

# THE WAYNE Dispatch

DECEMBER 2013

## Let the holiday savings begin!

Santa kicks off the gift giving season with a trip to local merchants



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### YOUR SOURCE FOR POSITIVE COMMUNITY NEWS



# Wayne and Westland sharing fire chief with Inkster

By Jenny Johnson

Wayne city council approved entering into an interlocal agreement with Inkster to share the services of Wayne-Westland Fire Chief Michael Reddy. This means Reddy would oversee the Inkster Fire Department in addition to the Wayne-Westland Fire Department until the end of this fiscal year June 30.

During a study session with Wayne city council members Reddy said this will give him a chance to assess Inkster's operations and equipment to see if they would be a good candidate to merge with the Wayne-Westland Fire Department and eventually create a Fire Authority that would also include Garden City.

"This is not a merger but a chief shared service agreement," Reddy said. "This allows us to get into Inkster to see if we can get them into the authority."

Inkster does not currently have a fire chief. They have one station and 14 full time firefighters. Reddy said

the Inkster Fire fighters union is in support of this agreement.

Wayne and Westland will each receive \$10,000 from Inkster for the shared chief's service.

"Inkster wants to be part of the authority. This allows me to get into their community and look at the books and manning and see if we can get them ready to join for the July 1 go ahead," he said.

Reddy said the Interlocal agreement expires on June 30.

"We are going to see if it is economically feasible and if it makes sense to bring them into authority." He said. If it is not then the contract dissolves.

Inkster is currently part of the auto and mutual aid agreements with Wayne and Westland.

Council members in Wayne and Westland both expressed concern about the financial stability and their ability to pay their portion of the agreement. Inkster has a financial agreement with the state but not an

emergency financial manager.

Councilwoman Susan Rowe asked if this would spread Reddy too thin to be the chief in three cities.

"We have prepared for this and been building for this and put the administrative staff together to fit this. I don't think we are spreading anyone too thin because when we grow we gain more resources," Reddy

said.

Councilman John Rhaesa said Inkster rates 10th on a list of Most Dangerous Cities.

Reddy said, "We are going to respond to Inkster whether we are part of an authority or not because we have mutual aid with them. Under this agreement we won't go to Inkster any more than we do now."



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## Santa kicks off the gift giving season with a trip to local merchants

Did you see him? Santa was here in Wayne. He stopped by a few stores to fill his bag with presents for all good little boys and girls. He went to Los Lobos Tires and picked out a shiny new pair of rims. At Wayne Exchange he tried the latest Bose headphones and got a wish list from the employees.

The Christmas countdown is on. When you are making your list and checking it twice don't forget to stop by some of the businesses in Wayne for your holiday needs. The City of Wayne has some unique places with business owners and employees who are happy to offer fast and friendly customer service.

The Wayne business community is committed to Wayne, its residents and its success. If you are still looking for some of the holiday gifts you need, please consider one of these local Wayne businesses.

### Wayne Exchange

Are you looking for the perfect gift for that special someone? Wayne Exchange, 32413 Michigan Avenue, can fill every Santa's Christmas bag. They have a great selection of men's and women's jewelry including watches. They offer jewelry sizing for a small fee and jewelry cleaning for free. They can also customize jewelry.



Santa is always up to date on the latest style. He had his choice of shoes at Jus Shooz.

Layaway is available at Wayne Exchange and the terms are flexible. Stop by today and see their movies, cds, TVs, electronics, guitars, tools, household items, computers and

gaming systems. All merchandise is in good condition and sold at less than retail prices.

Call them today at 734-722-2828 to see what they have for you. Their

hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. Shop at Wayne Exchange and save.

### Jus Shooz

If you are looking for a new pair of shoes stop by Jus Shooz, 35002 Michigan Ave. They have a wide selection of men, ladies and children shoes including Nike, Jordan, Adidas, Rockport, Fila, Cole Haan, Polo, K-Swiss, Timberland, Reebok and Kenneth Cole. Their store hours are 10 a.m.- 7 p.m. Mon-Sat.

### Lobo Tires

Give yourself the gift of car safety this Christmas and make sure you are ready for winter. Lobo Tires at the corner of westbound Michigan Avenue and Cadillac sells new and used tires, rims and accessories. For their customer's convenience,

See **SANTA**, page 4



## SANTA, Continued from page 3

they have a large selection of tires they keep in stock so they can get vehicles done faster.

Lobo Tires offers quality service at a great price. Their hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday.

## ICON Computers

Want to get away from the hustle and bustle of the big box stores and get some personal attention while shopping for electronics? ICON Computers, 35858 Michigan Avenue, is a full service computer repair store. In addition they sell accessories like power supplies, chargers, cases, power cables, mics, keyboards, wireless routers, and a full line of cables and wires.

ICON does computer repairs, upgrades and sells new and refurbished desktops, laptops, parts and accessories. They also have security camera systems.

Like their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/iconPCsolutions](http://www.facebook.com/iconPCsolutions) for great specials. Gift certificates are available also.

