

THE WAYNE Dispatch

FEBRUARY 2012

Not just toys

Wayne resident builds
masterpieces out of LEGO

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YOUR SOURCE FOR POSITIVE COMMUNITY NEWS



Oakwood Annapolis Hospital
is hosting a community educational lecture
about back and neck pain.

Oakwood physician

Nilesh M. Patel, MD

will present:

**Relief from Low Back
and Neck Pain – Modern
Treatment and Minimally
Invasive Techniques**

If you are encountering low back or neck pain,
this event is for you.

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

DATE: Thursday, March 8, 2012

TIME: 6 – 8 p.m.

LOCATION: Oakwood Annapolis Hospital
Conference Room 2
33155 Annapolis Street
Wayne, MI 48184

(Park in the West Lot and
use the Outpatient entrance,
then follow the signs)

A complimentary light dinner will be served.



Dr. Patel is a
fellowship trained
spine surgeon.
He was a native
of southeastern
Michigan prior
to his medical
training in
Ohio. Dr. Patel
graduated with
honors from

Northeastern Ohio Universities College of
Medicine. He then went on to complete his
orthopedic surgery residency at Summa
Health System in Akron, Ohio. Dr. Patel
concluded his training with a combined
Orthopedic and Neurosurgical Spine
Surgery fellowship at New England Baptist
Hospital in Boston.



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LEGO your imagination go wild

By Jenny Johnson

It's not just for kids. LEGO building is big. There are entire clubs dedicated to building amazing 3-D displays. Theme parks have been built around it. Just about every cartoon or blockbuster movie has a LEGO toy. For Wayne resident Chris Leach it all began with his first set of LEGO at age five. It was a little fire set. He played with LEGO until he was 11 or 12 and then he got interested in model train sets. But LEGO lured him back.

"My oldest son is 21. He was five when I got back into it" Leach said. Today when you walk into his living room you see LEGO versions of The White House, a dragon and a racecar. But his basement is where the real magic happens. That is where he builds his own LEGO creations.

In his basement there are over 500 drawers of LEGO that hold about half a million LEGO pieces. Pieces are sorted by color and type. Oh and yes it is LEGO not Legos.

Leach is the founder of the MichLUG which is the Michigan LEGO Users Group. This is a group of adults who get together to have fun with LEGO.

In 2000 Leach went online and saw there were several LEGO clubs.

"I discovered there were adults who like to build too," he said. So in Sept. 2000 he started MichLUG. They meet six times a year and do about 18-20 shows per year. They had displays at the Henry Ford Museum over the Christmas holiday and have participated in shows at the DSO, Festival of Trees and a train show in Redford. Before it closed they built a 6 ft. Tony the Tiger and box of Froot Loops for Cereal City. Shows last anywhere from one day to three months.

The club's next show will be from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on March 24 at the Morris Lawrence Building at Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor. MichLUG members will have several different LEGO creations on display and will also layout a Brick Bash. This is a free LEGO building party for all ages. There will be tables full of LEGO products to play with at this event.

The club's very first show was in



The attention to detail in this street scene includes street signs, traffic lights, sidewalks and pedestrians.

Jan. 2001. The club members own about 12 million pieces of LEGO combined. The club is free to join and there are no dues.

What do you think is the favorite store of LEGO hobbyists? It's the LEGO store at Somerset Mall. Before the store opened MichLUG helped them get their displays ready.

There is also Bricklink.com which is like having your own virtual LEGO store.

"I have bought about 30,000 pieces and sold about 15,000 since 2000," he said. "I have a small store online."

When Leach moved to Wayne in 2010 it took about a month to get the LEGO set up in his basement. Each of his drawers is sorted by color and type of piece. When he is working on a display he may work up to three hours a day on it.

The display he currently has set up has over 100,000 pieces and is built on four tables. It is in eight sec-

tions so it can be moved and re-assembled at shows.

"I've got to be able to pick it up and take it to shows," he said.

The display is a city scene that features a generic hospital and warehouse with the Dime Building from downtown Detroit in the middle. He actually worked in that building installing fire suppression sprinkler systems.

The Dime Building itself has 25,000 pieces and it is 22 stories tall. There was a section he couldn't put on because the ceiling in his basement was not tall enough. The actual Dime Building is located next to the Penobscot Building and was built between 1910 and 1912 and purchased by Quicken Loans founder Dan Gilbert in 2011.

The entire LEGO scene features pieces that are his own creation. Each of the trees that he designed himself has 35 pieces. There are recycling cans on the curb. The side-

walks have pedestrians and bicycles. There is an American Flag on the building.

"It's all about the detail," Leach said.

After all of the pieces were built, his son, Ethan, a Franklin Middle School student, helped him set up the display. It took about two hours which isn't too bad in LEGO time.

"This is quite small," he said.

The display looks like a real street scene with construction barrels, pedestrians, traffic lights and even a construction worker poised to work on a street light- set up by Ethan.

"He's been helping me since right out of diapers," he said. Ethan has attended about half of the club's shows too.

You will not notice a lot of typical red, blue or green LEGO bricks in his designs.

"I try to build in non traditional LEGO colors," he said. Instead his drawers are filled with LEGO in the colors you will see on actual buildings, vehicles, trains and such.

His displays range in size from 10x 10 to as large at 30 x 40. He will do a large display like this at the Grand Rapids Train Show in March.

None of his structures are ever glued. Call them purists but most LEGO designers won't paint or glue their displays but stickers are allowed. Chris has stickers for street signs for Novi Road, Second, Third and Fourth Street.

He has built hospitals, factories, train stations and sets, real buildings and even the Detroit People Mover.

"I look at a lot of buildings because I am always looking to build something," he said.

"This is my third design of this. After I displayed it for a year I tweaked it and redid the whole bottom," he said. LEGO means "play well" in Danish but for LEGO enthusiasts it is more than just play. They truly design works of art.

