

THE WAYNE Dispatch

FEBRUARY 2013

**WMHS senior
shines after
early years
without
home**

**OVERCOMING
OBSTACLES**

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YOUR SOURCE FOR POSITIVE COMMUNITY NEWS



A student at the Westland Family Center, a shelter for homeless on Michigan Ave.
Photo by Heather Koch.

By Ashe' Lewis

The holiday season can be a time of sadness for some, especially those who are displaced from their home.

According to the Detroit Free Press, more than 31,000 students were homeless in the 2010-11 school year in Michigan. The number of homeless children in Michigan schools is growing.

Wayne Memorial High School student John, (whose name was changed per his request to remain anonymous), said he was surprised because he never thought that he or his family would ever get to the point of being displaced. John has lived in the Wayne County Family Center (WCFC) for two years with his family of five.

John said that he and his family had to leave all of their belongings behind. "Our landlord lost our house to foreclosure," he said.

John and his family had lived in their home for nine years. They only had a week to pack because their landlord didn't give them a notice.

At the Wayne County Family Center, John and his family live in one room which contains five beds, one window, one rack to hang up coats, and a broom. Everyone at the shelter must share a community bathroom and a community eating place.

"The food at the shelter is sometimes good but when volunteer people come in, it's usually really good," John said.

John added that his favorite food is pizza but he has only had it once in the two years of living in the shelter because they don't serve it.

John and his family only received one key to their room and his

mother is mandated to do a chore daily which is to clean all of the door knobs in the shelter home.

In the room, John escapes in music, art, playing video games and playing basketball for fun every day.

Those residing in the WCFC must go to school. This year was the first year that John has gone to an actual school. Previously, he had been home schooled by his mother.

When John and his sisters were home schooled, they had books, they had school at any time of the day, and they had school every day for about an hour.

"At the time, it (being home schooled) was okay but she (my mother) could only do so much," John said.

Once John entered Wayne Memorial High School, he was a bit shy but soon got acclimated.

"Public schooling is better because I learn more," John said. "I really want to understand everything that the teachers are teaching me and not just pass through the years."

Coming to Wayne Memorial High School has made John want to get more active and experience the school's activities such as Homecoming and later on, Prom.

Despite John's situation, he said that he makes the best of it. Even at times when he feels lonely, he knows that he'll always have his family.

"If anything, we just got stronger," John said. "Bad things will happen but we grow from it."

Around the holidays, John said it's just like ordinary days for him.

"In our house, we never celebrate a holiday," John said.

He never grew up believing in Santa Claus and he has never had any family traditions during the holidays.

"Growing up, I've always wanted to celebrate holidays but I got used to them being just like every other day," John said.

John said that birthdays aren't celebrated in his home. "Once in a while, we'll go out to eat but that's about it."

When John grows up, he would like to become an author. He loves to write and draw. John enjoys writing fiction and he has been writing since he was little. Comic books are his specialty, as well.

John's advice for all of us is to plan for our future and have a back-up plan so we're prepared for whatever comes our way.

District students without a home

By Stephen Callahan

The number of homeless students in the Wayne-Westland School District is in the triple digits and the community is taking measures to comfort these students and aid in their educational needs.

Currently there are 164 students in the Wayne-Westland School District who have been identified by the Family Resource Center as homeless.

"It saddens me to know that so many people so close to us and our community are experiencing this kind of devastation," said Valerie Orr, principal, Wayne Memorial. "But it doesn't surprise me because of the economic crisis in this country."

"The Family Resource Center is a huge part of helping (those in the district who are in need). They provide them with school supplies, transportation, and other support services," Orr said. "We ourselves try to do as much as we can."

Orr said that the staff at Wayne High donated to a fund to help buy Christmas presents for students and assist them however they can.

"(We bought) Kroger gift cards so they (could) buy food and just (tried) to make sure they know we care and that this is a temporary situation and that education is the best way to get out of a situation like this," Orr said.

Family Resource Center Director Amanda Faugh-

nan said that she helps these students and their families with almost anything from school supplies to toiletries to utility payments such as gas or electricity, and even mortgages.

Students who don't have a home also don't have a place to do homework or study and are faced with bigger distractions than most students who have their own room or quiet place to concentrate, putting them at a disadvantage in means of education, which is why it is important for the school to approach this issue, Faughnan explained.

Faughnan, who is the liaison for the homeless in the district, said that she is responsible for helping every homeless student in the school district register for school and making sure they have everything they need to succeed here.

"It's amazing how much a couple of pencils and a couple of notebooks really mean to a child that doesn't have those basic things," Faughnan said.

Editor's note: Student reporters from Wayne Memorial High School's The Zebra Print newspaper tackled the issue of homelessness in our community. With their permission, we have included their stories in this issue of The Wayne Dispatch to bring attention to the needs of families in our school district.

Poverty: Overcoming the obstacles

WMHS senior shines after early years without home

By Sarah Shurge

I laid perfectly still in my bed. For hours, I would stare at the glow from the lit hallway under the locked door of the single, small room where we lived, watching shadows creep by, waiting for my mother to return from her bathroom cleaning duties. I listened to the screams from my brother's night terrors that he started experiencing when we moved here, watching and listening to the flashes of lightning and thunder outside our single window and wonder if it really was just a storm or something worse. For three continuous months when I was eight years old, this was the same routine that happened almost every night.

I was young when all of this occurred. I never really understood why everything happened. I didn't understand why my father left. Why my mother, my brother and I had to pack up our whole life in boxes within a week's notice. Why before I got to say goodbye to all of my animals, they were gone. Or why we had to leave the only home I had ever known, with nowhere else to live as a backup. Why we had to move to a homeless shelter. But now I'm older; now my mother doesn't sugarcoat



Left: Sarah Shurge in third grade when she lived in a homeless shelter. Photo by Ms. Linda Shurge. Right: Shurge currently as a senior at WMHS. Photo by That Personal Touch Photography.

things. Now I understand everything.