## Wayne-Westland Parks and Recreation

Give the gift of health and wellness this Christmas. The Wayne-Westland Community Center, 4635 Howe Road, Wayne, offers gift certificates for massages, training and exercise memberships. The center features a cardio and weight room, exercise classes, a pool with lap swimming, an indoor walking track and an ice rink.

The Community Center has an abundance of family friendly activities. They will host Lunch with Santa on Dec. 14 and their annual Winterfest Jan. 24 and 25.

## Tried & True

Are you looking for a great deal on winter apparel? Tried & True has men's women's and kids winter coats in stock at great prices. They also offer great deals on used housewares, DVDs, games, toys and furniture. Located at 35004 Michigan Avenue West. Their hours are Mon. - Sat. 10-7p.m. Don't forget to use the Dispatch coupon to get 10% off.

## West Town Market

Stay away from the crowds when you need that last minute snack or



There was a lot to offer at GI Surplus. Santa especially liked the military issue jackets and helmets.

grocery item for your holiday parties. West Town Market, 4098 Howe Road, is located on the corner of Howe and Forest. Owner Johnny Beshi offers customers a grocery section, beer and wine and Lotto tickets.

The family friendly convenience store also sells a full line of baby food items and diapers. They now accept WIC and EBT cards. Any customer who buys seven cans of Enfamil powder formula will receive a free box of diapers worth \$30.

This is a great savings for families on WIC because the program does not cover diapers.

Make sure to check out the coupon for 10% off purchase in this paper.

Their hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9:30 a.m. to midnight on Sat. and Sun.

## In Focus Eyecare

Is it getting harder to see the Christmas lists? Stop by In Focus Eyecare Associates, 35119 E. Michigan Avenue. They are located in the Rite Aid shopping plaza. Dr. Warmuskerken and his staff provide eye exams and testing for children and adults. They accept many insurance plans and have a wide variety of eyeglass options, contacts and accessories. Call them at 734-721-5442 for an appointment.

## JR3s

Why not buy local? JR3s, 4502 S. Wayne Road, has many Michigan made products. Owner John Roehrig is proud to have a large selection of Michigan made beer and

wine, snacks and pop. What could make a better host or hostess gift? Don't forget about Lotto tickets and candy, which always make great stocking stuffers.

JR3s also have coffee, hot chocolate, slushes and energy drinks to help you get through the holiday hustle. Their hours are 6 a.m. to midnight Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to midnight Saturday and Sunday.

## GI Surplus

If you are looking for actual military issue items, GI Surplus can help you. They have pocketknives, custom lighters and can customize hats. All 100% American made. GI Surplus also has a large selection of flashlights, military and waterproof boots, backpacks, uniforms, socks and foot powder.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. They are open until 7 p.m. on Friday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

## US-12 Bar and Grill

Looking for a good place with great food to have your office, family or friends holiday get together? US-12 Bar and Grill, 34824 Michigan Avenue, is booking holiday parties now. They have a complete menu of sandwiches, burgers, salads and appetizers as well as several large screen televisions.

## Northside Hardware

Christmas shopping at a hardware store? If it is Northside Hardware, 2912 S. Wayne Road, then the answer is yes! In addition to indoor and outdoor Christmas decorations

they have everything an amateur or professional home improvement guru might have on their wish list like hand and power tools. They also have a lot of household items like dishes, small appliances and unique kitchen and home items that would make a perfect gift. Don't forget about home storage and sporting goods too. Their hours are Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.- 9 p.m. and Sun. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Phoenix Theaters State-Wayne

Movies make a great gift. Buy local at the Michigan owned and operated Phoenix Theaters State Wayne, 35310 Michigan Avenue. They have gift certificates available that would be a perfect gift for co-workers, friends and family. They also make great stocking stuffers. Don't forget to take some time and relax with a movie and snacks during the holiday too. For a complete list of show times, visit [phoenix-movies.net](http://phoenix-movies.net).

## Henry's Service Center

The holiday season is also a great time to remember that your vehicle might need some attention this winter. Henry's Service Center, 3041 S. Wayne Road, would be happy to get it ready for winter with an oil change, new tires or brakes or one of the many other services they provide. Their hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon-Fri. Give them a call to schedule your appointment today at 734-721-8721.



## Avenue Downtown Wayne

With an upgraded menu and a patio addition, Avenue Downtown Wayne, 3632 Elizabeth, is the perfect place to unwind after a busy day of holiday shopping. During the month of December they are offering daily drink specials and their menu includes lunch and dinner specials with soups, salads, steaks and much more. They would also like you to celebrate New Year's with them at their New Year's Eve Party.



## NEWS BRIEFS

### McDonald's set for 2014 opening

The new McDonald's, which will be located at the corner of Wayne Road and Michigan Avenue, is making progress. They picked up their permits from the building and engineering department and are in process of clearing the utilities, said Acting City Manager Ramzi El-Gharib.

He said next they will pick up their demolition permit and the former Rex's Restaurant should be demolished in the next six weeks. Construction should begin in February and McDonald's should be open by May 2014.