For photos of MichLUG displays, news on upcoming shows, or info on how to become a member, or if you are just an AFOL- Adult Fan of LEGO- visit their website at www.michlug.org.

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YOUR SOURCE FOR POSITIVE COMMUNITY NEWS



Leaving a lasting legacy

Monday, January 16---the day we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday. Now a National Holiday, it was a great opportunity to visit some of our Michigan Avenue merchants. We first met Aaron and Akilah at Puffer Red's "Jus' Shoes" Both employees were inspired by Dr. King's life; Akilah says she "now has freedom of speech, and feels able to share her thoughts and ideas without being afraid." Both agree that MLK taught us to get along without violence.

Charles Taylor of "Finishing Touch" feels Dr. King gave voice to a standard we can all work toward. "When all is said and done it's for all mankind. He's one of many people that God has sent to show us all a better way."

Miss Lanora at Designer Warehouse spoke eloquently of Dr King and what his legacy is. "We must strive to unite and try to make each day---each minute better." Reverend Martin Luther King said "I have been to the mountaintop", and we must also reach for the mountaintop of humanity and non-violence.

At Foxx Beauty Supply, Charlene Dew, her daughter, Nyla Dew, and co-worker Angelique Blackman all agree that because of Dr. King, the United States is where the Constitution is truly upheld; it's principles are now for everyone.

Over on Wayne Road at the Wize Tax Service---our new business in town, Joseph Evans recalls; "Most of what Dr. King accomplished was at a young age." Mr. Evans feels that should inspire other young people to reach for greatness.

Now it's over to "Tene's Salon and Boutique on Wayne Rd. next to the former Cobb's Drugs. Sandy Clemons who runs the boutique of beautiful clothes, told me how as a small child, her parents took her to hear Dr. Martin Luther King. "It was early in the 60's and I'll never forget his stirring "I Have a Dream" speech. As a high school civics student, she marched against George Wallace, and as a student at U of M she joined an activist group. They demonstrated against the lack of diversity and saw their efforts rewarded with more black students and professors. "Dr King made me stronger and as a result, she feels her actions have made a difference."

Footprints of Wayne



Dee Ryan

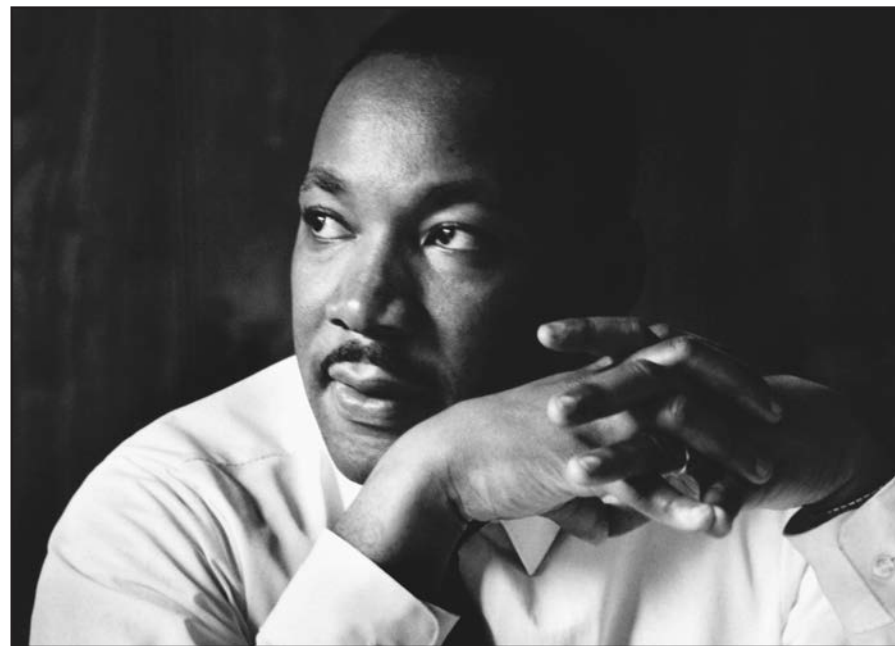
In the other half of the shop Sandy's daughter, Tene, the beautician, says "the changes that occurred under Dr. King's leadership allowed her to work in a Caucasian salon and then go on to have her own business. (She's looking for a licensed hair stylist to hire.)

Tene's customer, Sharese, then spoke up---"I'm in an interracial marriage and have been for 10 years---I feel very comfortable now and am thankful for the peaceful messages of Dr. King.

Thanks to everyone who shared their remembrances of Dr. Martin Luther King. He showed us the way forward.

Dr. Gregory Baracy is proud to announce a new program: "Literacy Corps: Partners in Learning." It's aim is toward improving student literacy. Adult volunteers are needed for students in grades K-6th. You will read with small groups of children; introduce new books; monitor progress by talking about the story, and assist the children with writing activities. The goal of Literacy Corps is to create a community effort toward improving reading and writing skills---so important to a person's success.

Although the first orientation session was last month, Dr. Paul Salah, the Assistant Superintendent, assures me that more training sessions will be offered---probably in late February and early March. The training sessions last about 2 hours. To become a Literacy Corps volunteer, you must be available during school hours. If you want more information about this worthwhile program---find it on your computer at wwcsd.net and then go to the Home Page. You'll find Literacy Corps and a volunteer form. If you don't have a computer---call Dr. Salah's office---(734)419-2000. We'll keep you updated as we get new information.



Dr. Martin Luther King

"WHAT DO YOU GEEK?" That's the new campaign slogan from our Library. Translated, it means what gets you excited---what gets your mojo working? GEEK as a verb, means to love, to celebrate, to have an intense interest for. So whatever you GEEK, you can find it at our Wayne Library---and find it in many forms. Check out your interests by using our new computers, through the many DVD's and of course---the old fashioned way---books. Did you know you can download books to your e-readers? The Library's John MacDonald will be happy to show you how. GEEK what you choose---anything from anthropology to zoology---and please let everyone know what your library does for you. Spread the word that the library needs our support.

