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Dispatch

NOVEMBER 2013



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Wayne Memorial High School Homecoming King and Queen Carlos Perrell and Jenessa McCloskey were both crowned on October 4, 2013.

Photo by Jenny Johnson



Batgirl and Robin.



John VanStipdonk won the rubber duckie race.

## October fun in Wayne



Rouge-A-Palooza organizers Matt Mulholland (left) and Kurt Kuban (right) present trophies to Michael Parsons and Steve Landfair, the winning team in the first Logjam Classic canoe race. The team finished the three-mile course on the Rouge River in 37 minutes, five minutes quicker than second place team of brothers Phil and Paul Garrett. The trophies were cut from a logjam on the Rouge River.

The Halloween Party at the Wayne Farmer's Market was a smashing success. Hundreds of costumed children trick-or-treated and paraded in the costume contest. In addition to the usual local made produce and products there was pumpkin decorating, bounce houses and the Wayne-Westland Fire Dept. Fire Safety trailer. Music by a DJ, decorated hearses and dressed up vendors all added to the fun.



Wayne Dispatch drawing winner Addison and her brother Parker from Wayne.



The winners of the Icon Computer Costume Contest at the Wayne Farmers Market: younger kids Lola Belt in third place, Jacob Lindsell in second place and Hayden Martia in first. Older kid winners were CJ Elswick and Isabelle Parrin in first place, Ethan Davis in second place and Jayden Hall in third place.







The Moton sisters Tenija, Tiara and Temperance.

"I was really impressed. We could make you incredible because you have the talent. You really do."



**Simon Cowell**  
Judge on X-Factor

# Wayne sisters wow on X Factor

It's not easy to get a compliment from Simon Cowell. But that is exactly what happened to RoXxy Montana the trio of singing sisters from Wayne. This summer Tenija, 22, Tiara, 21, and Temperance, 20, Moton traveled to Colorado to audition for Season 3 of "The X Factor".

They first sang One Night Only from the Dream Girls soundtrack. The judges were not initially impressed but gave them a second chance. The group sang an a cappella gospel song I Know I've Been Changed by LaShun Pace and Cowell told them they were the best group they have had on "The X Factor".

"It's been a long time since we've had a girl group who absolutely sings their faces off," said judge and former Destiny's Child member Kelly Rowland.

"It wasn't just the yes' it was what they said," the group said in their X Factor interview immediately after their audition.

The girls first auditioned for Season 2 of The X Factor in 2012 but didn't make it past Boot Camp.

This time they made it through auditions with four yes votes from



judges Simon Cowell, Kelly Rowland, Demi Lovato and Paulina Rubio. They also survived the four-chair challenge.

RoXxy Montana was the last group to audition during the four-chair challenge. All four chairs had already been filled and their performance wowed the judges enough to bump another group.

After they sang Michael Jackson's "Man in the Mirror" Cowell said, "I was really impressed. We could make you incredible because you have the talent. You really do."

That performance secured their spot as one of the four groups. Cowell will be their mentor during the competition.

## Perfect harmony

Where do they get their singing talent?

"God (LOL) no my parents are both musically inclined so from both sides but mainly my dad's," said Tiara.

As a group they sing mostly R&B and pop. But they each have distinct

personal tastes in music, which helps contribute to their sound.

On the RoXxy Montana Facebook page Tiara says, "I believe we embody all genres. Vocally each one of our voices brings a totally different element."

If it's not my hard country-ish twang or Tenija's R&B/pop tone and riffs, it's Temperance's deep, soft, raspy tone."

Among Tiara's favorite artists are Tim McGraw, Faith Hill and Michael Jackson. Tenija favors neo-soul and gospel artists like India Arie and Kim Burrell. Youngest sister Temperance like rock, indie and pop. She likes to listen to Prince, Cage and Tina Turner.

## Dreams come true

The sisters, now known to millions as RoXxy Montana, have been singing together since elementary school.

They have been performing "for over 10 years now! It's crazy," said Tenija.

In an interview online for "The X

See **Sisters**, Page 4



## Sisters, Continued from Page 4

Factor” when asked what the advantage and disadvantage of being a family group is the girls answered, “The advantage is that we know each other,” said Temperance.

“The disadvantage is that we know each other,” said Tiara.

They have lived in Wayne for 12 years and attended Wayne Memorial High School.

“We all went to Wayne but due to us moving to New York City to pursue music we graduated from home school,” said Tiara.

The girls are currently living in Los Angeles and keeping very busy with “The X Factor” schedule.

“Early early mornings and super late nights, and lots of rehearsing and interviews,” Tenija said.

“It’s amazing. Seriously like make up, hair, pictures. It’s just the ultimate Hollywood experience not to mention hanging with Simon Cowell at his home,” said Temperance.

While they are pursuing their dreams in LA they keep in touch with their parents, Teresa and Jeffrey Moton, at their home in Wayne, via Skype. Their parents are pastors and the girls grew up singing in the church.