### Cop Call

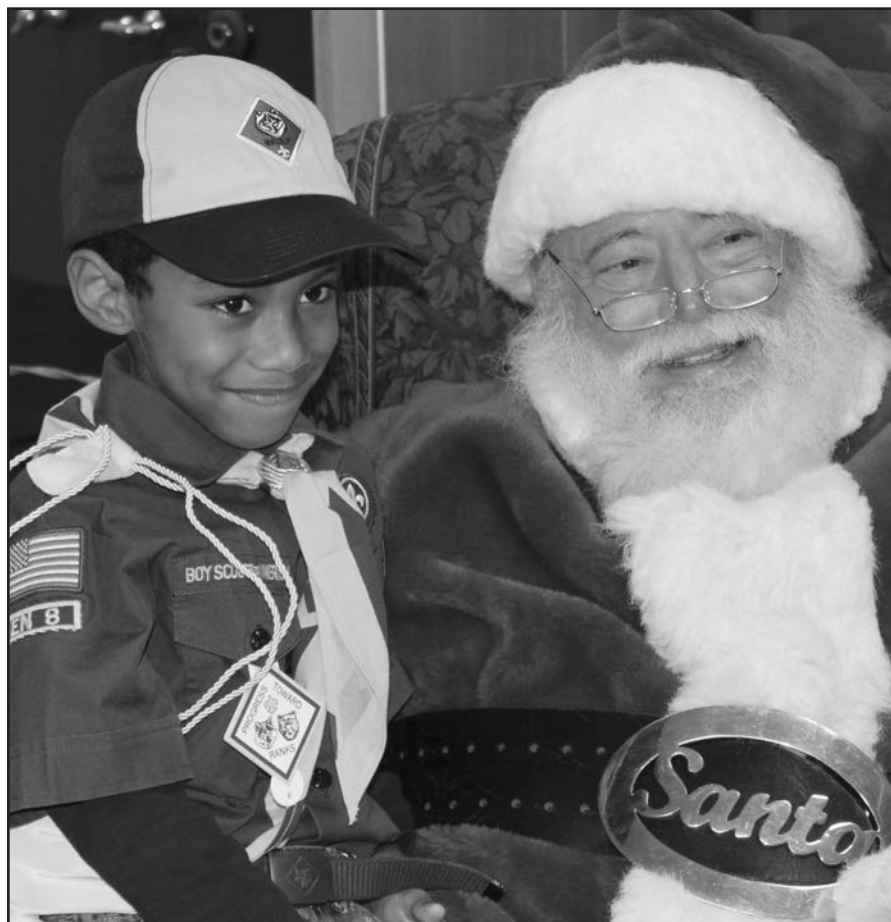
Wayne Police arrested Todd Wykoff, 42, from Westland on Oct. 23. He is being charged with Malicious Destruction of Building, Larceny, and Buying/Selling Stolen Metals. The charges stem from a report on Oct. 10 of a larceny of two roof air conditioners at 4603 Wayne Road, a vacant property. Wykoff was arraigned in the 29th District Court and pled not guilty. He is being held on bond at the Wayne County Jail pending his next court appearance.



### Leo's Robbery

Two men have pleaded guilty in connection with the July 17 robbery at Leo's Jewelry on Michigan Avenue. Police captured Quentin Goddard, 22, of Detroit and Jonathan Stalling, 20, of Battle Creek, just after the incident. Goddard was apprehended in Dynamite Park and Stalling was apprehended on Fourth Street near Ash.

Both Stalling and Goddard were charged with Armed Robbery, Larceny from Person, and Larceny in a Building. Goddard was also charged as a Habitual Offender. They were set to go to trial on Nov. 25 but then pled guilty. They are in jail pending sentencing on Dec. 5 for Stalling and Dec. 10 for Goddard.



## All I want for Christmas...

Local Cub Scout shares with Santa what he wants for Christmas after the City of Wayne Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Wayne Historical Museum. Photo by Jenny Johnson

### Winterfest 2014

Save the date for Jan. 24 and 25. The Wayne-Westland Parks and Recreation Department will host their annual Winterfest. Activities include Dinner Theater on Friday at the Wayne Community Center and North Pole Classic Golf on Saturday at the Westland Municipal Golf Course. There will also be dance and skating shows, open swim and a Euchre tournament. Buddy Up 2.0 will be at 8 a.m. on Saturday morning at the Wayne Community Center.

For a schedule of events, visit [ci.wayne.mi.us](http://ci.wayne.mi.us).

### Free Basketball

Crosspointe Community Church, 36125 Glenwood, Wayne, is offering a free Kids Basketball league for boys and girls in third through sixth grade. Registration/tryouts are Dec. 7 and games start in January and are on Tuesday evenings. For more

membership reimbursement for senior citizens through Health & Alliance Plan (HAP) and SilverSneakers. They will reimburse up to \$20 a month for memberships, classes and personal training sessions. For more information call HAP Senior Plus at 1-800-801-1770 or Alliance Medicare PPO at 1-888-658-2536.