From the Auto Show---a spectator's view. My daughter, Maggie, and her husband, Ken, tell me the follow-

ing---The new Ford Fusion is a winner---best in class. They really liked the Volvo Crossover and the two seat mini coupe. The Fiat was disappointing---it was smaller than the VW Bug. Ken was surprised at the cars that weren't represented. There were no Mitsubishi, Suzuki, Ferrari, or Rolls Royces. They did have Bentleys, but of course that's manufactured by Volkswagen. And one more 'no show'---no Smart Cars.

Cobo Hall is still undergoing renovations, so some areas weren't open, but according to Maggie and Ken, in the basement, if you didn't mind standing in line, you could actually drive some of the electric cars.

FYI---Donna and Barry McEachern won't be moving for quite a while. As Donna says "Have you ever tried to pack up a house where you've lived for about 50 years?"

Donna it makes me shudder to even think about it.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Winterfest fun

Winterfest 2012 will be on Feb. 4 at the Wayne Community Center. There will be open swimming, a dance show, drop in hockey, open skating and a murder mystery show. Call 734-721-7400 for details.

Poolooza

The Wayne Westland Federal Credit Union is sponsoring Poolooza from 8 a.m.- 6 p.m. on Feb. 4 at the Wayne Community Center. There will be free water fitness classes, free open swimming, kayak and scuba diving demos, prizes and drawings. Contact 734-721-7400 or visit us at www.ci.wayne.mi.us for more details.

Special Council Meeting

There will be a special City Council meeting at 7 p.m. on Feb. 7 at Wayne City Hall. On the agenda will be an update on the city's financial status. This will be followed by a regular City Council meeting at 8 p.m.

Daddy-Daughter Date Night

The Parks and Recreation Dept. will host their annual Daddy-Daughter square dance from 7-8:30 p.m. on Feb. 9 at the Wayne Community Center. For tickets and more info, call 734-721-7400.

Heise office hours

State Representative Kurt Heise holds local office hours the second Monday of each month. On Feb. 13 he will meet with constituents from 1-2 p.m. at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe Road. No appointment is necessary. If you are unavailable to attend but wish to set up an appointment either in the district or in Lansing, please call 1-855-REP-KURT.

Hopgood office hours

State Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood will hold coffee hours at 5 p.m. on Feb. 13 at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe Road. He will meet with constituents to discuss the issues he is currently working on in Lansing. No appointment is necessary.

Public Hearings

City Council will hold public hearings at 8 p.m. on Feb. 21 at City Hall to consider proposed changes to the zoning ordinance governing wind turbines and to consider the proposed repeal of Chapter 1284 Flood Hazard areas.

Zebra Class of 1957 wanted

Wayne Memorial High School Class of 1957 is looking for classmates for their 55th reunion on May 19. For information contact Wanda Putman Boice at boice@aol.com or Richard Smith at pollygirl219@aol.com or 248-747-6817.

Zebra Dinner

Wayne Memorial High School will host their 8th annual Zebra Safari Fundraising Dinner on March 30. Doors open at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$30 each or \$200 for a table of eight. Tickets are available at the main office at Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth Street. Dinner is being catered by the Career Technical Center Culinary Arts Staff. The event includes entertainment, silent and live auction items and door prizes. Call 734-419-2206 for more info.

Police Advisory

The Wayne Police Department wants to alert residents and business owners that there are unknown suspects stealing items from unlocked parked vehicles between the areas of Elizabeth to Fourth Street and Glenwood to Michigan Avenue. Everyone is encouraged to lock their vehicles and to report all suspicious activity to the Wayne Police Dept. at 734-721-1414.

WMHS Seek Distinguished Alumni

Wayne Memorial High School is seeking a Distinguished Alumni. If any member of the community wants to nominate a Wayne Memorial graduate please contact Pam Rawson at 734-419-2206. Nominations are due by Feb. 24. The winner will be announced in May and will be honored at commencement on June 2.

Help with college financial aid

The deadline for high school seniors to apply for financial aid via FAFSA is March 1.

FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is offered through the U.S. Department of Education (fafsa.ed.gov) to ensure all qualified students have access to federal government assistance for their postsecondary education needs. This aid includes Pell grants, subsidized loans, unsubsidized loans and more.

Project ACE is hosting College Goal Sunday from 2-4 p.m. on Feb. 12 at the Metro Place Mall, 35425 W. Michigan Ave., Suite 3693. Free, on-site professional assistance will be provided to guide students and their parents or guardians through the FAFSA application process. There will also be scholarship search assistance and other online tools available to students and their parents. You can also visit www.micollegegoal.org or www.ProjectACEcenter.org for more information.

School of Choice applications available

Applications are now available for the Wayne Westland Schools of Choice program for the 2012-2013 year for students in Kindergarten through eighth grade. School district residents who would like their child to attend an elementary or middle school other than their school of residency must submit a 2012-2013 Schools of Choice application. These applications will be available in every school. Applications must be returned to the Pupil Accounting Office at the Board of Education, 36745 Marquette Rd., Westland, by March 2. No Schools of Choice applications will be accepted for high school students. Current Schools of Choice students must reapply to remain eligible for the program next year. Transportation to and from the school of choice must be provided by the parent or legal guardian. For more information, please contact John F. Albrecht at (734) 419-2083.

Chamber announces new director

The Wayne Chamber of Commerce has a new executive director. Wayne resident Sherrie Brindley begins her new job this month. She is the former DDA Director for Plymouth and owns One Office Girl where she helps various communities with marketing and community development projects. She has over 10 years experience promoting communities and small businesses. Brindley also served on the 2020 Committee and is a member of the Wayne Ripple Effect.