I was four years old when my life began to drastically change. One day, my father told my mother he didn't want to stay with us anymore because he knew he could do better. He left and a year later, he and my mother were divorced. At the court hearing for my parents' divorce, the judge told my father he had no parental rights. My father simply shrugged and said, "Oh well." He



hasn't spoken to any of us since the day he left. Not on our birthdays, or Christmas, or even when my brother graduated from Wayne Memorial High School as valedictorian with scholarships to the University of Michigan. There were no phone calls or cards. There was nothing.

Once my father walked out of our lives, he was gone. The judge told him that he needed to sign off of the Quick Claim Deed to the house but he never did. For up to two years, our mortgage company let my mother pay our bills without being on the title, but once the two-year deadline hit, they wouldn't accept our payments anymore and we lost the house.

Our stay at the Wayne County Homeless Shelter was brief; only a few weeks past three months. The first day we moved there, actually within the first 15 minutes, sirens went off and workers pulled security fences across the hallways and padlocked them. We were ordered to our rooms and told to lock our door. They called this Lock Down. Whenever fights would break out, which occurred frequently, we would be put in Lock Down for up to an hour.

We were patted down and searched each time we entered the shelter. We weren't allowed to miss meal times. We had curfew each night. If you weren't back on time, you would be locked out and in dan-

ger of being kicked out of the shelter forever. Adults were assigned chores they had to complete each night and if they didn't obey, they'd be kicked out. We had to follow a strict schedule the employees set for us and if we didn't, we'd be kicked out. There were so many ways and it was so easy to be sent to the streets, you honestly were lucky to keep your room.

We lost a lot of our possessions in the move; we were poor and we had nowhere to turn. But we were together, my mother, my brother and me. I never understood the true meaning of family until family was the only thing I had. The world can take a lot of things away from you: your house, your job, your possessions, but there's one thing it can't take: your happiness. My family is my true happiness. They are my home. They are what kept and keeps me going every day.

My name is Sarah Shurge. I am a senior at Wayne Memorial High School. I'm not only involved in Marching Band, Symphony Band, Tennis, Robotics, Newspaper and Yearbook, but I'm also an honor student. I have dreams and goals just like everyone else. I'm not embarrassed or ashamed of what happened in my past. I haven't let it slow me down or stop me from following my dreams. I plan on going to college. I just got accepted to the college of my dreams, the University of Michigan, and I plan to work my way from a news reporter to traveling the world as a photojournalist with National Geographic. If you know me, you know I almost always have either a smile on my face or I'm laughing. No one would ever think I came from a family that survived domestic violence and ended up in a homeless shelter.

I walk through the halls just like every other student. Why? Because I am determined to prove that it doesn't matter what happened in your past, you are the only thing that can affect your future. My past has only made me stronger. It has made me a fighter. I fight for my future. I not only shoot for the tops of the trees, I shoot for the stars.



In December of last year Sarah (yellow arm band in center) performed with The University of Michigan Marching Band. Photo by Kevin McKay

'Buddy Up' journey begins

"This ain't for everybody!" Dolvett would yell at us. Then he would look at us and wait. He had programmed the response into our brains. But it was our job to say it. "But it's for my body," we would say back. Dolvett was helping us to see the value in owning our own decisions. He wanted us to see the upside to being healthy and be willing to go through the process of incorporating healthy habits as a personal decision. I'm glad I did. It is encouraging for me to see so many of my neighbors and community members wanting to take that personal ownership when it comes to their health as well. On Saturday, January 26th, well over 400 people showed up to the Friendship Center in Westland to begin their healthy journey. These people joined a free community program called Buddy Up that will instruct them about medical issues, nutritional facts, and what a healthy exercise regimen looks like. When it comes to making nutritional changes, the first step is to know what you're doing wrong. One great way to do that is to log the food you're eating into a free, online website. www.myfitnesspal.com offers this service. Once you log your food, it adds up your calories and gives you the nutritional breakdown of what you're eating. Everyone knows that exercise is good for you. The key is to do it! My best advice is to find something that you like to do and then sign up to do that activity with



friends. You're way more likely to keep moving if you like the activity and have people to push you to keep going! People have been asking me about what they should be eating. I'll be covering that more and more, but in today's article, I thought I'd give a sample of what my typical breakfast looks like. The nutritionist on Biggest Loser, Rachel Beller, gave me two breakfast rules. (other than the "don't skip breakfast" rule) The first rule is that your breakfast should be high in fiber. This activates your system and keeps things moving. I shoot for more than 10 grams every morning. The second rule is to have a little protein. My typical breakfast is a bowl of cereal. I get Kashi Go Lean Crunch. I have about a cup and a half of cereal and use a cup of unsweetened almond milk. I sprinkle a little cinnamon on it as well. This breakfast consists of 315 calories, and the cereal has both the fiber and protein in it that I'm looking for. This is the sort of healthy choice I make these days. It ain't for everybody....(I'm waiting...) Next month, you'll discover there's more to the story. . .

**"This ain't for everybody! But it's for my body."
Dolvett Quince**

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The 2013 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 28, 2013, will be at a lesser fee.

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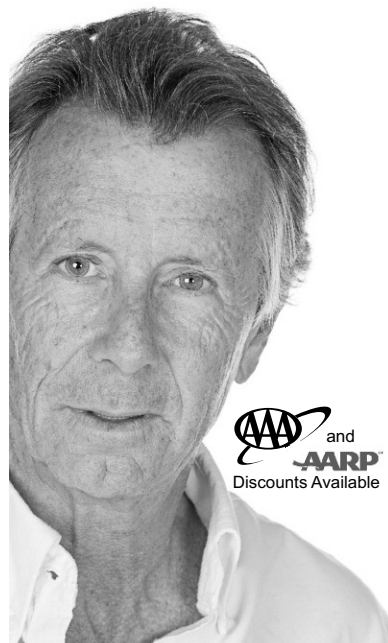
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Matthew K. Miller, City Clerk