### Main Street application submitted

The Wayne Ripple Effect and a team of dedicated volunteers have been working hard since August to complete the application to become a Michigan Main Street Community. They are asking the community to support the effort by donating to the Wayne 500. They need 500 people to donate \$100 so they can raise the funding needed to advance to the next level.

The Main Street Program is an effort to revitalize downtowns and help improve economic conditions in selected cities.

For more information or to make a donation, visit [wayne500.com](http://wayne500.com).

### In Memory of Brian Woehlke

The Wayne Rotary Club planted a red leafed dogwood tree at the Wayne-Westland fire station in Wayne in memory of Firefighter Brian Woehlke who died in the line of duty fighting a fire on May 8 in Westland. Wayne Rotary President Trish Hampton said by planting the tree they wanted people to not only think of Brian but also other firefighters who serve the community.

Wayne Rotary members, city officials and members of the Wayne-Westland Fire Department, attended the tree planting ceremony.

information, call 734-721-7410.

Teamwork, sportsmanship and fun are emphasized more than winning. The league is FREE but donations are appreciated and will go to maintaining and purchasing equipment. A snack café will be open with items that can be purchased during most games.

### SilverSneakers

The Wayne-Westland Parks and Recreation Department is offering

THE WAYNE  
Dispatch  
A JoNa Media LLC Publication

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The Wayne Dispatch is a monthly publication direct mailed to the entire City of Wayne.



## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



### Putting for cans

The students at St. Mary Catholic Church scored a hole in one with a community service project. Each classroom collected canned and non-perishable foods. But before they donated the goods to the John Bolde Food Depot they used the items to make a putt putt golf course. They then held a putt putt fundraiser attended by more than 100 people. In total they collected 1,688 pounds of food to donate to the food bank.

### Cup of Christmas Tea

The 14th Annual Cup of Christmas Tea will be at 7 p.m. on Dec. 12 at the Wayne Community Center. Hostesses are still needed to host table of eight. Enjoy a festive evening of fellowship and fun. This year the proceeds will benefit the Business and Professional Women's Wayne Memorial High School Scholarship and the Wayne-Westland Parks and Recreation Youth Programs. There are still a few tables available. For more information, please contact Sue Honke at 734-721-7400 ext. 1303.

### Holiday Concerts

The instrumental music students at Wayne Memorial High School will host a festive holiday concert at 7 p.m. on Dec. 12 at Stockmeyer Auditorium. This show is free and open to the public.

### Lunch with Santa

Santa eats pizza? Find out by having lunch with Santa from 10:45 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Dec. 14 at the Wayne Community Center. The cost is \$5 for Wayne and Westland residents and \$6 for non-residents. Children 2 and under are free. The

cost includes pizza, salad, breadsticks, arts & crafts, and face painting. Photo packages with Santa will be available. Tickets are limited. Call 734-721-7400 for more info.

### Bell Ringing

The Salvation Army Bell ringers are out in force this holiday season. The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army is hoping to raise \$200,000 with their red kettle campaign this year.

In Wayne you can help fill their red kettles at the Kroger at Michigan Avenue and Elizabeth, Northside True Value on Glenwood and Walgreens at Michigan Avenue and Venoy. Please give what you can. If you would like to sign up to be a bell ringer, please visit RingBell.org or start your own Online Red Kettle – [onlineredkettle.org](http://onlineredkettle.org).

If you are looking for other ways to help you can donate a new toy, sponsor a family for Christmas or send a cash or check donation to 2300 S. Venoy, Westland, MI 48186.

There is an Angel Tree that allows people to purchase and donate a gift for a local needy child. The tree is located inside Westland Mall in the center court. The tree is filled with tags that have gifts needed for children. Stop by and pick up a tag today.

There is also an Adopt a Family program. For more information on how to help the Salvation Army, please call 734-722-3660 or visit [waynewestlandsa.org](http://waynewestlandsa.org).

### Stuff a Bus

The Wayne Westland Community School District Transportation Department and the Wayne-Westland Fire Department will sponsor Stuff a Bus from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Dec. 7 in the Kmart parking lot on the corner of Wayne Road and Cherry Hill. Help them stuff a bus full of toys, clothes and personal hygiene products. All items will assist the Wayne and Westland Goodfellows to help needy families.

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The Wayne Westland Fire Department and other local department working to put out the fire at Electric Stick and Marvaso's Grille. Photo by Barb Hardy

## Arson cause of Marvaso's fire

By Jenny Johnson

The Wayne-Westland Fire Department has ruled arson is the cause of the May 8 fire at Marvaso's Restaurant/Electric Stick in Westland that killed firefighter Brian Woehlke.