“(We’ve performed at) clubs, church, charities and festivals,” said Tiara.

The trio is hoping their future includes “going on a world tour and having a #1 album worldwide,” Tenija said.

RoXxy Montana made it to the top 16 and performed on the Oct. 29 live show. Sadly, Simon did not choose them to advance to the Top 12 and they were eliminated at the end of the show.



The Moton sisters perform on The X Factor.

## The X Factor

The X Factor is an award winning international singing competition show. Judges Simon Cowell, Demi Lovato, Kelly Rowland and Paulina Rubio hold auditions in select cities nationwide. They are looking for singing talent 12 years and older—both solo artists and groups. Judges are looking for vocal ability, charisma and stage presence. Contestants audition in front of the judges and a live studio audience.

If contestants survive the first round of auditions they are divided into four categories—Boys, Girls, Over 25s and Groups. RoXxy Montana was in the Groups category with Alex & Sierra, Restless Road and Sweet Suspense. Each category is

mentored by one of the judges. Simon Cowell is mentoring the groups.

Each week the contestants will perform live and America will get the chance to vote for their favorites. Artists who have competed on “The

X Factor” have sold more than 100 million records worldwide, including 110 #1 songs and 270 Top 10 records. The show airs in 91 countries.

The X Factor airs Wednesdays and Thursdays on Fox.

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The Moton sisters



## NEWS BRIEFS

### City Council Meeting

Because of the election on Nov. 5 the next city council meeting will be at 8 p.m. on Nov. 4 at City Hall.

### Euchre Tournament

St. Mary CYO Athletics is sponsoring a Euchre Tournament at 6 p.m. on Nov. 9 at St. Mary Activity Center, 34530 Michigan Ave. The cost is \$20 per person. You can pre-register at 734-277-1657 or ak-jarvis@umich.edu.

### Veterans Day Ceremony

The JROTC at Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth Street, will present a Veterans Day ceremony at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11 at the flagpole in the front of the school. The public is welcome.

### Cooking for a Cause

Chef Tony Paquette from the William D. Ford Career Technical Center would like to invite you to lunch. He and his students are cooking up something special for the Annual Thanksgiving Buffet Benefit for the Family Resource Center from 11:20 a.m.- 1 p.m. on Nov. 14. The fundraising luncheon will be held at Café Marquette, located in the William D Ford Career Technical Center, 36455 Marquette, Westland. He will serve a full turkey dinner, complete with desserts.

A minimum donation of \$10 per person is kindly suggested. Proceeds from this luncheon will be used to purchase meals for needy families in the Wayne-Westland Community School District for the holidays.

A donation of \$35 will feed a fam-



## Holiday Bazaar

The First Congregational Church of Wayne, 2 Town Square, will have their annual Holiday Bazaar on Nov. 7 and 8 from 9 a.m.- 8 p.m. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. and a complete turkey dinner from 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$9 for adults and \$4 for children. The Fair also includes various craft booths, holiday decorations, candy, books, attic treasures, and Santa will pay a special visit. Public welcome. For more information, call 734-729-7550. Pictured above Veronica Hoops, John Hoops, Linda Beasley, Rev. Dan Vellinga, Darlene Hawley, seated Bev Wensko and Miriam Shurlow.

ily of six. This includes a turkey and all the sides.

If you can't make the luncheon but would like to make a donation to this cause, you can send a check to the Family Resource Center. Please put "Holidays 2013" on the memo line. You can also drop off a cash donation. The Family Resource Center is located inside Adams Upper Elementary School on Palmer in Westland.

### Teen Advisory Group

The Wayne Public Library is looking for teenagers to be part of the their Teen Advisory Group. All teens 12-18 are welcome from 6-7 p.m. on Nov. 20 at the Library. They will discuss events they would like to see at the library, prepare books for the Teen Blind Book Date, enjoy snacks, and learn more about their story writing challenge.

### Support Goodfellows

Want a chance to earn money and help a great cause? Buy a ticket for the Wayne Goodfellows progressive raffle. The drawing is every Monday at 9 p.m. at Avenue American Bistro on Elizabeth at Michigan Avenue. Tickets are available at Avenue or Henry's Service Center. The jackpot grows every week until someone wins.

### Book Signing

Local author Natalie Burg will have a book reading/signing at 1 p.m. on Nov. 16 at the Wayne Public Library. She will read from her book "Swedish Lessons: A Memoir of Sects, Love and Indentured Servitude. Sort of." This event is open to the public.

### Lighted Christmas Parade

For the first time ever the Wayne Rotary Christmas Parade will be a lighted parade. The new date and time are 6 p.m. on Dec. 6. Line up will still be on Second Street and Sims. The parade route will be north on Second Street to Glenwood, west to Wayne Road, then south to Michigan Avenue west to the State Wayne Theatre.

Immediately following the parade, Santa will present trophies at the Theatre. After the awards, Santa will meet with the children of Wayne.

They are asking all parade participants to bring canned foods to the parade to donate to the John Bolde Food Depot. Cash donations are also appreciated.

