

THE WAYNE Dispatch

NOVEMBER 2015



Living for this City

After 22 years, retired Councilman will continue to serve the city he loves

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Front left to right: Malachi Sauls and Joesph Wise, Back: Aliyyah Spencer, Orlando Simpson, Ryan Wells, Casey Grauzer, Alicia Highland, Jessica Boyce and Alex Sambrone will performing in "The Nutcracker" at Wayne Memorial High School November 19th through the 21st. Photo by John P. Rhaesa

Wayne Memorial students to perform "The Nutcracker"

By Carolyn Marnon

"The Nutcracker" is a family friendly production which incorporates music and dance and is the fall play at Wayne Memorial High School. "I chose 'The Nutcracker' as our fall production because the theme for the 2015/16 show season is 'family friendly theater'. This is the first holiday-based play that I have produced at Wayne Memorial," stated Katie Sullivan, drama director and in her 12th year at Wayne Memorial.

The production follows Clara, an imaginative young girl, as she experiences the magic of Christmas and the joy that comes with believing. She receives a wooden Nutcracker as a gift from her godfather. When she finds herself in a time of need, the Nutcracker comes to life and Clara helps him on his quest to take back his crown and rule as Prince of Candy Land.

The cast rehearses an average of four days each week for the six weeks leading up to the production. When the curtain opens on the first show, the cast will have rehearsed for almost 100 hours. There are 35 student cast members and about 20 student crew members that are working to make this production a success.

Crew members are just as important as cast members. They are responsible for creating the set,

running lighting and sound for the show as well as numerous other backstage responsibilities. Ms. Sullivan has two student Assistant Directors, Alicia Highland and Kaitlyn Frawley. These young women assist with running rehearsals, fundraising, publicity, and maintaining acceptable grades with the cast. There is also a student in charge of Educational Outreach, Hannah Hamilton, who has been assisting with creating a production guide including activities for young audience members.

Others involved in the production include technical directors Justin Monit and Tim Sullivan who lead the crew efforts. Alumni crew member, Revah Herman, works directly with the technical directors and crew. Alumni choreographer, Erika Culey, has been responsible for teaching the dances that the cast perform.

"We create a world on stage that is meant to be magical for our audience. If we want the audience to believe in the magic, we need to believe in it too!" enthused Ms. Sullivan.

Performances take place at Wayne Memorial High School on November 19, 20 and 21 at 7:00pm each evening. Tickets are \$5 for students and children and \$8 for adults.

As a side note, mark your calendar now for the spring show being held April 28-30, 2016—"The Little Mermaid".

NOVEMBER Deals

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Living for this City

He may be retiring from the Wayne City Council after 22 years, but Albert Damitio will continue to serve as a champion of the city he loves and the place he calls home

He's known as a husband to his wife Sue, dad to his three children, and to the residents of Wayne, he has long been known as councilman.

"Some people call me Al, but those close to me know that I prefer Albert," says Albert Damitio, who, after 22 years of service, has retired from the Wayne City Council.

But few may know that Damitio also answers to a less suspecting moniker.

"Chips," Damitio confesses of the nickname he acquired during his early years as a member of the Wayne Jaycees. "Because I love potato chips."

But as much as he loves snack food, he loves the City of Wayne more.

Born on the east side of Detroit near Detroit City Airport – and having grown up in that area, too – 43 years ago Damitio married a woman from Wayne named Sue, and the two have remained here ever since.

"She would never leave," says Damitio with kind-hearted laughter.

The couple did much more than purchase their first home in Wayne. They laid down roots, becoming the proud parents of two daughters and one son – Amy, 41, Carey, 39, and David, 35 – who have produced nine grandchildren between them.

Damitio, who earned degrees from the University of Detroit, Wayne State University, Michigan State University, and a masters in mechanical engineering from University of Michigan-Dearborn, first delved into the waters of civic leadership as a member and president of the Wayne Jaycees and still fondly recalls the wide array of projects he is pleased to have been a part of.

"The Christmas parade, the haunted house we did at the community center, bike safety initiatives..." Damitio remembers, "After being involved with all those projects, it was sort of natural to seek election."