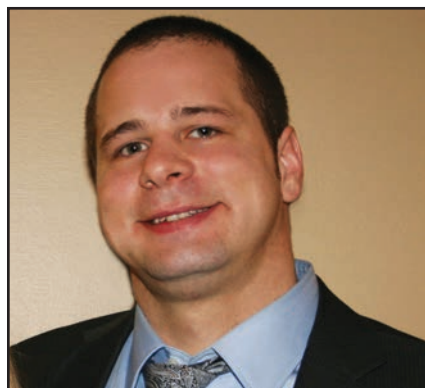
Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshall John Adams said the cause of the fire was a type of incendiary but no accelerants were found.

"The fire department was in charge of the origin of cause part of the investigation," he said.

The Wayne-Westland Fire Department submitted a report to the Wayne County Prosecutor and the Michigan State Police who will conduct the criminal investigation.

Because the fire was ruled arson, the death of Woehlke will be investigated as a homicide.

Woehlke was the first fire fighter to die in the line of duty in Wayne



Brian Woehlke

and Westland. He was employed by the Wayne-Westland Fire Department for 10 months. He was married with a one-year-old daughter.

Anyone with information about the fire is asked to call the Michigan State Police Special Investigations Section at (877) 616-4677. Tipsters can remain anonymous.

## Fire Department moves offices to Westland

The Wayne-Westland Fire Department has moved their administration offices from the Wayne Fire Station to offices on Marquette in Westland.

The Wayne Fire Station will have a shift commander and a battalion chief in addition to the on duty crew.

Fire Chief Michael Reddy said he knows there was concern that Westland is swallowing up Wayne.

"I moved my whole administrative staff to Wayne for residents to realize it wasn't a takeover it was a mutual agreement. Once we got over here we realized this building can't house our administrative services. I need 25 administrative parking spots and don't have it in this building." He said.

Temporary offices were built and

Reddy said they were planning to move to a stand-alone building in the middle of the three communities-Wayne, Westland and Inkster- but it was too expensive.

"So we moved to the Marquette location," he said. This does not change any services provided by the fire department.

The Wayne Fire Station has been updated with technology and brought in line with the Westland stations. There is also a self-service kiosk there that allows residents to get information on ordinances, passports and vacant home registration.

If Wayne residents need to meet with administrative staff, they will meet with them at the Wayne Fire Station or the resident's home.

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The Wayne City Council take one last picture with retiring Councilwoman Pam Dobrowolski pictured from left to right, Albert Damitio, Jim Henley, Skip Monet, Pam Dobrowolski, Mayor Al Haidous, John Rhaesa, Jim Hawley and Acting City Manager Ramzi Elbrib. Photo by Jenny Johnson

## Dobrowolski serves at last council meeting

By Jenny Johnson

For the first time in 19 years Mayor Pro Tem Pam Dobrowolski will be free on Tuesday nights. She chose not to seek re-election and served at her last council meeting on Nov. 4.

"I want to say thank you to the city and to the community for allowing me to sit up here for 19 years," she said.

She commended the city staff for how they were able to hold their departments together during the financial struggles the past few years. She also had high praise for her fellow council members.

"I feel very comfortable leaving with this excellent council I sit up here with," she said. "They think outside the box and are willing to go the extra mile."

But she did tell them two things she would like to see them follow through with.

"Light up our city for Christmas," she said. She would like to see the entire downtown area lit up for the holiday season.

She also asked council to appoint Senior Services Director Nancy Wojewski-Noel to replace Dobrowolski on the Nankin Transit Authority.

The biggest thank you was for her family, who was in the audience.

"I would like to thank my family for standing by me all these years," she said. She said all five of her daughters and her husband, Tom have helped her with campaigns over the years.

"Tom is my biggest supporter and

"I feel very comfortable leaving with this excellent council I sit up here with."

**Pam Dobrowolski**

advisor and the first to let me know when something was wrong in city," she said.

Councilman Jim Henley said, "I want to thank Pam for her dedication and service. She has been an advisor to many of us newbies when we came on."

Councilman Albert Damitio said, "You are going to be greatly missed by council administration and all of the citizens. Thank you very much."

"You are going to be definitely missed. I am looking forward to working with you on projects and I know you are going to be a part of the future of Wayne," said Councilman John Rhaesa. "After 19 years to see you still have that fire for our community, that's exciting."

Mayor Al Haidous said, "Thank you for serving this community on behalf of the citizens of Wayne. I wish you the best of semi retirement. I wish Tom the best for you will have more time to put up with her. Enjoy having the grandkids over."

"In 19 years a lot has happened. We've had our ups and downs and somehow the city has always come back. It will come back again as long as everyone works together," she said. "I will still be around in the city and getting involved. This is not a good bye it is a see you later."



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# Wayne resident was Rosie Riveter

By Jenny Johnson

Ruth M. Pierson-Webb, 93, of Wayne is a proud member of the Greatest Generation. During World War II she and many other women entered the work force to help keep the economy strong and provide much needed equipment for the war effort.

Pierson-Webb worked at the Willow Run Bomber Plant as a riveter and rivet inspector. At 23 years old she held several jobs at the plant, including inspecting the rivet work on the B-24 bombers.

"I was a riveter and worked on the sides of planes and riveter repair. I worked there from 43 to 45 until they closed the plant," she said.

