their April 19 meeting City Council voted 4-3 to enter into an agreement with Fausone Bohn, LLP to provide city attorney services for the City.

Mortgage burning

Westwick Square will have a mortgage burning ceremony on May 15 to celebrate the completion of their 40 year mortgage. The first residents moved in to the complex in 1968 and they currently have 325 units.

Garden Walk

The Wayne Garden Club will host a Garden Walk from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. on June 25, rain or shine. Tickets are \$8 in advance and will be available at the library, city hall or community center. Tickets will be \$10 the day of the walk. For more information, please contact Ruth at 734-326-1346.

Mayor and Council accept pay cut

On a recommendation of the Local Officers Compensation Commission, the Mayor and City Council agreed to a 5% reduction in their yearly compensation due to the budget challenges the City faces. Council members will each receive \$2850 per year and the Mayor will receive \$3192 per year. This is effective July 1.

Police department gives and receives

The Wayne Coin Club made a \$150 donation to the Wayne Police Department as a thank you for them providing two reserve officers for their coin show at the Wayne Community Center. The donation was put toward the Wayne Police Department's Scholarship Fund. This fund helps Wayne Memorial High School graduates who want to pursue a career in law enforcement.

In turn, The Wayne Police Officer's Association donated a new ventless oven hood to the new St. Joseph Catholic School on Sims.

New CERT Class

Register today for the next CERT Class. The Community Emergency Response Team is made up of trained residents who assist the police and fire departments during emergencies and city events. Applications for the next training session are available at the fire and police station and on the City's website at www.ci.wayne.mi.us. Applications are due to the fire department by May 15. Classes are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on June 4 and 5 at the Wayne Fire Department.

Looking for Friend in need

The search is on. For the 13th year Friends: People Helping People is looking for a Wayne homeowner who needs some assistance with exterior painting, fence or landscaping work. The work is completed by dedicated volunteers.

This year's project is scheduled for September 10th, with a rain date of September 17th. If you would like to nominate a homeowner in need, please call Pete McNerney, Community Development Director, at 734-722-2002 or the project chairman, Ed McMurray, at 734-728-1735.

Persons or businesses that donate at least \$50 will have their name or business printed on the shirts. This project is fully funded with donations. Any donation should be made payable to the "City of Wayne" designated to the Friends Project.



Robert M. Sweet



Michael R. Sweet

Police catch two in break in

It was just before 3 a.m. on April 4 when Wayne Police Officer William Mangan responded to a breaking and entering complaint at Wayne Bowl on Michigan Avenue. The alarm had been tripped and police saw that ceiling tiles had caved in. Two subjects were walking away from the scene and were stopped by police.

"We made contact with them at the scene and they were arrested," said Sgt. Al Maciag, Wayne Police.

Robert M. Sweet, 46, of Wayne and Michael R. Sweet, 20, of Wayne were both arrested and have been charged with Breaking and Entering and Habitual Offender. They could face up to 10 years in prison if convicted. The father and son entered the bowling alley through the air conditioning unit on the roof.

Robert Sweet has also been charged with Breaking and Entering in a break in at Family Dollar on Michigan Avenue on March 30. He is also under investigation for similar break ins in Romulus, Taylor and Westland.

Department Heads pay more for health insurance

In an effort to help with the City's budget shortfalls, the City of Wayne's full time department heads and the deputy chiefs of the police and fire departments have offered to voluntarily contribute 20% toward the City's cost in providing health insurance coverage for them. This will be effective next benefit plan year or Jan. 1, 2012. In a memo submitted to Acting City Manager Robert English, they said "We feel that it is important that your administrative team steps up and takes the lead in this area and, are hopeful, that for the good of the city other employees will also step forward."

Avenue celebrates one year in Wayne

The Avenue Sports Grille is throwing a one year anniversary party and you are invited. They will have an outdoor party that starts at 12 p.m. on May 21. They will have entertainment all day including rock favorites Dirty Americans, hip-hop's Hush, reality star turned rock star Brandon Calhoun, the grunge-influenced Atom Smash out of Florida, break-out rockers Pistol Day Parade

and indie rock staple Cheyenne Goff. In addition to the live bands, DJ AMF, DJ Zig Zag and DJ RJ will keep the sounds flowing all day.

This free event is open to all ages and will feature a menu that includes outdoor grilled specialties.

The Avenue Sports Grille is located at 3632 Elizabeth in Downtown Wayne. Don't miss out on a great time.