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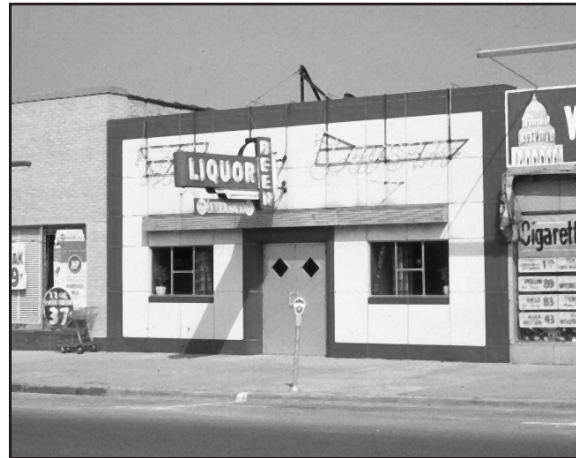
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Downtown Wayne used to be a hub for shopping. Wayne residents could find all of their needs at stores like Kresge. Photos Courtesy of The Wayne Historical Museum

Memories of Downtown Wayne

Years ago, the small towns that popped up across our country were pretty self-sufficient. Most began as farming communities and soon small stores and businesses opened to serve the needs of the people of the village. If you could not get something in town, you traveled to the nearest large city to purchase goods or you ordered from the ever popular Sears and Roebuck Catalogue. Wayne was no different. It went from a farming community in the mid 1800's to a community with lots of industry in the early 1900's and then a lively small town/city during the 40's, 50's and 60's where "everyone knew your name". Downtown Wayne was bustling and you could get just about anything you needed from merchants in the community. Long-time residents will recall the good old days in Wayne when everyone shopped downtown for groceries, clothing, shoes, sporting goods, haircuts, cars, lumber, restaurants, musical instruments and much more. Then along came the huge malls built outside our cities with every kind of store under one roof and that changed everything. I remember when Northland Shopping Center was built and we traveled miles to shop the multitude of stores it held. But most of my childhood memories of shopping are in Wayne where we would shop the stores, visit with the owners and meet our friends and neighbors.

If you grew up in Wayne you will remember Mulholland's Dry Goods Store where you could purchase material and sewing needs, clothing for all ages, baby clothes and even your varsity jacket for high school. There

Memory Lane

Darlene Hawley



was also Leo's Gift Store owned by Leo Zuckerman, which started in an old house just east of where Leo's modern store is located today. They sold a multitude of goods in the early days. (I remember my sisters and I saving our money to buy our parents an electric coffee pot at Leo's for their anniversary.) We also shopped at SS Kresge's, Lee Adam's Men Store, Milt Humphries Store, the 5 & 10 Variety Store, Gladstone Shoes, Lazar's, Vanity Fair, Stuart's (where you could put clothing in layaway), Hoff Roe, Richard's Boys and Girls Clothing Store, and Linda Lee's Dress Shop. You could bowl at Nankin Bowling Alley on the corner of Michigan Ave. Elizabeth or at the three lane bowling alley in the basement of the building housing the 5 & 10 Variety Store. You bought your Hallmark cards at Betsy's Card Shop near Dowling Drugs and flowers could be purchased from Stein's Flower Shop on Michigan Ave. and Lilley Rd.

Other businesses included the Wayne Music Center where you could purchase organs, pianos and guitars as well as cameras, photography supplies and film printing. O'Brien Drugstore on Michigan Avenue owned by Jack O'Brien, Dowling Drugs down from Mulholland's, Karznia Southside Val-U Drugstore

and Northside Pharmacy all took care of your medicine plus needs. RH Hawley and Sons sold coal and lumber to the community for years. I remember our coal bin in the basement of our house being filled with coal on the chute through the basement window by the big Hawley coal truck. (I also remember shoveling coal into the furnace to keep it going on cold winter days.) Hilliard and Reiser Lumber sold lumber and Hardware supplies and paint. John Vallance operated Vallance Hardware (which is now Northside Hardware) and Dave Young operated Young's Hardware in Wayne for years. Also, there was Baxter Hardware and Electric on South Wayne Rd. You could buy your furniture at Gates Furniture Co., Kent Furniture at Michigan and Venoy Rd. or Furniture Enterprises on South Wayne Road. For your hobbies you could shop Wayne Hobby shop on Wayne Rd. near Second St. or Willy's Store on the corner of Wayne Rd. and Ash St. Kids liked to hang out at Willy's and buy candy and ice cream at the soda fountain.

Many people will remember The Detroit Edison Co. which was housed in a large old home on Wayne Rd. near where our Library stands today. You could turn in your old burned out light bulbs there and receive new ones free of charge!

If you needed a car, Harold Dietrich sold Buick-Rambler, Ed Carpenter sold Dodges, Lebanon Motor Sales sold Oldsmobiles, Red Holman sold Pontiacs, Stu Evans sold Lincoln Mercury and Clarence Bell sold Fords and used cars.

If you were hungry, there was A&W on Wayne Rd. just north of

Glenwood, Daly's Drive In and Restaurant just north of Palmer (a great hang out for teens), Brownie's on Michigan Avenue, Chum's on Michigan Ave just west of second street, Temples Restaurant on south Wayne Rd. (then the Wayne Parkway), The TV Drive In, Frenchies Coney island, Fessler's Restaurant on the corner of Wayne Rd. and Michigan Ave. the Tip Top Restaurant on Michigan Ave., Ed's Lunch and Pizzeria, Kneip's Bar, the Village Bar, Burghoff Bar and the 112 Bar.

Many of the business owners mentioned here were well know and active in the community. Some of them have descendents who live in Wayne today and continue to be active in the community. Some, like Larry and David Zuckerman, are still in business today running Leo's Jewelry & Gift Shop started by their father many years ago and Mat Mulholland who works for the city.

Today, it is difficult for small towns to compete with huge shopping centers strip malls, online shopping and TV shopping networks. It seems our small towns now offer locations for our churches, banks, doctors and dentist's offices, grocery stores, drug stores and fast food restaurants. It's a sign of the times and change is the one constant in our lives. But, we still have fond memories of life in small town Wayne when life was slower paced and everyone shopped downtown Wayne.

