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# THE WAYNE Dispatch

JULY 2011



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firefighters  
return to work

Paul Franks makes first public appearance  
shares his memory of tragic day in December

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# Wayne Lions Scholarship

By Jenny Johnson

The Wayne Lions Club presented scholarships to three high school seniors at their June meeting. Christopher Henisse of Wayne Memorial High School received the Floyd-Izzie Leseur Scholarship and Patrick Kemp of John Glenn High School received the John and Irene Ryan Scholarship. Each was awarded \$1200.

Richard Hardyniec of the William D. Ford Career Technical Center was awarded the \$800 Eudaly-Archbold Scholarship.

Not only were these standout students but their applications demonstrated they have the drive and determination to make it in college.

Henisse will attend Detroit Mercy College and study bio chemistry and Kemp will attend Ferris State and study plastics engineering technologies.

The Wayne Lions Club began in 1955. They currently have about 20 members. Their mission is vision and they sell white canes, accept donations of old eyeglasses and help



Wayne Lions Club President Mary Rose Cartwright, Tom Lynch, Jaylee Lynch, (sitting) Patrick Kemp and Christopher Henisse.

support leader dogs for the blind. But they have also been awarding scholarships to high school students for more than 40 years too.

They meet the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at China Star Restaurant on Wayne Road in Westland. They are always looking for new members.



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It has been a staple in the Wayne community for more than 40 years. Henry's Service Center on Wayne Road and Elm Street is your hometown auto service center and another reason to shop local in Wayne.

In Jan. of 2010 Matt Gietzen bought Henry's Service Center from the Coe family insuring it would remain a family run business.

"Our family has been a neighbor to the Coe family for years," said Chris Gietzen, manager of Henry's. "It was a good fit for us. We were able to keep it a family owned local business."

The Gietzen's have been longtime Wayne residents and are proud to have the opportunity to serve their community.

Over the years Henry's has serviced thousands of customers and to keep up with the growing demand they have recently added a new bay door to better serve their customers. Although appointments are appreciated, walk-in customers are certainly welcome.

They have four full time mechanics and many loyal customers including the Wayne Police Department and U.S. Postal Service.

Wayne resident and Henry's customer Bill Copland said, "They stepped up the pace. They are doing a really good job. They are all good people."

Henry's is a full service station with mechanics certified to do oil changes, brakes, engine and transmission replacement, tune ups, heating and AC repair, shocks and struts, tires and engine diagnostics.

As Chris Gietzen put it, "When that annoying check engine light goes on bring it on up to us."

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They are located at **3041 S. Wayne Road** (about ¼ mile north of Michigan Avenue and a few doors down from the Dairy Queen). Call them at 734-721-8721 to schedule your appointment today. Their hours are 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday.

Henry's greatly appreciates the communities loyal support.





Paul Franks thanked the staff of Henry's for coming to his rescue. (L-R): Brian Sylvester, Dave Gietzen, Paul Franks, Jennifer Gietzen and Chris Gietzen.

# Paul Franks on the road to recovery

By Jenny Johnson

Many of us remember what happened on Dec. 29. But there are only a few who will forever be changed by that day. Paul Franks had just arrived at his store, William C. Franks Furniture, and unlocked the main door for his two employees, Leslie Machniak and Jim Zell. He then continued to the next door about 15 feet away. He had things in his red pickup truck to unload.

Before he could get inside, the building exploded.

"I was not in the building. The frame of the building fell on me," said Paul Franks.

Franks was trapped on his side with his feet facing the building.

"I could see nothing was there and I knew something terrible had happened," he said.

Franks said he was conscious the whole time. "I remember it all," he said.

"It was real quiet. I could only hear my hollering for help as many times as I could muster the strength to," he said. Thankfully the staff at Henry's Service Center heard his cries.

They rushed to the scene and



Firefighters pulling Paul Franks from the wreckage of the explosion at his store on Dec. 29.

tried to remove him from the rubble but couldn't. Franks said fire was quickly approaching him.

"The fire started away from me and then I started seeing the fire and it was coming pretty fast to me and I thought I was a goner," he said. The Henry's staff found a fire extinguisher and used it to put out the fire that was engulfing his feet, Franks

said. Shortly after the fire department arrived and was able to spray water on the fire and used the Jaws of Life to rescue him.

