




THE WAYNE Dispatch

MARCH 2015

Starry Knight

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sets the stage
to **INSPIRE**
future actors

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YOUR SOURCE FOR POSITIVE COMMUNITY NEWS

Council closes pool to save \$70,000 per year

By Jenny Johnson

In a 4-3 vote the Wayne City Council decided to close the pool at the Wayne Community Center on Feb. 22. Councilmen Albert Damitio, David James and Skip Monit voted no.

This is one way the city is trying to chip away at a \$600,000 deficit in the current fiscal year and an estimated deficit in 2015-16 budget.

The pool was closed for one year in 2011 as a cost saving measure and the Community Center saw a 34% reduction in membership according to Juan Bradford, parks and recreation director.

"Based on history we expect the numbers to be similar (this time)," he said. They have begun taking a list of people who want to cancel their memberships due to the pool closing.

A yearly membership included the aquatic area, cardio and weight rooms, wet and dry sauna and 10 fitness classes.

Now memberships will include everything but the pool and aquatic classes. Members will still be able to



The Wayne City Council closed the pool at the Community Center.

use the track above the pool and fitness equipment in the aquatic viewing area.

The locker rooms in the aquatic area will be closed. It is estimated that closing the pool will save about \$70,000 per year.

During the 2013 calendar year it cost \$382,584 to operate the pool. Revenues during that same time were \$157,591.

Pools have high operating costs, Bradford said. Even if they are only used for a few hours a day they still

have to be heated, treated and maintained 24 hours a day. It would be difficult to break even on the operating costs.

Eighteen part time parks and recreation employees were laid off and three other employees now have reduced hours.

"The pool is a family oriented area and we need to find a way to replace that with something with lower operating costs," Bradford said. Unfortunately there is not a way to repurpose the pool the same way the

ice arena can be converted for other sports.

The ice arena at the Community Center is also closed because it operated at a loss that the city can no longer afford to offset.

"My focus is to be able to implement programming in the closed down ice arena that could be good for our youth," Bradford said.

City Council will have a study session at 7 p.m. on March 17 to discuss options for the Wayne Community Center.

'S Annual **St. Patrick's Day BASH**

MARCH 17

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STARTING AT 10AM WITH PROGRESSIVE BEER PRICING

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JAMESON IRISH WHISKY

Authentic Irish Menu... Fresh Corned Beef & Cabbage All Day!

Inspire Theater

Wayne resident runs community theater group

By Alex Lundberg

For the last 10 years, a group of dedicated actors and musicians have been bringing entertainment to Wayne residents from a humble stage in the middle of an industrial park in Westland. After dozens of performances and acting and stage-craft classes, they've also formed a kind of extended family.

Inspire Theatre, which celebrated its anniversary on Valentine's Day, has attracted players and production assistance from residents all over Wayne and Oakland Counties.

Len Fisher of Wayne is the owner and artistic director of the theater, and has been performing in local plays of all kinds since first appearing on stage in high school.

A job had just ended for him, and he was at loose ends when he founded the company on a fluke.

"I called a few people I worked with in theater before and I suggested we put on a show," he said. "We weren't aware of what we wanted to do, we just knew we wanted to do it."

Their first production, "That's Amore," was a musical variety tribute to love and marriage. In the years since then, a shifting group of actors, singers, set dressers, lighting and sound technicians, etc. has ranged between a core group of 25 dedicated volunteers and an extended support group of nearly 60 people. He said they're always looking for more.

"Anybody who wants to can audition," Fisher said. "For the show we're working on now, we need five men and two women."

The next show is "The Foreigner" by Larry Shue, about two men from the United Kingdom coming to rural Georgia for work. One is a demolitions expert, the other is pretending to be deaf in order to hide the fact he doesn't speak good English. Conversations happen around the latter, leading to a lot of people saying more than they should.

It's part of a trend at Inspire Theatre.

"We have a tendency to do a lot of



Len Fisher

comedies, mysteries and variety shows," Fisher said. "Musicals have happy endings."

Deanna Lee of Redford teaches elementary physical education in Livonia and played Gracie Allen in the 10-year anniversary variety show production. She saw the Inspire Theatre's presentation of "A Christmas Carol" and has been involved ever since.

"I'm acting, selling concessions, ushering, whatever they need. Being on stage is my favorite part."

Part of the enjoyment on stage, she said, comes from the degree of ownership she can take in the roles she plays. She said Fisher encourages the actors to develop back stories of their own to better know their characters and understand where they're coming from when they speak.

"He wants us to research things and come up with our own twists on the projects," Lee said. "He offers us what he sees for the characters but wants us to really personalize them."

Wendy Hardy of Livonia is a member of Inspire Theatre, but doesn't act or sing. She builds sets and makes costumes for productions.

Because funds are very tight, she's become an expert at shopping smart.

"We use and re-use what we have," she said. "We get a lot of costumes from the Salvation Army and resale shops. We have some donors, but we mostly keep it simple. The same furniture shows up again and again."

She got started in the theater when a friend at church saw a flyer advertising for kids to audition for a production of "The Wizard of Oz." Her kids got parts in the show and rather than take two trips ferrying them back and forth to the rehearsal space in Dearborn, she decided to stay and help out.

"Their father sings now," Hardy said. "In the last nine years, there has been at least one member of my family, other than me, in a show. I've been a house manager, an assistant director ... whatever he asks me to be. I can't imagine not being a part of the Inspire Theatre family."

Fisher also refers to the troupe as a family. In August, when their show was just wrapping up, Fisher was diagnosed with prostate cancer. It was an aggressive case, but it was caught relatively early and he is in observation every six months. He said the

timing was opportune; he had no production to shepherd along and was able to devote all of his time to caring for his health. He had a lot of help.

