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JUNE 2014

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YOUR SOURCE FOR POSITIVE COMMUNITY NEWS

Gharib to serve Wayne and Westland as Public Works Director

By **Jenny Johnson**

For the sixth time the cities of Wayne and Westland will enter into a shared services agreement. Ramzi El Gharib will serve as Public Works Director for both communities beginning July 1.

The cities will save \$340,000 annually by sharing Gharib's services—\$180,000 for Westland and \$160,000 for Wayne. Gharib is the Wayne city engineer/ DPW Director and served as the Interim City Manager until May 27 in Wayne.

He will retire effective June 30 and be contracted to serve as the joint Wayne-Westland Public Works Director. The three-year contract includes an annual fee of \$70,000 for Westland and \$30,000 for Wayne for Gharib's salary. Gharib will not receive healthcare or retirement benefits under the agreement.

In turn he will provide oversight

for both cities in the areas of water and sewer distribution systems, road repairs and snow removal, and fleet management.

Gharib possesses a State of Michigan S-1 Water Distribution certification and is also licensed as a professional engineer.

"Both communities will realize tremendous cost savings from this agreement which is yet another chapter in our efforts to develop innovative partnership opportunities that save tax payers money and allow both cities to use those dollars in other areas of fiscal concern," said Westland Mayor Bill Wild. "Ramzi is a proven leader and because of our shared boundaries, his experience and professional credentials, he can hit the ground running in oversight of projects such as the Newburgh/Cherry Hill Road intersection project.

Wayne-Westland welcomes new district superintendent

Dr. Michele Harmala will join the Wayne-Westland Community School District on July 1 as the district's new superintendent. She will take over for Dr. Gregory Baracy who is retiring June 30. Harmala is currently the associate superintendent for instructional services and organizational leadership in the Farmington Public Schools.

The school board voted unanimously to offer her the position after two rounds of interviews and a visit to some of the schools in the district including Wayne Memorial High School. Harmala told the board that she has a plan for her first 90 days that includes listening to staff, asking questions and visiting buildings.



Dr. Michele Harmala

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By Jenny Johnson

It was the best news the mailman could deliver to a high school senior. Crystal Fletcher knew that April 17 would be a special day.

"I knew it was coming that day. I just have a feeling. I went home and opened my mailbox and it was a big package. My dad was pulling out the driveway and I stopped him and said I got the scholarship," she said.

Carlos Pernell was getting his senior pictures taken when he got the news. "My mom came running up with a package. I looked and it was already opened," he said.

In the package was notification that Pernell and Fletcher had each won the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship. The Gates Millennium Scholars Program selects 1,000 students nationwide each year. Students receive a good-through-graduation scholarship to use at any college or university.

This year 21 students in Michi-

"Carlos and Crystal have an aura about them. It is their spirit. You have to be scholar and have volunteerism and leadership."

Jan Tomlinson

gan received the scholarship. Each scholarship is valued at \$500,000 per student.

Wayne Memorial High School has had two other students win this scholarship but never two in the same year.

"Carlos and Crystal have an aura about them. It is their spirit. You have to be scholar and have volunteerism and leadership," Tomlinson said. "They have both faced extreme obstacles and have done it with such a spirit of decorum that most people of their age don't have. They were survivalists and good spirited and they have what it takes."

As excited as Carlos and Crystal

are and as proud as the entire Wayne Memorial staff is no one is happier than their parents at the opportunity the Gates Millennium Scholarship is providing their kids.

"The staff is ecstatic," said Teresa Weaver, Carlos' counselor. She said Crystal and Carlos are great representatives of Wayne Memorial. "It inspires the other kids a lot."

"To have the entire issue of finance lifted off is a relief," Tomlinson said.

But this was not just a free gift. The two had to work hard to win the scholarship. And they started their freshman year.

In their freshman and sopho-

more years they started to work on "things you want to build in to your high school career that will help," Tomlinson said.

Both students have been involved in numerous academic and extra curricular activities.

Crystal has a 4.0 GPA and is graduating valedictorian. She has been involved in Upward Bound, JROTC, varsity soccer and volleyball, Robotics and student senate and had Advanced Placement classes in history, English and political science. She has also completed many hours of community service.

"I think my AP classes have helped me be prepared the most because of the work load and with AP you have to manage your time and that is how it is going to be in college," Crystal said.