Parade applications are available at [www.waynerotary.com](http://www.waynerotary.com).



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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Take Parks and Rec survey

The Wayne-Westland Parks and Recreation Department is inviting Wayne and Westland residents to participate in a survey about the recreation department. The survey is available at [http://www.ci.wayne-mi.us/parks\\_recreation\\_dept.shtml](http://www.ci.wayne-mi.us/parks_recreation_dept.shtml). The results of the survey will be used to create a parks and recreation Master Plan.

### Goodfellows party

The 27th annual Wayne Goodfellows Christmas Party will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 6 at the Wayne Tree Manor on Van Born in Wayne. Tickets are \$15 and are available at Henry's Auto Service Center. All Proceeds to benefit the City of Wayne Goodfellows' "NO Child without a Christmas" Program. For tickets or to donate, please call 734-722-1111.

### Historical Museum Hours

The hours of operation at the Wayne Historical Museum, One Town Square, have changed. Effective Nov. 1 the museum will be open from 1-4 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. To schedule an appointment or a tour, please call the museum at 734-722-0113.

### Street updates

This spring Wayne Road from Van Born to west bound Michigan Avenue will be resurfaced under the 2014 STP-U Federal Aid Funding program. There will also be guardrail replacement, concrete pavement conditioning and concrete curb repairs, deficient sidewalk replacement, ADA ramps and drainage structure adjustments.

The reconstruction of Second Street between Ash and Glenwood



## New playground

There is a new playground at Jaycee Park. It was built by volunteers and paid for by a \$68,000 grant from Wayne County. The new structure is designed for 5-12 year olds and is handicap accessible. The following community partners also supported the program: Journey Community Church, Mark Chevrolet, Papa Romano's, and Jimmy John's. Part of this grant will also provide for a new roof for the amphitheater, new bleachers and wood fibers for the playscape at Goudy Park. Photo by Jenny Johnson

and between Annapolis and east-bound Michigan Avenue will take place during the 2015 construction season. This will also include deficient concrete pavement removal and replacement.

The Wayne Road project received \$1,550,000 and Second Street received \$730,000 in federal and state grant funding. The city's cost is \$175,000 for Wayne Road and \$200,000 for Second Street. Because Wayne Road is a county road Wayne County will pay \$335,000.

Acting City Manager Ramzi El-Gharib said the city is getting

\$2,280,000 of work for less than \$400,000.

### Kayak Launch at Goudy Park

Part of the improvements to Goudy Park will include the installation of a Kayak Launch along the Rouge River. The launch will be located on the river's bank near the observation deck in Goudy Park. Construction of the launch will begin this spring and will improve accessibility for paddle activities on the Rouge River. The funds for this project are coming from the Wayne

County Parks Millage.

Councilman Al Damitio said, "It is amazing the resource we have on the river. The cleanliness and all the work that has been done. It is an outstanding river to canoe down. This is a first step."

### Rotary makes donation to public safety

The Wayne Rotary Club has donated \$500 each to the Wayne Police Department and the Wayne-Westland Fire Department.

Deputy Police Chief Al Maciag said, "We are very appreciative. This helps us fund the scholarship fund."

The police department will dedicate the funds to the police department scholarship fund, which assists high school graduates in pursuing a career in criminal justice.

The fire department will use their donation to purchase smoke detectors and residential lock boxes for senior citizens. The lock box allows senior residents to make a key available to the fire department so in case of an emergency they have access to the home without forcible entry. The key is only accessible by emergency personnel.

### Casino Trip

The Wayne Rotary Club is sponsoring a casino trip to Firekeepers Casino on Jan. 11, 2014. The cost is \$35 and participants will receive \$20 in slot play and \$5 in food back when they arrive at the casino.

The bus will depart from Wayne Activity and Banquet Center, 35000 Sims Ave. at 3 p.m. and will depart from Firekeepers at 10 p.m.

The deadline to register is Dec. 27. For more information or reservations, call Trish Hampton at (734) 890-6934.

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# City financial future looks bleak from \$6 million reduction

By Jenny Johnson

It does not paint a rosy picture. Finance Director James Ghedotte gave city council an overview of the city's current financial position.

He explained that the city's revenue continues to decrease while costs are increasing largely due to retiree's pensions and healthcare.

The city's budget has been reduced by almost \$6 million in the past five years. During the same time property tax revenue have declined and so has the revenue generated from one mill. In 2009 one mill generated \$660,000 for the city but in 2014 it will generate \$380,000.

Mayor Al Haidous said, "We have a \$6 million revenue reduction caused by the bad economy and the expenditures are on the rise. We didn't do anything wrong but everything went wrong on us."

Because the city is capped at their allotted mills, they are pursuing Public Act 345, created to fund police and fire personnel pensions. This must be approved by voters and will appear on the Nov. 5 ballot.

