

## After 21 years in office Mayor Haidous to bid adieu

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# **American Dream** After 21 years in office Mayor Haidous to bid adieu

### **By Jenny Johnson**

The American Dream can be achieved with a lot of hard work, discipline and support. Lebanese-born Al Haidous has lived in Wayne for more than 40 years and first became involved in local government in the 1980s. The owner of Al's Friendly Market, at the corner of Annapolis and Howe, made many friends of his customers. Some of them began encouraging him to get involved in the city. He was soon appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Crime Prevention committee, Charter Review Committee and the Downtown Revitalization Board.

In 1993 he had a talk with then mayor Pat Norton and was encouraged to run for city council. He talked to his friends and family and got support from all of them.

"I decided to step in and ran and had a successful year. The election went good and winning was a high percentage," Haidous said. "I didn't get into the political arena for political or self interest groups. I was encouraged by the citizens of Wayne."

Haidous said Wayne is unique and family friendly and people are close to each other.

"I serve this community with love and respect," he said. Haidous is proud of the team of elected officials and city administrators he has served with the past 21 years.

"In 1993 I decided to work with the team in the City of Wayne. Wayne is run by a team and we have been lucky to have a good team," he said.

Even though the council does not always agree on issues, Haidous said there is still a sense of teamwork.

"When we all come to city hall I have a vision and they each have a vision but we can't do both so we set priorities," he said. "I enjoy that and we have moved the city forward and improved the infrastructure of the city."

### Legacy of serving

During his tenure on council and as mayor, Haidous has been part of the building of the Aquatic Center in 1993 and the Police Station, Fire Sta-



Mayor Haidous has served the City of Wayne for 21 years. He has run nine elections and won every one of them. He served eight years as a city councilman and then was the first mayor elected by the residents of Wayne. Photo by John P. Rhaesa

tion and Library. The downtown area was also improved with banners, new streetlights, landscaping and brick pavers.

"The city is doing what it should to help downtown," he said. "Maybe we need more businesses but the downtown looks like a downtown now."

The businesses that are in the downtown area have a lot to offer, Haidous said

"It hurts me when people say we don't have anything in Wayne. We have the Avenue, US-12, Northside, Leo's, Designer Warehouse and we have entertainment with the movies." he said.

It upsets him when residents talk bad about Wayne.

"We don't owe too much on the fire station. The community is a dedicated millage. All other that we built is free and clear. We upgraded within our means. We have upgraded our streets and they are better than other cities. The cup is half full definitely," he said.

### Serving with honor

Haidous has been in the Wayne political arena for 21 years. He has run nine elections and won every one of them. He served eight years as a city councilman and then was the first mayor elected by the residents of Wayne.

He prides himself on having a stituents.

"My experience in the City of Wayne is positive and (it is) not worth it to focus on negative. That has not been productive," Haidous said. "We give the people the right to speak. A lot of people criticize how I run my meeting. I wouldn't change that for the world. The constitutional right in this country is the backbone of our freedom."

Haidous notes that Wayne is a small family friendly community and he is happy to give residents a chance to speak their mind.

The first time he ran for public office it was other people who encouraged him.

"The second time I decided on my own. It is an honor to represent this community," he said. "I want to thank the people for the honor and trust they give me. It is bigger than life to me to be honored and trusted by citizens."

Haidous said as he moves on to serving at the county level he will not lose touch with Wayne.

"I hope I spend my life serving this community by any way I can. As a citizen I will voice my opinion and be an active citizen," he said. "As an elected official my love and determination is to do what is best for the community."

The decision to run for Wayne County Commissioner came after a lot of thought and consideration.

"I felt is was time for me to leave and give chance to others who want to lead. Change is good," Haidous said.

Current Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara suggested Haidous should throw his hat into the ring for his seat. McNamara unsuccessfully ran for Wayne County Executive in the August primary.

"I didn't give a fast answer. I filed one day before the filing deadline," he said.

Prior to making his decision he spent a day in Wayne County. He looked at the budget, attended meetings and shadowed McNamara.

"I felt I was well qualified and feel good connection with his con- I will be a positive voice. (On the commission) I am one voice of 15. This voice is for fiscal responsibility, good performance on services and good team player," Haidous said.

> Then he talked to his family and they supported and encouraged him.

> "Then I came to council. They are my other family. I chatted with them. They said whatever you will decide I will support you," he said. All six council members endorsed Haidous.

"That is something I treasure and appreciate," he said.

Now he will have the chance to represent a larger constituency.

"I love the City of Wayne and felt I could expand to the district," he said. Haidous' district will include Wayne, a portion of Westland, Romulus, Belleville, Van Buren, Sumpter and Huron Townships.

It is the largest district in the county.