Crystal is going to attend University of Michigan and study computer

See **GATES**, page 6

NEWS BRIEFS

Farmers Market

The Wayne Farmers Market is now open from 3-7 p.m. on Wednesdays through October at Goudy Park., behind Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Road. Farmers will offer locally grown produce, plants and flowers. There will also be a variety of other local vendors, music and kids activities.

Relay for Life

The Wayne-Westland Relay for Life will be June 7-8 at Attwood Park. They are currently looking for teams to join this 24-hour effort. This is the 13th year of Relay in the Wayne-Westland area. They are still looking for teams and volunteers to help FINISH THE FIGHT!

For more information, visit their website at relayforlife.org/westlandmi or their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RFLWestlandWayne.

Summer Reading Program

Registration for the Summer Reading Program at the Wayne Public Library will begin on June 10 at the children's desk. The summer program will begin at 10:30 a.m. on June 24 with Grandma Science in the Community Room and the Summer Storytime will begin at 2 p.m. on June 26.

Kids Day

The Wayne Farmers Market will host Kids Day from 3-7 p.m. on June 18 at Goudy Park. There will be a variety of fun, free family-friendly activities.

Terifically Talented Tuesdays at the library

The Wayne Public Library will host free weekly summer activities at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays in the Community Room. Events will last one hour. All ages are welcome.

Date/Event

June 24: Grandma Science

July 1: Miner Sam and Magnificent Metals

July 8: Mad Science: The Science of Sound

July 15: Boom of the Dinosaurs; Two performances @ 10:30 am and 11:30 am.



Chuck Root and Kathleen Chorbajian from the class of 1964 with 2014 Wayne High School Alumni Association scholarship recipients Kaiserin Macairan and Adam Davis.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

July 22: Spirit of Alexandria Nature Bus; PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

July 29: Boom, Boom Wow with Michigan Science Center

For activities with pre-registration, please stop by the Children's Desk of the library or call 734-721-7832.

Job Fair

Michigan Works in Wayne will have a Job Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on June 25 at Town Square Plaza (formerly called Metro Mall.) There will be about 35 employers looking to hire.

Kelly Miller Circus

August 9 at 2 and 5 p.m. at Attwood Park. Don't miss the raising of the Big Top with elephant power at 9 a.m. on Aug. 9. This event is free to the public. Tickets for the circus will be available at the Wayne Community Center. For more information, please call 734-721-7400.

WMHS Class of 1974 reunion

The Wayne Memorial High School Class of 1974 will celebrate their 40th reunion on Aug. 23 at the Avenue Downtown Wayne. Tickets are \$25 each. Casual dress. Members of the Class of 1973 and 1975 are also welcome. For more information, contact wmhs74reunion@yahoo.com or 734-397-8196.

Red October Run

The annual Red October Run sponsored by Oakwood Hospital will be Oct. 4. Events include a 10K Run, 5K Run, 5K Walk and a 1 Mile Jr. October.

These are certified 10K and 5K run courses and medals will be awarded to all run and walk finishers. Registered participants will receive a shirt and a post-race "Octoberfeast" including hot dogs, cider, doughnuts, fruit, bagels and more. There will also be kids art activities, health and wellness displays, prizes and drawings. Register for the race at www.oakwood.org/reductoberrun.

Join Rotary

The Wayne Rotary Club is looking for new members who are looking to be involved in the community. They meet at 12:05 p.m. on Tuesdays at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe Road, Wayne. They have lunch, network and have guest speakers. For more information, visit their website at www.waynerotary.org.

Help Wayne Public Library

Due to the city's budget shortfalls, the Wayne Public Library needs some help. They are looking for donations of the following:

- Copy Machine Paper - white and pastels
- Kleenex
- Disinfectant Wipes
- Ink Cartridges:
- CLI-226 Black Ink Tank

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- HP 29 Black Ink Jet Cartridge
- HP 42A Black Toner Cartridge
- HP 98X (92298X) Laser Jet Black Cartridge
- HP 64A (CC364A) Laser Jet Black Cartridge

Donated items can be dropped off at the Wayne Public Library.

Save the Date

The Wayne Goodfellows will host their annual Christmas party on Dec. 5 at the Wayne Community Center. More details to follow in further issues of The Wayne Dispatch.

Robotics Workshops

The Wayne Public Library will host a Robotic Workshop from 2-3 p.m. on June 27, July 11 and July 25. This is a hands-on workshop. Please pre-register by calling 734-721-7832.

Wayne Library Art Contest

The Wayne Public Library is seeking junior artists. Teens in grades 6-12 are welcome to participate in this contest showcasing a variety of talents and media. Submissions will be accepted from July 1 - July 12 and must be ready for display. Voting will take place from July 13 - July 25. For more information, please call 734-721-7832.