Biggest Loser Update

Wayne resident Buddy Shuh is doing great on NBC's "The Biggest Loser". He has lost more than 30 pounds in his first month on the ranch. The youth pastor even gave up a video chat with home. Instead he gave it to one of his fellow teammates. Shuh is competing for the \$250,000 grand prize. The Biggest Loser airs locally on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. on WDIV (Channel 4).

Wayne Update is back

Do you remember The Wayne Update? It was Wayne's local cable news show that brought local news to Wayne residents via the City's cable channel. It has been several years since production stopped due to the city's budget cuts. David Story is hoping to bring it back to keep the community updated on events and news.

"The show is mainly on Youtube. They can also follow us on Facebook. The Wayne Update will cover news on events, political candidates, and new business. Pretty much anything news worthy in Wayne," Story said. "I decided to bring this show back to Wayne because I feel it was a great tool for people to stay up to date. I believe that the video side of the news will complement the Facebook pages and newspapers in Wayne."

All of the equipment is donated and the staff is all volunteers. Check out The Wayne Update at www.thewayneupdate.com.

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Climbing for a cause

By Jenny Johnson

Wayne Firefighter Rob Caccia has a great reason for climbing 70 flights of stairs in full firefighter gear. He will be raising money for the American Lung Association when he competes in the Fight for Air Climb on March 4 at the Marriott Tower of the Renaissance Center in Detroit.

The Climb Detroit event is like a vertical road race that is a timed stair climb of 1,035 stairs. But Caccia took on an extra challenge by registering for the Firefighter challenge. He will wear full firefighter equipment including boots, turnout coat and pants, helmet, gloves and SCBA harness with air cylinder. The equipment weighs about 40 lbs.

Caccia wants to beat last year's best time of 13 minutes 40 seconds. Last year his time was 15 minutes 29 seconds.

"I want to be in the low 13s," he said. "My colleagues think I'm nuts."

How do you train for an event like this? Lots of time running on the treadmill and stair climber. He said sometimes he will put a 25 lb. weight in a backpack while he works out.

His plan to meet his goal is to try to keep a steady pace and he will stop for water every 10 floors. He said it is just as much a mental challenge as a physical one too.

Caccia is hoping to raise \$10,000 for the American Lung Association. If he collects that much in donations, he said he might carry a 50ft. hose on his back during the climb.

He sent letters to local businesses asking for donations. If you would like to donate to Caccia's efforts, you have two options. You can write a check made out to Wayne Firefight-



Firefighter Rob Caccia practicing for the 70 floor Climb Detroit to benefit the American Lung Association. He will make the climb in full firefighter gear.

ers and in the memo line put "Stair Climb." Then mail that check to: Rob Caccia, Wayne Fire Dept. 3300 S. Wayne Road, Wayne, MI 48184. Or you can donate online at www.climbdetroit.org. On the left side click on donate to a team. Type Wayne Firefighters in the team name and select Firefighter division. Then click on Rob Caccia's name to make a donation.

On Caccia's personal page on the Climb Detroit website he said, "No one should struggle to breathe. That is why I am climbing in the Fight For Air Climb. Please either join me and register for the climb or make a generous donation to the American Lung Association to support our FIGHT FOR AIR."

Remember to Vote

On Feb. 28 voters in the City of Wayne can cast their vote for presidential primary candidates. You must declare a political party in order to vote in the presidential primary.

In addition to the presidential primary, there will be a proposal to renew a .9922 Sinking Fund for the Wayne Westland Community School District. If approved by voters, the Sinking Fund millage would provide approximately \$19.5 million in estimated revenues over a 10 year span. This money will be used for repair and replacement of roofs, boilers, chillers, exterior doors and window, elementary kitchen remodels and expansions, parking lot upgrades, bathroom renovations and other necessary building and site items. By law, money cannot be spent on salaries, insurance or benefits.

The original Sinking Fund passed in 2003 and is currently in place. Approving this renewal will not change a homeowners tax bill. If a homeowner has a home with a market value of \$80,000 they will pay about \$40 a year.

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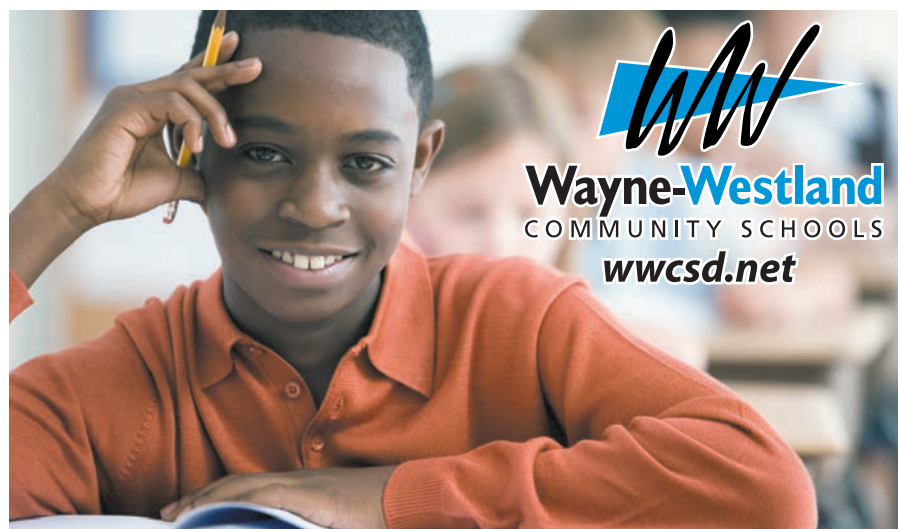
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2012 Sinking Fund Millage Renewal FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

On February 28, 2012 voters in the Wayne-Westland Community School District will be asked to renew a Sinking Fund millage. The Sinking Fund millage would provide approximately \$19.5 million in estimated revenues over a ten (10) year time span. If approved, these dollars would be utilized for the repair and replacement of Wayne-Westland's current educational infrastructure and protect taxpayers' investment in our students, schools and community.