He was transported to University of Michigan's Burn Center where he spent about nine weeks.

## Road to Recovery

Franks sustained burns on both

arms and legs and his head.

"Recovery is going slower than I would like but I feel very fortunate," he said. "There's not a day that goes by that I don't have thoughts about the store and my employees that lost their lives."

He has spent an additional few weeks in the hospital since his initial release and he returns to U of M for occupational therapy and checkups at the burn center every couple of weeks.

"I'm always an optimist. I don't ever think I will be the way I was before. My left arm is trying to heal but still has some open burns," he said. The range of motion in his left hand and fingers is not what is used to be either.

While he gets frustrated that he isn't back to his old self, his daughter, Stephanie, reminds him how far he has come.

"I'm thinking before Dec. 29 and she remembers me from the first day she went to the burn center and saw me just hours after incident. She sees my progression," he said.

His daughter is the one who

See **Recovery**, page 4



### Recovery, Continued from page 3

broke the news about the loss of his two employees.

"They waited a while to tell me about Jim and Leslie," he said.

He also had no idea of the coverage of the explosion. His doctors and family were cautious.

"They just wanted me to get better and have the least amount of distraction," he said.

"I was completely unaware of the magnitude of what had happened until I was almost out of the hospital and my daughter showed me a computer," he said. "A neighbor of mine has a son in Alaska and he heard about it. It got around big time."

While he is doing well he still has a longer road to recovery. The doc-



Jennifer Gietzen gets a warm hug from Paul Franks.

tors said it could take up to one year.

"Without the help of my brother, daughter and son-in-law I wouldn't be doing as well as I am right now," he said.

### Giving Thanks

For the first time Paul Franks saw the members of Henry's Service Cen-

ter, Chris, Dave and Jennifer Gietzen and Brian Sylvester at the Wayne Rotary's annual award ceremony.

"I had talked to them by phone but I hadn't seen them. When the Rotary event came up I thought it was a perfect opportunity," Franks said. "It was pretty emotional. We gave hugs and discussed the incident. I told them how much I appreciated what they had done."

Sylvester and the Gietzens were presented with Rotary's highest award- the Paul Harris Fellowship- for their selfless act of rushing to Franks' aid. Paul Franks was happy to be present to honor them.

"My life changed on Dec. 29. I didn't know what happened until later. These wonderful people are the reason I am here tonight. I owe my life to them," he said.

He also appreciates the support from the entire community. His family has spent many hours showing him all of the get well cards he received.

"I'm so thankful to people who thought enough of us to do those fundraisers and go through the trouble. Usually it's the store trying to help someone out and we don't expect to need any help. It was much appreciated," he said.

### Open for business

Franks has been driven by his store once since the explosion. He has also been to his warehouse once to visit his employees.

"It was a nice reunion," he said.

The warehouse on eastbound Michigan Avenue behind the former site of Formal Affair is open for business. Franks said they do have furniture in stock on the shelves.

"It's not a showroom like our store but the public is welcome to visit the warehouse," he said. The



Paul Franks and Jim Zell at last year's Sidewalk Sales.

staff can also help customers order through catalogs and look online too.

"There's a good amount of things. They're ready to go and orders don't take long," said Franks.

Franks said the future of William

C. Franks Furniture is still uncertain.

"We are still assessing with the insurance people and trying to decide what is best for the family and for Franks Furniture," he said. "Hopefully we'll know soon."

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# Summer fun in Downtown Wayne

There is still a lot of summer left and July is a great time to get outside and enjoy all that downtown Wayne has to offer.

On July 9, Michigan Avenue will be host to the Fourth Annual Cruisin' Michigan Ave which spans five cities including Wayne. Cruise enthusiasts can participate by driving Michigan Avenue from Dearborn to Wayne. There are many places along Michigan Avenue where fans of classic, new and unique cars can wait to see what drives by. Some of the hot spots in Wayne will be Red Apple Family Restaurant, U.S. 12 Bar and Grill, The Avenue Sports Grille and Brownies Diner.