Scholarship Winners

Two students from Wayne Memorial High School are recipients of the 2014 Westland Goodfellows-Madeleine Schroeder Memorial Scholarship. Audeya Seaton and Adam Davis each received a \$500 scholarship.

Food Bank

New Dimensions Food Bank at Abundant Life Church of God is now distributing food every Tuesday from 2-3:30 p.m. The Food Bank is located at 2100 Hannan Road in Canton.

NEWS BRIEFS

Michigan Market Robbery

Wayne police officers were dispatched to Michigan Market at 11:37 a.m. on Jan. 16, 2014. The store had been robbed by an armed suspect and the suspect fled on foot from the location.

The store employee who was at the location was struck with the handgun and sustained injuries. An unspecified amount of property was taken from the store. The suspect was not located at the time of the incident.

Based on the investigation, a suspect was found. Dron Darvell Anderson, 20, of Flint, was arrested by the Michigan State Police in Flint. Anderson was charged with Armed Robbery, Felonious Assault, and Felony Firearm. He had his preliminary exam and is in custody awaiting his next court date.

Rocket Launch

Seventh and eighth grade students at St. Michael's Lutheran



Art Fair

Roosevelt-McGrath art teacher Paul Chisolm organized an art fair for students. The hallways were decorated with original student art work and Chisolm demonstrated pottery techniques.

School in Wayne designed, created and launched their own rockets. State Senator Patrick Colbeck attended the event and helped the students. He holds advanced degrees in Aerospace Engineering and worked on the life support system for the International Space Station.

Suspect tries to bribe police

At 2 a.m. on June 2 Wayne Police officers stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation in the area of Sims and Second. The driver of the vehicle, Mathew Dagostino, 19, of Westland, was going to be ticketed for traffic violations and released at the scene. The vehicle driven by Dagostino was going to be impounded.

Kosowski honors Woehlke

State Representative Robert Kosowski introduced a bill that was unanimously approved by the House of Representatives. House Bill 4985 dedicates a portion of M-153 as the Firefighter Brian Woehlke Memorial Highway. The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration.

"Brain Woehlke laid down his life in the line of duty and I am glad we honored him by passing this through

the House of Representatives. It was an extremely proud moment seeing every member present vote in favor of this bill," Kosowski said. "My focus now turns to the Senate, where I will continue doing all I can to honor Brian Woehlke and get this bill to the governor's desk to be signed into law."

Brian Woehlke was a Wayne-Westland firefighter who lost his life last year in the line of duty. If the bill becomes law, the portion of M-153 between Newburgh Road and Wayne Road will bear his name.

Vacation Bible School

First United Methodist Church Wayne-Westland, 3 Towne Square, Wayne will have Vacation Bible School from 5 p.m. June 22 through 8 p.m. June 25.

This year's program is called Neighbors Around the World! There will be light supper each night, crafts, Mission moment and Station to Station to learn about the other countries. VBS is open to the kindergarten through fifth grade students in the community. For more information, please call 734-721-4801.

Air Museum to Host Free Veterans Seminar

The Yankee Air Museum will open its doors free of charge for veterans and their families from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 11. The range of presentations will include eligibility for benefits, financial assistance and planning, health care, and disability claims, among others.

The Veterans Seminar is the result of a partnership between Brig. General Carol Ann Fausone (ret.) at Legal Help For Veterans, Comerica Bank, and the Professional Resource Alliance of Greater Michigan.

While the event is free, space is limited to 300 people. RSVPs would be appreciated by Monday, June 9, to kbdermody@gmail.com or 734-740-8867. Businesses and individuals looking to make a donation to this event, or future Veterans Seminars, can call Legal Help For Veterans at 1-800-693-4800. Monetary donations, or donations in the form of food, beverages, and other materials for the event are accepted.

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GATES, from page 3

science. She would one day like to become a college professor.

Carlos has a 3.9 GPA and is the varsity basketball captain, Homecoming King, member of the student senate, Upward Bound, Champion, National Honor Society member and a volunteer for Starfish Family Services, Relay for Life and many other community events. He has taken Advanced Placement and direct college classes.

Carlos is going to attend Central Michigan University and pursue a degree in physical therapy. He plans to earn his doctorate degree and one day have his own physical therapy and college athletic training center. He will also play basketball at CMU.