Q: Is this ballot proposal a new tax?

No. This is a **renewal and continuation** of a Sinking Fund millage that was originally passed in 2003 and remains currently in place.

Q: Will there be a change in my tax bill?

No. Your tax bill will remain unchanged because you currently pay the Sinking Fund tax. An average homeowner with a home valuation of \$80,000 will pay about \$40 dollars per year.

Q: What will the Sinking Fund pay for?

The Sinking Fund will pay for major repairs and replacements of roofs, boilers, chillers and other necessary building and site items. Furthermore, the Sinking Fund will provide students and the community with a safe educational environment to grow and learn.

Q: What happens if the millage is not passed?

Major repairs would likely be postponed and ultimately lead to the decline of facilities.

Q: Will Sinking Fund dollars be used to pay for salaries, insurance or benefits?

No. Sinking Fund dollars **cannot** be spent on salaries, insurance or benefits. Sinking Fund dollars may be spent on major repairs and school site based capital improvements, as defined by law.

Q: What is a mill?

A mill represents \$1 for every \$1,000 of the taxable value of your property.

What will a renewal look like for me?

Home Market Value	Home Taxable Value	Cost Per Year for a .9922 Sinking Fund Millage Renewal
\$40,000	\$20,000	\$19.84
\$60,000	\$30,000	\$29.77
\$80,000	\$40,000	\$39.69
\$100,000	\$50,000	\$49.61
\$120,000	\$60,000	\$59.53



Kids of all ages enjoyed the first day of the re-opening of the aquatic center with a free open swim session sponsored by The Wayne Westland Federal Credit Union.
Photo by Jenny Johnson of The Wayne Dispatch

The splash is back

By Jenny Johnson

The pool at the Wayne Community Center is back in business. On Feb. 1 the pool re-opened with a grand celebration.

Through Feb. 7 they will offer free open swim, water fitness classes, lap swimming and a 10% discount on any birthday parties or swim lessons for the winter session.

The pool was closed in Dec. 2010 because of budget cuts by the city. In Oct. 2011 the City Council voted 6-0 to approve the re-opening of the pool. Parks and Recreation Director Nathan Adams said revenues are up the most with the pool between Feb. and Aug. Since the pool closed the Wayne Community Center has seen a decline in business. It has been an impediment to selling new memberships. There have been no field trips, aquatic birthday parties, swim lessons or classes, or open swim to generate revenue.

Adams said the overall volume of

people coming to the community center has decreased, especially with young families with kids age four to 10. This means other programs like day camp and dance are suffering a decrease in numbers.

"(It all) suffers when we are not getting traffic in the pool," Adams said. "Volume is a big concern."

At the council meeting in October, City Manager Robert English told City Council that it cost about \$60,000 more to operate the pool than to leave it closed.

"We are confident we will be able to make up that \$60,000," he said.

They will do this by seeking corporate sponsorships and donations. They will also promote the pool with residents in Westland as part of the partnership they have with Westland parks and recreation department.

"We want to get people back to our community," Adams said.

"This is a wonderful come back," said Councilman Jim Henley.

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Heise works for new reforms in Lansing

My first year serving you in Lansing has been a busy one, filled with historic reforms and new ideas. With your help, I look forward to continuing this important work in the new year.

Job creation continues to be my top priority. I will continue to support spending, tax, and regulatory reforms that make Michigan competitive for job creation, and that foster an environment for growth.

I introduced the very first bill of 2011 to eliminate the Michigan Business Tax (MBT) surcharge. That surcharge, and the job-killing MBT itself, were eliminated in a reform package that also erased a \$1.5 billion deficit, and cut taxes over \$700 million over the next three years.

As Vice-Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, I also led the effort to eliminate unnecessary judgeships across the state, making government smaller and more efficient. I'm sponsoring additional money-saving judicial reforms in 2012.



**Latest from
Lansing**

**State Representative
Kurt Heise**

Responsible spending and reforms by the Governor and Legislature helped us balance the budget and even achieve a surplus last year. The state now has money to pay down long-term debts; I'm also advocating that we re-invest some of this surplus into public education for our kids.

Unemployment has been dropping from its all-time highs, and many of our job creation reforms are just now taking effect. This past summer, Newsweek named Michigan the #1 state for job growth. This past fall, Bloomberg said we were #2 in their economic evaluation of the states. And, perhaps most impor-

tantly, Fitch Ratings upgraded our state's bond rating outlook to "positive," saving the state millions of dollars on our financing projects.

As the Federal Government, Detroit, and Wayne County have seen their credit ratings go down, Michigan's is going up, as Lansing makes the tough decisions to live within our means. This is what you hired us to do.

My door is always open. I've personally held over 100 coffees, library hours, one-on-one meetings, and advisory board meetings in 2011. My citizen advisory boards cover education, senior issues, small business, and local government, and are open to the public.

I'm also working with Wayne leaders to oppose the proposed elimination of business inventory taxes that would bankrupt the city, pushing for Detroit Water & Sewer reforms, authoring a law to ban deep-injection wells in urbanized areas, and voting to make education funding a priority.

I was honored last summer to receive a "Friend of Education" Award from the Wayne-Westland Schools, recognizing my efforts to fight for education funding for our kids, and restore nearly \$4 million in school aid to the district.

In 2012, I believe Michigan will continue its way back to the top. While our economy is recovering and growing stronger, there is no such thing as "good enough" for me. I will continue to work hard every day to bring new opportunities and jobs to our communities.