For info on the cruise, visit [www.CruisinMichigan.com](http://www.CruisinMichigan.com).

Also on July 9, Karma Coffee Shop will present Music and Art in Goudy Park 2011 from 11 a.m.- 10 p.m. at Goudy Park. There will be local artists selling their products and a variety of musical performances all day. Some of the performers include Stony Creek Gospel at noon and Skinny Raccoons at 6 p.m. This is a free event and open to all ages. Concessions will be available for purchase.

There will be a Pet Parade at 10 a.m. and kids' activities from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Don't forget the Farmers Market every Wednesday from 3-7 p.m. at the State Wayne Theater parking lot. They have fresh eggs, strawberries, tomatoes, cabbage, lettuce and much more. July 6 is Kids Day and July 13 is Chef's Day at the Market. The Wayne Ripple Effect will be in the community tent on July 13.

The Farmers Market also features live music, vendors, chair massages and kettle corn.

Take a hike. There is no better way to get some exercise and fresh air while getting a minute to escape the hub bub and enjoy nature. Mill and Washington Trails each run along the Rouge River. On your walk you can hear the river and see beautiful trees and native plants as well as wildlife like deer, rabbits and a variety of birds.



Tommi Henley enjoys a hot dog at Northside Hardware during Sidewalk Sales.

Mill, Goudy and Washington Trails are well lit for evening walks. They are plowed in the winter so the trails are available year round. It's free exercise available 24/7. Mill Trail which runs from Second Street to Josephine east of City Hall is ½ mile and Washington Park Trail from Wayne Road to Elizabeth Street west of City Hall and Goudy Park Trail are each 1/4 mile.

There is a new playground in town. It's one of more than a dozen around the City. Walz-Avondale Park located at Forest and Hubbard just east of Venoy has a brand new barrier free play structure for children aged 2-12. The structure was made possible by a \$40,000 grant from Wayne County Parks.

Park-It is back for one night only this summer. On July 21 they will host music and a movie in Goudy Park. The George Brothers Band will hit the stage at 6:30 and "Megamind" (PG) will be shown on the giant LED video screen at 8:15 p.m. There will also be kids activities and giveaways. This is a family friendly free event. For more information, please visit [www.parkitforfun.com](http://www.parkitforfun.com).

If you are looking for a good deal you will find them on July 21-23 at the annual Sidewalk Sales.

Stores along Wayne Road and Michigan Avenue will showcase their best deals of the year. Check for more details in the pages of The Wayne Dispatch.



# City settles contract with fire department

By Jenny Johnson

Four laid off firefighters are back on the job and two more will be hired in the next few months because the City was able to accept the SAFER Grant and settle a four year contract with the Wayne Professional Fire Fighter's Association.

Firefighter/paramedics Kevin Brookshire, Cullen McKee, Jason Reeves and Jeremie Schneider were thrilled to get called back to work. The department now has 16 firefighters.

"It's great to have them back for the operation of the department and their families. These are the same guys who came back to help the City when we needed them and have been in and out of the station on a regular basis just to keep up on what's going on and keep in touch. In their hearts they never left. They haven't stopped smiling yet," said Fire Chief Mel Moore.

Brookshire said, "We kept up on our training on the trucks but it was like riding a bike."

The SAFER Grant in the amount of \$1,179,455 is a two year grant that will provide funds to rehire or hire up to six firefighters. The SAFER Grant will expire in May 2013 and the city will have to provide the funds to keep the firefighters for a third year. To make this possible the city and fire department came to terms on a new contract.



Firefighters Jason Reeves, Cullen McKee, Jeremie Schneider and Kevin Brookshire are happy to be back on the job. Photo by John P. Rhaesa of The Wayne Dispatch

"This was made possible by the generosity of our guys," said Lt. Andrew Stager, President Wayne Professional Firefighters Association.

Firefighters will now pay 20% of their healthcare costs; take a 2.5% pay cut and a wage freeze through June 2014. In total it amounts to about a 10% decrease in each firefighter's salary and benefits, Stager said. The firefighters have joined the department heads and supervisors in paying 20% of their healthcare costs.

"They realize times are tough. They did this in order to help the

City and bring the guys back and to provide the service that citizens deserve, expect and voted for with a millage," Stager said.