Even though it got hot in there with no air conditioning and no fans she said she enjoyed her job.

"Getting up and getting ready and getting out to work and being with the people.

It didn't seem too hard it was pretty easy," she said. "I just went to work, did my job and went home and that was it."

"I met a lot of nice people from all different places- Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky when I worked at the bomber," she said.

She was in her early 20s and living in Inkster with her parents and most of her 15 siblings. She and her sister would catch the bus to the plant in Belleville. But if they missed the bus the two had to walk the miles, with no sidewalks and often in the snow, to the plant.

She was six when her father moved the family from Indiana to Michigan so he could work at the Ford Rouge Plant. The family made the drive in the back of a flat bed truck with all of the kids and their possessions.

"I am from a family of 16. There are eight girls and eight boys. I am the oldest one," she said.

She has lived in Wayne since 1943 where she and her husband, Robert, raised their seven children- Cletis, Brenda, Robert, Valerie, Ronald, Diana and Jean.

She met Robert, who served eight years in the army, in Wayne in 1950.

"I was working in Wayne in a restaurant and he came in and had dinner and we got to talking," she said.



Ruth's family- son Robert, granddaughter, Amanda, great granddaughters Kelsey and Kaylee, and Ruth all participated in the Count the Rosies event. (Below) Ruth was part of a group that tried to break the Guinness Book of World Records for most Rosie's in one location. The attempt was made at the Yankee Air Museum. They were not successful but hope to try again this spring.

They were married on October 22, 1952.

They have 17 grandchildren and five great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

## About Rosie

Because many men were fighting overseas during WWII the American workforce saw a large increase in women in the industrial labor force. In 1943 there were more than 310,000 women working in the aircraft industry. Some of those women worked at the Willow Run Bomber Plant in Belleville. At its peak Willow Run produced one B-24 Liberator bomber plane per hour. They employed over 40,000 workers the majority were women.

These women assembly line workers were referred to as Rosie the Riveter. The Rosies were a cultural icon and often associated with feminism.

Ruth is a member of the Rosie the Riveter Association and enjoys spending time with other women who had the same experience as her.

"We go and talk about how we



came to Michigan and got a job and everyone shares and we have dinner and we have a nice meeting," she said.

She has participated in the effort to help the Yankee Air Force Museum save part of the historic Bomber Plant that was built by Henry Ford and where Ruth and many other Rosies worked during World War II.

Just last month she was part of the Guinness Book of World Records attempt to get a record number of

women dressed as Rosie the Riveters. While they did not break the record, they will try again this spring.

Her son Robert said, "She never realized how important this was being a Rosie the Riveter until about three years ago. She said I never thought it was important."

Her humble perspective was typical of the Greatest Generation. "She said 'I guess I lived long enough to see history made' and I said Mom you are part of history," he said.



# History of Eloise

Wayne Ladies' Literary Club recently reviewed a book at their book discussion meeting and it brought back a host of childhood memories for those in attendance who grew up in Wayne and surrounding communities. It was a true story called "Annie's Ghost" written by Steve Luxenberg about a young woman who was placed in Eloise Hospital by her family at a young age and whose existence was kept a secret for many decades until her story was uncovered by a nephew. I remember Eloise. It was a huge complex of buildings enclosed in a tall wrought iron fence that sat on acres of land at Michigan Avenue, Henry Ruff and Merriman Roads for many years. It was a city within itself.

It all began back in 1832 when Wayne County built a poorhouse in Detroit at Gratiot and Mt. Elliott Avenues in Hamtramck. By 1834, this poorhouse was overcrowded and in such poor condition that 280 acres was purchased in Nankin Township where another poorhouse could be built. The property had been owned by Samuel and Nancy Torbert and Samuel's father. They ran The Black Horse Tavern which served as a stagecoach stop for people traveling from Detroit to Ypsilanti and on to Chicago. (It was a two day ride by stagecoach from Detroit to Wayne in those days.) Michigan Ave. was called the Old Chicago Road at that time. In 1839 the new poorhouse was finished and 35 people were transferred from the Hamtramck facility to the new building. Unfortunately, 111 people refused to go to the "awful wilderness". This new poorhouse soon began to grow and more buildings were built on the site. A number of official names were given to the complex over the years. It was called the "Wayne County Poor House", the "Wayne County House" and the "Wayne County General Hospital and Infirmary". But Eloise has always been the one most commonly used to designate this facility. It derived its name from its post office. In 1894, when the complex grew to a size in need of its own post office, the postmaster of Detroit named it after his four year old daughter, Eloise. The name Eloise became the name associated with this huge complex which over the years was

## Memory Lane

**Darlene Hawley**



known as a poorhouse, a large farm, a tuberculosis sanitarium, an infirmary, a general hospital and a psychiatric hospital. For most people, "Eloise", meant a mental asylum.