### See **MAYOR**, page 7

# **First Step gives second chance**

It's been over 2 years since First Step opened its doors in Wayne. First Step provides free and confidential programs to help victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. Their mission is:

To eliminate both, and to provide services to individuals and families impacted by these crimes.

Located in Wayne, First Step offers a 24-hour help-line, which is: 734-722-6800. Specially trained staff and volunteers provide crisis intervention, and safety planning for those who call.

When home is no longer a safe option, First Step provides emergency short-term housing for victims of domestic violence. Each of the temporary apartments has a mini kitchen, a bath, and two bedrooms. First Step facilities also offer a full size kitchen, schoolrooms, children's learning centers, plus playrooms.

Outside, in the planning stage, is an area, very large, which will be divided into gardens and play areas. Toddlers will have their own safe playground---teens will have a gathering place of their own, and everyone will have a place to unwind and enjoy. In October, a pavilion was completed, and volunteers were doing seasonal plantings. Karl Lehmkuhe, a Dearborn candidate for Eagle Scout has designed and built a beautiful arched bridge.

Ms. Theresa Bizoe the Associate Director who gave me the 'cooks tour' of First Step tells me that all our Wayne City Departments have been helpful and supportive. Wayne



Rotary is donating all the wood chips that will be used for the garden area.

Donations of money are always needed and appreciated. Checks may be mailed to the First Step Administrative Office at: 44567 Pinetree Dr., Plymouth, MI 48170. Donations can also be dropped off at 4400 S. Venoy. I'm told they really need twin size sheets and can always use personal care items and diapers size 4 & 5.

Some of those who have been helped by First Step say: "I believe First Step may have saved my life and the lives of my children many years ago. I stayed in your facility for 10 days upon leaving my husband, who was extremely abusive." "Because of the help from First Step, I will have a chance to save money, further my education, and acquire new skills that will increase my capacity to support myself and my children."

Biddle Street Bunch's Block Party was an Autumn Celebration this year. Although usually in summer, this year's date was Sept. 29th. It started with the annual George Wootton Open golf outing at 8:30 a.m. The street was blocked off at noon, followed by a visit from the Wayne Fire Department who brought their fire



truck. The annual parade at 1:00 p.m. featured bikes, big wheels, wagons, all decorated with balloons, ribbons, and any embellishment you might think of.

Games were organized for the kids. Sarah Crane and Cindy Bousley kept the youngsters entertained by having many small pumpkins for them to decorate.

Dinner started at 6:00p.m with a great variety of food. Pam and Tom Dobrowolski provided the tables, plates etc., and as in other years, their house and yard where we enjoyed everyone's company.

So good to see our friends---Marilyn and Bob Sawyer, Ed Bumpass, Barb Wootton, with Suzie, Tony, Claire, and Shane Hammons, Don Talaga, The Gilberts, Jean Smoes, Ed Marmon, and Betty Spaw. Representing Pam and Tom's large family were Heather, Joe, and their kids, Aria and Attica---plus Pam's Mom---the beautiful Ruby. Missing was Mary Lindsey, who is recovering from knee surgery, and Gary Smoes---nursing a bad cold.

Bridget Kelly, my husband, Kerran, and I are adopted Biddle Streeters, and as such are allowed to attend and enjoy the yearly event.

The Historical Society will present "Eloise History" on November 13. Mr. Joe Johnson will be your guide through this interesting program. Residents of Wayne will especially like this program, because so many of them worked at Eloise. Make sure you ask Mr. Johnson about the POGIES.

Once again our Library will host Michael Hauser and his "Christmas at Hudsons." This is a 'must see' as Mr. Hauser brings back, in slides and artifacts, the splendor of Hudsons during the Holidays. This is a jam packed program that will bring back happy memories. It begins at 6:30. There is no charge, but if you wish, you may make a small donation at the door.



4 · November 2014 · The Wayne Dispatch

### **NEWS BRIEFS**

### Schweitzer kids get backpacks from Kosowski

State Representative Robert L. Kosowski donated backpacks and school supplies to students at Schweitzer Elementary School in Westland. Representatives from AT&T, which provided the supplies and sponsored the event, joined him.

"It is always my pleasure to make a difference by helping the children who will be our future leaders," Kosowski said. "By providing kids in need with these materials, we can give them a better chance at success in school and beyond."

### Family Fun Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair

Great opportunity for holiday shopping from 1-5 p.m. on Nov. 23 at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe Road, Wayne. Admission is free. There will be vendors from Dove Chocolate Discoveries, Happy Hearts Gifts & Creations, South Hill Designs, Scentsy, Photography By Carla, Perfectly Posh, Pampered Chef, Foot Thongs, Brilliant Jewelry, Plexus, Younique, Paint & Pour with Regina, Crochet By Patty, Jamberry Nails, Paparazzi, Tupperware Tutus, Bows & More by Jessica and Pink Zebra.