"The theater school parents were phenomenal," Fisher said. "Their support was tremendous. Them, along with my church ... I was really blown away."

Inspire Theatre's performance space is located in a Westland industrial park they're calling the "warehouse district." They tried to locate in downtown Wayne but lacked the resources to purchase a space on the main drag. Still, Fisher did participate in the successful effort to get the city recognized by the Main Street organization—a status that made resources like specialized signage and renovation loans available from the state.

He did this by channeling Ezra Derby, the founder of the city of Wayne, before the state legislature in Lansing. The entrepreneur built a sawmill, a store and helped found the first school on the Detroit to Chicago road (now Michigan Ave.)



Len Fisher playing the role Ezra Derby, the founder of the City of Wayne.

back in the mid-1800s.

Taking the same route he advises to his actors, he looked into who Derby was to craft the character.

"I talked to the historical society and read up on the facts," Fisher said. "He was married five times and is buried next to three of them in the cemetery."

Since 2010, Inspire Theatre has run a theater school for kids 7-17 years old that puts on its own plays and shows. There are two classes of students at any given time, and many of them have returned year after year to take more classes and perform in productions.

Unsung heros

Join me in praising the unsung heroes of Wayne's DPW. Their names are: Mike Britton, Steve Curley, Brian Smith, Craig Krzeninski, Chuck Hannah and Mike Schuell.

On Monday, February 16, a day you'll remember that was bitterly cold with temps below zero, this gang of six were repairing a water main break. They tackled the job at Annapolis and Chamberlain, only to have another break in the system at Clinton and Chamberlain.

Battling the brutal cold, they did their job and did it well. Our neighborhood had water.

Thanks for your hard work and dedication. Thanks also to Patti Dittmar and Mary Lindsay for providing this information.

Our new Garden Club Books are here and they look great. They were beautifully done by Carolyn Marnon. It's a lot of work putting the books together and we thank you Carolyn.

Our first program will be on March 11. The guest speaker will be Gerald Wykes---his subject "A Weed goes to War." What? I asked. The Club's Co Vice President, Ruth Wenzel, explains that the lowly Milkweed was used to great advantage during World War Two.

The program will be at the Library at 12:30. Please know that everyone is welcome to attend this or any of our programs, some of which include trips to Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, and Cranbrook Gardens. In fall we'll have a return trip to the "Mums the Word" gardens. This year's Wayne Garden Walk---"Thru the Garden Gate" will be Saturday, June 27 from 10 a.m. to

Footprints of Wayne

Dee Ryan



4 p.m. If you'd like more information---give me a call at (734) 729-1203.

Councilman and Wayne's Historical Society spokesman, Al Damitio, tells me the next meeting of the Society will be Thursday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the Historical Museum. The program for the evening is THE TRAINS OF WAYNE.

Richard Andrews (Al jokingly refers to Mr. Andrews as George Pierrot) will be leading everyone through the history of all the trains in Wayne. Al has previewed this new presentation by Richard Andrews and found it "entertaining and educational."

Just a quick reminder about the Tax Help Sessions for those with incomes less than \$50,000.

They are at our Wayne Library and the dates are Tuesday, March 24 and 31. The times each day are from 1p.m to 6 p.m. Call (734)284-6999 or (313) 388-9799 for an appointment. Walk-ins are O.K, but appointments will be served first.

It's always good to "KNOW A GUY." And we found a guy. Well---my husband did. He read Robert Watson's ad in our Wayne Dispatch. Although he advertises as a licensed plumber---he's so much more. So



Unsung hereos of Wayne's Department of Public Works Mike Britton, Mike Schuell, Chuck Hannah, Steve Curley, Brian Smith and Craig Krzeninski. Photo by John P. Rhaesa

far he's cleaned out the pilot light on our gas logs and gotten them lighted, repaired the broken caster on a dining room chair, and is now repairing an old Ice cream parlor chair.

He is a licensed plumber and can fix your clogged or broken drains,

leaky faucets or running toilets.

But he's also a "Jack of all Trades." So if you have something to be repaired and don't know who to call---try Robert Watson at 734-771-9610. And he does offer a Senior Citizen Discount.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Trains of Wayne

The Wayne Historical Society will present The Trains Of Wayne with local train historian Mr. Richard Andrews at 7:30 p.m. on March 12 at the Wayne Historical Museum. The doors open at 7 p.m. This is a free program and all are welcome. Come and join in the discussion about the Wayne Trains.

Dairy Queen opens

Have you waited patiently all winter for you favorite Blizzard, sundae or other Royal Treat from Wayne Dairy Queen? Well the wait is over. Dairy Queen, at Wayne Road and Chestnut is open for the season. Hours will vary depending on the weather but they are usually open 12-9 p.m. daily.

Job Fair

The Wayne-Westland Community School District is hosting a Job Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 5 at the Timothy J. Dyer Educational Center, Board Room, 36745 Marquette, Westland.

The District has immediate position openings with both full and part-time opportunities available. By attending the job fair, you will have the opportunity to meet with District representatives and complete an employment application on site.

Positions Available:

School Bus Drivers/Attendants
Food Service (Cafeteria) Employees
Paraprofessionals
RN/ADNs
Lifeguards
Classroom Overload Aides
Elementary Lunchroom Supervisors
Teachers (for 15-16 school year)
Secretaries
Substitute School Bus Drivers/Attendants

Pancake Breakfast

A pancake breakfast, to benefit the Sgt. Stanley Romanowski VFW Post 6896, will take place at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, March 7, 2015 at the Sgt. Stanley Romanowski VFW Post 6896, Westland (east of Middlebelt on Joy Road).