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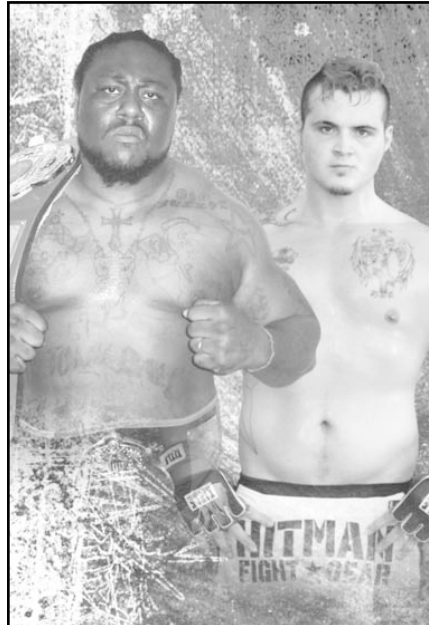
Fight Night comes to Wayne

Hierarchy Fighting Association will present Hierarchy II on May 21 at the Wayne Community Center ice arena. This fight night will include 21 mixed martial arts matches. Due to overwhelming demand, the doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and the fights start at 7 p.m. The heavyweight title fight will feature Dingo the Powerful Brown vs. Donnie Laramie.

Tickets are \$25 for grand stand, \$30 for arena seats and \$40 for VIP cage side seats. Tickets are now on sale at the Wayne Community Center. Concessions will be available. All ages are welcome to attend the fights.

Weigh-ins will take place at 6 p.m. on May 20 at Albert's On The Alley Bar and Grille, 5561 Middlebelt Road, Garden City. They will also host the after party. Other sponsors include Wayne Exchange, Papa's Pizza and GNC. Many of the fighters come from Stars and Stripes in Garden City and Ultimate Judo and Karate in Lincoln Park.

"It will be an extremely exciting night of fights and entertainment. It will be one of the best shows of the entire year," said Richard Browe, promoter, Hierarchy LLC. "It's all ex-



The heavyweight title fight will feature Dingo the Powerful Brown vs. Donnie Laramie.

tremely good talent coming to the show. We hope we have a really tremendous turnout."

For more information, please call 734-363-0022 or visit Facebook.com/HierarchyFightingAssociation.

Voters choose two new school board members

And the winners are . . . Andrea Clawson of Westland and Thomas Buckalew of Wayne. Each was elected to a four-year term as Wayne Westland school board trustees. Their terms begin in July. They filled the seats left vacant by Martha Pittsenbarger and Skip Monit.

Unofficial results are:

Andrea Clawson	1,902
Thomas Buckalew	1,884
Charles Trav Griffin	1,319
Carolyn Byndas	656
Scott Davis	616
Jeffrey Hayton	274
Harold Dunn	253

NEWS BRIEFS

Cell Phones for Soldiers

Cell Phones for Soldiers is a non-profit organization that gives prepaid callings cards to members of the armed services serving overseas. Used cell phones and chargers are recycled and exchanged for prepaid calling cards.

The Cell Phone for Soldiers program started in Wayne in 2009 by Wayne Police Officer Charles Kubinski. He recently turned in over 1150 cell phones and several large containers full of chargers and cords, said Police Chief Jason Wright.

For each phone that is turned in, the recycling company provides a one hour prepaid calling card to a soldier stationed overseas.

Wright said, "Officer Kubinski has been at the police department in his off duty time with his children. His children have helped him sort and package the equipment so it could be shipped to the recycling company. Officer Kubinski and his children have donated their time and talent for a very noble cause and I thank them."

"This is a very valuable program," said Wright. "We greatly appreciate all of the phones."

Cell phones are still being collected. Please turn in any cell phones, chargers and cords at the police department, community center, city hall, Wayne Public Library and Ford Motor Company.

Salad Luncheon

The First Congregational Church of Wayne, 2 Town Square, will host their annual Salad Lunch from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on May 26. The cost is \$7 per person.

Car Seat Check

The Wayne Fire Department is hosting a free Child/infant Car Seat Check from 3-6 p.m. on May 24 at the fire station. Bring your child/infant car seat and have it installed properly by a certified child safety seat technician. The law requires children to be in a booster seat until they are 8 years old or 4'9" tall.