"Today more than ever it is important that our young people get the education they need, and that we need them to have in order to remain competitive in the 21st century. For the 20,000 young men and women who will attend college as Gates Millennium Scholars, the financial support, leadership training, mentoring and academic and social support they receive will enable them to become college graduates and our next generation of leaders," said Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D., president and CEO, UNCF. "We are grateful for students receiving the support of the Gates Millennium Scholars Program because it is not only an investment in the futures of these extraordinary young people, but also in the country's economic strength and competitiveness."

The application is 32 pages and included eight essay questions. Each answer was at least 1,000 words. Carlos and Crystal began filling out the application last year. After making it passed the first



Wayne Memorial High School has two students who won the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship. (l-r): Kevin Weber, principal, Crystal Fletcher, Carlos Pernell, Jan Tomlinson, Upward Bound Director and Lou LeBlanc, grant associate.

round they had to submit their first semester grades and several other documents.

"If you want to apply it is a work in progress and you can't start your senior year," Tomlinson said.

While it might seem overwhelming, Carlos and Crystal, who are friends, are happy they went through the process together with the support of Tomlinson. "Mrs. T said you guys are doing it," Crystal said. They even had conference calls during the many snow days to discuss and edit essay questions.

"It is an inordinate amount of investment of time. You have to really want it. When you have AP courses and are working and playing sports," Tomlinson said.

"I want to thank Mrs. T and Ms. Pypa because I am quiet and re-

served and they showed me they cared about me and helped me whenever I needed it," she said.

The criteria for keeping the Gates Scholarship include being a full time student and maintaining a 3.3 GPA.

In exchange each year their tuition, room and board, books and transportation will be paid for. They will also get a new laptop computer.

How do they feel about this opportunity?

"I am ready for the space of growing up," Carlos said. "I want to thank Mrs. Weaver, Mrs. T and Mr. Kangas who help me fill out the forms. And also my family and my mom."

"I am very thankful. It hasn't hit me yet," Crystal said.

"Those schools are lucky to get Crystal and Carlos. There is a difference between a student and a

scholar and they are both absolute scholars." Tomlinson said

"It also speaks to our school and the district and the opportunity we present to our kids that are life changing." The Class of 2014 from Wayne Memorial High School has earned over \$5 million in scholarships. This is a record amount of scholarships for WMHS seniors.

The Gates Millennium Scholars Program was established in 1999 with the purpose of developing Leaders for America's Future™, the Gates Millennium Scholars Program is funded by a \$1.6 billion grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The GMS Program provides recipients with leadership development opportunities, mentoring, academic and social support, as well as financial support.



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Tom Lynch

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CONGRATULATIONS JENESSA McCLOSKEY!



Hometown Superintendent

By Jenny Johnson

"In 1952 I moved in to Wayne as a one-year old and my relationship with Wayne started," said Greg Baracy, superintendent Wayne-Westland Community Schools. "I am very grateful for the support the community has given our team over the years. It has allowed us to transfer Wayne-Westland into a 21st century learning environment for all of our children."

After 17 years as the leader of the school district, Baracy will retire this month. He is the longest serving superintendent in the history of Wayne-Westland Schools. The average tenure of a superintendent is 2 ½ to three years.

Baracy attended the former Jackson Elementary, Franklin Middle School and is a graduate of Wayne Memorial High School. He began his teacher career in 1973 as a high school teacher. He has taught at the college level, served as department chair, assistant principal, principal, vocational director and assistant superintendent for general administration.

He has both a Bachelor and Master Degree from the University of Michigan and a Doctorate Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Wayne State University.

Accomplishments

During his tenure Baracy has been proud of many district initiatives.

"I am most proud of the overwhelming success of the community support of the 1998 bond issue," he said. "(The \$108.3 million bond) laid the foundation for us to begin the transformation of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools."

With this bond the district was able to update every building and bring technology into every classroom in the district. Students now have the capability to take state of the art virtual field trips where they can visit anywhere in the world from their classroom.

"On the instruction side there are so many programs that we have now that are good for kids and give them options that we didn't have in the past," he said. This includes more



After June 30 Baracy will have more time for hobbies like fishing.

"I am going to miss the students and their innocence and their humor, comments, inspiration and things they say and do that put a smile on your face."

Greg Baracy

Superintendent Wayne-Westland Community Schools

Advanced Placement and online classes for high school students, the Talented and Gifted program and the K-12 district-wide language opportunities.

In addition, all WWCS have received full North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement. Fourteen schools have received the Governor's Golden Apple Award for improvement on MEAP scores; two Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School Awards and established JROTC programs at John Glenn and Wayne Memorial High Schools.