An appointment to the Wayne Planning Commission followed, and then Damitio began his tenure as a Wayne councilman after first becoming



Councilman Albert "Chips" Damitio celebrates retirement with his favorite snack.

"When we were discussing location and how to pay for it, I suggested that we use DDA (Downtown Development Authority) funds because it is located in the downtown area.

And, today, I think it's such a great facility – my grandkids, my wife, and I use it all the time."

Councilman Albert Damitio

ing elected in 1983. He served 12 consecutive years before yielding to an entirely different ball game.

Puck game, actually.

"Our kids were growing up, in high school and such, and my wife and I were busy with a lot of activities – and one of them included hockey," says Damitio, who coached for 12 years in several communities, including Garden City and Allen Park in addition to Wayne. "I don't know if you know about hockey, but it gets to be quite consuming."

Damitio returned to the council

after becoming appointed in 2005 to replace the seat that had been vacated by Don Hartford, and Damitio says that his financial concerns about the city are what lured him back to serve. He went on to experience two successful elections in 2007 and 2011.

He cites two deeds in particular with eliciting within him the most pride: the construction of the Wayne Public Library and his involvement in the Dangerous Building Commission.

"When we built the library, it was

fully paid for," Damitio recalls. "When we were discussing location and how to pay for it, I suggested that we use DDA (Downtown Development Authority) funds because it is located in the downtown area. And, today, I think it's such a great facility – my grandkids, my wife, and I use it all the time."

And while Damitio's role as one of the founding members of the city's Dangerous Building Commission took place between his terms on the council, his involvement with the commission ranks high on his list of political achievements.

Says Damitio, who was elected by commission members to serve as chairman, "The procedure to take down a building that had not been kept up properly would literally take 10 years or more – and sometimes, legally, nothing could be done. The Dangerous Building Commission enabled us to expedite the process by reviewing inspections of the building, and gave owners time to fix up the building, and if they couldn't, the building would be removed – whether it is a business or a house. No one wants to be a neighbor to that."

The council's effort to create separate storm and drain water systems – which, according to Damitio, brought about "a night and day difference" regarding the condition of the Rouge River – is also something he's thankful to have been a part of.

Today, Damitio maintains that Wayne still needs a balanced budget as well as a fully-staffed police department. He says, "We are too short of police officers to be able to adequately serve the citizens. We still have work to do."

Yet, Damitio must respectfully leave those changes for the next chapter of the city's civic leadership: Because the City of Wayne passed a term limit provision which prohibits an elected official from serving more than 16 years as a councilperson, mayor, or any combination of the

See **Damitio**, page 10

NEWS BRIEFS



And the winners are...

Councilman Anthony Miller, Councilman John Rhaesa, Mayor Susan Rowe, Councilman Christopher Sanders and Councilman Tom Porter at the Avenue Downtown Wayne after learning they had won seats on the City Council. Photo by Mike Londeau

Unofficial Election Results

Mayor

Susan M. Rowe	960
Bob Boertje	796
Lenard Fisher	38

City Council At-Large

Anthony Miller	1149
Lucietta A. Miles	360

City Council Ward 1

Christopher Sanders	794
Allen J. Shuh	544
Alfred Brock	199

City Council Ward 2

John P. Rhaesa	1192
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City Council Ward 3

Tom Porter	1097
Lorne Monit	554

City Manager hired

The City Council unanimously approved Lisa Nocerini as City Manager at the council meeting held October 6. Ms. Nocerini was serving as Interim City Manager during the council's search for a new city manager after the resignation of David M. Murphy last spring.

Community coffee meeting with directors

The next Community Meeting/Coffee Hour will take place on Monday, November 23rd, from 9:00-10:00 a.m. at the Wayne City Hall located at 3355 South Wayne Road. These meetings are being held to provide residents and businesses in Wayne with an opportunity to engage with the City Manager and the Department Directors on issues that are important to you.

Helium Studio

Grand Opening

After months of updating the building, painting, installing new floors and lighting, decorating and stocking the displays, Helium Studio (3127 S. Wayne Rd) looks forward to welcoming friends, neighbors and artists to their grand opening on Friday, November 13, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Be the first to see the renovated space and shop handmade goods from more than 50 Michigan artists and makers across all media. At 6 p.m. they will host a reception with snacks and beverages. Come show your support for another business that has made their home in Wayne.