The public is invited. Admission is \$10 per person. \$5 for children 5



Michigan Central Railroad Steam Engine Pacific 4618, The Eastbound, coming through Wayne MI in 1946 on a cold afternoon. Photo from Michigan Railroad Club calendar of 1986

years of age and under. No charge for Active Service Personnel. Parking is free.

The fundraiser will allow the VFW to continue assisting veterans from Southeastern Michigan in need.

Chris Cakes of Michigan will cater the breakfast. Based in Clare, Chris Cakes has earned a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records for flipping the most pancakes in an hour. The company has been featured on the Food Network and even served President Barack Obama.

The morning includes an all-you-can-eat full pancake breakfast, family activities, raffles and more.

For advance tickets, call Melissa Downey (248) 541-1576. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Friday Fish Fry

Ss. Simon and Jude Catholic Church, 32500 Palmer, Westland, will host weekly Fish Dinners from 4:30-7 p.m. on March 6, 13, 20 and 27. Fried and baked fish are Available. Adult dinners are \$8.50 for fish and \$10.50 for combinations of fish and shrimp. Grilled cheese with French fries (no roll) and macaroni and cheese dinners are \$6. Dinners include cole slaw, role, beverage and dessert. Carryouts are available.

St. Mary Catholic Church is also having Friday Fish Fry Dinners from

4-7 p.m. on March 6, 13, 20 and 27 and April 3 in the Activity Center, 34530 West Michigan Avenue, Wayne. Dinners are \$10 for four pieces of fish or eight shrimp or \$7 for macaroni and cheese or two pieces of fish. All dinners include choice of potato, coleslaw, roll and drink. Carryout is available.

Trivia Night

Ss. Simon and Jude Catholic Church, 32500 Palmer, Westland is hosting Trivia Night at 7 p.m. on April 25. Doors open at 6 p.m. Cost is \$20 per team if you pre-register or \$30 at the door. Maximum of four people per team. Price includes 10 rounds of questions, popcorn, and either a hot dog or pizza. Additional food items and beverages (beer, coolers, pop, water, coffee) available for purchase.

There will be raffles and mystery prizes.

For more information, call Kathy Hansen at 734-716-4436.

St. Mary School open enrollment

St. Mary Catholic School in Wayne is accepting applications for preschool through eighth grade students. Call 734-721-1240 to make an appointment to visit the school,

meet teachers and the principal, view classrooms and see work done by students. Registration and tuition information for the 2015-2016 school year will be available. Families may also inquire about Tuition Assistance Programs. St. Mary is a diverse school, which offers a multitude of enrichment programs that students can explore beyond the core curriculum including student council, National Junior Honor Society, choir, bells, band, scouting programs, sports, Academic Olympics and before and after school care. For more information, email schooloffice@stmarywayne.org.

March Madness

The Wayne Community Center is having a March Madness special. They are offering \$5 off a one month membership; \$10 off a one year membership; and \$15 off a husband and wife membership. Memberships include cardio and weight room, wet saunas and dry saunas and up to 10 fitness classes with a one- year membership.

Breakfast with Easter Bunny

The Wayne-Westland Parks and Recreation Department is hosting the annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny at 10:45 a.m. on April 3 at Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe Road, Wayne.

Bunny Breakfast and Marshmallow Drop April 3 at 10 a.m. Tickets are on sale now and are \$5 for resident and \$6 non-residents.

Marshmallow Drop

The annual Marshmallow Drop will be at 10 a.m. at the Anderson Softball field just behind the Wayne Community Center. There will be three drops for different age groups.

Outdoor Recreation

Spring is coming and as soon as the snow melts there are lots of activities to enjoy at the Wayne Community Center. The skate and bike park and the tennis courts will be open and free. There is a one mile walking, running or biking track around Attwood Park and kids of all ages enjoy Planet Playscape.

Wayne Main Street hosts Let's Put Wayne on the Map



Wayne Main Street is helping Wayne small businesses build their presence online at a Let's Put Wayne on the Map workshop. Wayne Main Street is hosting the workshop on March 24th at 6:00 PM at the Wayne Fire Station (3300 S. Wayne Rd.), which will feature a lesson about Getting Found on Google Search and Maps.

Let's Put Our Cities on the Map is part of Google's Get Your Business Online Program and aims to bring



community members, business owners, and civic leaders together to help small businesses succeed on the web.

"Wayne Main Street is excited to partner with Google on this initiative," said Lindsey Wooten, Executive Director of Wayne Main Street. "We view it as a perfect opportunity to provide free assistance to our business community that will be of equal benefit to any type of company operating or servicing the city of Wayne."

"Businesses that are online are expected to grow 40% faster than those who aren't," said Soo Young Kim, Marketing Manager for Google's Let's Put Our Cities on the Map Program. "Small businesses are the engine of local economies and when they flourish,

their communities do as well."

Let's Put Our Cities on the Map is a program designed to empower every community to support local businesses, and encourage them to get on the map. Local businesses keep our communities strong. When we help them succeed on the web, they make our communities even stronger. The training meeting will begin at 6:00 pm and be followed by an interactive question and answer session. Learn more about the program and get involved at www.gybo.com/MI/Wayne or call (734) 629-6822.

Volunteer opportunity

With 97% of consumers looking online for local goods and services, it's essential to help every business in Wayne succeed on the web. We're looking for volunteers to help us do just that.

This is not a sales position; volunteers will be working closely with our team to lead outreach in the community. We need active, enthusiastic, motivated volunteers – and

we're hoping you can help us find people who are hungry for this experience.