(I know I have missed some important businesses that were a part of downtown Wayne in the 50's and 60's. Let me know what you remember about shopping Wayne in those days.)

Meet new State Representative serving Wayne

Robert Kosowski is serving his first term as the new Michigan State Representative, representing residents of Wayne and Westland as part of the new District 16. He was elected in November and was sworn in to office in Lansing in January.

Kosowski is a long-time Westland resident and worked as the city of Westland Parks and Recreation director for 20 years and he has "always considered the City of Wayne as part of my home."

He and his wife, Liz, have two sons, Andrew and Austin.

Committed to community

"I have always desired to serve the community through public service and am grateful to have the opportunity. Throughout my tenure with the city and as Parks and Recreation Director, I was privileged to serve the community. Now I will be able to serve residents at a much higher level and I look forward to serving the residents of Wayne," he said. "I want residents to know that I truly care about the prosperity of both communities."

The Wayne City Council welcomed a visit from Kosowski in January. He said the state is working on several key issues this year.

A key issue is the personal property tax repeal.

"This is a huge issue for Wayne and Westland. I vow to work really hard on that."

Kosowski said, "Without 100% replacement, the City of Wayne will be like other communities and would be faced with additional reductions in revenues."

Wayne, like many other communities, has already faced years of reductions in revenue sharing from the state. In addition cities and homeowners have also had declining property values that result in reduced revenue for city budgets and a devaluation of a resident's largest investment.

Many cities have had to rely on grants to continue to provide necessary services to residents. But what happens when the grants expire?

"Our cities cannot afford another round of funding cuts. I will continue to advocate that Wayne and other communities in the state are not



Rich Brown, Assistant Clerk of the House swears in new Michigan State Representative, Robert Kosowski with Wayne Westland Fire Chief Michael Reddy and Robert's wife Liz Kosowski.

forced to contend with continually shrinking revenue streams and will support 100% replacement for revenues lost as a result of a repeal of the Personal Property Tax," he said.

"I am committed to protecting our cities and helping ensure they can provide the highest level of services to residents. I believe that one of the most important factors in the decision process for individuals deciding where to live is the quality of services provided in differing locations. A continual drop in revenues for cities has threatened many wonderful services. I will pursue policies and legislation which strengthen the ability of municipalities to provide for their residents," Kosowski said.

Kosowski also plans to focus on jobs, education and transparency and openness.

"Michigan's middle class continues to struggle in the current economic climate. Despite a nearly \$2 billion dollar tax cut to businesses in this state, we have not seen sufficient growth in employment. Far too many Michiganders are either unemployed or underemployed. I believe it is time for Michigan to focus on the needs of the middle class and support effective strategies to develop a labor market which benefits the middle class," he said.

Education has also seen challenges in the last decade.

"We have far too many failing schools, successful schools that are being challenged from a lack of resources, and young adults who struggle to afford college. We must dedicate ourselves to providing the highest quality education to our chil-

dren to prepare them for the high paying jobs of the future. We cannot achieve that by continually demanding that schools provide more and better services with fewer resources. The Wayne-Westland School District received a larger cut in per pupil funding than any other school district since 2009. Leadership is very strong in the Wayne-Westland School District. Superintendent Greg

Baracy exemplifies a vast knowledge of what is best for the students of our district. Teaching our children to become our future leaders is prevalent in the way he, the school board and his staff are leading our district," he said.

On the right track

Kosowski said he is very impressed with Wayne.

"The City of Wayne has surrounded itself with a superior staff. Each department is well run from the current Fire Chief Michael Reddy and Police Chief Jason Wright to all of the department heads and employees. Both Chief Reddy and Chief Wright have shown leadership skills that are impeccable and I am confident that they, along with their colleagues in other departments, will lead our great communities forward," Kosowski said.

"I can not believe the due diligence you have and how progressive

See **Kosowski**, page 8

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Wayne-Westland
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Bringing Main Street to revive downtown?

By **Jenny Johnson**

How do you turn a struggling downtown into a vibrant downtown? That's the question Wayne residents, business owners and city officials hope to answer with the help of the Main Street program.

Since October 2010 a group of dedicated volunteers, The Wayne Ripple Effect have been striving to make positive changes in downtown Wayne.

They have been involved in a variety of activities in Wayne including a Hopps and Schnapps fundraiser, downtown clean up, flower planting, Rouge River Clean Up and scarecrow decorating throughout downtown. They have also helped with movie premieres at the State Wayne Theater and had a continued presence at the Farmers Market.

"We have been an active group," said Ripple Effect member Pat Rice.

They had a Raise Your Glass Celebration when they were chosen as a Main Street associate level community. This program helps communities. More than 80 people attended a meeting where Brittney Hoszkiw from the Main Street Center explained what is next for Wayne. She was impressed with the level of volunteer support in Wayne.

"Downtown is the identity of your community. For a strong community you need a strong downtown. For Wayne as a whole to be successful we need to focus on the downtown," she said.

Right now Wayne is at the associate level. They receive basic training in the Main Street approach and are working toward a select level. To qualify they have to have funding to provide for a Main Street manager and establish a board of directors and committees.

The committee members will receive intensive training and be provided with a vast variety of resources from the Main Street Center. It is Wayne's intent to launch the select level.

Hoszkiw said this is a five-year commitment and would be where Wayne's Main Street program is created.



"Downtown is the identity of your community. For a strong community you need a strong downtown. For Wayne as a whole to be successful we need to focus on the downtown."

Brittney Hoszkiw
Michigan Main Street Center

"That's where it starts to get real," Brittney said. That's where the \$200,000 of technical assistance comes in.

Michigan Main Street Center is a technical assistance program. They are not giving the city money to revitalize their downtown. They are providing plans and resources for community volunteers to revitalize their own downtowns.