For more information, please visit my website at www.repkurtheise.com, call my office at 1-855-REP-KURT, or email me at kurtheise@house.mi.gov. It's an honor to represent you in Lansing.

State Representative Kurt Heise holds local office hours the second Monday of each month. On Feb. 13 he will meet with constituents from 1-2 p.m. at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe Road.

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The learning never stops for Dr. Greg Baracy who earned two advanced endorsements on his administrators certification.

Dr. Greg Baracy earns advanced certification

Dr. Greg Baracy, Superintendent, Wayne-Westland Community School District, has earned two advanced endorsements on his school administrator certification.

He participated in a professional leadership program through the Michigan Association of School Administrators and earned the credentials over a three year period in a program called Courageous Journey.

He took classes, participated in forums and worked online to not only improve his leadership skills but to be able to apply those skills to improve staff and student outcomes in the Wayne Westland School District.

"Because the Courageous Journey spans three years, it allows superintendents to tackle real transformative changes in their districts that in turn can raise student achievement," said William H. Mayes, Executive Director, MASA. "Dr. Baracy has distinguished himself above his peers by going beyond basic school administrator certification to learn high impact strategies that will improve Wayne-Westland Community Schools." Baracy's focus was on the high school reform initiative. His work has contributed to the overall growth in student achievement at both Wayne Memorial and

John Glenn high schools, said Dr. Paul Salah, Assistant Superintendent, Wayne Westland Community Schools.

Baracy is the only superintendent in Wayne-Westland history to earn these endorsements and one of only a few superintendent's in the state who has achieved both endorsements.

"Dr. Baracy is one of the most dedicated practitioners that I have ever met. He cares about the Wayne-Westland Community School District, its children, families and staff. In an effort to constantly improve, he worked diligently to enhance his Michigan administrator certificate by earning the designations of Michigan Superintendent Specialty and Enhanced Endorsements from the prestigious Michigan Association of School Administrators," said Salah.

Baracy is the longest serving superintendent in the district.

"The Courageous Journey Program was a great experience which enabled me to grow both personally and professionally. The research based program allowed me to integrate best practice strategies within the Wayne-Westland School District. It has had a positive impact on helping us work toward improving student achievement," Baracy said.

Chamber announces new director

The Wayne Chamber of Commerce has a new executive director. Wayne resident Sherrie Brindley begins her new job this month. She is the former DDA Director for Plymouth and owns One Office Girl where she helps various communities with marketing and community development projects. She has over 10 years experience promoting communities and small businesses. Brindley also served on the 2020 Committee and is a member of the Wayne Ripple Effect.

"I am so pleased to have the opportunity to serve my hometown as the new chamber director. This is such an exciting time in the City of Wayne with increasing numbers of active business owners, new ideas coming from the City Council, and the good works from service groups like the Rotary, the Civitans, the Ripple Effect and others. It just feels like we are poised for really great things to happen," Brindley said.

Brindley is already busy on the job.

She said, "I am already working with the chamber board and the staff to expand our productivity with additional volunteers especially for projects like the Farmers Market."

The Farmers Market will begin in May in the parking lot of the State Wayne Theater. Anyone interested in helping with the market or other



New Wayne Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sherrie Brindley.

events and programs sponsored by the Chamber can contact the Chamber office.

"We also invite business owners to contact us with any questions or concerns they may have. We are dedicated to doing all we can to promote a vibrant and thriving business community in Wayne," Brindley said. You can also keep up on Chamber news at www.waynechamber.net.

Come see what the Chamber is all about. Their next event is the State of the Community Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. on March 1 at the Woodlands of Van Buren 39670 Ecorse Rd Wayne MI 48184. The cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. To reserve your seat call 734-721-0100 or email susan@waynechamber.net.

CITY OF WAYNE NOTICE OF RENEWAL PERIOD FOR 2012 DOG & CAT LICENSES

ALL CATS MUST NOW BE LICENSED IN THE CITY OF WAYNE

The 2012 dog & cat tags are available for sale in the City Clerk's Office at City Hall. All dogs & cats four months of age or older must be licensed (certificate of rabies vaccination required) and wear a collar with current tag attached. Tags obtained by February 29, 2012, will be at a lesser fee.

Fees during annual licensing period ending February 29, 2012

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

Fees from March 1 thru December 27, 2012

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

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

Matthew K. Miller
City Clerk



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Nathaniel Irvine, 14, from Boy Scout Troop 1736 just after he learned he earned his Eagle Scout rank.

Irvine earns Eagle Scout

By Jenny Johnson

Nathaniel Irvine is the latest Boy Scout from Troop 1736 out of the First Congregational Church in Wayne to earn his Eagle Scout. He is a freshman at John Glenn High School.

"My decision to become an Eagle Scout was based on a goal I set when I was in 2nd grade. I wanted to become an Eagle Scout by the time I was 14. This rank shows leadership, dedication, and determination to achieving many of my own life's goals," he said.

The road to Eagle Scout is not easy. Irvine began as a Tiger Cub in first grade at Madison Elementary School in Westland. There are a variety of requirements to earn each rank.

"There are 12 required Eagle Scout merit badges to complete, service hours to the community, learning basic scout skills such as knots, and cooking, having a position of leadership within the troop, and passing Scout Master Conferences and Board of Reviews. You have to prove that you are ready to

move forward with the completion of your Eagle Project," he said.

His Eagle Project was for the Canton Historical Society. He cleaned out the Palmer Shed that is located on the Historic Cherry Hill Village property.

"The Shed had been moved onto the property in 1997 and unfortunately had not had any work done to the inside area. It was my job to see that the shed was cleaned out, all of the original tools were wire brushed and oiled, a work bench and ladder were built and the area was set up to be viewed for public display," Irvine said.

The skills he has learned in Boy Scouts are invaluable. Irvine said, "I have learned how to be a leader, how to work as a team, many life skills, and the ability to always find a way."