Over the years Eloise grew and evolved into a self-supporting community with its own farm which supplied most of its own food. It had a piggery, root cellars, tobacco curing building, and green houses. Patients and inmates worked on the 500 acre farm planting and harvesting. Some were paid fifty cents a day for their labor. Eloise had its own police and fire departments, railroad and trolley stations, laundries, bakery, cannery, slaughter house, amusement hall, theater and a powerhouse. It even had a schoolhouse at one time.

All the buildings housing patients were given alphabetical letters from "A" to "P" to designate the type of patients each held. Over the years old buildings were torn down and new ones built and given a new alphabetical letter. The buildings were often beautiful and designed by different architects. The interiors of many of the buildings were architectural gems. The materials used and workmanship could not be duplicated today. There was also low rent housing on the grounds for employees. As Detroit population grew, so did Eloise. Eventually it spread over 902 acres. At one point, Eloise housed 10,000 patients.

I remember Eloise in the 1950's and 60's. The buildings were huge and sprawling and the grounds beautifully landscaped with green grass and flower beds. Benches and swings sitting behind the high black wrought iron fence were situated in the grass facing Michigan Avenue where people sat on warm days watching the world go by. It seemed the fences separated two different worlds. Many people in our community of Wayne had connections with Eloise. Some had family or friends who were patients in the hospital or



Panoramic view of the hospital complex, 1925.

who lived on the psychiatric wards. Some of my friends who were Girl Scouts visited patients who lived at Eloise and took them cookies and gifts. I remember reading a newspaper article about a woman who had lived at Eloise for 50 years and was celebrating her 70th birthday there. Many people in Wayne were a part of the huge work force Eloise required. My mother was a nurse's aide at Eloise and worked the afternoon shift. She dressed all in white and carried a ring of many keys which opened the locked doors that filled the buildings. I remember her occasionally bringing a patient home on weekends for dinner or to spend the day. She said that many of the people had no visitors or opportunities to leave the grounds. (My mother died when I was young or she would be able to tell me many stories today about her work at Eloise.) Some of our friends in high school had parents who were doctors in the hospital and one even lived in a house on the grounds at Eloise.

Many "street people" came to live at Eloise in the winter to get out of the cold. There were always free meals available for those who were out of work and hungry. The men

who lived at Eloise were called "PO-GIES". (Poor old guys in Eloise)

As society changed, Eloise changed too. In 1958 the farm operation ceased to operate and the complex began purchasing all its food. Some of the large psychiatric buildings were vacated in 1973. The large hospital complex started closing in 1977 when the State of Michigan took over the psychiatric hospital. The General Hospital was closed in 1984. The buildings sat vacant for several years and were subjected to vandalism. Wayne County then demolished all but a few of the buildings.

Today, only "D" building or the Kay Beard Building is left standing. It houses a day care for adults as well as a small museum containing artifacts and memorabilia from Eloise which help preserve the memories of a unique facility which served people in our community from 1839 through 1984. (Material for this article was taken from the book "Eloise-Poorhouse, Farm, Asylum and Hospital" by Patricia Ibbotson. The book can be purchased at the Westland Historic Village and Park Complex on Wayne Rd. in Westland.)

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# Wayne church welcomes female pastor

"I love God and strive to serve Jesus faithfully and fully with my heart and life." Those are the words of Rev. Jennifer Jue. This summer she became the first woman pastor of Wayne's First United Methodist Church.

Her goals include relationship with the community through evangelism and outreach. The United Methodist Church has many outreach programs. Narcotics Anonymous meets at noon on Tuesdays and at 8 p.m. on Fridays. Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are Thursdays at 7 p.m. A Depression and Anxiety Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at Noon. For more information about programs, call 721-4801.

Pastor Jue is focused on family activities. At Halloween (Angel's Night) the church hosted a Trunk 'r Treat evening. The trunks holding the 'treats' were spread throughout the building. Families gathered together for an evening of games, fellowship and of course—treats.

In mid-November, a "Holy Ghost Hayride" took place at Harold

## Footprints of Wayne

Dee Ryan



Smith's farm on Michigan Ave.

(That's the farm, near Denton Road, with the white farmhouses and huge corn fields.)

The family fun day featured hay rides, farm tours, games, food and prayers. The price? Free!

A Christmas Boutique will be open for shopping on December 1st, 8th, and 15th after Sunday's 10:a.m. Worship Service.

Pastor Jennifer Jue has a most impressive resume. A daughter of a United Methodist Minister, she graduated from the University of California, with a B.S. in Human Development, earned a teaching credential and taught in the San Francisco and Oakland, California School Systems. Completing her Doctorate in Education, she worked



Rev. Jennifer Jue

and taught at Stanford University, New College of California, and Western Michigan University. Rev. Jue earned her Masters of Divinity degree and Masters of Arts degree in Evangelism and Spiritual Formation at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. She was ordained an elder in the United Methodist Church in June, 2010.

Pastor Jue's family includes her husband Erik Wong and her twins Heather and Jonathon Jue-Wong. Heather is at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh and Jonathon attends Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio. The Rev. Dr. Jue is happy that she and her family will all be together as they celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas. They also enjoy summer vacations in Michigan.