Hoszkiw told the audience, "You have to see beyond what you have. This is an action-oriented program. We help you with the plan but we want to see the plan take action. You have to get everyone on the same page and rowing in the same direction."

Pastor Larry Mack opened the doors of Greater Than Dreams Church for the meeting. He said, "Just to see people coming together because they care about their community. That did it for me. These people were volunteers. They weren't getting paid. If we can take one step at a time we can do it. Who doesn't want a good downtown?"

Kosowski, Continued from page 6

you are. I always knew Wayne was a great community. I am proud to be part of it," he told members of city council.

He is impressed with Wayne and Westland joining efforts with the parks and recreation and fire departments.

"The cooperative efforts of the cities of Wayne and Westland have been successes that have benefited the residents of both communities. With the merger of the fire departments, response times have improved and will realize reduced costs while providing a higher quality of services. Additionally, the intergovernmental cooperation that has permitted Westland residents to utilize the recreation facilities I believe will only benefit both communities. The portfolio of parks, amenities and services has multiplied making the Wayne-Westland Parks and Recreation Department an awesome place sure to meet everyone's recreational needs," he said.

What can Wayne and Westland do to help them sustain and grow?

Kosowski said, "We need to continue to attract families to choose to make Wayne and Westland their home. Both cities have done a great job marketing how great our communities actually are. Secondly, attracting businesses to either open a business or relocate their business in Wayne or Westland is a major component to success."

City services are also vital to growth, he said. Future homeowners are looking for first-rate public safety, city services and schools.

"Shopping locally and supporting our businesses is also imperative to sustain growth. The more we visit and make our purchases locally will only increase the sustainability of the great businesses of Wayne and Westland," he said.

Kosowski believes government should be accessible to residents and have good working relationships with city leaders.

Lansing agenda

Kosowski and his colleagues will be busy this year. They have a number of policy issues on the agenda.

"Michigan's roads are crumbling and there does not currently exist within the budget sufficient funds to

repair our roads. Additional funds will be needed, but the question of how to fund the rebuilding of Michigan's roads will be contentious," Kosowski said. He does not support additional taxes on the middle class and senior citizens.

There are also huge issues in the realm of health care policy, including potentially reincorporating Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan as a non-profit and expanding Medicaid eligibility as proscribed in the Affordable Care Act, he said.

The national budget deficit will also present a challenge to the state legislature.

"Washington is considering possible solutions to our country's fiscal problems that could include massive reductions in funding for state governments. If Michigan is faced with a reduction in federal funds, further cuts to necessary services could be seen in all departments. How the state legislature reacts to a loss of revenues from the Federal government could be one of the most consequential things facing this body over the next two years," Kosowski said.



State Representative Robert Kosowski, here with his colleagues, was named as the minority vice-chair of the Tourism Committee.

Keep in touch

"Transparency is important to me and I want to let everyone know that I am here to serve them," he said. He plans to have coffee hours, send out electronic newsletters and keep in close contact city officials.

"We have a lot of work to do. I am looking for everyone's help. We are going to be doing a lot of things," he said.

"We are here to represent you, the people of Wayne and Westland. I represent 90% of Westland and all of Wayne. I want everyone to have access to me," Kosowski said.

You can contact State Representative Robert Kosowski at 517-373-2567 or RobertKosowski@house.mi.gov.

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Lunch break at St. Mary

By Jenny Johnson

It was a day of giving back and the students of St. Mary Catholic School were pleased with the result. As part of Catholic School Week, the Student Council hosted a “Bagged Lunch” for City of Wayne police officers and firefighters.

The theme for this year’s Catholic Schools Week is “Catholic Schools Raise the Standards in Our Community.” The student council decided they wanted to do a community service project that would honor the men and women of their community who raise the standards everyday in their professions.

More than a dozen police officers and firefighters sat with K-8 grade students in the lunchroom. The students were thrilled to get to eat lunch with their guests and ask them questions about their job and even ask for help with juice boxes and wrappers.

Student council members picked the date, made the invitations, planned and shopped for the meal, greeted their guests and served them a bag lunch with a sub, chips, apple, drink and cookie in the shape of a badge.

When they were done eating, student council members offered tours of the school.

Principal Lisa Powaser said, “Student Council put together this lunch. It is a way to thank you to the police officers and firefighters.”

Student council advisor Theresa Formella helped the students make invitations and hand delivered them to the police and fire stations.

The students wanted to give back to the people who keep them safe on a daily basis and to do something nice for people who truly deserve to be honored and respected.

It was fifth-grade student council member Abigail Formella’s idea. She said she was trying to think of things that come to mind “when we want to help the community.”

She thought doing something nice for the police officers and firefighters would be a good way to serve the community.

“We do respect and care for how much they keep us safe,” she said.

Eighth-grader Diana Reyes said it was important to honor the police officers and fire fighters “to show them how much we care and how special it is what they do for us.”

She said this project taught the students the lesson of how important it is to do for others.



City of Wayne Police Chief Jason Wright with students from St. Mary.



Student Council members coordinated the Bagged Lunch for Wayne Police and Fire Fighters. Front Row: Jacob Kendrick, Shelby Hall, Emma Strieter, Adriana Parrado, Abigail Formella, Colleen Verla. Back Row: Kobe Gementiza, Jacob Near, Devin Denning, Diana Reyes, Mackenzie Rediskie, Justin Hollenbeck, Christopher Formella. Photo by Jenny Johnson

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Dr. Larry Mack, pastor at Greater Than Dreams Church, traveled to Connecticut after the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December.

Wayne Pastor visits Sandy Hook

By Jenny Johnson

It was a calling he couldn't ignore. Dr. Larry Mack, pastor at Greater Than Dreams Church in Wayne felt compelled to travel to Connecticut after the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December.

He already had a trip planned to New York. As a delegate for the Hope for Them Foundation he was scheduled to present an award to Sam Childers. He is the preacher who was depicted in the movie Machine Gun Preacher. Coincidentally, a scene from that movie was filmed in Wayne. Mack presented him with a humanitarian award for his work with children in Africa.