There will also be free face painting and a coloring contest for kids and baked goods and beverages for sale.

### Join Wayne Coin Club

The Wayne Coin Club is looking for new members, young or old, familiar with coin collecting or not, but interested in collecting coins, currency, tokens, or other numismatic items. They meet at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of the month at St John's Episcopal Church, 555 S.Wayne Rd, Westland.

The Wayne Club sponsors a yearly coin show, members will appraise your collection and there is a coin auction at every meeting, along with raffle prizes, door prizes and a



lot of fun and camaraderie. Young coin collectors receive a collectible coin for every meeting they attend. So bring your family and join the Wayne Coin Club. For more information, visit www.waynecoinclub.org.

### **Cup of Christmas Tea**

The 15th Annual Cup of Christmas Tea will be held on December 4, 2014 at the Community Center. Proceeds from the event will go to the Wayne Business and Professional Women Wayne Memorial High School Scholarship and Wayne Youth Programs.

The committee is looking for hostesses for the event.

The committee will provide entertainment, punch, coffee and tea. Hostesses are needed to sponsor tables of 10. Each hostess will provide table decorations, gifts for their guests and snacks. For more information, call 734-721-7400.

### **Christmas Tree Lighting**

The annual Wayne Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony will be at 7 p.m. on Dec. 2 at the Wayne Historic Museum. Come and sing holiday carols, meet Santa and enjoy cookies and hot chocolate.

### **Lighted Christmas Parade**

The Wayne Rotary Christmas Parade will be a lighted parade again this year. It will be at 6 p.m. on Dec. 5. Line up will be on Second Street and Sims. The parade will end at the State Wayne Theater with a visit from Santa.

### **Christmas Concert**

The First Congregational Church of Wayne will present a Christmas concert at 4 p.m. on Dec. 7. The organists of the First Congregational Church of Wayne, First United Methodist Church of Wayne and St. Mary's Catholic Church of Wayne will perform holiday music. All are welcome to attend and be a part of this joyous program. The church is located at 2 Towne Square, Wayne, MI. If you have any questions, please call 734-729-7550.

### Goodfellows Christmas Party

The annual Wayne Goodfellows Christmas Party will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 5 at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe Road, Wayne.

Ticket are only \$25 and available at Henry's Service Center on Wayne Road and the City Clerk's Office at Wayne City Hall.

A table of 10 is \$225, pre-sale only. Chef Tony will cater dinner from William D. Ford Career-Technical Center.

Each ticket includes full dinner buffet, dessert, fabulous door prize entry and entertainment provided by DJ Dock. There will be silent and live auctions, raffle baskets and the famous button prizes.

All Proceeds to Benefit the City of Wayne Goodfellows "NO Child without a Christmas" program.

### **Trivia Night**

Ss. Simon and Jude church, 32500 Palmer, Westland, is hosting a Trivia Night Saturday on Nov. 8.

The cost is \$20 per team (maximum four people) in advance and \$30 at the door. It includes 10 rounds of questions, popcorn and four hot dogs and chips for each team. To register, go online to stssimonandjude.com/newsandactivities/trivianight.html. For more information, call Kathy Hansen at 734-716-4436.



## WMHS Cross Country wins KLAA south division title

#### **By Jenny Johnson**

The Wayne Memorial High School Boys Cross Country team had a winning season with a Dual Meet season of 6-0. They clinched the KLAA South Division Title. It was Wayne's first Cross Country Division Title in 13 years and the first since joining the KLAA.

They beat cross-town rival with a 15-43 victory over John Glenn. This gave the Zebras the city championship over the Rockets. In this meet all 12 runners ran home course personal records.

The team won three invitationals-Brownstown Warrior Classic, Crestwood Charger Invite, and Carlson Marauder Invite.

Seven boys on the team ran "Top 10" times for their particular grade according to records that date back to 1996, said Tom Gibson, head coach.

Jamie Carranza had the 2nd fastest Sophomore time.

John Gaton had the 4th fastest Freshman time.



The Wayne Memorial High School Boys Cross Country team 2014 KLAA south division champions. Photo by Kathy Hansen/Wayne Memorial High School

George Ferguson had the 10th fastest Freshman time.

Devin Gibson (#1), Malik Jordan (#2), Michael Gibson (#5), and Uriel Figureoa (#6) had 4 of the top 6 times at Wayne Memorial going back to 1992. Devin broke the 5000 meter school record twice this year with a time of 15:52.9.

They placed fourth at the MHSAA Regional Meet at Lake Erie Metro Park. While the team just missed qualifying for states, senior teammates Devin Gibson and Malik Jordan qualified as individuals for the state meet.