Currently 27.58% of the city's

**"We have a \$6 million revenue reduction caused by the bad economy and the expenditures are on the rise. We didn't do anything wrong but everything went wrong on us."**

**Mayor Al Haidous**

general budget is devoted to retiree's healthcare and pension. About half of those retirees are police and firefighters. Retiree costs will continue to rise, Ghedotte said.

Personnel costs make up 63% of the general fund.

"We have cut our personnel almost to the bare bones," he said. In 2006 there were 171 full time employees.

Currently there are 88 full time employees who are contributing to a retirement system that supports 207 retirees.

"Legacy costs are taking up more and more of our budget. And legacy costs are not going away," Ghedotte said.

"Even if all our expenses stay the same we are still looking at almost a

\$2 million deficit in 2014-15," Ghedotte said.

All of the city's revenue sources have been reduced not just property taxes.

"We need to match the revenue and expenditure. That's why we have the ballot proposal 345," he said.

Councilman Skip Monit asked, "If 345 does not pass we will obviously be in a deficit. Where will we be in being able to keep our services?"

Ghedotte said, "Most of our budget is personnel and most departments have been cut to the bone. Parks and Recreation has one full time person and so does Finance. It's really up to the legislative body to determine and set policy and tell me where to cut."

Monit said, "Is there any other solution or way we can bring funds into the city other than 345. I know we are tapped for millages. Anything we can hang our hat on besides the 345 millage?"

Ghedotte said, "This was the item that was left. We looked at fees and cutting expenditures."

Resident Bob Boertje asked how many police officers would be laid off if 345 does not pass.

Acting City Manager Ramzi El-Gharib said up to 8-10 police officers and three to five firefighters as well as cuts in other departments.

Resident Ron Roberts asked if council has determined who will be laid off and when.

Nothing has been officially decided he was told.

Monit said, "If we were able to cut everything else from our budget and shut down the rec and library would we still be able to staff appropriately?"

"I don't think so. I estimate if we don't change things, the city will be out of money in about a year from now," Ghedotte said.



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## Change in emergency tower communications saves city money

In a cost-saving measure city council approved switching the city's police and fire emergency communications provider from the current Western Wayne Joint 800 Megahertz Association to the Michigan Public Safety Communications System.

In 1999 the Western Wayne Joint 800 Megahertz Association was formed with Wayne, Westland, Garden City, Inkster and Dearborn Heights. The equipment includes a tower and antenna that is used for police and fire emergency communication. The cost to upgrade and maintain the current equipment would be more than \$2 million. This would cost the city of Wayne about \$240,000.

"That's too much money for all of the cities," said Keith Madden, city attorney. "This is a large problem but there is a solution."

He said by switching over to the state police system the total cost of transition for all five communities is \$200,000. Wayne's share would be

"This is a large problem  
but there is a solution"

**Keith Madden**  
City attorney

about \$20,405. But the City of Westland has fronted the \$200,000 transition cost.

Wayne already has a line item in their budget for the maintenance of the system so "the expense will be cost neutral in the next fiscal year," Madden said.

In addition to cost reduction, one of the advantages of the state system is that officers can take a police car anywhere in the state and be able to use the communication radio.

"Right now radios go out of range if you have to go to Jackson to pick up a prisoner," said Deputy Police Chief Al Maciag.

By Jan. 1, 2014 Wayne will go live on MPSCS system.

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# You can help make the holidays brighter

By Jenny Johnson

The past few years have been challenging for many and there are many families in the community who could use some extra help this holiday season. Fortunately there are a variety of local organizations and groups who are dedicated to serving those needs but they need your help.

## Canned Food Drives

Franklin Middle School is sponsoring a Canned Food Drive from Nov. 11-22 to support the St. Mary's Outreach Center in Wayne. If you would like to make a donation, please give your items to a Franklin student or staff member of drop it off in the school office.

Wayne Memorial High School Student Senate is doing a Canned Food Drive through Nov. 15. Community members can bring in non-perishable food items to the main office. The food goes to St. Mary's food bank in Wayne.

Schweitzer Elementary School will have a Canned Food Drive beginning Dec. 1. All food collected will be divided between the four families the school adopts for the holidays. If you would like to contribute an item or a monetary donation for one of the adopted families, please contact Jennifer Chambers at 734-419-2750.

Westland Cheer Squad is made up of 150 competitive cheerleaders ranging in age from 4 years old to 15 years old. Their Elite teams will sponsor a Canned Food Drive for the St. Mary's Food Bank. They are also holding a Coin Wars to raise money

## Rocky's offers free Thanksgiving dinner

Rocky's Coney Island and Grill, 1622 S. Wayne Road in Westland, will offer a free turkey dinner from 4-7 p.m. on Nov. 27, Thanksgiving Eve. Everyone is welcome. Owners Chris and Rosie Gjoka of Wayne want to thank the community for their continued support. Donations will be accepted and appreciated.

to adopt a family through Goodfellows.