Now two of the three shifts have five firefighters and the other shift has six.

"When it comes to the operations of the department that extra firefighter or two per shift is huge, in the safety of our firefighters on emergency responses and the ability to provide a better service to the community," Moore said.

And in the nick of time. Emergency runs continue to increase each

year. As of June there have been 108 more runs than in 2010. Last year to date the fire department had 1215 emergency runs. This year they are at 1323, Moore said.

The benefits of this agreement can already be seen. Stager said morale has gone up at the station and the second EMS unit is back in service and has been used every day since the four laid off firefighters have been back.

Moore said, "We estimate about an extra \$100,000 in revenue by running a second rescue."

Schneider said he is very happy to be back with his coworkers who he considers a brotherhood.

"I can't thank our fellow coworkers enough with the concessions they took. It made it possible for the City to take the SAFER grant. They took a lot and we appreciate it," he said.

"The City made a commitment to their citizens by taking the grant. This is a huge step forward," Stager said.

But the job is not done. The SAFER grant only provides funds for two years.

"Between now and then we have a lot of work to do to look at alternative ways to maintain the fire department, to provide a service that the citizens of Wayne have become accustomed to. I am confident that we will find a way to provide that service," Moore said.

## Fire Department receives donation to help save pets

Lucas was a reluctant model. The eight year old Black Labrador visited the Wayne Fire Station to show how firefighters can use their new pet oxygen mask at the scene of a fire. The Michigan Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) Members and Invisible Fence Brand are partners in Project Breathe which donates specially designed oxygen mask kits to fire departments.

The masks allow firefighters to give oxygen to pets who are suffering from smoke inhalation.

While Lucas was happy with the attention from so many new friends, it took a few treats in the bottom of the mask to make him want to keep it on. The demonstration showed what a worthwhile asset this can be in an emergency.

Fire Chief Mel Moore said, "This

gives us another tool to be able to help those who need us."

The pet oxygen mask will be put in the front line rescue vehicle. This is the unit that responds to all fire calls.

It is estimated that 40,000 to 150,000 pets each year die in fires; most succumbing to smoke inhalation. At least 50 pets have been saved by donated masks so far.

"We realize that humans are the first priority, but in many cases, pets can be saved if firefighters have the right equipment," said Karen Mayhew, Invisible Fence Brand. "Project Breathe is simply a way of giving firefighters the tools necessary to save pets' lives."

"We've seen residents run back into burning homes to save a pet. It's understandable, but extremely dan-



Lucas the black lab helped the Wayne Firefighters learn how to use their new pet oxygen mask. Photo by John P. Rhaesa of The Wayne Dispatch

gerous. These masks will give people comfort in knowing that we can save

their pets if they are suffering from smoke inhalation," Moore said.