Diamond of the Community Program

Do you know a Wayne resident who is 70 years young that is still actively contributing to our community through volunteer services? Nominate them for the Diamond of the Community award. The recipient will be honored by the Commission on Aging in September. Nomination forms will be available as of June 1st, at City Hall, the Library and the Senior Services Office.

How's your health?

You may be getting a phone call from the National Center for Health Statistics asking you to share demographic, socioeconomic, dietary and health-related information. They have chosen Wayne County as one of their survey locations. From May 19-Aug. 1 interviewers will call on 439 designated households throughout the area.

They will gather information about the health and nutritional status of adults and children. Information collected will be used to assess nutritional status and is also used as the basis for national standards for height, weight and blood pressure.

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The Strong Family at their new home- (L-R): Kylie, Katie, Kayla, Kourtney and Jonelle.

Home Sweet Home

By **Jenny Johnson**

"It's amazing," said Jonelle Strong as she and her four daughters stood on the porch of their brand new home on Oscoda Court in Westland. They were the recipients of the house built by the Life Remodeled project. This effort was spearheaded by Ekklesia Church of Westland. Pastor Chris Lambert not only organized having a house built by volunteers with mostly donated items, but he also hosted the reality television show they made out of the event.

Volunteers turned out in droves to construct the 1200 sq. ft. bungalow in record time. The home even has landscaping and a garden out back. The volunteers helped beautify the rest of the block too. They cut grass, edged along the sidewalk and did other general clean and landscaping along Oscoda Court.

The design of the house was a surprise to the Strong family.

"I had no idea," said Jonelle.

The front door opens to the living room and kitchen with all new appli-

ances. The master bedroom and a bathroom are on the main floor. The girls Kayla, 14, Kylie, 13, Katie, 10, and Kourtney, 8, will share two bedrooms upstairs. What do they like best?

"My room," said Kylie.

"I like it all," said Katie.

Even with the inclement weather the home was finished in four and a half days.

"The guys framed the whole house in the rain," Lambert said. That set the tone for the whole week.

Florin Maidaniuc from Framing Authority had a crew of five guys out in the rain all day on Monday to get the walls up. "I went through three sets of clothes," he said. "It was well worth doing."

The whole effort was filmed and the reality television show Life Remodeled will be premiered on June 2 at Emagine Theater in Canton at 6 and 8 p.m. Tickets are \$1. They hope to sell the show to a network so they can continue to build homes in the Norway area for other deserving families.

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Rouge River corridor can be a catalyst to revive city

By Kurt Kuban

Last October, a group of about a dozen adventurers pulled up at Goudy Park, unloaded their canoes and kayaks, and began an enjoyable float down the Rouge River.

Yes, you read that right -- canoeing down the Rouge River in Wayne.

It's not as unbelievable as some of you may think. In fact, Friends of the Rouge, an organization with a mission to clean up the long-neglected Rouge River watershed, has been organizing the group canoe trips for several years. In addition to the trip through Wayne, they've done trips along the Middle Rouge River through Hines Park and the main branch of the Rouge through Southfield. They have determined the best float, however, is definitely the trip through Wayne because of the scenic nature of the trip and the fact there is enough water flow.

If you're curious FOTR (www.therouge.org) will be doing another trip this fall -- but be forewarned, canoeing the Rouge is somewhat challenging and should only be tried by those with a moderate amount of canoeing experience.

To check out a video of one of the trips visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLtSFLcZeqQ> (or just go to YouTube and type in "canoeing Rouge River"). The video is proof that the Rouge River can be a real recreational draw to our city. An October trip down the Rouge features beautiful fall colors, a wooded landscape featuring giant oaks, sycamores and willows, and plenty of wildlife sightings (if you're quiet). It's a great way to spend a couple hours -- without having to drive a long way to do it.



Kurt Kuban and Mathew Mullholland ride the rapids during a group canoe trip through Wayne last October.

And the recreational opportunities don't end with canoeing. Believe it or not, the Lower Rouge River has the potential to be a nice little fishery. It already contains decent populations of panfish, northern pike, catfish - and even Chinook salmon that make their way up from the Detroit River each fall. And that's just in Wayne. Further upstream in Canton there are even rainbow trout (I know -- I've caught them).

Fish and macroinvertebrate (aquatic insects) populations have improved as efforts have continued to clean up the river over the last couple decades. Dissolved oxygen levels are way up, and pollution levels are way down (except after rain events, when storm drains dump runoff from oil-soaked parking lots and streets).

Continuing to clean up the Rouge River can be a catalyst for our city.