## Goodfellows

The Wayne Goodfellows is committed to NO Child Without A Christmas. They raise money all year long to be able to provide children and seniors with holiday help. They are having their annual fundraising party on Dec. 6 at Wayne Tree Manor. For more information on how to apply for help, visit [www.waynegoodfellows.org](http://www.waynegoodfellows.org).

## Food Banks

The St. Mary Outreach Center on the corner of Sims and Second Street helps the needy all year long. They provide not only food and holiday meals but also personal care items and they also have a clothes closet. Right now they are in need of personal care items like bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, feminine care items, or shaving supplies. They also accept gently used clothes, canned food and appreciate monetary donations. Their hours are Monday and Friday 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday hours are 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon. If you would like to help, you can contact them at outreach-

@stmarywayne.org or 734-326-2234.

Abundant Life Church of God, 2100 Hannan Rd., Canton, runs a Gleaners-certified food bank. It is open from 2-4 p.m. on Thursdays. Closer to Christmas they will also offer a small gift "store" for their food bank clients. This would give them the opportunity to choose gifts and household items for their family members free of charge. For more information on their programs, please call (734) 722-7688.

The First United Methodist Church of Wayne also has a food pantry for Wayne and Westland residents. They work with other area churches to help provide food to those in need. They also provide 100 food baskets to families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. For more information, call 734-721-4801.

## Warming Center

Full Gospel Temple in Westland has a warming center that is open from 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. January through March. They offer a hot meal, shower, clothing and food pantry. Their soup kitchen is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday

through Friday. Full Gospel Temple also provides food to surrounding churches so they can help out the locals in their area.

In 2011 the mission served 5,941 meals in the soup kitchen and provided for more than 100 people in the Warming Center. The food pantry fed 13,240 people and another 3,985 people received clothing.

People interested in helping can send donations to the Lighthouse Home Missions, 34033 Palmer Rd., Westland MI 48186, or call 734-326-3333.

## Toys for Tots

Mark Chevrolet on Michigan Avenue is accepting new unwrapped toys or cash donations for the U.S Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. You can drop off your donation in their showroom until the week before Christmas.

## Church outreach

Journey Community Church in Westland is participating in the \$1 a meal program to help the hungry. On Dec. 22 they will be giving away presents to the first 100 children age 3-12 who show up.

Journey is a bible believing Christian church. They meet from 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Sundays at the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh Road, Westland.

Crosspointe Community Church, 36125 Glenwood, has a clothing distribution ministry that is open to the public from 7-8 p.m. on Wednesdays. They have clothes from newborn to adults.

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## Keep up on crime in Wayne

The City of Wayne is offering an online tool for the public to keep up on crime in the city. Deputy Police Chief Alan Maciag introduced Crimedat at a recent city council meeting.

"Anyone can get on and view recent events happening in the City of Wayne," he said.

The website went live on Oct. 4 and shows a map of the city with icons. The icons represent different police incidents including larceny, assault, home invasion, vehicle theft, auto accidents, narcotics, breaking and entering and operating under the influence, for a two-week window.

Domestic violence and criminal

sexual conduct incidents will not be included because of privacy issues.

When the icon is clicked on it will show when and where the incident happened and a brief description. Names and exact addresses will not be used.

The website [www.crimedat.com](http://www.crimedat.com) will be on the city's website and soon will have apps available for iPhone and Android phones.

"We are thinking forward to see what technology is out there to help the citizens," said Maciag.

"Citizens can look on website and call the police department if they know something about crime."

## Wayne Rotary lights up downtown

The 38th Annual Christmas parade sponsored by the Wayne Rotary Club will be at 6 p.m. on Dec. 6. For the first time it will be a lighted parade. The "Holiday Parade of Lights" is inviting individuals, businesses, civic service and school groups to get creative with their lighting and use the opportunity to shine.

Downtown businesses don't have to be left out either. The Rotary Club is inviting businesses along the parade route to decorate their storefronts with lights too.

Line-up starts at 5 p.m. on Second Street between Sims and Ash Streets. All participants must enter through Second Street and Sims parade check-in.

Parade applications are available at [www.waynerotary.com](http://www.waynerotary.com). The entry deadline is Dec. 2.

The holiday season is the perfect time to share blessings with those less fortunate. Parade participants are asked to donate canned food for



the John Bolde Food Depot in Wayne. Canned goods can be dropped off at the parade line-up check-in area.

Immediately following the parade, Santa will present trophies and then meet with the children of Wayne.

Please note parade participants will not be able to throw candy to spectators due to safety reasons. Parade organizers do not want children running into the street for candy. Because this is a night parade visibility will be limited for float drivers.

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# City officials hold Town Hall meeting

It was a small group but city officials conducted a Town Hall meeting to explain Public Act 345, which will appear on the Nov. 5 ballot. Voters will be asked to approve two proposals levying 7 mills for 10 years. The money generated will create a pension fund for police and firefighters that is no longer a part of the city's general fund.

The purpose of these proposals is to continue to keep fire and police staffing at current level and maintain the viability of the city.

The city is facing up to a \$2 million deficit if the proposals don't pass. This would mean laying off 8-10 police officers and three to four firefighters.