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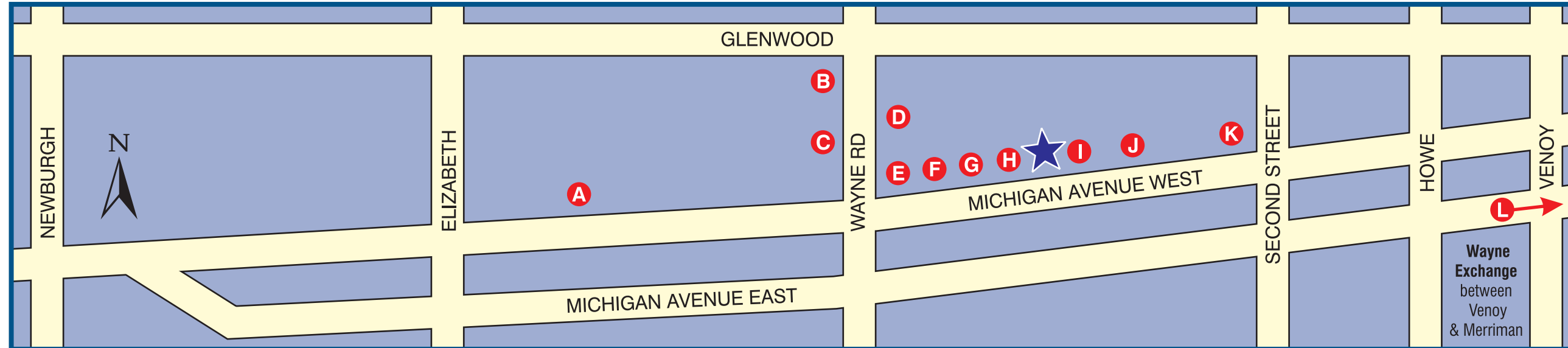
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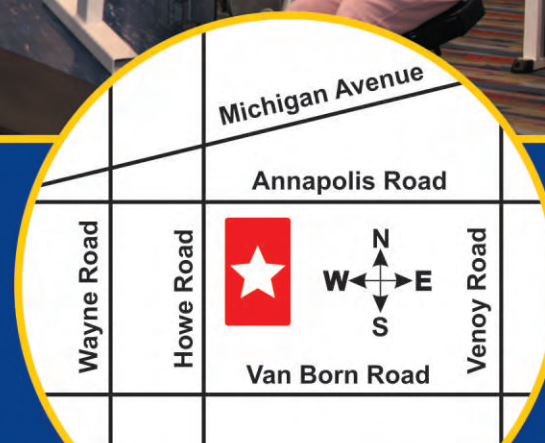
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After 130 years Civil War veteran Julius Rhaesa now has a gravestone marking his final resting place. Photo by John P. Rhaesa of The Wayne Dispatch

## Civil War Soldier honored

This year is the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Wayne Dispatch publisher John Rhaesa recently found out he is the great great great grandson of a Civil War soldier, Julius Rhaesa, thanks to John's cousin Judy Sheldon's research. Julius was a private in the artillery battalion.

Julius was a cigar maker and operated a store on Michigan Avenue in Detroit. He was a founder of the Michigan Chapter of Improved Order of Red Men and the first Great Chief of Records of the Great Council of Michigan, the oldest fraternal organization in America. It is an or-

ganization devoted to inspiring a greater love for the United States of America.

Julius died, at 44, in 1881 in Detroit of respiratory complications from serving in an artillery unit during the Civil War. He is buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Detroit. Because his name was misspelled, the family just recently discovered one of their ancestors was buried there. On June 18 after 130 years Julius Rhaesa received his gravestone.

Do you have ancestors who served in the Civil War? If so, tell us about them at [jenny@thewaynedispatch.com](mailto:jenny@thewaynedispatch.com).

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### English Named City Manager

His title just got shorter. Acting City Manager Robert English became City Manager on June 21 in a 7-0 vote by City Council.

"I'm very impressed by what he's done. I think we are more informed now than ever. I am in full support in making him our full city manager," said Councilwoman Pamela Dobrowolski.

Mayor Al Haidous said the change is based on English's performance and his success with contract negotiations and partnerships with other municipalities. "He has an excellent reputation."

"I would like to thank the Mayor and members of the City Council for their support and trust. It is truly an honor and privilege to be given the opportunity to become the City Manager of this great community that I have called home the majority of my life. I have been fortunate in that I was able to graduate from Wayne Memorial (and) see my five children graduate from Wayne Memorial and now my grandchildren are also attending schools here in Wayne. We have a long journey ahead of us, however, I am also fortunate in that we have what I believe to be the best department heads and employees working for us who have demonstrated time and again that they have the best interests of the entire community in mind," English said.

English's salary package will remain the same.

### Park It

There will be one Thursday night concert in Goudy Park this summer. On July 29, Park It will host the George Brothers Band at 6:30 followed by the movie Megamind. There will be kids' activities and giveaways. This is a free event and open to the public.

### Summer Food Program

Wayne County will sponsor a Summer Food Service Program for children up to age 18. Nutritious meals will be available from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday through Friday until Aug. 19 at Attwood Park Pavilion #1.

### Looking for a Diamond

The Wayne Commission on Aging is looking for a Wayne resident who is 70 years or older and continues to enrich their community by volunteering their services. Do you know someone? Then nominate them for the Diamond of the Community Award. Forms are available at City Hall, library and Community Center. The deadline is July 8.