Cookbooks Available for Christmas Gifts

The Wayne Garden Club has cookbooks available for \$10 each. The cookbooks could be the perfect Christmas gift for that special someone on your gift-giving list. Contact Alicia Marnon at 734-595-4217 to make arrangements.

Scarecrow Contest

The 2015 scarecrow winners were announced at the close of the Scarecrow Reception held at the Wayne Farmer's Market on October 14. The Judge's Choice went to Brook Wess and her girls, Verity and Temperance Gorman, for their Scare"crow". People's Choice went to American Jetway for their Tin Man. "We really enjoy partaking in this fun community event each year,"

stated Brook on the Wayne Main Street facebook page. Kurt's Caps of Wayne donated the prizes.

Make a Difference Day

Saturday, October 24, was National Make a Difference Day, a day of community service. "Pennies from Heaven" debuted in Wayne for the first time. Members of the Goodfellows collected spare change and monetary donations at the site of the former Frank's Furniture Store on Wayne Road. This will go towards helping ensure that every child in Wayne has a Christmas.

Holiday Window Contest

Wayne Main Street announces their 2nd annual Holiday Window Display Contest for businesses located in the Main Street District. If you have a business in the district, put up lights and decorate your windows for the winter holidays. There will be two awards given: People's Choice to the window that gets the

most likes on facebook during Wayne Main Street's voting period and Judge's Choice to the window a small group of Main Street volunteers choose. Last year, 10 businesses participated and it is hoped that more will join in this year. Even if you are not within the Main Street District, it is hoped you will decorate and light up your store windows and help Wayne glow for the holidays.

Healthy Wayne Coalition

The next meeting of the Healthy Wayne Coalition is Thursday, November 19, at 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at HYPE Athletics in Wayne. Come enjoy a healthy breakfast while giving your input on how to make Wayne a healthier place. Healthy Wayne is sponsored by Beaumont Hospital. Wayne is one of 4 cities in this special program. Healthy Wayne is in its early stages of planning and can use input from more community members.

USE IT. DON'T LOSE IT.

Use Your FSA Health Benefits Dollars Before December 31

If you participate in a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) through your employer's "Cafeteria Plan" benefits program, time may be running out. Some plans require the money you contributed to be spent by December 31, or you risk losing it.

Here is a list of vision-related services and expenses that may qualify for reimbursement:

- Eye Health Examination • Contact Lenses
- Eyeglasses • Computer Eyeglasses
- Prescription Sunglasses
- Laser Vision Correction

Note: Check with your plan administrator to determine the specific requirements of your plan. Please let our office know about your major medical or vision plan coverage when you call for an appointment. We'll help you get all the benefits you have coming to you.

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Rosie the Riveters take back World Record

By Carolyn Marnon

1,084. That was the number to beat, set by a group in Richmond, California on August 15 of this year, to take back the Guinness World Record title for largest gathering of Rosie the Riveters. The Willow Run Bomber Plant surpassed that number with 2,096 Rosie's on October 24th.

They came from all over Michigan to be part of this moment. 16 states and Canada were represented. There were 44 "real Rosies" from the World War II era that were also part of the festivities.

Rosie the Riveter became the iconic image associated with recruiting female workers for the munitions industry during World War II. The bandana clad Rosie was a fictitious character based on a real-life munitions worker. The Rosie the Riveter government campaign stressed the patriotic need for women to enter the work force. With men away at war, manufacturers and the government were desperate for workers. These women proved that women could do men's jobs and do it well. At Willow Run, women were paid 75 cents an hour, the same as men. This was considered good pay at that time. After the war, many women left the factories to focus on raising their families or to do more traditional "women's" jobs, but there were also many who stayed within the industrial workforce.

Wayne resident Brenda Ozog says she first felt a call in March 2014 to help save the historic Willow Run bomber plant. She joined 776 other women for the first Guinness World Record attempt at that time. "We made it happen," she says. After the event, she called her grandfather, John Sheneman, to talk about the event. She learned that her great grandfather was a veteran of World War I and would travel from Topinabee, MI to work with the women at the bomber plant. In 1942, a call went out for all able bodied men to come work at the plants, so her grandfather worked at the Box Plant where they put engines on the skids for the airplane engines.