Wayne Main Street has partnered with Google to launch the Let's Put Wayne on the Map program, with the aim of reaching out to local businesses and encouraging them to get online. Our volunteers will get hands-on experience:

- Helping their favorite local businesses
- Expanding their knowledge of Google tools
- Growing the local economy by connecting businesses with more customers

You can find a detailed description of the position and sign up by visiting <http://vols.pt/hMzomd>.

If you're interested in attending the workshop or want to volunteer, please contact the Wayne Main Street office by calling (734) 629-6822 or visiting us inside of the Wayne Activity and Banquet Center (35000 Sims Street) during walk-in office hours: Monday – Friday 9:30 – 11:30 AM or by appointment.

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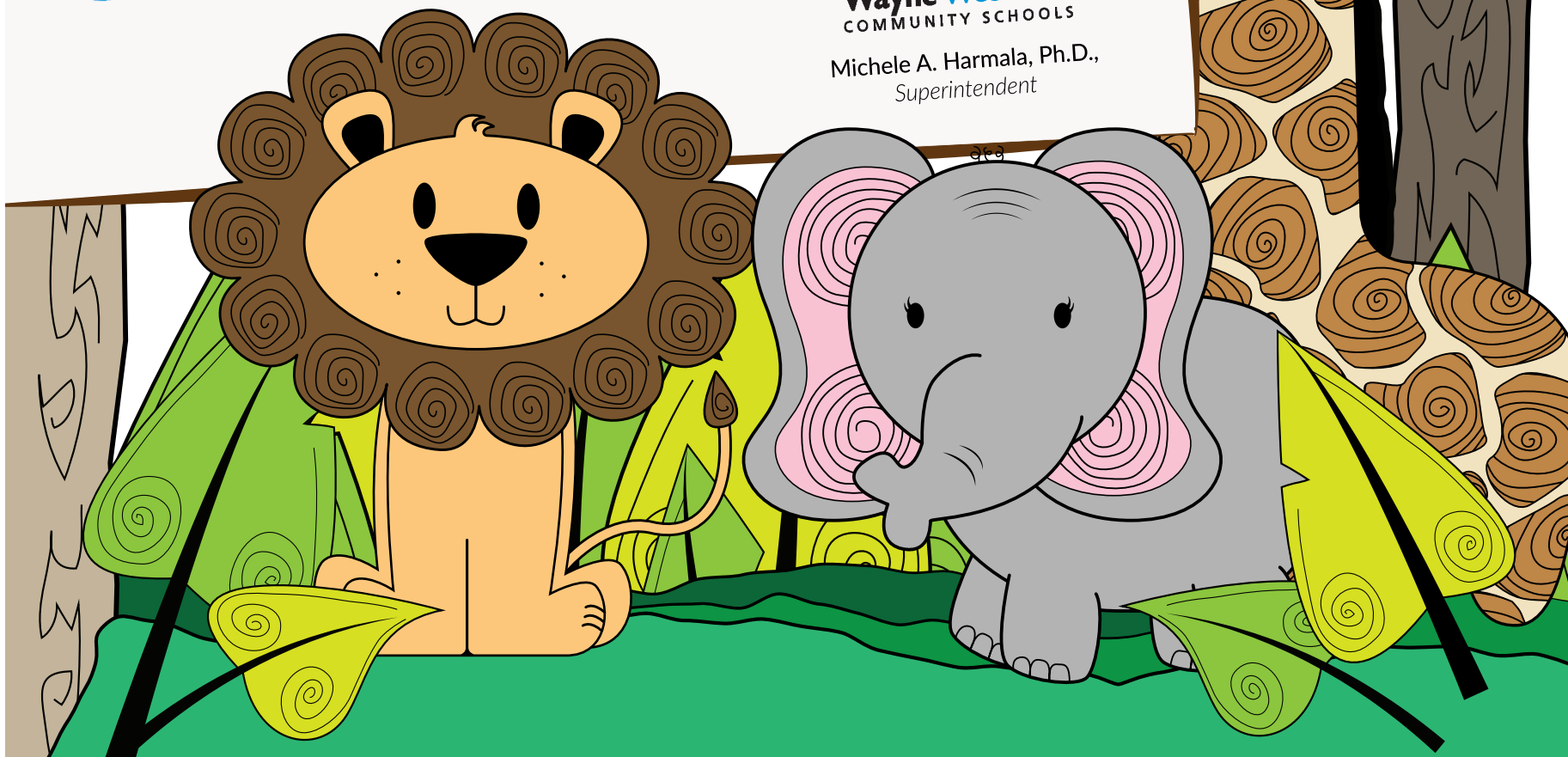
March 24th at 1:30pm at your local elementary school.

For additional information call us at 734-419-2083 or visit our website at wwcsd.net.

Great Futures Start Right Here!



Michele A. Harmala, Ph.D.,
Superintendent



New voting precincts and wards

There will be a change to the voting process in Wayne starting with the May 5 election.

In November 2014 voters in the city approved a ward voting system. To implement these changes there will be a change to polling locations and all voters will get new voter registration cards. New cards will be mailed out to all registered voters this month.

About 75% of voters will have a new voting location. All of the Woodbrook subdivision will now vote at Taft-Galloway Elementary School. Most of the former precinct six voters are now part of precinct three and will vote at the Wayne Activity and Banquet Center.