Mack left on the Monday after the tragedy and spent two days in Newtown. He said he went to pray with and for the families and anyone else who needed it.

He went by himself and didn't know what to expect. He flew into New York and rented a car and made the two-hour drive to Newtown. He got within about 1-½ miles from Sandy Hook Elementary and had to pull over and walk.

"I had been praying about the children," he said. "I just wanted to be there."

As he walked and got closer to the school he said he saw memorials and people everywhere. "There were flags and candles and as you are getting closer you start to see memorials and trees that represent every child that passed," he said. "There were so many flowers."

As he got closer to the school the roads were blocked and patrolled by police officers. He said the walking traffic was so crowded. The people were very compassionate and even offered for visitors to stay in their homes when the hotels filled up.

Mack said, "I believe in prayer from scientific and spiritual stand point."

Being there he could feel the power of all the prayers that were being sent to the people of Newtown.

"I felt the compassion and prayers of the nation. When we as a group pray for other people in the nation, you can feel it," he said.

How did the trip affect him?

"It woke me up. You hold your children a little bit better than we've been," he said. "It gave me the experience in case something like that happens in our area."

He spent his time in Newtown praying with people.

"People are comforted by your presence. People just showing up and helping any way you can by being there to hold a hand or hug somebody," he said.

It also reminded him to be thankful for the little things and to live more in the moment. He said he realized that work is important but not more important than family.

"It made me feel more human," he said. "As a pastor it made me realize how important it was for me to show up at places. To get out of my comfort zone and away from my business."

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Deputy Chief Alan Maciag

Chief Wright names new Deputy Chief

Police Chief Jason Wright has announced who will replace Deputy Police Chief Tony DeGiusti when he retires next month. Sgt. Alan Maciag, a 15-year veteran of the department, has been promoted to deputy chief.

He was previously a sergeant in charge of the detective bureau. He has also served in the Community Oriented Policing Crime Reduction Unit (COPCRU), community policing, as a traffic officer and as a patrol officer. Maciag said the deputy chief po-

sition focuses more on administration.

He will be in charge of all daily operations at the police department.

Maciag received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Western Michigan University and a master's degree in criminology from Eastern Michigan University. He also just completed the 251st session at the FBI academy in Quantico, Virginia. He took courses in leadership, legal issues that impact law, forensic science for administrators and ethics and decision-making strategies.

The city is required to retain the officers for an additional 12 months after the grant expires.

In addition, the department will have seven officers retire in the next year and they will need to be replaced as well. "There will be a tremendous amount of transition in the department as a whole," Wright said. With a long-standing deputy chief and several lieutenants and sergeants leaving there will be a lot of changes from top down as some officers are promoted and the new officers go through the training process.

The department currently has 28 sworn officers. This is down from 43 a few years ago.

Police awarded grant for new officers

The Wayne Police Department is the recipient of a COPS Hiring Grant Award from the U.S Department of Justice. This grant allows the city to hire two military veterans as full time police officers. This will increase the staffing from 31 sworn officer to 33.

This is a three-year \$250,000 grant. This covers the base salaries and benefits for the officers. The city's required match is \$231,186.

Foul play

On Jan. 17 the Wayne Police were dispatched to the 35000 block of Glenwood on a well being check. They found the 69-year-old male homeowner deceased. The investigation revealed he was the victim of foul play. When more information pertaining to this is released it will be at Facebook.com/thewaynedispatch or 1800speakup.org.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Council approves changeover of former car wash

The former car wash on Glenwood west of Venoy will soon be an auto detailing and prep facility that will also sell used cars. The 3200 sq. ft. building will be renovated. The former bays will be knocked out to have an interior workspace and office. There will also be a fence along the north part of the property. The owners will also update the parking lot, façade and landscape. This building was formerly on the city's dangerous buildings list.

Dougie visits council

It was a happy surprise when Doug Beasley made a special appearance at the Jan. 15 city council meeting. He and his parents came to thank city council and all of the city employees for their well wishes and support during his battle with Leukemia.

"I've been through a lot and have to go through more chemo," he told council.

His parents thanked everyone for the gifts, concern, love, get well cards and visits.

"All of your concern from his city friends has helped him stay strong. He is working hard to get back to work," his mom said.

Mayor Al Haidous presented Doug with a city pin.

"We love you" he told Dougie as he put the pin on his jacket. "This is to remind you of the love and prayers. You will beat it. May God be with you."



Douglas found guilty in homicide

Richard Douglas, 57, of Wayne was convicted of 2nd degree murder on Jan. 2 in Wayne County Circuit Court. He was sentenced to 15-60 years.

In Sept. 2009 Wayne police were called to the scene of a crime in the woods just north of Wayne Bowl on Michigan Avenue. Douglas was the one who call 9-1-1. The body of Joseph Kasproicz was discovered. After an extensive investigation Wayne Police arrested Douglas in June 2012 for the murder of Kasproicz. Douglas was tracked down in Tennessee and extradited back to Michigan.

At his preliminary exam on July 23, Judge Laura Mack bound him over as charged. He was arraigned on first-degree premeditated murder on July 30 in Wayne County Circuit Court.

The preliminary exam revealed that sometime between Sept. 16 and 20, 2009 Kasproicz was killed by blunt force trauma, most likely a metal baseball bat. Kasproicz was the boyfriend of Douglas' wife. He lived with the couple for a short time in Wayne.

Marshmallow Tower Building

The Wayne Public Library will host a Marshmallow Tower Building contest at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 7. Get your team of 2-6 people ready to build. Each team will get a bag of marshmallows, a box of toothpicks and a limited amount of time to build the tallest marshmallow structure possible. This event is free but please call 734-721-7832 to register.

AARP Tax Assistance Program

Each Wednesday, beginning February 6 through April 3. By appointment only.

No age or residency restriction applies. Clients must file basic/simple forms only to have preparations done at this site. All taxes will be e-filed (electronically filed).

For appointments, please call 734-721-7460.