Brenda never got to meet her great grandfather. Her mother eventually gave her his wallet to scan the photos he carried in his wallet.



The Willow Run Bomber Plant now holds the Guinness World Record title for largest gathering of Rosie the Riveters with 2,096.

Brenda discovered his Bomber Union Card and has since learned from the Yankee Air Museum that they have not yet acquired one for their museum and would be interested in it if she ever decides to donate it.

When Richmond beat Willow Run's record in August, Brenda felt that with her new-found family connection, she had a mission to help save the bomber plant.

When she arrived at the record-breaking event, she had a copy of her great grandfather's Bomber Union card pinned to her shirt. "It was an amazing experience and it made me proud to know I had someone here back then. I hope my grandfather was looking down at me with satisfaction and knowing I was proud of him and his efforts in World War II. My mother, grandfather and I purchased a brick in his honor for the WWII monument in Royal Oak saying John Sheneman, Topinabee, MI Ypsi Bomber Plant."

Trying to get the word out around Wayne before the event was resident Robert Webb. He even created a Rosie scarecrow for Wayne Main Street's scarecrow display downtown. Robert's 95 year old mother is a WWII Rosie from the Willow Run Bomber Assembly Plant. She was a riveter, rivet inspector and a rivet gun trainer during the time they were building the big bombers. She started at the beginning of production and stayed until the last B-24 left Willow Run.

Robert and his mother are both

members of the A.R.R.A (American Rosie the Riveter Association). They volunteer to help save the bomber plant. His mom's great granddaughters won 3rd place in the Wayne/Westland Memorial Day Parade in May for their "Willow Run Rose Buds" wagon float they pulled in the parade. A Rosie descendant is called a Rose Bud.

While at a USO dance a few years ago, long before the Yankee Air Museum was trying to save the Willow Run hangars, Robert's mom was talking to a lady who told her they were planning on tearing down Willow Run. "I remember mom saying to me 'There's too much history behind those walls to let them tear it down.' Since then, we've worked on trying to save some of it...and so far they have saved a small section of it, for the new museum."

There were several improvements at this recent event that were not available at the March 2014 event. Several food trucks were kept busy feeding hungry Rosies. There was occasional entertainment to break up the stretch of time from when the registration tables opened at 10am until the official Rosie gathering at 2pm.

There was an area for children to color or read stories about Rosie the Riveter. For \$195 and up, you could take a ride in a bi-plane. There was a long lineup of silent auction items to bid on. Sales were brisk at the museum table-the We Can Do It tote-bags sold out quickly. Other items available included books about the

plant and about Rosies, playing cards, die-cast planes, and decals. The WWII Rosies had a special area where they could relax before the official count.

My mother-in-law, Alicia Marnon, (a Wayne resident) and I attended the event. We wore our official Rosie costumes, adhering to the strict guidelines set by Guinness. A Rosie had to wear either dark blue workers coveralls with long sleeves or a long-sleeved dark blue collared shirt and dark blue pants or very dark blue jeans, black or dark brown low heel work boots or work shoes, red knee-socks with pants rolled up to show them, and a red with large white polka dots bandanna tied at the top of the head. As we entered, we were given a schedule of events and asked to choose a tag representing a real Rosie from the past that we could wear around our necks. For a \$5 donation, Rosies could tour the Boeing B17G "Yankee Lady". This plane had a walkway in the middle of it that was very narrow. You stood on it and looked down to see the open sky below. One would hope the crewmembers were wearing parachutes in case they suffered a mis-step.

When the time came, the Rosies were called to start lining up to go through the turnstiles into the staging area. Men volunteers were holding signs that displayed increments of 50: 1-50, 51-100, etc. All the way up to 2000. The Rosies were counted as they entered and assigned to a "sign". Chants of "Rosie, Rosie" were led several times. When the last Rosies were counted, the original WWII Rosies were brought into the area and seated at the front. To be considered for the world record, the Rosies had to stand together for 5 minutes. During that time, they recited The Pledge of Allegiance and sang the National Anthem, Amazing Grace and America the Beautiful.