I came away from our meeting knowing that Wayne's First United Methodist Church has, in their new Pastor, a woman of great devotion and love for her church and its parishioners.

The Women's Fellowship of the Congregational Church, served their famous Salad Luncheon, and two popular evening meals last month. The Church's Pastor---the Rev. Dan Vellinga, served coffee while wearing an aptly worded shirt---"I'm Still the Minister." Sadly, Pastor Vellinga will be leaving his Wayne Congregation at the end of January, and will be based in Marshalltown, Iowa. To say he'll be missed is definitely an understatement.

After a delightful lecture by Natalie Burg, author of "Swedish Lessons," our Wayne Library celebrated its 90th Birthday on November 16th. Yes, there was cake---but no candles. "Happy Birthday, Wayne Library." You've come a long way since your start in the back room of a shoe store. Here's to 90 more years of excellence.

May your Christmas be merry and bright and blessed.

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# Season's Greetings!!

In today's column I want to tell you about two different programs that might be of help to you this time of year. The first is a present giveaway for children at Christmas time and the second is a free health program that begins in January.

First, since it's the season of giving, my church, Journey Community Church wants to reach out to kids that might not get as many presents as they had hoped for. The first 100 kids to register will get two gifts each!

So if your family, or someone else's that you know is in need, tell them to go to [www.journey-community.org](http://www.journey-community.org) and click on the "Christmas Gifts for Kids" tab to register! Children need to be ages 3-12 and need to be in attendance (with a parent) in service on December 22nd. Service is held at the Friendship Center in Westland. (1119 Newburgh Rd) If you are one of the first 100, you will receive a confirmation email. Bring that to service to get your gifts! Doors open at 10am.

If you or your business would like to donate money or gifts towards this program, please go to the

church website and contact me.

Second, the Buddy Up health program is about to fire up again! If you are looking to lose weight, or just make some healthy changes in your life this coming January, consider registering for this program!

Buddy Up 2.0 begins with a kickoff on Jan 11th at the Friendship Center in Westland. Westland's mayor, William Wild, has opened up the building and is very supportive of this program.

"When I launched the Passport to a Healthy City campaign my goal was to inspire and encourage Westland residents to work towards a healthier lifestyle through education, diet and exercise. We are lucky to have Buddy Shuh as a role model in the campaign, leading our citizens by example," said Mayor Wild.

The program will consist of 8 sessions, concluding with a 5k run/walk or a Mayor's Mile on March 8. Each week participants will weigh in, have a small group time, exercise with local trainers, attend a nutrition class, and try free samples.

The whole program is free! Kick off the new year in the healthiest way



**There's More  
to the Story**

**Buddy Shuh**

possible! If you're interested in joining, I recommend signing up now. It is likely that it will fill up. Go to [city-of-westland.com](http://city-of-westland.com) and click on their "Passport to a Healthy City" tab. Then click on the Buddy Up logo to register! Have a great holiday season and next time, you'll see that there's more to the story!



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# Council and Mayor sworn in, Hawley tapped for Mayor Pro Tem

By Jenny Johnson

Councilman Jim Hawley, fresh off his first re-election victory, was chosen as Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilman Albert Damitio nominated him for the position.

"Because he has served very well on the council and has served for many years in the City of Wayne and it would be a pleasure to have him as mayor pro tem. It will take a lot of direction to weather the storm and right the ship in the City of Wayne," Damitio said.

Hawley was elected by a 6-0 vote.

"Thank you. This is a surprise and greatly appreciated. I will work with you through these difficult times," he said. "I promise I will do everything possible to make Wayne a better place."

Mayor Al Haidous and Councilman Jim Henley were also re-elected and Susan Rowe was elected to council.

Henley thanked his family and the community for electing him to serve another four years. "I look forward to the opportunity," he said.

"Thank you to all of the citizens

**"I promise I will do everything possible to make Wayne a better place."**

who took the time to talk with me when I came to your door over the past five months," said Rowe. "As a community we have to get back to basics of safe, clean neighborhoods or we will not be able to move forward."

Mayor Haidous thanked the voters for re-electing him as mayor.

"It is a great honor to be able to serve in that capacity," he said. "But good leadership is for tough times. We are facing a decline in revenue and rise in expenditure. I believe we have a great team and a great community always supporting the local government. Having a safe and clean city is priority number one. We need to work together."

Public Act 345, which would have provided a separate fund for police and fire pensions, was also on the ballot and failed. City council now has to decide how to offset a projected \$2 million deficit for the 2014-15 budget.



Councilman Jim Henley is sworn in by son Jay as his daughter Tommi and wife April look on. Photos by Jenny Johnson



Councilwoman Susan Rowe gets sworn in by her husband Ed.




Mayor Pro Tem Jim Hawley gets sworn in by his wife Sue.

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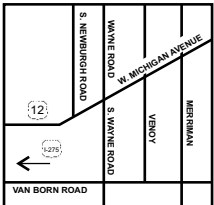
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