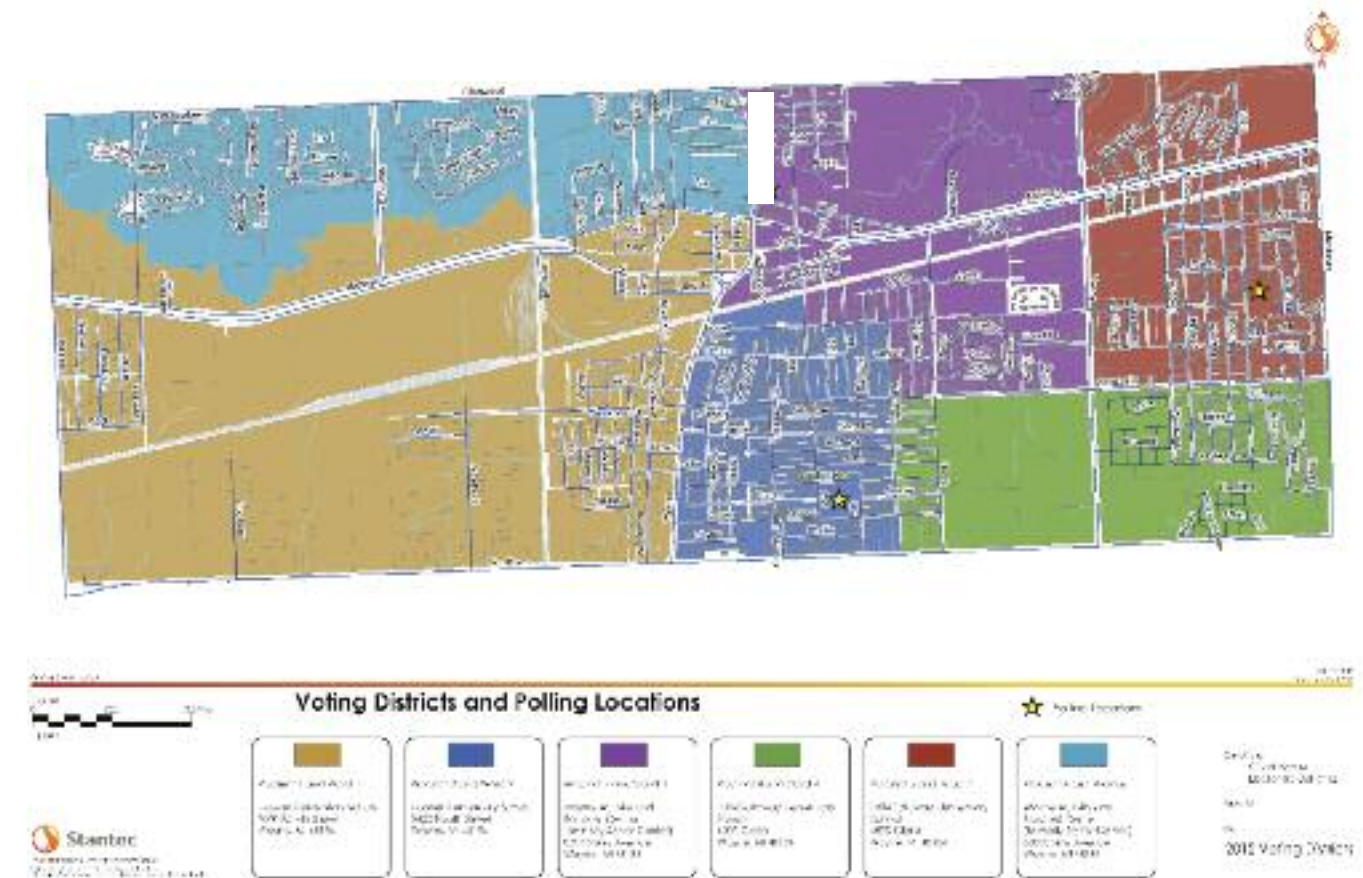
The city will have one less precinct and polling location. Roosevelt-McGrath Elementary School will no longer be a voting location.

They new voting precincts are:

Precinct 1 and Ward 1
Hoover Elementary School
5400 Fourth Street
Precinct 2 and Ward 2
Hoover Elementary School
5400 Fourth Street

Precinct 3 and Ward 3
Wayne Activity and Banquet Center
35000 Sims Avenue
Precinct 4 and Ward 4
Taft-Galloway Elementary School
4035 Gloria

Precinct 5 and Ward 5
Taft-Galloway Elementary School
4035 Gloria
Precinct 6 and Ward 6
Wayne Activity and Banquet Center



The election commission created the new precincts and city council created the new wards, said Matthew Miller, city clerk.

A committee was formed to redistrict Wayne and create the six wards that evenly distribute the population for each ward with no more than 3,000 people per ward.

It cost the city about \$50,000 to make the changes to the voter registrations cards, maps, postage and other election expenses.

Miller said on Election Day there would be extra staff on hand to help direct people to proper voting locations.

To view a map of the new precinct and ward boundaries visit

www.ci.wayne.mi.us.

Ward voting will begin with the August 2015 city council primary election. Council members must be elected from the ward in which they live.

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SUNDAY: Noon - 5:30 PM

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**Banquet
Dinners**
(4.6 oz. -
11.02 oz.)

10/\$10



**Banquet
Meat or
Fruit Pies**
(7 oz.)

4/\$3



**Fresh
Boneless
Chicken
Breast**

\$1.29 Lb.



**Fresh
Ripe
Bananas**

.39 Lb.



**Spartan
Milk**

One Gallon
(Excludes Chocolate)

\$1.99



**Wesson
Cooking
Oil**
(48 oz.)

2/\$5
(Vegetable or Best Blend)



**Dairy Fresh
Orange
Juice**
(Half Gallon)

2/\$3



**Hearth
Oven
Bakers
Bread**

10/\$10
(White or Wheat, 20 oz.)



**Gold Medal
All Purpose
Flour**
(5 lb.)

2/\$5



*Offers good for the month of March 2015



Vandenberg Elementary School will be the temporary home of the Wayne City Hall.