### My Place Coney Opens

There is another new place in town to get a great meal. My Place Coney Island located on the corner of Michigan Avenue westbound and Elizabeth. They offer dine in and carry out service and are open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.

### Harry Potter Exhibit

The Wayne Public Library will host the traveling exhibit Harry Potter's World: Renaissance Science, Magic and Medicine from July 24-Sept. 2 in the teen area of the library. Library hours are: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday and 12-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

### Youth Theater

The Wayne Parks and Recreation Department will present a youth theater summer session Aug. 1-11 for ages 8-18. Performance dates are Aug. 12 and 13. Registration begins July 5 at the Wayne Community Center. For more information, call 734-721-7400.

### Senior Olympics

The seventh annual Western Wayne County Senior Olympics will be held Aug. 15-19 in Livonia. Wayne residents age 50 and up are eligible to participate in a variety of events. Some of the events include: Fun Walk, softball throw, Frisbee toss, football throw, soccer kick, ballroom dancing, Euchre, bike races, baking contest, photo contest, creative writing, golf and much more.

The City of Wayne will host billiards at 9 a.m. on Aug. 17 at the Wayne Bowl and bowling on Aug. 18 at Wayne Bowl. Registration forms are due by July 8. They are available at the Wayne Community Center. For more information, please call 734-721-7460.



## NEWS BRIEFS

### Refuse Millage

Council approved increasing the refuse millage from 1.37 to 2 mills. This is the maximum amount the City is allowed to levy and it does not have to go before a vote by the residents. The current cost for refuse service including yard waste is about \$1 million a year. The 1.37 mills is generating \$621,000.

The cost of a mill has decreased. In 2011-12 one mill will generate \$453,416 and in 2012-13 one mill will generate \$430,000.

The increase of 0.6283 mills will cost an owner of a \$50,000 home approximately \$15.70 per year.

The City will have to find an additional \$200,000 per year in the general fund if the refuse millage wasn't increased or change the garbage collection schedule to every other week. The city has been using \$209,000 in fund balance to cover the refuse budget but with the current economic situation that is no longer possible.

The City's total mills are 22.335 this year and 22.9618 for 2011-12 and 2012-13. The new rate went into effect on July 1.

### Crossing Guards

The Wayne Police Department is seeking qualified candidates for Crossing Guards for the 2011-2012 school year. Crossing guards work 30 minutes in the morning and 30 minutes in the afternoon from Sept. until June. They are paid for two hours per day. They must be reliable and flexible and be able to pass a background check. Training is provided. Crossing guards are employees of the Wayne Police Department and help to protect school children on their way to and from school. The starting rate is \$9.28 per hour. Applications are available at the Personnel Dept. at City Hall 3355 S. Wayne Road from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Posts will be located near elementary schools in the City of Wayne.

### Red October Run

For the 21st year the Red October Run will race through the street of Wayne at 9 a.m. on October 1. Registration for the 10K run, 5K run, 5K walk and 1 mile Jr. October has

begun. The events will begin at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital, 33155 Annapolis.

For entry fee and registration information, visit the race web page at [www.oakwood.org/redoctoberun](http://www.oakwood.org/redoctoberun).

### Beautiful lawns needed

Do you have a neighbor who has a great lawn or beautiful landscaping? Do you know a business that prides themselves on the upkeep of their exterior? Then nominate them for a Wayne Beautification Award. Nominations can be made by calling the Department of Public Works at 734-721-8600.

### Site Plans

Two site plans were approved at June City Council meeting. Wayne Health and Rehab on Venoy will add a 10,000 sq.ft. addition to connect their two buildings. They will also make interior renovations and add more parking.

A new tire store will soon occupy the former Formal Affair building on eastbound Michigan Avenue. The store will offer automotive repair and tire sales.

# Stitched with love

It's a gift of comfort and love. The Women's Ministry Group at Crosspointe Community Church in Wayne made 266 pillowcase dresses and sent them to Global Aid Network a relief ministry that will distribute the dresses to children in Zambia, Guatemala and Haiti.

"I challenged the women to make 100 dresses and we made 266," said Ruth Wenzel, leader of the Woman's Ministry Group. They started in March and had three workshops where about 30 church members helped to make the dresses out of standard and queen sized pillowcases and fabric.