In other Wayne Memorial High School sports news the Varsity football team won two games this season breaking a four- year losing streak.



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### **MAYOR,** from page 3

### Time for change

Haidous was first elected Mayor in 2001. The city's budget was around \$23 million at the time. But since 2007 the economy has taken a hit and city council is trying to balance a \$14.7 million budget.

"When I ran in 2001 I ran because I thought I could lead and bring the good team together. We have always made decision to move forward even with different opinions. We see different visions and each are good but can't do both in this economy," he said.

In the last few years Haidous has focused on a safe and clean city.

"Any elected official who went

through the good and tough times knows that good leadership is for tough time. Tough time shows quality," he said. Even as the budget decreased and full time employees were laid off or reduced to part time, the city was able to provide residents with vital services.

"We are still operating a city with \$9 million less. We are doing stuff. There is a lot more pressure on the staff here. They are running full speed and still functioning and moving the city forward," Haidous said.

Haidous said whether you agree with him or not, you can't change the past.

"A lot of people think we shouldn't have spent the money on infrastructure but I am glad we did it."

Haidous says there has been a lot

# 

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"We aren't out of the difficulty but are on the end of it and hope the citizens continue to support the local government. Our success is measured by how much support we get from community."

### **Mayor Al Haidous**

of turnover in the city manager's office the past couple years.

"The council and I are a good team. We have worked together and made the city keep moving. There are some good ambitions on the council. Some of them want to be mayor," he said.

He thinks Wayne is on the right path. There is a new city manager, police chief and soon there will be a new mayor and another council member.

"New is good. New energy. I see the positive happening," he said.

Haidous said he wishes the new city manager and city council the best. He hopes council continues to move the city in the right direction.

"We aren't out of the difficulty but are on the end of it and hope the citizens continue to support the local government. Our success is measured by how much support we get from community," he said.

"I am going to Wayne County knowing where I am going. I hope to be part of the team to change the negative. My energy and my determination is still strong," he said.

Haidous' last city council meeting will be on Nov. 18. He will begin his position as a Wayne County Commission on Jan. 1. He has a two-year term.

Even as he moves to an office in Detroit, he plans to keep the lines of communication open with the people of Wayne.

"I am not changing my phone number," he said.

"Every day I am on the job I try to

do my best. There are no predictions on the future," he said. "I am not the guy to sit in the rocking chair and take a nap. I am the guy who gets up and checks my calendar and then tells my wife what time I will be home."

### Living the American Dream

Haidous has been living in the United States since 1969. He and his wife, Mary have raised five children in Wayne and ran a successful business. For most people that is the quintessential American Dream.

"I walked in to Wayne in 1974 as a total stranger with a dream and hope to work and raise a family," he said.

But Haidous felt he could do more.

"The American dream sometimes it leads you and sometimes you lead the dream," he said. As a small business owner of a convenience store he never thought he would be in the political arena.

"I bought the business in 1974 and never thought one day I would be mayor," he said. But he started to enjoy talking to the people who visited the store and was interested in pursuing public office.

"The American dream is like a little seed you put in the ground and you never know how large it is going to grow," Haidous said.

"My dream of councilman to mayor to county commissioner came true and the tree still has the roots and is still growing."



## **Wayne Main Street Autumn Update**

#### **Scarecrow Winners Announced**

On the evening of Wednesday, October 15th Wayne Main Street hosted the Downtown Wayne Scarecrow Show voting Reception in Goudy Park after the Wayne Farmer's Market. A bonfire blazed as dozens of voters sipped on complimentary cider, ate donuts, and cast their vote for their favorite Scarecrow. This year two winners were chosen:

People's Choice: Cub Scout Pack 247 St. Mary (werewolf)

Judge's Choice: Alexander Family (Cat in the Hat)

Both winners were awarded with trophies, \$100 cash donated by Kurt's Caps, and 4 VIP movie passes to the State Wayne Theater. Wayne Main Street would like to thank all who participated in the event and look forward to doing it again next year!

#### **Donor Appreciation Event**

Last month, past financial supporters of the Wayne Ripple Effect/Wayne Main Street were invited out for a private reception at Avenue American Bistro for an update on the progress of the Wayne Main Street program and how their contributions have helped along the way. Now that the organization has achieved 501c3 status, all donations made towards Downtown Revitalization efforts are tax deductible.

For more information about donating, please visit www.downtownwayne-.org and click on "Donate" or call the Main Street office at (734) 629-6822.