City Hall relocates

By Jenny Johnson

Wayne City Hall will temporarily move to Vandenberg Elementary School the last week of March. They will operate out of the closed elementary school for 60-90 days while the roof of city hall is repaired.

The city and Wayne-Westland Community School District entered into a lease agreement. City Manager David Murphy said the city's insur-

ance company will pay the utility costs and other expenses of leasing the elementary school. Belfor will take care of actual move.

The plan is to move the last Friday of March when city hall is closed to the public anyway.

When the city is done leasing it, the school will be demolished and the district will put the land up for sale.

City hires strategy group

By Jenny Johnson

City Manager David Murphy asked city council to enter into an agreement with Nocerini Strategy Group to provide grant writing and outreach services with residents, business people and the state.

He said because staffing levels are down in the city, Nocerini Strategy Group will be able to help fill in on some upcoming projects.

Lisa Nocerini was previously with Winchester Consulting Group who was hired by the city last year to provide similar services.

Mayor James Hawley said, "After Winchester Group we didn't get much results. I can't see this is going to change anything and help us. It is still real money and real important trying to reduce the deficit."

"It is still going to cost \$24,000. To me it is just wishful thinking that it will bring in a windfall of money and change anything we do," he said.

He also expressed concern about them being involved in Public Act 345 which would fund the police and fire department retirement pensions the city is putting on the May ballot.

Councilman John Rhaesa said,



Lisa Nocerini

"Our city is better off if we have Lisa on our team. I know there are pieces in economic development she can help with and areas she can help the city manager with. This is really not enough money for her worth. She is an amazing individual and we are lucky she wants to work with us."

Councilwoman Susan Rowe said, "Sometimes you have to spend some money to make some money. She can help us with the campaign for a successful 345. I think this is money well spent."

The motion passed 6-1 with Hawley voting no. The sixth month agreement will pay Norcerini Strategy Group \$4,000 per month.



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MARCH MADNESS

Membership Special here at the Recreation & Exercise Club!

Offer Valid March 1-31, 2015

\$5.00 OFF ONE MONTH

\$40.00 OFF ONE YEAR

\$15.00 HUSBAND/WIFE

Up to 10 Weekly Fitness Classes Included In All One Year Memberships

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Spring is coming and as soon as the snow melts there are lots of **ACTIVITIES** to enjoy at the **WAYNE COMMUNITY CENTER**. The **SKATE & BIKE PARK** and the **TENNIS COURTS** will be open and **FREE**. There is a one mile Walking, Running or Biking **TRACK** around Altwood Park and kids of all ages can enjoy **PLANET PLAYSCAPE**.

Upcoming Events

36th Annual Marshmallow

Friday, April 3, 2015

10:00AM @ Anderson Field #1

DROP

1st DROP: Walking Toddlers to Age 4 & Children with disabilities

2nd DROP: Ages 5-7 years old

3rd DROP: Ages 8-10 years old

Event Sponsored by:

CROSS POINTE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Bunny Breakfast

Friday, April 3, 2015

10:45am - 12:00pm

Residents \$5.00

Non-Residents \$6.00

(Includes: pancakes, sausage, juice and arts & crafts)



Pictures with the Easter Bunny begin at 10:15am for an additional cost.

Tickets will go on sale March 1, 2015. For more information, please call the Wayne Community Center at (734) 721-7400. Website www.ci.wayne.us

WAYNE COMMUNITY CENTER



4635 Howe Road / Wayne, MI 48184

www.ci.wayne.mi.us

734-721-7400

Mental health graduation

On Wednesday, February 25, 2015, Judge Laura Mack, Chief Judge of the 29th District Court in Wayne, Michigan, presided over the 29th District Mental Health Treatment Court's first graduation ceremony. The ceremony took place at the Wayne Activity and Banquet Center, and there were about 60 people in attendance, including Judge Timothy Kenny from the 3rd Circuit Court Mental Health Court, Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon, Leon Judd, President of NAMI, Wayne Mayor Jim Hawley, City Manager David Murphy, Wayne Police Chief Al Maciag, other City and County officials, mental health court team members, graduates and their families and current participants. Four participants, clad in caps and gowns, received Certificates of Graduation and hearty congratulations from the officials and other attendees. Cake, punch and pita sandwiches were served after the ceremony.

The mission of the 29th District

Mental Health Treatment Court is to provide appropriate services and monitoring for misdemeanor adult defendants suffering from serious mental illnesses, developmental disabilities and/or co-occurring disorders. The main goals are to get non-violent mentally ill defendants out of jail; and to provide mental health and substance abuse treatment, along with ancillary services such as housing and employment assistance, to keep them from reoffending. At its core, the Mental Health Treatment Court is a collaboration between the criminal justice system and community mental health providers. Hegira Services, Inc. is the court's community mental health treatment provider.

Although the 29th District Court generally has statutory jurisdiction only over crimes committed in the City of Wayne, the Mental Health Court is able to accept transfers from other district courts. The Mental Health Court currently enrolls participants from the following Dis-



The first graduating class from the Mental Health Treatment Court: Zyna Caron, Scott James, Kimberly Pakcyk, and Paul White.

trict Courts: 23rd District Court - Taylor, 18th District Court - Westland, 24th District Court - Allen Park, 17th District Court - Redford Township 35th District Court - Canton/Plymouth, 55th District Court - Mason, outside of Lansing.