What will be missed

Baracy first began thinking about

retirement about four years ago.

"I have been trying to prepare myself emotionally to break from 24/7 365 day routine," he said.

He is looking forward to having more time to do a little traveling with his wife, Gabby. They will visit their children, Gregory and Courtney, who both live out of state.

He also plans to spend a lot more time fishing, hunting and tinkering with his 1926 Ford Model T.

And he will have more time to volunteer in organizations.

"I am going to continue to serve on various boards throughout the community. It is a good way to give back," he said.

Currently he is a board member

of Champions of Wayne, Wayne 100 Club, Salvation Army Board of Directors, City of Wayne Emergency Operation Response Team Member, Westland Community Foundation Board of Directors, Wayne Rotary members and City of Wayne Parks and Recreation Board of Directors.

He has plans to stay busy but said he will still miss seeing the students in the district.

"I am going to miss the students and their innocence and their humor, comments, inspiration and things they say and do that put a smile on your face," he said. "Especially in elementary schools. Going and visiting was rejuvenating to see the goodness taking place."

"I will also miss seeing the success of our secondary students that excel in a sports, Career tech and academics. It has been a pleasure to see students succeed," he said.

"I'll miss the people and the friendships I have made over all of

See **BARACY**, page 11

Congratulations to the class of 2014!!



Wayne-Westland
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Gregory J. Baracy, Ed. D.
Superintendent

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wwcsd.net



BARACY, from page 10

those years. And those who have been an inspiration to do the best I can for the community that I work with.”

It is also special to watch the seniors graduate every year.

“I still have the excitement of watching the kids cross the stage and seeing them reaching part of their goals,” Baracy said.

Hope for the future

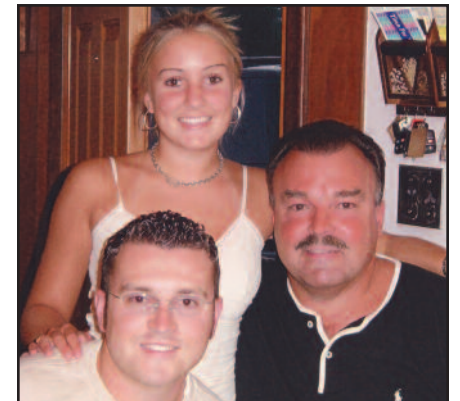
The Class of 2027 will enter kindergarten this fall. Baracy sees a bright future for them in Wayne-Westland. “Our families can be assured that Wayne Westland is a safe and nurturing place to learn and students will have an appropriate and rigorous curriculum with updated materials and the latest technology available for instruction,” he said. The classroom environments are clean and fresh and conducive to learning and all of our teachers are highly qualified.”

As he prepares to leave the district he has been a part of since childhood, Baracy has nothing but pride

and fond memories of his time spent in Wayne-Westland.

He has nothing but best wishes for the new superintendent Dr. Michele Harmala and the entire Wayne-Westland Schools community.

“As I leave I want to extend to the entire community a great amount of appreciation for not only their support but their guidance over the years,” he said. “They helped us make the right decisions for our kids and have positioned Wayne-Westland well to carry the district into the future.”



The Baracys look forward to visiting their children Courtney and Gregory.



As the leader of the Wayne-Westland School District for 17 years, Baracy oversaw many building, technology and curriculum improvements.



The Baracys- Greg and Gabby are looking forward to retirement.

Churches offer more than religion

Father Francisco Radecki really gave me the cook's tour. He's the Pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and has been for 21 years. You know St. Joseph's--- that's the beautiful little church at 4th St. and Michigan Ave. In 1990 the church, rectory and parking lot were purchased. It took sacrifice and hard work by parishioners to transform a meeting hall into a church adorned with statues, stained glass windows and Stations of the Cross.

In 1998 the school opened for students from K thru 12. About 30 students attend the school. You may have seen the photo of the girls at Petrou's Dairy Queen, all dressed in their darling green plaid jumpers. The school has two nuns, joined by lay teachers. The school Principal is Sister Mary Imelda.

St. Joseph's celebrates the traditional Latin Mass and offers it daily. Or as Father Radecki would call it "The way it used to be." He's also served at Sacred Heart in Akron, Ohio, and Most Holy Rosary in Middleville, MI. He has a twin brother, Fr. Dominic Radecki---they both attended Mt. St. Michael Seminary in Spokane, WA. and were ordained on the same day. The brothers have written two books together--- "Tumultuous Times" and "What Has Happened to the Catholic Church."