#### **Coming Soon**

Over the past several months, Wayne Main Street volunteers have been hard at work making plans for upcoming projects that support the overarching goals of the organization. As the New Year approaches, these projects are starting to come to life and are all working towards the overall goal to revitalize Downtown Wayne. Details will soon be released about the following projects:

• Downtown Business Networking & Workshop Opportunities

• Façade Grant Program

• Design Services provided by Michigan Main Street (3 buildings/businesses per year)

- Downtown Benches
- Holiday Window Display Contest
- Downtown Planters
- Bike Racks
- Historic Markers
- Promoting Vacant Spaces Event

For more information on any of these projects, please contact Wayne Main Street by calling (734) 629-6822. Another great way to keep up to date with our latest announcements is to follow us on Facebook (Wayne Main Street) or to visit our website at www.downtownwayne.org.



The winners of the Downtown Wayne Scarecrow Show were Judge's Choice (above), Alexander Family (Cat in the Hat) and People's Choice (below), Cub Scout Pack 247 St. Mary (werewolf). Photos by John P. Rhaesa

#### Small Business Saturday

Wayne Main Street is hosting a retail event in Downtown Wayne for Small Business Saturday, which will take place on November 29th. The event will kick off at Nick's Coney Island (35425 W. Michigan Ave.) Stop by anytime between 8:00 - 11:00 AM for the \$2.99 Breakfast Special and to pick up your Small Business Saturday Passports and swag. The first 45 shoppers to arrive at Nick's Coney Island during the event will get a FREE Small Business Saturday tote bag, courtesy of American Express. Shoppers will then be encouraged to visit each participating business where a stamp can be collected. Completed passports accom-



panied by purchase receipts from at least three (3) participating stores will qualify participants for a grand prize drawing at the end of the event! Call (734) 629-6822 for more details, or follow Wayne Main Street on Facebook and watch for Small Business Saturday announcements!





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# Fire Authority goes down in flames

### **By Jenny Johnson**

The cities of Wayne, Westland and Inkster will not enter into a fire authority. Both mayors and councils in Wayne and Westland made the decision.

"Both communities decided to take a step back at this time," said Mayor Al Haidous. "I felt we failed in some area and it is good sometimes to admit success or failure."

By not moving forward with the authority it will give Wayne a chance to take a step back and reevaluate and see if it might be a good fit in the future, the mayor said.

"Focus on what you need to do. We are all partners anyway under mutual aid," said Wayne-Westland Fire Chief Michael Reddy.

Wayne has other issues they are also dealing with. They are facing a \$500,000 budget deficit, just appointed their fifth city manager since the fire department merger and are asking residents to approve the 1mill police and fire millage renewal on the November ballot. The millage generates about \$372,000 for Wayne police and fire operations. If voters

"Service will not be affected as of today. The merger is not dissolved. Just moving forward with the authority." **Fire Chief Michael Reddy**  I felt we failed in some area and it is good sometimes to admit success or failure." Mayor Al Haidous

don't approve the renewal council will have to make layoffs in those departments.

Reddy also stressed, "Service will not be affected as of today. The merger is not dissolved. Just moving forward with the authority."

The Wayne-Westland Fire Department is working and saving both cities money.

"It is working fine and has allowed us to reduce manning," Reddy said.

The plan was for all three cities to approve the inter-local government agreement by November. This was the first step to establish the authority. Next the cities would have to decide on an authority board. Then voters in all three cities would have been asked to approve a millagefrom 4.65 to 6.2 mills- in a May election and if it passed, the Wayne-Westland Fire Authority would have gone into operation in July with Wayne paying for 18 firefighters but getting service of almost 100.

Haidous said, "We worked on fire authority with good intention. It is good to take one step back and maybe in the future we will take ten steps forward."



### **Luxury seats coming to State Wayne Theater**

Are you looking to enhance your movie-going experience? Phoenix Theaters State Wayne is undergoing renovations and will feature fully reclining seats in every auditorium with the latest in digital picture and sound technology. These state-of-theart features will not change the historic features of the classic movie house. State Wayne will keep its small town movie house charm while offering a luxurious and enhanced setting. All of this with no increase in ticket prices.

"We remain true to our mission at Phoenix Theatres of focusing our attention on making the customer experience the best we can offer, where every seat in the house is the first class section," said Phoenix Theatres' owner Cory Jacobson. "We are significantly upgrading our newest property, the State Wayne, and will offer plush recliners with power-lift footrests, better sightlines, in a completely new environment coupled with fully updated digital picture and sound. We are also leaving our current ticket price policy in place, pro-



Luxury seats will be installed by this De-

cember. Photo by Phoenix Theaters

viding what we hope to be the finest movie-going value anyone can find anywhere in Michigan."

Phoenix Theatres owns and operates the theatre at The Mall of Monroe and recently purchased the State Wayne Theatre building from the City of Wayne in mid-September. It also operates the theatre at Laurel Park Place in Livonia, which will become the company's third theatre to install plush power-reclining seats, by the end of December 2014.