The city's budget woes stem from a loss of revenue due to decreased property values and less revenue sharing from the state and federal government.

Police Chief Jason Wright said every department in the city has not only had personnel reductions but has come up with other cost saving measures. They have changed the way they make purchases. Employees have taken wage concessions. De-

**"We've been making these cuts and we are surviving. We aren't standing here at the trough saying hey please give us more money. We are trying to function. We are still trying to do a good job and keep our heads up but the city is still strapped."**

**Police Chief Jason Wright**

partments have gone paperless so they don't buy paper and pencils. Lights are being turned off and sprinklers aren't being turned on.

At the police department they went from eight to 12 hour shifts.

"This is to give the maximum coverage with less people," he said. "We no longer have a traffic bureau. We went from seven detectives to three. We don't have a community police officer and all of our civilian staff at the police department are part time."

They are keeping police cars until they have 120,000 miles instead of trading them in at 60,000.

"We've been making these cuts and we are surviving. We aren't standing here at the trough saying hey please give us more money. We are trying to function. We are still trying to do a good job and keep our

heads up but the city is still strapped," he said.

To balance the budget the city has to either reduce spending or make cuts. If voters approve Public Act 345 it will allow for the police and fire pensions to be funded through that mechanism and will help free up money in the general fund, Wright said.

Fire Chief Michael Reddy said, "With the fire department merger we have cut hundreds of thousands of dollars. But to continue to provide service to residents of the City of Wayne we need 345 to go through. We are doing our due diligence. We have been cutting and doing everything we can under the sun to, but we need the residents help."

Councilman Skip Monit said, "We are talking millions of dollars that

we need. It's not like we can do a bake sale. The city is at limit for millages. We can't do anything else but the 345."

One resident at the meeting asked what happens if it doesn't pass?

"If you look at personnel of the city and more than half are police and fire where else could you make the cuts to balance the budget. I think that is unacceptable," said Councilman Albert Damitio.

The run volume of the fire department has gone up 20% while staffing has gone down 20% in the past few years, said Kevin Tomaszewski, secretary, Wayne-Westland Professional Fire Fighters Union.

If Public Act 345 doesn't pass the city could lose about 30% of its police and fire staff.

"When do we stop the bleeding?" said a resident. "This is going to be a hard sell."

"We understand the sacrifice. We have come to the voters a lot. We are trying to survive," he said.

Anyone with questions about the millage questions can email [act345info@gmail.com](mailto:act345info@gmail.com).

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**VOTE  
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✓ PROPOSAL 1  
✓ PROPOSAL 2



# Did you know?

In the study of the history of our community there are so many interesting things uncovered about the people and how they lived, the development of the area, the things that influenced the growth of the town and the events that forced the change of direction taken over the years. But there are also many surprising things learned that make our community unique. Things that lifelong residents will remember but new comers may never have heard.

Did you know that the last and only hanging in the State of Michigan was a man from Wayne? In 1824, the first piece of land was sold in Wayne to George M. Johnson. He built a log house which he used for a tavern as well as a home for his family. The following year a survey was completed for a road from Detroit to Chicago which would run past his door. It was called the Chicago Turnpike (or Michigan Avenue today). In 1825 Johnson sold his tavern to Stephen G. Simmons who operated the tavern until 1829 when he was arrested for beating his wife to death in a drunken rage. Simmons was hanged in Detroit on September 24, 1830. His sons sold his property to Ezra Derby and the small hamlet became "Derby's Corners" and later the Village of Wayne.

Did you know that in the 1870's and 80's there was a rash of body snatching going on in the Midwest? One case happened in our old cemetery next to the State Wayne Theater. A local doctor (a graduate of the University of Michigan in 1861) and a relative of his were caught stealing a body from a grave in November of 1883. The two were tried and ac-

## Memory Lane

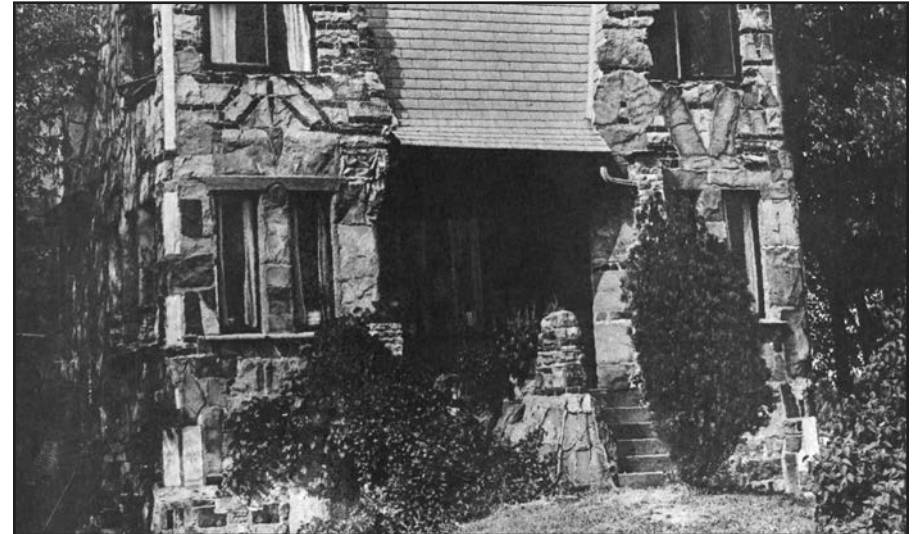
**Darlene Hawley**



quitted because of a hung jury.