We are a river community -- and we always have been. That's why Native Americans lived here, and why the pioneers stopped here. The river has always supplied life to those who lived along its banks. We need to do a better job of promoting it, and connecting it to our downtown. As the city's recent Master Plan process showed, there are some real development opportunities along the river corridor that could really showcase this resource -- and bring more people downtown. Hopefully city officials can work with the right developers to make that happen.

As for the rest of us, we can help clean up the river and enhance this resource by participating in Rouge Rescue, an annual event that takes place in most communities throughout the Rouge River watershed.

I am happy to report there will actually be two Rouge Rescue events in

Wayne this year. The main event will take place June 4 at Dynamite Park, where volunteers will clean debris from the river, improve walking trails in this wonderful nature preserve, remove invasive plants like garlic mustard and build some benches and butterfly gardens. If you are interested in helping out, sign up begins at 9 a.m. and we should be done by 1 p.m. All volunteers will get a T-shirt. Be prepared to get dirty.

On June 3, a group of students from Hoover Elementary and their teacher, Amy Morse, will be doing their own Rouge Rescue project in Goudy Park. They will be installing some native plants down by the river where there is currently turf grass. These plants have deeper roots, which means they help prevent erosion and help absorb storm water runoff. They also have beautiful flowers.

Lastly, I want to mention a new group I am part of that is dedicated to improving the Rouge corridor through Wayne. Many of our efforts will involve Dynamite Park, which I feel is the best showcase we have for the Rouge River, but we also will work to keep the Rouge open to canoeing through the city. I know there is a lot of interest among our residents to help clean up the Rouge, and we just feel that one day a year is not enough to help out what I believe to be our greatest natural resource.

If you are interested in joining our group of volunteers, or participating in Rouge Rescue, please send me an e-mail at kkuban-3240@aol.com. If I don't respond right away, it's probably because I'm out fishing or canoeing on the Rouge.



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Alissa's Ambition

Because cancer never sleeps, Alissa's Ambition will be one of 20 teams participating in the 2011 Relay for Life of Westland on May 14-15 at Jaycee Park on Hunter and Wildwood in Westland. Alissa's Ambition was created in memory of 9-year-old Alissa Jennings of Wayne. She was diagnosed with Atypical Teratoid Rhabdoid (AT/RT) which is a rare malignant brain tumor, on Sept. 22, 2008. She lost her brave battle with brain cancer on September 19, 2009. Her parents, Nicole and Jeff Jennings, and sister, Brooke, will lead about 30 team members as they walk the track, sell buttons, baked goods, salsa and glow necklaces and bracelets. Their goal is to raise \$2000 for the American Cancer Society.

"We do this in honor of our daughter Alissa," said Nicole Jennings. "The American Cancer Society has come so far in their research to fight against cancer. We hope that one day they will find a cure for brain tumors too."

How can you help? "People can help by coming to Relay for Life on



Alissa's Ambition was created in memory of 9-year-old Alissa Jennings.

May 14th and walking a lap for their loved one who has survived or lost their battle with cancer," Jennings said. Opening ceremonies begin at 10 a.m. and there will be entertainment and activities throughout the 24 hours.

Chevy supports Wayne baseball

By Erica Perdue

Wayne Baseball Association will celebrate the start of their season with a \$500 donation from Chevrolet. Chevy has already donated an equipment bag, banners, ball buckets and 150 T-shirts. The company has also offered an Equinox or Cruze to give away to the lucky winner of a ticket drawing toward the end of the summer. WBA is selling the tickets for \$5 a piece to generate funds for the team. If they sell all of the tickets, they could get \$10,000 for the league.

"I was so excited to call Gill to find out if he needed help! Gill and his crew were so excited for Chevy to

help out," said Trish Hampton with Mark Chevrolet in Wayne.

Hampton said that Chevrolet is doing a lot of advertising at the moment and wanted a local league to sponsor, so when they asked her to find one she immediately thought of Wayne's local youth baseball teams.

"He told me that he was lucky to have enough money for everything at the end of each season, so hopefully this sponsorship will help out in all different ways!" said Hampton.

Opening Day for WBA is June 4 at Forest Park at Howe Road and Forest. Games start at 10 a.m. Chevy is also sponsoring a free clinic at Comerica Park on June 17th for the kids.