Family Hoedown

The Family Hoedown will be held at the Wayne Community Center from 6-8:30 p.m. on Feb. 7.

Tickets are: \$6 per person for Residents or \$20 per group or family of four and \$7 per person for non-residents or \$25 for a group or family of four.

Fee includes square dance, goody bag, cookies and beverages. Pictures are an additional charge.

Wine Tasting event

Independent Carpet One, 1400 N. Wayne Road, Westland, will host a

Wine Tasting event for the Dearborn's Friends of the Symphony from 4-7 p.m. on Feb. 17.

Co-Owner of the family business Cathy Buchanan, is providing comfortable seating for those attending to enjoy the wine and appetizers. There will be door prizes, a wine auction and music. Tickets are \$40 per person and \$75 per couple.

For reservations please call Meaghan Copeland at 313-598-670 or Margaret Schaefer at 313-565-2366. Deadline for reservations is Feb. 10.

Looking for WMHS Alumni

Wayne Memorial High School is seeking nominations for their annual Distinguished Alumni award. If you know an outstanding Wayne Memorial graduate you can send your nomination to Pamela Rawson, Secretary to the Principal, at Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth Street, Wayne, MI 48184, or call 734-419-2206. Nominations are due by Feb. 25. The winner will be announced in May and will be honored at commencement on June 1.

Youth Theater

The Spring session of Youth Theater will be accepting registration for the production of "Annie" February 4-March 8, 2013. The cost of the session is \$70.00 for residents and \$80.00 for non-residents. Rehearsals and the show will take place at the Wayne Activity & Banquet Room. Show dates are April 19-21, 2013. Please register at the Wayne Community Center.

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Resident participates in Inauguration events

Ms. Evelyn Sims represented Wayne, MI at President Obama's Inaugural last month.

She was so excited to be chosen, that she came in our Library and told Circulation Clerk, Ann McCoy "I just had to tell somebody."

Ms. Sims was at a dental clinic in Southwest Detroit last month. When asked if she could sing.

"God blessed me with a voice," said she. And so Evelyn Sims sang the second verse of "Amazing Grace" at the President's Inaugural Breakfast.

Ms. Sims lives in Wayne and her son, Gary Bolden Jr. is in 11th grade at Wayne Memorial.

"Thank you from all of us, Ms. Evelyn Sims."

HELP! Can you hear it? It's your Library crying for HELP! Since the personal property tax has been eliminated, and home property values have fallen, funds are meager at the Wayne Library.

Footprints of Wayne

Dee Ryan



Here are some ways we can all help.

Donations—a company or social organization could present a special collection or children's books, or books by one author. Subscriptions to magazines,

In memory of a friend, or member of a family donate a book or two in their name. Make a bequest in your own will to the library.

Please, if you haven't done it yet, join the Friends of the Library. They are the group responsible for the many informative and enjoyable programs we have during the year.

Just ask for a form at the front desk.

Buy books from the book cart in the lobby. From .50 cents to \$1.00 they are barely used and a great bargain.

Now to the nuts and bolts---if you can donate cleaning supplies, or toner cartridge for the computers.

If you have designing talents, the library needs to create a space for teen-age readers and would love to have your input.

In other words---no offer will be overlooked. As I said it's our library and it's asking for your help.

For more details on any of these suggestions, please contact the library's Director, Paulette Medvecky at 721-7832.

So sorry I couldn't attend last month's Ripple Effect meeting. I've had the 'flu' since Christmas and in the words of Eliza Doolittle "It's done me in."

Fortunately, good neighbor, "Wild Bill" brought over notes from the meeting along with a huge bowl of Sharron's chicken soup.

There was a great turnout for the January 17th Main St. - Ripple Effect meeting. At least 80 people showed up, which is good.

Some of the goals: Assist in developing and filling vacant properties: Promote Rouge River recreation

activities: Create year round community events: Enhance downtown's physical appearance.

Among the successful fundraising ideas - Cutie Pie Beauty Pageant straight from Conway, South Carolina. Twenty community business men dressed in evening gowns starred in a talent show to raise money for charity.

I also liked the 'no bake-bake sale.' Send in whatever amount of money you would have spent to make something for a bake sale. No work — no grocery shopping —no bake! The first 'No bake - Bake' sale netted \$700 in New Hampshire

We already have a good start with our Farmer's Market and our Scarecrows!

Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 21, at 6 p.m. at The Wayne Library. Please join us.

Another thanks you to our dear friend, Betty Young, who now lives in Cape May N.J. She sent me a get-well gift. A gentleman friend of hers, Ronald Champney, delivered it because she heard I was sick. Two little bottles of 'medicine' brought to my front door. The soothing syrup will surely help.

Thank you Mr. Ronald Champney and thank you Darling Betty.

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ads@thewaynedispatch.com

John P. Rhaesa
Publisher
john@thewaynedispatch.com

Natalie Rhaesa
General Manager
natalie@thewaynedispatch.com

Jenny Johnson
Editor
jenny@thewaynedispatch.com

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McDonald's on the way downtown

By Jenny Johnson

The corner of Wayne Road and Michigan Avenue will soon feature the golden arches. McDonald's has purchased the property that was formerly Rex's House of Pancakes. In a 7-0 vote, council approved the site plan. Demolition of the building will be any day. The newly constructed McDonalds will open in May.

The 4200 sq. ft. restaurant will feature a double drive thru and have a seating capacity of 70. It will be open 24 hours. The front of the building will face Wayne Road and the drive thru will be on the south side of the building. There will be two entrances- one on Wayne Road and one on Biddle.

Tom Gergich, McDonald's representative, said the restaurant would look like the one at Michigan Avenue and Gully in Dearborn Heights.

Residents, members of the planning commission and city council expressed concern over a drive thru restaurant occupying the main corner in the downtown area.

At the planning commission meeting Pat Rice, member of the commission, said, "We are trying to revitalize our downtown. We are trying to make it a walk able downtown. I don't see that this plan is going to be advantageous for walkers. That corner is a very visible corner in our downtown."