"Phoenix Theatres is currently the only theatre that is not raising prices for the luxury of reclining while experiencing the latest Hollywood releases – all part of our effort to maximize customer comfort, convenience and value," said Jacobson.

These renovations will be completed in all four auditoriums at State Wayne. Every seat in the theater will be replaced with large, electric power, leather recliners.

There will also be Loveseat pods for two, with a flip-up middle armrest and drink holders. In addition to providing relaxation the new luxury seats will also provide lumbar support. The new features coupled with the old charm will provide a great source of entertainment.

"We see great promise in the other historic buildings in downtown Wayne and want to be a part of the resurgence and revival of businesses there for the long run," Jacobson said. "We plan on keeping the history-telling mural on the exterior east wall that shows the great progress of Wayne over the years. We want to preserve that part of how the City of Wayne tells its story to visitors and young people in the community.

"And without question, the classic

wrap around marquee with its 1,152 lamps is the character of the theatre and one of the most unique historical marquees in the country – it's part of what drew us to Wayne in the first place," Jacobson added. "I personally have a great love for the classic movie theatres across America and the State-Wayne is one of the finest in Michigan, a real gem right here in our own backyard."

State-Wayne already offers Christie Digital Projectors, and Dolby's latest 7.1 Digital sound systems, new QSC speakers and amplification – all run from GDC computer servers and RealD XL 3-D presentations.

Renovations are already underway and the full project is scheduled to be finished by December – just in time for the holiday movie season.

Phoenix Theatres opened its first Detroit-area theatre in 2001 and currently operates 10 screens at Laurel Park Place in Livonia, 8 screens at the Mall of Monroe in Monroe and 4 at State-Wayne. For more information, visit www.phoenixmovies.net.



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## When was the last time you had YOUR TEETH cleaned?

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## Norwayne earns Historic distinction

The Norwayne neighborhood has had a rich history in the Wayne-Westland area since World War II. Last month they were recognized as a National Historic District.

There was a celebration at Jefferson-Barns Elementary School, which is located in the heart of the Norwayne neighborhood. The school has been closed since 2008 but the City of Westland has leased the building from Wayne-Westland Community Schools. They will renovate it and use it as a community center.

City and state officials, city council, school district administration and board members for the unveiling of the marker, joined Westland Mayor Bill Wild. Former and current residents of the Norwayne neighborhood joined in the festivities.

"The City of Westland is having a renaissance and Norwayne is a big part of it," Wild said.

Wayne Memorial High School



Last month they were recognized as a National Historic District.

Alumni and Champions of Wayne supporter Jeff Styers lived in Norwayne as a child.

"I spent a lot of Christmases and Fourth of Julys right here in Norwayne," he said.

Styers donated money to the community center to establish the Norwayne Boxing Club.



# **The community of Norwayne**

If you grew up in Wayne, you are very familiar with the neighborhood called Norwayne. Chances are you had (and still have) family members and friends who were residents of that community. It was bounded by Glenwood and the Rouge River to the south, Palmer to the north, Wildwood on the west and Merriman on the east. Venoy, which runs north and south, bisects the community. Grand Traverse and Dorsey roads run east and west through Norwayne with streets and neighborhoods meandering off of them. The subdivision was in what was then Nankin Township. Some say that it was named Norwayne because it lies just north of Wayne.

In 1942, during the midst of World War II, the National Housing Agency began building the Norwayne Subdivision in order to house workers employed by defense industry plants such as the Willow Run Bomber Plant. Others who qualified to live there were military personnel and some employees of Eloise. Those that occupied the Norwayne homes had to have incomes under a specific level. In 1944 the income cap was \$2000 yearly for a family of two and an additional \$200 for each child up to \$2800 maximum. The families paid a monthly rent for their homes.

A Detroit architectural firm was hired to build the community and much of the work was completed in 1943 with additional work being carried out until 1947. Due to the war raging and the lack of supplies, the homes and buildings built were constructed with whatever materials could be found available. For this reason, items such as gutters were



#### left off of the houses.

In all, 1,189 residential buildings were built which contained 1900 individual dwelling units. Some of the homes were two story duplexes with two or three bedrooms. Some were one and two bedroom row houses (quads), and some two and three bedroom single homes. The single homes had gable roofs and the rest had flat roofs. They were all painted a grey color. The builders also constructed a Community Center (later called the Dorsey Center) which was originally the management office for the subdivision. It was located on the southwest corner of Dorsey and Grand Traverse roads. One of the early government managers of the community, if not the first, was P.D. Graham who later became superintendent of schools in Wavne. A fire station for Norwayne was built directly behind the Dorsey Center and a Community Church was constructed on the southeast corner of Dorsey and Grand Traverse roads.