Alone, Fr. Radecki has written a lovely Catechism for young people. It combines simple language with wonderful pictures, drawn by children and parents. It covers all the tenets of Catholicism. He's also the author



Footprints of Wayne

Dee Ryan

of two primers on Latin studies.

St. Joseph's Mass schedule is: 7 a.m on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. On Wednesday at 9:15 a.m. and Saturday at 8 a.m. Sunday Masses are offered at 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m and 11:45 a.m. Women please wear dresses or skirts---men shirts and ties. (Again---like it used to be.)

Fr. Radecki enjoys scuba diving and has learned to fly a helicopter. He used to ski---but not so much anymore.

He also is active in many City of Wayne projects, especially the DACC. Thanks Father Radecki, for the interview and tour.

Another member of the St. Joseph team is Jerry Dallaire. He's the custodian of the church and school. He's the man who keeps everything tip-top and ship-shape. Good meeting you Jerry.

St. John's Lutheran School had a joyous time on Sunday, May 4th. In 1913 the school started in one room---now they teach children from age 4 through 8th grades. Presently, they have about 70 students.

Principal, Laurie Bartholomew, tells me the May 5 ceremony started with a special church service; 250



The Wayne Garden Club sponsored the Blue Star Memorial Plaque that was placed at the Veteran's Plaza next to the Wayne Public Library after the Memorial Day Parade.

parishioners attended. The service was followed by a dinner and guest speakers. Pastor Paul Doletzky was there as were scholars who had been taught by the original group of teachers. They were Henry Timmernann, Barb Stobb and Gerry Pitt. One of our neighbors, Jerry Heyer, went to St. John's from 6th through 8th grade.

St. John's School's Mission is: first and foremost--- Christian Education. Also, students regularly score better than one full grade above public schools on standardized tests. In the fall, a pre-school will be opening. It will also offer daycare and latch-key programs.

Originally St. John's Church and School was located in Wayne. It moved during Urban Renewal. Its former site was about where the Avenue Bar is now.

Ed McMurray (Friends Helping Friends) tells me he thinks marriages in St. John's Church were made to last. He married Donna, one

of Mike and Ruth Hartig's daughters. All four girls were married there by Pastor Press. Ruth has been married 55 years, Ethel 54 years, Donna 53 years and Mary 51 years.

St. John's wasn't the only church that was originally based in Wayne. St. John's Episcopal Church and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church both started in Wayne.

Have you seen all the flowers at the Veteran's Plaza? The purple flowers on the Wayne Rd. side are Azaleas and are gorgeous. They were planted by the City. All the squares between the Library and the parking structure are begonias. Those were planted by Garden Club members, Lynn Higgs, Bridget Kelly, JoAnn Hanson, Darlene Hawley, Tina Butler, JoAnne Bondi, Janet Luke, Ruth Wenzel, Leora Smith, Carolyn Reynolds, and Lois Van Stipdonk. The roses survived the winter and should give us beautiful blooms until late fall.

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Changing landscape

In 1824, when George M. Johnson bought 80 acres of land from the U.S. government for \$100 and built his log tavern on land near the Rouge River and the old Sauk Trail, the landscape of the wilderness was changed forever. Travelers from Detroit and the east found Johnson's Tavern a convenient place to stop, eat and rest before continuing their grueling and dangerous trek westward, through the wilderness, toward Chicago. In 1832 Ezra Derby purchased the tavern and made changes to the landscape. He built a saw mill on the bank of the Rouge River, a store, a blacksmith shop and a house for his family along the old Sauk Trail which was now called the Chicago Road (later to become Michigan Avenue). He also named the little settlement Derby's Corner.

Over the years this little village became known as Wayne and grew into a farming community and then a thriving town boasting beautiful homes, buildings, churches, schools, hospitals and all sorts of stores and shops to serve its residents. Industry, including companies such as Unistrut founded by Charles Attwood, Prouty and Glass Carriage Company, Garwood Industries, Enot Foundry, Stinson Aircraft, Graham Page and Harroun cars, the Ford Motor Company and many others, put us on the map. In the 40's and 50's this was a booming community. Wayne became a city in 1960. Sev-

Memory Lane

Darlene Hawley



eral years after that, the landscape of our city changed drastically. The State of Michigan was pushing to have Michigan Avenue divided and run the east bound road around the downtown area. It was believed at that time that the town needed to be rejuvenated to bring in more commerce and make the town more modern and dividing the road was a part of the plan. Urban renewal began in the mid sixties in the southwestern section of the city around Roosevelt school. The next phase took place in the subdivisions south of Annapolis and east of Wayne Rd. where old homes were removed and new ones built, alleys were closed off and streets blocked. By 1967 urban renewal had moved to the downtown area where many beautiful old homes and buildings were torn down to make way for new buildings. This demolition continued into the seventies.