Former Councilwoman Susan Rowe said, "There really isn't much you can do. They are following codes. We did a master plan for city in 2009."

She said the plan calls for multi story mixed-use buildings on the four corners of Michigan Avenue and

"We want something beautiful in our downtown- I believe Wayne is an A store community. Make it a place I can be proud of to say we have a really unique McDonald's on the corner."

Former Councilwoman Susan Rowe

Wayne Road.

"I know you can build a store that can enhance the beauty of a downtown. This is our downtown; we want to make it walk able. I know you have them. We want something beautiful in our downtown- I believe Wayne is an A store community. Make it a place I can be proud of to say we have a really unique McDonald's on the corner," she said.

"It is natural earth tone with some cultured stone on the building. This is what will fit with your zoning. If you give us the opportunity to come into the community you will be happy with how the building looks," Gergich said.

Wayne resident Kurt Kuban worked on the Master Plan. He said, "I thought we had a very good plan. This site plan does not conform to that plan. We haven't changed the zoning to meet with the master plan."

He asked whether the city had shared the Master Plan with McDonald's and if they can conform to it since their site plan is at odds with the city's Master Plan.

"We talked specifically about drive thru fast food restaurants not being in the downtown," he said.

Community Development Director Peter McInerney said, "We met with McDonald's about planning efforts."

Councilman Jim Hawley asked if McDonald's presented any other options.

McInerney said, " They did not. This is the only plan that has been submitted."

Planning Commissioner Tom Porter asked about not allowing drive thru restaurants in a B district, which is what the downtown area is zoned.

City Planner Matthew Miller said because McDonald's is a dine-in and drive thru it is allowed. The drive thru is not the principal use.

Councilman John Rhaesa asked if McDonald's would consider revising their plan to create a "wow factor."

"It seems like our community always gets the second or third version. I want to raise the standard. You are coming into the best spot in town. How can we make this the best McDonald's?"

Gergich said, "It's a business. Wow quickly translates to does it sell more hamburgers. We think what we proposed is a good fit in this community."

He said McDonald's did make some amends. They have 1100 plants on site and after the planning commission meeting they added a walking path and an outdoor seating area.

He said the plan they submitted meets the intent and spirit of the ordinances.

At the city council meeting City Attorney Paul Bohn addressed the issue of the drive thru. He said the drive thru is an accessory to the main purpose, which is a restaurant.

"This is a restaurant that has a drive thru," he said.

Another question arose about traffic flow at the already busy corner. City Manager Robert English said members of the police and fire department sit on the site plan committee and review each site plan.

Police Chief Jason Wright said, "There is a tremendous amount of traffic at Wayne and Michigan Avenue already. This is a change of a business. We aren't putting in a brand new drive way. (It) already has traffic going in and out and we deal that. There wasn't a concern on our part."

"It feels to me like it is a drive thru version McDonald's," Rhaesa said. "It was disappointing as a councilman not to be able to take any other action regarding the McDonald's site plan due to the lack of an appropriate ordinance."

Gergich said, " Our focus it to serve our customers. We can seat between 60 and 70 people. By no means is it a drive thru only."

Councilman Skip Monit said, "This may be a place for our youth to gather. Do I have misgivings? Yes. I would like to see a building more in tuned with the downtown area."

Mayor Al Haidous said, "In this community we debate the issue. We hope to have McDonald's lead the way for development in downtown."

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Tom Lynch



Cousins Nathaniel and Devon Davis were bound over for trial in Wayne County Circuit Court by Judge Laura Mack. There were charged with multiple felonies in connection with the shooting at US-12 on Aug. 19. Photo by The Wayne Dispatch

Two arraigned in shooting

Two people have been arrested in connection with the Aug. 19 shooting at US-12 Bar and Grill where two people were shot. Devon Davis, 21, of Lansing and Nathaniel Davis, 23, of Melvindale have been charged with assault with intent to murder; assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder; and assault with a dangerous weapon. In addition Devon has been charged with felony firearm. All charges are felonies and carry sentences from two years to life in prison.

The shooting occurred just after 1 a.m. when a fight broke out inside US-12. Security escorted several people outside.

A 39-year-old victim was inside the bar when a fight broke out. He said he heard two shots and started to run. Then he heard more shots and he noticed his arm went numb and he saw he was bleeding from his arm and side. He was transported via ambulance to Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn.

The other shooting victim did not show up to court but neither of the victims was involved in the initial fight.

US-12 turned over a surveillance video that was shown in court.

Sgt. Kevin Schmidtke from the Wayne Po-

The shooting occurred just after 1 a.m. when a fight broke out inside US-12.

lice Department testified that the two minute video shows a subject, who was later identified as Devon Davis, exit the east door of US-12, run to his car and come back and confront the second victim with a gun. Another subject, later identified as Nathaniel Davis, also exited that door and went to a dark colored vehicle, retrieved a mini baseball bat and smashed the glass on the two exterior doors of US-12.

Defense attorneys argued the quality of the video was not good enough to positively identify their clients.

The weapon used in the shooting, a Smith and Wesson 40-caliber handgun, was recovered when police arrested Devon Davis at his home. Shell casings found at the scene match the gun.

Judge Laura Mack bound them over for trial at Wayne County Circuit Court in Detroit.

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- FREE heat and water
- Controlled access building
- Abundant storage
- Balconies (2nd floor & up)
- Optional midday meal
- On-site laundry facilities
- 24/7 Library/game rooms
- On-site service coordinator
- Transportation available
- 24-hr Emergency maintenance
- Resident-planned activities
- Exercise classes/wellness options
- Easy access to freeways

Call or visit us today!



WINTER LEASING SPECIAL
We'll pay your moving costs!

Offer Expires 2/28/13
some exclusions apply.



In accordance with Federal Law and US Department of Housing and Urban Development policy, this community is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, disability, familial status or national origin. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

We buy gold! 

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We have One Large Party Room Available for Birthday Parties, Office Meetings and Weddings

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