"We made small, medium and large and put elastic drawstring and ties at the shoulders to make them adjustable for the girls," Wenzel said. Some creative ladies used the extra fabric from the armholes to make pockets for the dresses. "I was surprised at how adorable these dresses are."

The idea began with one mom who wanted to learn to make the dresses for her daughters. Then Wenzel saw a church bulletin at another church. They were making



Children from Crosspointe Community Church modeled the pillowcase dresses before they were shipped off to needy children around the world.

dresses and sending them to Haiti to help orphans.

Wenzel realized, "God meant for them to be given away." She said she hopes the recipients will "learn or hear that they have a heavenly Father who does love them and he has not abandoned them."

This fall the Woman's Ministry Group will begin their next project-making shorts for boys.

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## Community Emergency response training Classes are forming now

### What is CERT?

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates citizens about disaster preparedness for hazards that could impact our area, and trains them in basic disaster response skills. These skills include fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using this training, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhoods or workplaces following incidents when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in the community.

CERT-trained citizens have a better understanding of potential threats to their home, workplace and community and can take the right steps to lessen the vulnerability of these hazards.

Your City of Wayne professional Fire and Police responders are well-trained and prepared to handle everyday emergencies. However, large-scale emergencies or disasters could easily overwhelm our response capabilities, resulting in possible delays. The City of Wayne saw this on Dec. 29 with the building explosion on Wayne Rd. The city's emergency service's were exhausted and the CERT team members self activated and assisted the Wayne police department with traffic control around the perimeter of the incident. The primary reason for CERT training is to

### Fire House News

**Shawn Bell**



give people the decision-making, organizational, and practical skills to help them provide immediate assistance to family members and neighbors, until the professional responders can arrive.

What kind of training is required to be a CERT volunteer?

To become a City of Wayne CERT member, you need to complete the "core" CERT training program. All sessions will be held at the City of Wayne Fire Department and will be taught by professional emergency responders. During these sessions, you will learn basic emergency response techniques, including emergency medical/first aid, fire safety, search and rescue techniques, traffic and crowd control, and more. Applications are available at the City of Wayne Fire Department, Police Department and Wayne City Hall.

If you have any interest in becoming a CERT member or just learning what to do in the event of an emergency, then I encourage you to pick up an application or give me a call with any questions. Applications are due no later than July 15th. Classes are being planned for the end of July or the first part of August and consist of one weekend.

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# Above and beyond service to all

Remember the torrential rains of May and early June? Remember how the towns around us---Canton, Romulus, Westland, and Livonia all flooded? Remember how folks were up to their knees in water---everything ruined in their basements?

Why did we stay so dry? Ramzi El-Gharib the City Engineer/DPW Director gave me a tutorial in anti-flooding techniques. The storm sewers were separated from the sanitary sewers and miles of old sanitary lines throughout the city were replaced or lined so ground and surface water would not infiltrate the sewers. Finally a 2.3 million gallon Equalization Basin was constructed in Dynamite Park, with a state of the art control system and flow meters in place to equalize flows that exceed the city's allowable purchased capacity into Wayne County's North Huron Valley/Rouge Valley Sanitary Sewer System.

About now Ramzi is probably tearing out his hair saying "I tried to explain it to her technically." Admittedly this is a very brief overview and simplified explanation of how the whole thing works. What I really want you to know---it was Ramzi's plan, design, plus the grants he wrote for and received is the reason you weren't up to your knees in water.

Lovely man that he is, he also credits John Zech, the Mayor and the City Council for heartily supporting his plan and design.

Mr. Ramzi El-Gharib, thank you for keeping us dry.

Here's a belated report of the foodstuffs you put out for the Postal

## Footprints of Wayne

Dee Ryan



Carriers annual food drive. They collected 2500 pounds from the generous people of Wayne. Judy Wells of St. Mary's Outreach Center wants to personally thank Jan Hicks of the Westland Post Office and former Postal Employee, Paul Diebolt, whom she credits for spearheading the project. Both the Outreach Center and our Veterans Haven were the beneficiaries of the food collected from the doorsteps and porches of Wayne.