Presently the Mental Health Treatment Court has 24 participants. Judge Mack hopes to expand the program by establishing a regional mental health court for Western Wayne County. She believes the need is great and the time is right to get people the help they need. The grad-

uation ceremony was a joyful occasion. Judge Laura Mack and Mental Health Court Care Manager Cheryl Triplett spoke about the program, Sheriff Benny Napoleon spoke about the importance of staying in treatment and taking medication after graduation, and Carol DiGuseppi, Executive Director of Hegira Programs, talked about mental health and treatment in general. Two graduates spoke about their personal experiences. When one participant claimed the program saved her life, there wasn't a dry eye in the place.

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Tom Lynch

NEWS BRIEFS



Mrs. Saad's third grade class at Hoover Elementary School receive dictionaries from Wayne Rotary members David Carpenter, Bridget Kelly and John Van Stipdonk. Photo by Jenny Johnson

Rotary donates dictionaries

The Wayne Rotary Club donated a dictionary to every third grade student in Wayne. They visited Hoover, Roosevelt-McGrath, Schweitzer and Taft-Galloway Elementary Schools and St. Mary, St. Michael and St. John schools. Each year they visit with the students and challenge them to find new words in their very own personalized dictionary.

Rummage Sale

The First Congregational Church of Wayne will have a Rummage Sale from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on April 23 and 24 and 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on April 25. Bag Day is April 25.

CROP Walk

The First Congregation Church of Wayne, 2 Town Square, is hosting the Wayne-Westland CROP WALK on May 3. Registration is at 2:30 pm and the Walk starts at 3:00 pm

CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty,

and is sponsored by Church World Service, better known as CWS. CWS is an international relief, development and refugee resettlement agency.

This is the 21st annual walk, which has been held the first Sunday in May since 1995. Money raised by the walk is used by CWS to provide food, medical care, disaster relief and self-help development efforts for needy people throughout the world, including the United States.

Twenty-five percent of the money raised at the walk will be donated to local organizations, which include St. Mary's Outreach (Bolde Food Depot), Salvation Army, Good Hope Lutheran Food Pantry and the Wayne-Westland FISH Community Food Pantry.

The Walk is open to everyone, including all churches, all groups, and families, as well as individuals; and pets are welcome.

The walk will go through downtown Wayne.

If you need further information, please call the church at 734-729-7550.

Buddy Up 2015

In 2010, I was weighing in at 450 pounds. My waist was almost 70 inches around. Before going on medication, my blood pressure was 190/110. For 7 years, I used a CPAP machine to sleep due to my sleep apnea.

I currently weigh about 300 pounds, have a normal blood pressure, and don't use a machine to sleep anymore.

My weight began to drop in 2011 through dieting and exercise. Late in 2011, I was selected to be a contestant on the NBC show Biggest Loser and lost a lot more weight.

I have a long way to go on my health journey, but as I head in a positive direction, I've decided to help anyone that I can along the way. If you'd like to learn what I learned while on the Biggest Loser, then you can join the Buddy Up health program.

Three years ago, I partnered with Mayor Bill Wild of Westland and began this program. In its first two years, the program saw over 800 participants. They have lost close to 10,000 pounds. They have lost inches and gotten more active.

This eight-week program will kick off on Friday, March 13 with an introduction to the program. The doors open at 6 p.m. and the event starts at 7 p.m. We will begin the very next morning with session 1, consisting of a 30 minute workout with a professional trainer, and a 30 minute nutritional lesson where I teach Biggest Loser tips.

The following day, Sunday, March 15, will be a special day at my church (Merge Community Church, which meets at 10:30 a.m. in the au-



ditorium at John Glenn High School) because I have invited former Mr. Universe, Peter Nielsen, to speak about faith and fitness.

Probably the most exciting change to the program this year is the addition of menu planning. Participants will be given 42 days (6 whole weeks!) of menus written out for them! Included with the menus will be shopping lists and the recipes on how to make every item!

So if you've been struggling...or just want to take your next step to becoming healthier...or just looking to make some new friends while exercising...it's time to BUDDY UP!!

There is a one-time fee of \$20 that you'll pay for the program at the kickoff. That pays for your t-shirt and all the printed information you'll receive. Register now! <http://healthy-passport.cityofwestland.com/buddy-up-program/>



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John P. Rhaesa
Publisher
jpr@thewaynedispatch.com

Natalie Rhaesa
General Manager
natalie@thewaynedispatch.com

Jenny Johnson
Editor
jenny@thewaynedispatch.com

P.O. Box 156 • Wayne, MI 48184
734-641-6550
ads@thewaynedispatch.com

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

Council put police and fire pension on May ballot

By Jenny Johnson

Because of a \$656,000 budget deficit the city is facing, City Council voted 7-0 to approve two proposals for the May 5 ballot.

The first will ask voters to set up a Public Act 345 pension fund for police and fire fighters. Currently the pension fund is being paid out of the city's general fund. This means the police and fire departments would have a separate retirement system from the rest of the city's retirees.

The second proposal will ask voters to approve 3 mills for five years to contribute to the 345 for police and fire retirement costs. If approved this would generate about

\$1,110,00 million annually and based on an average taxable value/SEV of \$50,000 (this is approximately one half the market value of the home) would cost the taxpayer \$150 per year.

The city can then use the funds in the general fund for other operating costs.

Councilman John Rhaesa said, "My one concern is (the road tax) on ballot from the state and we are asking for tax at the same time. Do we really think it is going to pass?"

If the proposals do not pass, the city has to wait two years before they put them on the ballot again.

In 2013 council asked residents

to approve a Public Act 345. The measure failed.

Mayor James Hawley said council will have a B-plan in place if Public Act 345 fails again. The plan will include what budget cuts will be made and they will share that information with the residents.

Councilman Albert Damitio said, "If we pass the opportunity in May then we won't have structural budget for the 15-16 budget year."

He said it is the responsibility of council "to come to the citizens and let them know what we need."