Today we watch as our city's landscape changes again with the building of a McDonald's Restaurant in the center of downtown at Michigan Ave. and Wayne Rd. It's interesting



Looking westward on Michigan Avenue at Wayne Rd. (Fessler's Restaurant is white building on the right side of picture with top of Mulholland's showing behind it.) Photo courtesy of The Wayne Historical Museum

to look back to see what stood on this site in years past. The picture shown is Fessler's Restaurant which was a popular eatery in the 40's, 50's and 60's. For years local businessmen held a morning coffee klatch in this restaurant even as it changed owners and became The Golden Boy Restaurant. When urban renewal demolished the building the Golden Boy Restaurant moved to a building on the southwest corner of Michigan Ave. and Elizabeth.

The land at the corner of Michigan Ave. and Wayne Rd. sat vacant for many years until Chuck Muer of the famous Muer family restaurants, built a restaurant called Charley's on the site.

Several years later they changed

the name to Mama's and Pasta's. Eventually the family closed the business and the building was sold to a family who opened Rex's Restaurant. Rex's has served the people of our community until recently when it closed and the news came that McDonald's was building on the site. Over the last few months we have watched as the landscape of our town changes again and we remind ourselves that nothing stays the same. We have a mix of modern and new buildings that serve us well and a mix of older historical buildings that remind us of our past and its history. That is the landscape of Wayne. But the people are the heart of Wayne and we have plenty of that in good times as well as hard times!!

2014 WMHS Distinguished Alumni

Jeff Styers is a 1984 graduate of Wayne Memorial High School and was chosen as this year's Distinguished Alumni. After graduation he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was a celebrated amateur boxer winning 98 of his 102 amateur fights. His amateur highlights include a stint on the All-Marine Boxing Team and winning the Michigan Golden Gloves in 1986.

Jeff made his professional debut in early 1988 and went on to have a successful professional boxing career, as he was unbeaten in 11 professional fights.

At the height of his career, Jeff experienced an epiphany that, after much soul searching, left Jeff walking away from the only endeavor he

had ever known.

Without a college degree or any real-world experience, he set out into the business world with the same lofty aspirations that he had as a professional boxer.

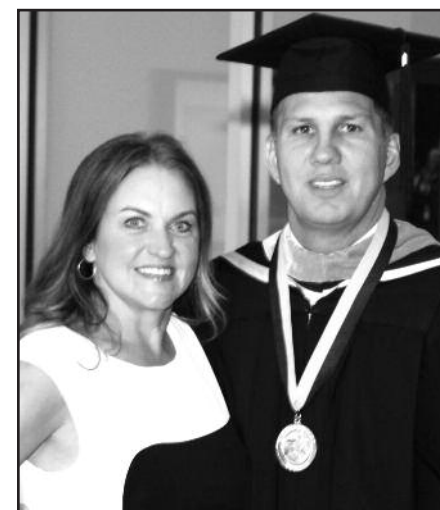
Jeff ended up in the professional staffing industry where he applied the same traits he knew from inside the ring into a business environment. Those traits served him well as he experienced early success culminating with a rise through the management ranks and eventually landing him on the executive level of a two billion dollar company.

Convinced he could build a better company with more meaning himself, Jeff left the corporate world and in 2002, started his own company.

Today, that company – Arrow Strategies, is a \$54 million dollar firm with over 400 employees and offices across the country and Mexico.

Arrow Strategies has been recognized as the 5th Fastest Growing Staffing Firm in the country for the last two years by Staffing Industry magazine. Arrow Strategies has received these additional awards and recognitions:

- Recognized by Inc. Magazine as one of the nation's fastest growing companies for seven consecutive years
- 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work for "Best of the Best" award – 3 time winner
- Detroit Free Press Top Workplace



Jeff Styers and his wife Lisa

• Crain's "Coolest Places to Work"
Jeff and his wife Lisa currently reside in Northville, Michigan. They have one daughter, Leah.

Main Street director hired for downtown

By Jenny Johnson

The Wayne Ripple Effect has hired a Main Street Executive Director. Lindsey Wooten previously worked in Howell another Main Street Community.