Attention Harry Potter fans of all ages. "Harry Potter's World" will arrive at our Wayne Library on July 24. It will remain until September 2. Eight huge panels will depict Harry's Renaissance era. The exhibit will cover Medieval Science, Magic and Medicine and will fill the whole teen area of the Library.

An adult program on August 4, at 6:30 p.m. will feature Erik Ash, of Wayne State University. Mr. Ash specializes in Early Britain and the history of science. He'll talk about occult science in Renaissance England.

Many thanks to the Wayne Civitan Club for bringing Erik Ash to us and also to the Library's John O'Connell for his planning and work which resulted in "Harry Potter's World."

From July 21 to the 25th The Vietnam Moving Wall will be shown on the grounds of Westland City Hall. This is the half-size replica of the original wall in Washington DC.

Also on display for the first time will be the Vietnam Moving Wall of Michigan, honoring all those in our state who never came home from Southeast Asia.

Connie Luschas, of the Ladies Auxiliary Bova Post, sent a letter to many of the area funeral homes asking for prayer cards. These would be given to each person who visits the display. Although Ms. Luschas asked for a donation of 100 to 1000

cards, when she approached Howie Rediske of UHT Funeral Home, she needed to go no farther. Without a moment's hesitation, he offered to make 75,000 cards. He created a beautiful card, shaded in red, white, and blue with the soldier's prayer on one side and information about the Vietnam Moving Wall on the other.

Connie Luschas response to Howie Rediske through her tears was "Can I hug you?"

We'd all like to give Howie a hug for his generosity.

The first and last verses of The Soldier's Prayer:

When I am called to serve,  
Dear Lord,

Wherever war may be  
Give me the courage to  
fight the battles

My country may ask of me.  
And if, according to Your will,

I must give up my life,  
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Ryan Cabildo with the long board he will use when he passes through Wayne on his way from Detroit to Chicago.

## Racing to Chicago for hunger

By Jenny Johnson

Blink and you might miss him. On July 17 Ryan Cabildo will pass through Wayne on his mission to raise awareness and money for hunger. He and his long-board will travel 270 miles in just four days along US-12 from Detroit to Chicago where he will deliver his donation to the national headquarters of FEEDING AMERICA.

"In Chicago I'm actually long boarding right up to the front door of the national headquarters of FEEDING AMERICA, the organization we are donating the money to, so we can meet them personally," he said.

With the help of two volunteers, Colin Camper and Matthew Clark, and sponsorship by several Wayne and Westland businesses, Cabildo said, "Our objective is to raise at least \$2,000 to put a minimum of 14,000 meals on the tables of people in need."

It's not too late to help his cause. People can pledge an amount of money to donate for every five mile

increment Ryan Cabildo travels by long-boarding or they can make a donation to his foundation MYHEART WITH YOURS.

Cabildo is the founder of MY HEART WITH YOURS. This group of young adults and teens is committed to working together to make a difference in their communities and to change things for the better.

In their mission statement they say, "The message behind the name is that one heart can only do so much but one heart put together with the hearts of many others can create enormous life changing accomplishments."

Cabildo said their goal is to help bring awareness and inspiration to young adults and teens so they know that they have the power to make a difference in the world and to change things for the better.

"As long as a person has heart and dedication, possibilities are limitless," he said.

Why long-boarding?

"I have actually been long-boarding for less than six months, but

have become very passionate about it. I chose to long-board because not only did I want to raise money but raise awareness for the cause. I would love to show people you can help out so much even in a fun and hip way, enjoying it the whole time," he said. "I believe kids and young adults will talk and already are talking about a guy skateboarding to Chicago from Detroit to fight hunger in our nation."

He will ride mostly on the sidewalks and sometimes on the shoulder of the road and if road conditions call for it he will carry the board and travel on foot for portions of the trip.

Anyone interested can make donations, place a pledge or buy a \$2 MY HEART WITH YOURS, FIGHT HUNGER Support Bracelet by contacting them at Facebook.com/my-heartwithyours or by emailing myheartwithyours@live.com. They will also post video blogs before, during and after the event on their Youtube channel: youtube.com/my-heartwithyours.

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