It was announced that the world record was "unofficially" 2,096. Cheers went up from the crowd. The big doors to the hangar which was the staging area rose up and the Rosies spilled out into the cool fall air. Laughter was heard as the crowd started to disperse. What a record-setting day!

October Police Community Meeting

By Carolyn Marnon

The Wayne Police Department is budgeted for 24 police officers and currently has 22. There are 3 anticipated retirements before July, 2016 which could bring that number down further. The training process for an officer is approximately 4 months and hopefully, the department will find candidates to fill some of those roles.

The video arraignment equipment has now been installed and is working great. The officers have recently undergone training in such areas as felony stops, legal updates, firearms, and defensive tactics.

Crime numbers for the past month: 15 larcenies, 1 residential breaking and entering, 2 "other" breaking and entering, 3 stolen vehicles, 0 arsons, 45 assaults, 25 traffic crashes, 15 damage to property, and 1 homicide. Crime trends being noted are damaged vehicles (such as slashed tires), teens throwing things off the parking structure at vehicles below, 7-Eleven robberies and the IRS phone scam. With the holiday season, it is expected that there will be incidents of UPS and FedEx packages being stolen off doorsteps. Chief Maciag and Sgt. Spunar suggest that if you aren't going to be home when a package is being delivered, to have it sent to a neighbor who is home during the day or else sent to a UPS/FedEx drop spot where you can later pick up your package. Criminals like easy opportunities and the easier you make it for them, the more likely they will target you.

Next Community
Police meeting:
December 3rd

7:30 p.m. · Wayne Police Station
33701 Michigan Ave.

Sgt. Spunar spoke about the Investigations Bureau within the department. The number of officers in the bureau has dropped drastically over the years to the two currently in it: Sgt. Spunar is the officer-in-charge; he has one detective working with him. There are no longer officers in the schools. Investigations handles all crimes in the city that are classified as a felony. Misdemeanors are handled by the patrol officers. Other duties of the investigations bureau include maintaining the sex offender registry (on average about 80 offenders), works with the prosecutory on court cases, does gun permits, FOIA requests and discovery orders, handles the traffic bureau and takes care of the property room.

The police department now has a Major Crime Team consisting of 6 officers who volunteered to be on-call to help with a major crime scene. They will talk to witnesses and the media, process the crime scene and do whatever else is needed.

The Wayne Police Department thinks the best thing the community can do is to continue to be the eyes and ears for the police. They can't be everywhere at once. Never feel like you are bothering them to report something.

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New businesses are opening in town

By Carolyn Marnon



Biggby Coffee's Austin Hanner, Derek Shear and Destiny Walker at ready to serve you a fresh beverage.

Biggby Coffee

35545 W. Michigan Avenue
Hours: 6 a.m.-9 p.m.

Biggby Coffee is a Lansing, Michigan-based company. All stores are owned by franchisees; there are no corporate stores. Derek Shear, operating manager/owner of the Wayne Biggby, has lived in Wayne 2 years. He was tired of working the corporate life and had the opportunity to invest in a community that needed help. Biggby in Wayne opened in July, 2015. They have had 60% growth since they opened. They are sponsoring the Wayne Memorial High School Class of 2017. Biggby is involved in the local community. They are the kick-off location for Wayne Main Street's Small Business Saturday event on November 28. They provide the coffee for the Wayne Chamber of Commerce Coffee Connection. Bright Futures at WMHS will have a weekly meeting at Biggby.

Everything is made fresh. None of their drinks are made with push buttons. All is handcrafted while you wait. Several drinks unique to

the Wayne store are the Frosted Leprechaun and Butterbeer. All drinks can be made hot, iced or frozen. On Mondays during Happy Hour (2pm-7pm), all drinks are half off. On Tuesdays, city employees and teachers can buy 1 drink and get 1 free or they can get \$1 off.

Biggby is open to hosting parties, clubs and events. They have free high speed wifi. Eventually, they would like to set up a music night. If you have ideas, let Derek know next time you stop by.