Her role is to facilitate volunteers who are acting to revitalize the community. She will generate a newsletter and maintain the Facebook and website pages.

She will also be in regular contact with business owners.

"The first year is pretty foundational," she said. After that residents should see more businesses opening and have more events and activities in the downtown area.

Wooten will also work to create partnerships between all stakeholders including the Chamber, DDA, city and Wayne Rotary.

"We all have to work together," she said.

Even with all of the uncertainty and budget issues in Wayne right now she still thinks Main Street will be successful.

"I wouldn't have applied if I didn't see the potential," she said of Wayne.

"I am excited about the enthusiasm of the community. It is new and exciting here."

Main Street Executive Director Lindsey Wooten

Howell is 10 years into the Main Street process.

"It gives me a good foundation to see what needs to be done."

"I am excited about the enthusiasm of the community. It is new and exciting here," she said.

Besides the support of the volunteers in Wayne, she has a great network of fellow Main Street managers in the state who are very supportive and all here to help each other.

The Main Street project is a non-profit program that receives support and guidance from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA). As a Selected Level community, Wayne will receive five years of intensive technical assistance, with a focus on revitalization strategies designed to attract new residents, business investment, economic growth and job creation to their central business districts.

Wooten said she even sees the positive in the new McDonalds opening at Wayne Road and Michigan Avenue, in the heart of downtown.

"It gives people a reason to stop and hopefully notice downtown," she said. "They are a captive audience (waiting in the drive thru) and people see something happening here. There is a reason McDonalds chose Wayne."

Wooten said she would soon be looking for people to serve on committees and be involved in upcoming activities. Check out www.downtownwayne.org for volunteer sign ups.

"I am not going to save the town. The volunteers do it. I just help," she said.

There will be a Meet the Manager event at 6 p.m. on June 19 for residents, business owners and other stakeholders to meet Wooten. The location has not yet been determined.



Main Street Executive Director
Lindsey Wooten.

Check the website or Facebook for details or email director@downtownwayne.org.



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People. Pride. Progress.

About two years ago, I received a pin from the City of Wayne. It had our city motto on it: People, Pride, Progress. Prior to receiving that pin, I didn't know we had a motto, and I also didn't know the sense of community that was here all along.

"PEOPLE" speaks to the very members of our community! Neighbors. Friends. Businesses. Churches. Part of being in Wayne is recognizing these people and supporting them! Lend your neighbor a hand with that project! When you're going to purchase something, think about shopping local first, because it will support the people in your community.

"PRIDE" speaks to caring about our city. I have been blown away by the unsolicited acts that I have seen recently to improve the looks of our city. For example, I saw a couple friends of mine, Daniel and Stephanie Monroe, decide one day to start cleaning up the graffiti around town!! That's pride! And out of that came a day called "Untag Wayne," where others did the same thing! Also, I LOVE all the flowers in the



There's More to the Story

Buddy Shuh

planters downtown that people have volunteered to adopt. It shows our pride!

"PROGRESS" has everything to do with health and direction. In order for our city to progress in a good direction, we have to remember our past but not live in it. I want to personally thank all those involved in the Wayne Ripple Effect. You are helping us to fulfill our motto when it comes to making progress. Our future is bright and you are spearheading the way!

Wayne. A city full of community-minded people. A city whose people take pride in where they live. A city that has incredible history, but because it is progressing, we will soon find out that there's more to the story!



Maple Manor held an Aloha themed birthday party to celebrate the birthdays of three of their residents who were celebrating special milestones. (l-r): Ruby Johnson, 101, Edna Wooten, 102, and Mamie Williams, 102 were joined by Marcus Evangelista, attorney, Mayor Al Haidous and Dr. Stella Evangelista, administrator and medical director of Maple Manor. Photo by John P. Rhaesa

Maple Manor celebrates Centurians birthdays

By Jenny Johnson

Maple Manor of Wayne had a very special birthday party. They celebrated the birthdays of their residents who have reached the age of 100 or more.

Edna Wooten and Mamie Williams celebrated their 102 birthdays and Ruby Johnson celebrated her 101 birthday.

Wayne Mayor Al Haidous pre-

sented the trio with resolutions from the city. Each birthday recipient also got to participate in a pinning ceremony with a corsage.

Dr. Stella Evangelista, administrator and medical director of Maple Manor, said the theme of the party was living the Aloha Spirit and all three of these ladies do that.

Edna said the secret to staying young is to keep smiling.

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