Two schools were built to service the children in the subdivision. Lincoln Elementary was on Grand Traverse west of Venoy and Jefferson -Barns was on Dorsey east of Venoy. (Later, the Wayne Westland School District bought the buildings and operated them until they were closed in 2008.) There were five vacant lots left by the builders which were acThey were cleaned up and turned into parks with picnic pavilions and play equipment.

Some commercial buildings on Venov Rd. were part of the original Norwayne development. These buildings housed a grocery store, dry cleaners, barber shop, beauty shop and, taxicab office on the ground floor. A dentist office and a physician's office were on the second floor. A drugstore was added on later and a five and dime opened in a nearby building. All in all, the little community was self contained and a good place to live and raise a family. The people who lived there came from far and wide and all walks of life. It was a time of turmoil for our country and people in Norwayne banded together to form friendships with their neighbors and were ready to help each other in times of need. Many of those who grew up in this community are still living in surrounding towns and serving their communities in a variety of ways.

My memories of Norwayne in the 1940's are of visiting aunts and uncles who lived there and playing with cousins who lived near Lincoln School where my grandfather was a custodian. During my high school years at Wayne Memorial I had many friends who lived in Norwayne.

I spoke with Mrs. Betty Dryer, a long time friend of our family and the community of Wayne. She shared memories with me of living in Norwayne from 1943 until 1945 with her husband Dr. Ken Dryer. At that time Dr. Dryer was in the military and assigned to practice medicine in the Norwayne Community. His office was on Venoy Rd. and they lived in a

quired by the township in 1958. single family home. Often, people would come to their door and ask for help and medical advice. (Very few people had phones in their homes in those days and it wasn't always easy to get to a payphone to call for help in an emergency.) Mrs. Dryer recalls a frantic neighbor knocking on their door to report his wife was having a baby. Dr. Dryer went to their aid and delivered the baby. It was 1943 and the very first baby to be born in Norwayne. (In those days an office call cost \$2, a house call \$3 and the delivery of a baby \$35.) Mrs. Dryer talked about the wonderful people who lived in the community; doctors, engineers, pilots, servicemen, and hardworking people who helped with the war effort. In 1945 Dr. and Mrs. Dryer moved to Wayne where he opened an office and practiced medicine for many years while becoming a prominent member of the community.

> After World War II the federal government decided to sell the houses to individual residents with preferences given to veterans. In 1948, the township took over operation of the water and sewer services and in 1953, sales of individual homes began. Many were bought to rent and over the years some units deteriorated and had to be torn down. Many of the homes have been remodeled, added on to and updated. Many yards are beautifully kept and cared for. Today, there are people who have spent many years or most of their life in the Norwayne Community and have fond memories of the people and life long ago. Norwayne is a unique community with historic significance in our community, state and country.



### To advertise call (734) 641-6550

### **NEWS BRIEFS**

### **Holiday Bazaar**

The First Congregational Church of Wayne, 2 Town Square, will have their annual Holiday Bazaar on Nov. 6 and 7 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. 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.

### **Veterans Day Ceremony**

Wayne Memorial High School JROTC will conduct a Veterans Day ceremony at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11 near the flagpole on Fourth Street and Glenwood. The public is welcome to attend this outdoor event that honors all who have and are currently serving in the armed services.

### **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. 12. 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



### Hail to the Chief

Students at St. Michael Lutheran School say goodbye to Police Chief Jason Wright who retired on Oct. 17. Photo John P. Rhaesa

School District for the holidays.

A donation of \$35 will feed a family 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 2014" 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.

### **New City Manager**

City Hall has a new leader. City Council hired David Murphy as the new interim city manager. He was city manager in South Lyon for five years and also worked in Almont,



Caro and Brighton Township.

He took over for Police Chief Jason Wright who retired on Oct. 17. Wright served as interim city manager after Joseph Merucci resigned in September.

### **New Police Officer**

The Wayne Police Department has hired a new Police Officer. Julie Jasinski was sworn in at City Hall in early October and is currently working with a training officer.

Also, former Deputy Chief Al Maciag is serving as Interim Police Chief since the retirement of Police Chief Jason Wright last month.

### **New Urgent Care**

City of Wayne officials and Chamber of Commerce members wel-



comed a new business to Wayne with a ribbon cutting. Wayne Urgent Care, located at 34815 Michigan Avenue, Suite 1. They are open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily including weekends and holidays. No appointments are necessary. All major insurance plans are accepted. They treat strains, sprains, fractures, wounds, respiratory infections, earaches, and more. They have Digital X-Rays, EKG, Ultrasound, Lab Testing, physicals and immunizations.

#### Walk-a-thon

St. Mary Catholic School is celebrating 90 years of Education this fall. On Oct. 27, 2014 the Students and Staff held a Walk-a-Thon. All grades from Preschool through Eighth grade put on their tennis shoes, gym clothes, and marathon number and walked 90 minutes for 90 years of Education.