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Time for change- Dick Clark retires

By Jenny Johnson

He is part of a distinguished group. In the City of Wayne's 51 year history there have only been three people who have been City Attorney. When Dick Clark retires this month he will have been the longest serving with 21 years.

In his 38 year career Clark has only practiced law in Wayne. He began with the law firm of Millar and Weinberg located on Wayne Road and Ash. In Dec. 1990 he was appointed City Attorney. He began his own practice and moved to his current location on eastbound Michigan Avenue in spring 1992.

He said when he left his law firm 21 years ago and opened his own practice he knew he needed an excellent secretary. He asked both his wife, Beth, who was taking a class, and Cindy Candella, who works at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, who was the best student in the computer class. They both said the same name- Rachel.

Clark said when he hired Rachel Wright-Lessard he made her a deal.



Dick Clark with his right hand and left hand, Rachel Wright-Lessard, will walk out together on May 17, he to enjoy retirement and she to work for the new City Attorney.

"I teach her the law and she would teach me about computers. I succeeded and she failed," he laughs. He still has not mastered computers because "I'm too impatient," he said.

Clark said it has been a good partnership the past 19 years. "She and John McKinney (city prosecutor and former city attorney) make me look good."

Now it is time for them all to move on. "We'll walk out together," he said.

Like Clark, McKinney will retire too. Lessard has accepted a job with Fausone and Bohn. Paul Bohn has been appointed as the new City Attorney.

Clark has been working hard working with Bohn in his last few weeks. He has been introducing him to all of the department heads and taking him to meetings at City Hall.

"I'm very happy with the selection the City Council made. The City is in good hands," he said.

"It's not bad it's just going to be different," he said of the new law firm. He said they will bring fresh ideas to the city and that's good.

While the city is easing into its relationship with a new attorney, Clark will be easing into the life of a retiree.

Clark, who lived in Wayne for 32 years, before moving to Northville Township, wasted no time becoming involved in the city. He has been in the Civitans, spent many years with Special Olympics and serves on the board of Community Living Services.

"It's going to be difficult to not be as involved," he said.

But he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife of more than 40 years, Beth. She retired from Wayne Westland Community Schools a year ago and has enjoyed spending the winter at their second home in Las Vegas. She has joined a hiking club and Clark is eager to join her on hikes. He hopes to have more time for reading and maybe even becoming a little better golfer this summer. He and Beth are also planning a trip to the Azores in June.

But will they still be seen around Wayne. Yes. Not only do they have two children and five grandchildren who live in the area but "I love this City and I'm not going to walk away from it," he said.

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Prayers answered

Mayor Al Haidous, members of City Council and Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara joined Father Radecki and the staff and families of St. Joseph Catholic Church as they celebrated the grand opening of their new school on Sims. The K-12 school has four classrooms and 35 students. "There is nothing more honorable than to have the opening of a new school," said Haidous. "You are preparing the future leaders of our country."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Stop the raid on K-12 funding

I am a concerned mother of two children in the Wayne Westland School District. I am distraught over the proposed cuts to K-12 funding. Wayne-Westland School District would take a cut much larger than any other school district. A loss of \$1,150 per pupil cut or roughly \$14.5 million dollars is just too much for one district to bear. In 1972 when the lottery was approved and in 1994 with Proposal A voters approved these funds to go to school funding. At the time no one had the forethought to think to protect the funding for K-12 schools. Now years later it is being proposed that we divert this money from K-12 and place it in community colleges and universities. This is resulting in \$900 million dollars away from K-12 schools. How does Governor Rick Snyder believe we can properly educate our children?

Every year we ask our teachers to come in and help our children build a solid foundation so they will eventually grow up and become responsible, productive, tax paying citizens. Our teachers help place these proper building blocks so our children can

achieve success in life. Making such devastating cuts will only cause our children's foundation to crumble. Children who were once recognized as at risk and in need of special help will fall through the cracks and never receive the help they need because no one will be there to assist them.

To say our schools will change is a drastic understatement. The changes that would impact the students here at Wayne-Westland would be beyond devastation. These cuts are setting the district and every child in it up for failure. I am wondering why Governor Snyder is asking me as a parent to give up on my children and not expect the very best education possible for them. I didn't have my children and wish for them a second rate education and failure. I do not accept failure for my children and neither should Governor Snyder. These cuts would mean more than NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND it would lead to and ENTIRE GENERATION of CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND! I am not willing to let my children fail. PLEASE restore the K-12 funding.

Julie Briese
Mother, Westland

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