Did you know that Wayne had a Comfort Station downtown? It was built around 1926 by Wayne County at Michigan Avenue and Third Street across the street from St Mary's Church. It was made of stone and had rest rooms, a drinking fountain and benches. It was used by people traveling to Wayne from Detroit on the interurban as well as locals who rode a horse or walked to town to shop or conduct business. The County maintained the building until 1956 when it was closed. It was demolished a few years later.

Did you know that there was a tunnel under Michigan Avenue at Sophia Street near Nankin Hospital? With Roosevelt School and the original Wayne High School on the south side of Michigan Avenue and the interurban tracks running down the middle of the street, it was decided to build the tunnel under the road for the safety of children and adults who had to cross. A large cement block with a tall sign on it stood at the entrance of the tunnel where the stairs descended underground. The tunnel had lights in it and former fire chief (and historian) Hank Goudy often remarked that he had to replace the light bulbs when they burned out or were taken by someone. The tunnel also had a phone in



Wayne's Castle at 31555 Tyler Street.

it for emergency purposes.

Did you know that Wayne had a race track? It was located in the flats behind where Wayne Memorial stands today. A number of local farmers raised prize winning thoroughbreds to participate in the races to the enjoyment of the townspeople.

Did you know that the first dial telephone was installed in the Village of Wayne at the home of Wilson McCormick on May 29, 1953? The phone is in our museum today.

Did you know that Wayne had a castle? It was located on Tyler Street near the intersection of Van Born and Merriman Roads. It was built by Curtis Leggo to keep a promise he had made to his wife, Gladys, to give her a castle. It was called "Gladcurt Castle". Mr. Leggo began building it in 1935 and completed it in 1943. It received international attention with articles in many magazines and newspapers. Constructed mostly of stone and scrap materials taken from other buildings being torn down, it included wood from the old Vendors building on the Fairgrounds,

slate from a church on Woodward Avenue in Detroit, headstones, curbstones, packing boxes, stones from the world's deepest mine, and pieces from the USS Constitution. The fireplace contained 50 stones representing 50 countries around the world. (There were certified letters to support this claim.) The walls were extremely thick made with stone, wallboard and brick. The heating system was hot water circulated through old style radiators. It had circular staircases, battlements, heavy wooden doors, and stone passageways. In 1960 it was opened to the public for tours on Sundays. The "Castle" was demolished in 1967.

There are many other interesting and surprising stories about our community. You just have to "dig" for them or talk to a lifelong resident to see what he/she remembers.

(Thanks to Museum Manager Richard Story for information for this article and to Valerie Latzman for information taken from her book "The City of Wayne".)

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# Have you met Father Gerard Cople?

He's the new Pastor at St. Mary Parish. He's a warm and affable man who presented me with a sheet of paper which listed all the answers to any questions I might ask about his background. It made our interview the easiest one I ever had.

Father Cople was born in Garfield Heights, Ohio and grew up in Cleveland, where he attended elementary and high school.

He earned a BA in Theology from St. Mary's College at Orchard Lake in 1977, then went on to St. John's Provincial Seminary in Plymouth, Mi., graduating with a Masters of Divinity.

Father Cople was an Associate Pastor at many area churches—St. Mary, Redford; St. Collette, Livonia; Sacred Heart, Dearborn; St. Theodore, Westland. His last assignment was Pastor at St. Henry, Lincoln Park.

He was an auditor for the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Detroit; has been a Trustee for Detroit's Catholic Youth Organization, and while at Lincoln Park, was Chaplain for the Robert H. Jones Knights

## Footprints of Wayne

Dee Ryan



of Columbus Council.

On the lighter side—Fr. Cople gave up golf for tennis when he was 18. He tells me he once collected match books, and had 30 to 35 thousand of the little books, before he decided to relinquish his collection.

Father looks forward to meeting Pastor Dan Vellinga and the new Minister at the Methodist Church, Pastor Jennifer Jue. That meeting will be at the Interfaith Service. The Service will be at the Congregational Church. Date and time? Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve at 7:30 p.m.

When the time comes for Father 'Gerry' to retire, his chosen place will be Hawaii, but before that happens, he hopes to pay down the Parish

debt and keep building a strong base for both St Mary Church and School.

An important part of St. Mary Parish is their Outreach Center at Second and Sims. Director Judy Wells and her band of dedicated workers are gearing up for Thanksgiving. It's a good time to make a donation. Turkeys are always accepted, but don't forget all the side dishes that go with the bird.