His future plans include studying biomedical engineering at college.

"I have a special interest in helping to find cures for the sick and the development of prosthetic limbs so that people with them have a better quality of life," he said.



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YOUR SOURCE FOR POSITIVE COMMUNITY NEWS



Emergency management

The City of Wayne is one of only 8 communities that have been approved under Public Act 390 of 1976 to have their own emergency management departments and receive funding directly from the State. Other independent communities include Canton Township, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Detroit, Lincoln Park, Livonia, and Trenton.

The City of Wayne Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is responsible for coordinating the preparedness for any major emergency or disaster affecting the City of Wayne. More specifically, the OEM is responsible for developing, revising and exercising the City of Wayne's emergency plan and related plans in coordination with other city departments and agencies.

Emergency management is sometimes confused with first-responder functions, such as law enforcement, fire and rescue, 911 operations, and EMS (EMS can be especially confusing since "emergency medical service" is sometimes mistaken for "emergency management service" and vice versa). While these first-responder functions are critical to successful disaster response and recovery, emergency management is much broader. It involves "those measures taken by the populace and governments at the federal, State, and local levels to minimize the adverse effects of any type of disaster. The scope of emergency management extends beyond responding to a specific disaster event.

In fact, it encompasses a "never-ending cycle of planning, prevention, mitigation, warning, shelter, emergency assistance, and recovery. This "never-ending cycle" ranges from reducing the vulnerability of citizens and property to damage and injury, to preparing for prompt and efficient rescue efforts, to rehabilitating affected residents and damaged property, and assessing and planning for potential hazards and risks. The cycle requires extensive management and coordination to ensure that all

Fire House News



Shawn Bell

agencies, departments, personnel, assets, and resources work together efficiently and effectively to protect public health, safety, and welfare – this is emergency management.

The individual at the local government level whose primary job duty is carrying out that jurisdiction's emergency management functions is called an emergency management coordinator. Here in the City of Wayne, it is the Deputy Chief/ Fire Marshal who carries out the duties as the Emergency Management Coordinator.

The primary Emergency Operation Center (EOC) is located in the City of Wayne's fire station on Wayne Rd. The Fire Departments administrative staff performs many of the crucial duties in the EOC when placed into action. This was the case a year ago during the Franks Furniture store explosion on Wayne Rd. The fire departments administrative staff opened and manned the EOC along with other essential city personnel, as it became the nerve center for operations during that incident. The City of Wayne EOC was placed into operation in the past, during the EQ explosion on Van born Rd. in 2005, and the black out in 2002 as well.

The City of Wayne Office of Emergency Management is dedicated to upholding emergency management standards in the areas of preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery in order to save lives and protect property during a major emergency or disaster. Should you have any questions regarding emergency planning or preparedness, please feel free to contact the Fire Marshals office at 722-1111.

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Vets need your help

Do you know someone from Wayne who died during the Vietnam War? There is national drive to collect photos of service members who died during the Vietnam conflict. Lisa Lark from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund said there were 15 soldiers lost from Wayne between Nov. 1965 and July 1970. Nine soldiers were from the Army and six from the Marines.

"We want to put a face with each name on the wall," Lark said. If you knew one of these soldiers or another who died in the Vietnam War please contact lisalark@vvmf.org.

CPL Alfredo Guzzo, USA
LCPL Peter Bodo Lehmann, USMC

SP4 Frank Leprone, USA
SP4 Calvin Carl Morgan, USA
Cpl Donald Erwin Nelson, USA
LCPL Len Everett Nixon, USMC
PFC Steve Orris III, USA
SSGT Gerard Paul Porta, USA
SP4 Terry Lee Sanders, USA

They are also looking for photos of MIAs. For more information on the project visit www.vvmf.org.

Free Tax Assistance

The Wayne Senior Services Office will once again offer the AARP Tax Assistance Program. This program is free to anyone who files basic tax forms. All returns will be e-filed that day. Taxes will be prepared each Wednesday during the months of February and March. Assistance is by appointment only. Please call 734-721-7460 for further details and/or appointments.

Consumers Energy replaces gas mains

Consumers Energy has begun replacing gas mains to residents and businesses along Elm, Chestnut and Glenwood between Elizabeth and Fourth Street. In all 160 homes or businesses are scheduled to have their old gas mains located in the rear yards replaced with new plastic mains in the front yards and service the lines going to the homes. Consumers Energy sent letters to affected homeowners with details of the project. This is part of a normal replacement program. Most of the current gas mains are about 70 years old. The work should be completed by mid March.

Free Books

The Wayne Public Library has an opportunity for you to get free books for your child. The United Way for Southeastern Michigan has teamed with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to provide books to children 0-5 years. All you have to do is register your child and books will be delivered monthly until they are five. To see if you qualify go to www.imaginationlibrary.com and click on "register my child."

Ice Dogs help food bank

The Michigan Ice Dogs Hockey team will donate all of the proceeds from their Feb. 26 game to the John C. Bolde Food Depot in Wayne. The game is at 11:20 a.m. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for students. They will also be accepting canned food for the center. Come out and watch a good game and help a great cause.



Brian Morrow

Teen Court founder wins award

Brian Morrow, Deputy Chief of the Juvenile Division of Wayne County Prosecutors was recognized with the "Anthony C. Wayne" award for his work in creating a Teen Court program in Wayne County. Teen Court is a juvenile diversion program in which trained, high school-age "teen jurors" sentence real delinquency cases that have been screened by the Prosecutors Office specifically for this program.

He began the program in the City of Wayne in 2006 with Judge Laura Mack. Today the Teen Court program is operated through the 29th District Court in Wayne in conjunction with the Wayne Westland Schools.