This event was focused on the Tuition Fund. The pledges donated will help our current families.

### **WMHS Play**

Wayne Memorial High School Drama Dept. will present "Murder's in the Heir" at 7 p.m. on Nov. 20-22 at Stockmeyer Auditorium. This is an interactive murder-mystery comedy. Turn the game Clue into a play and you have the plot of Murder's in the Heir. Almost every character in this mystery has the weapon, opportunity and motive to commit the unseen murder. It is up to the audience to decide who did it. Don't miss a great show. Tickets will be available at the box office and are \$5 for students and \$8 for adults.

## **Oakwood prepares for possible Ebola cases**

If Ebola is diagnosed in Michigan, Oakwood Health hospitals and staff are prepared and have a comprehensive system-wide approach. Oakwood Hospital-Wayne conducted an Ebola Preparedness drill last month as part of its regular cycle of emergency response training.

Emergency room and infectious disease medical staff tested their ability to treat a highly communicable disease and keep it from spreading throughout southeast Michigan.

Oakwood-Wayne worked in conjunction with Wayne County Metropolitan Airport fire department and Wayne County health department to evaluate exercise.

"For many years, Oakwood has been operating under best practice in the area of infection prevention and preparedness for highly contagious diseases," said Dr. Rama Thyagarajan, Oakwood Corporate Medical Director of Infection Prevention and Control. "Due to our proximity to the airport and our large service area, we have trained and



Oakwood Hospital-Wayne conducted an Ebola Preparedness drill last month.

prepared key areas of our operations in proven methods of identifying and isolating a patient with a highly communicable disease. Southeast Michigan residents should rest assured that Oakwood is ready to address such a situation should it ever arise."

Although most agree that the likelihood of such a situation is remote, Oakwood Health has a preparedness plan to identify and address any patients who might enter the system with any highly contagious disease such as Ebola.

Oakwood has a four-pronged approach with a goal of identifying and isolating suspected patients as early as possible to prevent further transmission of the disease. It includes:

Universal Patient Travel/Symptom Screening identifies risk based upon whether a new patient has traveled outside of the U.S. within the last 21 days. This is asked of all patients entering the emergency room. If they answer yes and indicate they have traveled to any of the countries in West Africa in the past 21 days and are showing symptoms, a nurse is notified and places them immediately in an airborne and contact isolation. Then they alert the physician and the infection control department.

### Continued clinician and patient/visitor education

Immediate educational material is distributed to all staff, patients and visitors when a possible health threat has been suspected or identified.

### Collaboration

Oakwood has an active collaboration with key public health agencies and partners such as Detroit Metropolitan Airport, the Center for Disease Control, Wayne County and all local EMS groups.

### Isolation

If the screening assessment indicates a patient might have a highly infectious disease like Ebola, there is a specialized protocol. Facilities will be available to immediately isolate the patient.

While Oakwood officials are reassuring the public that its system has the appropriate measures to deal with viruses like Ebola, they also strongly encourage residents to be mindful of more immediate health risks such as the influenza virus and taking the necessary steps to prevent it such as with hand hygiene and vaccination.





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Offers Spanish classes at the K-6 elementary level

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Michele A. Harmala, Ph.D., Superintendent

- Had three Gates Millennium Scholarship winners. The graduating class of 2014 earned more than \$7 million in scholarships
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- Prepares students for post-secondary education, including honors courses, direct college, dual enrollment and advanced placement classes at the high school levels
- Has state-of-the-art facilities and technology in every classroom

For more information, please call 734-419-2083 or visit: wwcsd.net/talented-and-gifted-program



## **Facts on Ebola**

provided by Oakwood Healthcare.

### What is Ebola?

Ebola is a rare and often deadly disease caused by infection with an Ebola virus – there are five strains. This current Ebola outbreak is the largest due to the nature of where it struck in three very impoverished countries with poor healthcare infrastructure and public health.

### How does someone get it?

Ebola is spread through direct contact through broken skin or mucus membranes with blood or body fluids including but not limited to urine, saliva, feces, vomit of a person who is sick with Ebola. The virus is spread through direct contact with any objects that have been contaminated (needles or syringes)

Here is some helpful information with the virus. It is not spread through the air, like many other more common viruses. A person is only contagious when symptomatic.

### Who is at risk and is there a danger of Ebola spreading in the United States?

Only people who have recently traveled to West Africa or have had close contact with someone who has traveled there and is symptomatic are at risk. The risk of it spreading in the U.S. is very low. We have a totally different context of health care in the U.S. compared to those in impoverished nations. We are much more prepared to handle any kind of suspected Ebola patient and prevent further contamination, given our strong health care system and the resources we have to contain these patients and properly isolate them.









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