There are currently 150 retired city employees drawing pensions from the city. More than half of those

are police and fire fighters.

"I don't think we can step back and say we don't need these three mills. I think we have to be honest with citizens and put the minimum requirement we need to balance the budget and let the citizens decide," Damitio said. "If they come back and say no then we won't have the funds to support the pensions."

The past few years the city has been balancing the budget with one time money and with savings. The city is running out of savings and need a long-term solution to fund the pensions.

"If you don't shoot the puck at the net you won't score," Damitio said.

NEWS BRIEFS

Lawmakers meet with policy, business leaders from community

State Representative Robert Kosowski (D-Westland) attended a round table discussion with fellow lawmakers and prominent members of the Hispanic community last week in Detroit. The group of lawmakers belong to the newly formed Michigan Legislative Hispanic Caucus and discussed policies and other issues important to Michigan's Hispanic residents.

"The Hispanic community in Metro Detroit, and also around the state, is a significant share of the population, and it's important that we take their issues into consideration," Kosowski said.

Gov. Rick Snyder also attended a portion of the meeting.



He has created an Office for New Americans to help attract and retain talented people to create a workforce that will lure businesses to Michigan and create jobs.

"Michigan will only succeed as a state that is open and welcoming to everyone," Kosowski said. "I look forward to working with the Hispanic Caucus and the rest of my fellow legislators as we make Michigan a better place to live, work, go to school and raise a family."

Police catch bank robber

The Wayne Police Department was dispatched to Chase Bank on Michigan Avenue around 1:45 p.m. on Feb. 28 for a bank robbery. A suspect entered the bank, received money from the teller, and fled the scene. No weapon was used during the incident.

Police located the suspect and arrested Mark Berisha, 37. He has no known address. He was charged with Bank Robbery and Unarmed Robbery. He was arraigned in 29th District Court and his bond was set at \$100,000 cash. His next court date is March 10.

Mark Chevrolet goes to bat for Athletic Association

Mark Chevrolet in Wayne is partnering with Wayne and Westland Youth Athletic Associations to provide young baseball players with new equipment and instructional clinics.

"Playing the game of baseball helps kids develop skills like leadership, cooperation and sportsmanship while bringing families and communities together to show their support. Mark Chevrolet and Chevrolet Youth Baseball are proud to participate in a sport that brings so many smiles to kids and families in Wayne and Westland." said Trish Hampton, Sales Consultant for Mark Chevrolet. "Chevrolet believes that in play, there are possibilities and sup-

ports the spirit of teamwork that baseball instills in its players."

Mark Chevrolet will present the Wayne and Westland Youth Athletic Association with an equipment kit that includes useful items such as bags, batting tees, catcher's gear, water bottles and Chevrolet Youth Baseball T-shirts. The sponsorship also includes youth clinics featuring current and former MLB/MiLB players and coaches.

Senior Services News Briefs

The following programs are offered by the Senior Services office at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe Road, Wayne. For more information on any of the programs, please call 734-721-7460.

Tai Chi Class

The Wayne Senior Services is looking to start a new beginners Tai Chi class on Tuesdays at 9 a.m.

Sessions are for 10 weeks and the fee is \$65 per session. This no impact exercise program builds balance and strength without the soreness of the usual exercise programs.

Great for memory as well. No equipment or special clothing to purchase.

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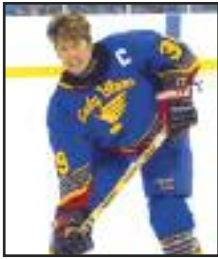
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City and School leader team up against Red Wings

The Westland Wild Wings will have a secret weapon on their team this year when they take the ice against the Detroit Red Wing Alumni team at 7 p.m. on March 20.



Michele Harmala
Superintendent

Michele Harmala, superintendent of Wayne-Westland Community Schools, will lace up her skates and join Wild on the ice.

Harmala has been playing organized hockey for more than 25 years and currently plays on two teams—one all female and one co-ed with her husband.

What is her strategy to help the Wild Wings get their first win against the Wings?

“(My) first strategy is to have a lot of fun and to assist with the cause—raising funds to support the Mike

Modano Ice Arena!” Harmal said. She also plans to rely on her teammates. “I’ve heard the Wild Wings are a strong team.”

The charity game will be at Mike Modano Ice Arena, 6210 N. Wildwood, Westland. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the game is at 7 p.m.

The event will be held on ice Friday, March 20, at Mike Modano Ice Arena, 6210 N. Wildwood. The doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the game begins at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, children under age 3 are free.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at the Mayor’s office, Mike Modano Ice Arena and Wayne-Westland Federal Credit Union, 500 S. Wayne Road, Westland.

Tickets can also be purchased at <http://westland.ticketleap.com/hockey/night/>. Seating is limited. For more information, go to www.cityofwestland.com

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A complimentary light dinner will be served.



Omar Ahmad, MD is Board Certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. He completed medical education at Wayne State University School of Medicine, Transitional Internship and Neurology Residency at Henry Ford Hospital. Dr. Ahmad completed his Clinical Neurophysiology Fellowship at Henry Ford

Hospital as well.

Dr. Ahmad will be discussing symptoms and types of Dementia.



Nawaf Murshed, MD is Board Certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. He completed medical education at Wayne State University School of Medicine, Preliminary Medicine Internship at St. John Hospital and Medical Center and Neurology Residency at Henry Ford Hospital. Dr. Murshed completed his Clinical Neurophysiology Fellowship at Henry Ford Hospital.

Dr. Murshed will be discussing work-up and treatment for Dementia.

Visit oakwood.org to learn more about other classes and events or to make an appointment with an Oakwood physician call **800.543.WELL**.



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