Morrow and the prosecutor's office expanded their program to Woodhaven and Romulus High Schools. Today they operate four teen courts, one in the 34th District Court in Romulus and three which are held in Detroit Public School high schools (Denby, Southeastern and Central).

The Anthony C. Wayne award is given to one supervisor in Wayne County each year. The supervisor must have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities and be responsible for implementing a project of major significance to the County.

Art is coming to Wayne

The City of Wayne will be part of a program with the Detroit Institute of Arts this summer. DIA Inside Out brings framed reproductions of 80 of its more famous works of art to outdoor spaces in Metro Detroit. Downtown Wayne will display five to seven reproductions from April to June. Some of the sites they are considering are the historical museum, library, State Wayne Theater, Goudy Park and possibly some local businesses.

The artwork will be placed on brick walls and they all will be within walking distance of each other.

Councilman Jim Henley said, "This is a great project to bring to downtown."

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YOUR SOURCE FOR POSITIVE COMMUNITY NEWS



City complies with Governor's EVIP

By Jenny Johnson

The City of Wayne has completed the requirements set forth by Governor Rick Snyder's Economic Vitality Incentive Plan. EVIP requires all local governments to comply with three different criteria to continue to receive statutory revenue sharing from the state.

City Manager Robert English said Wayne has accomplished the online dashboard which is required to show accountability and transparency. It is available on the City's website or at the finance department.

The second requirement is consolidation of services. Municipalities had until Jan. 1 to send their plans for intergovernmental consolidation of services to Lansing.

"Consolidation of services is nothing new to the City of Wayne," English said.

The fire department is part of the Western Wayne Mutual Aid Association, Fire Investigation Task Force and Western Wayne Auto Aid Agreement. The Parks and Recreation Department joined Westland and formed the Good Neighbor Acceptance Plan. The City has participated

"Consolidation of services is nothing new to the City of Wayne"

Robert English
City Manager

in the Central Wayne Sanitation Authority with Garden City, Dearborn Heights, Inkster and Westland for several years. They formed the Western Wayne Central Dispatch with Garden City last year and the City is in discussion with Dearborn, Garden City, Inkster and Westland on consolidation of district courts.

The third requirement includes employee compensation and plans are due by May 1. The City has already begun complying with health insurance co-pays and retirement benefits. Half of the City's bargaining groups have already agreed to pay 20% of their healthcare costs.

Mayor Haidous cautioned, "Even if we qualify for all revenue sharing we are still going to receive less (funding) than we had."



Skateboarding at the REC?

The Parks and Recreation Department held a meeting asking residents for their input on adding a portable skate and bike park that could be located on one of the tennis courts at Attwood Park. This is a rendering of what the skate park could look like.

OBITUARY

Sonk, Mary Louise Jan. 29, 2012 age 92 of Westland.

Beloved wife of the late Michael J.. Dear mother of Thomas (Elaine) & Cheryl. Sister of Elizabeth Kidwell & the late Robert Disbro. Loving grandmother of Amy Sonk, Carrie (Ryan) Wiltse & Lauren Sonk. Instate Fri. 10 am until time of service at 11 am at St. John Ev. Lutheran Church 35320 Glenwood Rd., Westland. Family will receive friends Thur. 1-9 pm at the Uht Funeral Home 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland. Please visit and sign a tribute at www.uhtfh.com.





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THE SOCIAL NETWORK,.....are you kidding me?

Anyone and everyone who knows me knows that I love and embrace new technology. While I may not understand exactly how it all works, I certainly appreciate how technology has improved and lengthened our lives. For example, the distance we travel in one hour in a car today would have taken our ancestors five to seven days when traveling by a covered wagon back in the 1880's. Furthermore, many people reading this column right now would not even be alive today if it were not for modern technology. I can't wait to see what awaits us in 2012.

Recently however, I witnessed a rather interesting, if not sad, phenomenon that took place while I and my date were dining at Genitti's Hole in the Wall restaurant in beautiful downtown Northville. For those readers not familiar with this little gem of a restaurant, it is a dinner theatre where the food is served family style with six people seated at each table in the dining room and

On the Bright Side

Hal Hultman



then the live show follows dinner in the adjacent theatre.

Each of us introduced ourselves as we sat down for an enjoyable evening meal. As each course of food was brought to our table, the six of us enjoyed light and friendly conversation while passing the various bowls and platters of delicious Italian delights back and forth. During the conversation, we learned that these two couples were long time friends but rarely had an opportunity to see each other due to the fact that one couple lived in Ohio and also had two toddlers which pretty much limited their time to get out of the house alone for some adult time.

And then it happened.....one of the men suffered from this uncontrollable need to take a picture of his friend ladling soup into a bowl so that he could share it with the Facebook world. Apparently in Ohio, serving soup is such a rare sighting that to not capture this image in digital format would be like ignoring an opportunity to take a photo of the legendary Sasquatch. And while it took only seconds to post this rare image on Facebook, it took less than a minute before all four of them were sitting in the dining room staring blankly into their Smart phones to see what the responses were to this most unusual posting. In the warm subdued lighting of the restaurant, all of their faces were eerily illuminated by the bluish light cast from their cell phone screens while they continued to check their e-mail, sport scores and other insignificant messages. Suddenly the table was silent and these friends that rarely get to enjoy

one another's company were now totally ignoring each other although seated at the same table.

While I myself use Facebook on a daily basis, I also realize that there is a time and place for these so called Social Networks and I don't think any of them outweigh the importance of personal contact and communication. It's a shame that these two young couples didn't better utilize their limited time together to actually talk to one another face to face. I have to believe that friendships built on face to face communication and interaction will certainly have a much stronger bond that will endure for years to come than those built on postings on the internet. The internet is a tool, but it is not your life. I don't know who originally said this but it is so true. "Life is short and this is not a dress rehearsal". Don't waste precious moments because we will never get this time back.

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