Judy tells me that what Outreach needs desperately, are personal care items. If you can bring bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, feminine care items, or shaving gear, these items are in VERY short supply. Cash and checks are always appreciated.

St Mary Outreach Center is open, Monday and Friday 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday hours are 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon.

Do you remember the fabled Interurban Transportation System? The Wayne Historical Society will have a slide presentation about its history. The Interurban serviced

Wayne and surrounding towns, running from Detroit. It shows Wayne plus Plymouth and Northville from the 1900's to 1930. Al Damitio tells me that Richard Andrews who narrates the slide show knows everything about Interurbans and will enlighten us throughout his presentation.

Al says "It's like listening to George Pierrot". This topic is very interesting, if you'd like to see how people travelled from city to city at the turn of the century. Mr. Andrews and his slide presentation will be on Thursday, November 14 at 7:30 p.m. Place? The Wayne Historical Museum. Last month's program, on Genealogy was very well received. Brenda Ozog instructed her audience on how to start a search for ancestors, and will be back with more genealogical lessons, but meanwhile the Historical Society wishes to thanks Ms. Ozog for her very informative program.

Kerran and I wish all our friends and neighbors a very Happy Thanksgiving.

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# Running for clean water

This past weekend I went down to Detroit to support some friends who were running in the Detroit Free Press half-marathon. I had originally registered to run in it, but a knee injury side-lined me. Someone told me that over 27,000 people gathered to run this race. It was fun to cheer them on!

A big truth dawned on me once again as I watched the event. That truth: people are meant to help other people. Big shocker, right?? Yet too often we try to go at life alone. There are two typical ways that people block this life-giving truth: by refusing to receive help or by refusing to offer it.

Do you know what the refusal to ask for help is: PRIDE!! So many times when we need help in life, we ball up and say that we can do this on our own. We are strong enough. LIE! We need other people in our lives, and we need to be humble enough to pick up the phone and ask for help when we are down and out. We need to ask others to exercise with us, talk with us, and hold us accountable.

That's not the end of the story. Once we've received help, we actually benefit by helping others! I recently saw a comment on social media that remarked that most of the contestants from Biggest Loser that have been successful after the show have been involved in the fitness arena professionally. Of course!! Those who help others are constantly reminding themselves of those same truths!!

I saw many groups that ran in the marathon together that reminded me of these things. The individual



After running her first half-marathon, Sharon Harding poses with two of her supporters: Buddy Shuh and her daughter Kass.

runners benefitted by receiving a plan to train for the marathon from their respective organizations, as well as having teammates to do the long runs with. These groups also raised funds to support other people in need...some supported cancer research, some supported children in need, and others supported clean drinking water projects.

By receiving help from the group, the athletes benefitted and were able to run their race. Passing along some of that benefit to others in need gave them motivation to keep going, and people around the globe benefitted from their efforts. Sounds like a win-win to me!

So keep the lines of communication open. Receive help. And give it away. And come back next time when there'll be more to the story.

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Tom Lynch



# More than 1300 runners race through streets of Wayne

By Jenny Johnson

The annual Red October Run sponsored by Oakwood Hospital was a success this year. A total of 1,333 runners and walkers of all ages participated in the four different races including the 10K run, 5K run, 5K walk and the 1 Mile Jr. October race.

"We had a great turnout, and there were a number of course records set this year," said Cynthia Cook, community benefits coordinator for Oakwood Healthcare. She organizes the event every year.

The race, which begins at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital and winds through the nearby Wayne neighborhood, is designed to promote health and fitness to families and to attract runners and walkers of all ages and abilities.

The youngest 5K run finisher was 6-year-old Kenna Farmer of Canton, while the oldest was 81-year-old Michigan running legend Harrison Hensley of Pinckney. Hensley is the founder and director of the popular Run Thru Hell event and he's run about 80 races so far this year. The



1,333 runners and walkers of all ages participated in the Red October Run this year. Photo by Jenny Johnson

youngest 10K finisher was 13-year-old Nicole Gadon of Canton. The oldest was 74 Virendra Mehta from Wayne, who finished the race in 1:18:00.

The top finishers were:

In the Men's 10K run, Colby Lowe of Southlake, TX, set a course record with a time of 31:20, which is a pace of 5:03/mile.

For the women's 10K run, Stephanie Smith of Detroit also set a course record with a final time of 38:57, good for a 6:17/mile pace.

Eric Loveland, of Dundee, set a course record in the Men's 5K with a 16:17 finish, a pace of 5:15 minutes/mile.

Kimberly Peterson of Farmington Hills was the top female finisher in

the 5K run with a time of 16:17.

Rick and Shelly Huber of Montrose, MI, were the top finishers in the men's and women's 5K walk, respectively. Rick's 28:06 finish was also a course record. Shelly came in at 34:02.

For complete race results, visit [www.oakwood.org/redoctoberrun](http://www.oakwood.org/redoctoberrun).

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