Pizmo's Market

4308 S. Wayne Road
Hours: 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Pizmo's Market has only been open a few weeks and already they are developing a following. Todd LaCoe and Matt Toyeas are the owners, and they want you to know they are not a party store. Pizmo's specializes in meats, seafood and deli. The selection includes fresh tri-tips, sirloin filets, different types of ham-



Matt Toyeas and Todd LaCoe show off fresh salmon at Pizmo's Market.

burgers and sausages, pork products, chicken, and more. The burgers, sausage, chicken salad and cocktail sauce are all made in-house. If the store doesn't carry what you are looking for, they will get it for you. They try to carry stuff no one else offers.

Along with Todd and Matt, there are two employees in the market. You can find Blazo's pies, pumpkin raisin bread and rotisserie chicken (not only the whole chicken, but you can also just buy rotisserried parts). They also have a shelf of seasonings and spices. As they grow, they will add additional items to the store. The door is open and although at first glance, you might think they are not yet open, they are. Go inside, say hello, and grab tonight's dinner.



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Premier Staff Services is a temporary employment agency. They specialize in finding people to staff jobs such as housekeeping, warehousing, production, truck driving and hi lo operations. Placements are made with companies all over the Detroit area. It is important to have transportation in place before applying. Kayode Ayodele, an employee at the business, advises you bring a resume with you when you come in. It makes finding a placement much easier if they have something already written down to look at. They currently advertise immediate job openings for warehouse, production, certified Hi-Lo operators, tool and die repair, overhead crane operators, electrician, truck drivers, shipping and receiving, computer repair techs, machine repair, control engineers and mechanical maintenance.

Helium Studio

3127 S. Wayne Road

Helium Studio's grand opening will be November 13. They'll be open



Dave Jenkins and Kim White-Jenkins will open Helium Studio in Downtown Wayne November 13th.

11 a.m. -8 p.m. with a reception for the public at 6 p.m.; snacks and beverages will be provided at the reception. Dave Jenkins and Kim White-Jenkins are jewelry makers and the owners. Dave and Kim have been selling online, at shows and at galleries for years. There will be 50 makers and artists showcased in the store at the opening. They expect to have others joining in as the holiday progresses and more in the new year.

"Helium Studio is an artist market featuring local handmade artists and makers, as well as collectible vintage pieces. It's an extension of our Helium Studio jewelry brand, which represents our line of jewelry that features hammered metals, vintage elements and found baubles. Many people have asked us what the 'Helium' in our name means. We believe that it represents our goals for the shop and our jewelry: to be an uplift to our community, and to inspire and to support our artists," stated Kim.

There is a classroom that will be offering opportunities to learn crafts as well as a place for book clubs, knitting groups or other groups/clubs to gather. The goal of Helium Studio is to be a destination for handmade and vintage shoppers from inside and outside of our community. They would love to grow the arts scene in Wayne, and do whatever they can to help recruit businesses to the area and support Wayne artists. This includes Matt Rochon, recently featured in the Wayne Dispatch and the artist behind the John Wayne signs that have been seen around Wayne in the past. He will be doing a special piece to mark the Wayne Rd. store entrance and will have some of his art for sale in the store.



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Tom Lynch

Distinguished Young Women awarded next month

By Carolyn Marnon

Twelve to fourteen young women from Wayne and Westland are preparing for the annual Distinguished Young Women awards on December 4. Distinguished Young Women is a national scholarship program that inspires high school girls to develop their full, individual potential through a fun, transformative experience that culminates in a celebratory showcase of their accomplishments. This is the 49th year for Wayne/Westland, which happens to be the largest local program in Michigan.

The focus on the program is on scholarship rather than beauty. The program was previously known as Junior Miss, but because they were trying to disassociate themselves with being thought of as a beauty pageant, the name was changed to Distinguished Young Women.

The motto is "Be your best self." The program tries to help girls become their individual best physically, mentally, educationally and health-wise.

Lauren Perry, Wayne/Westland Junior Miss 2005, is in her 3rd year as co-director of the local program along with Jodi Berry. "The Distinguished Young Women organization is one that continually inspires young women while providing them with opportunities to learn more about themselves and their local communities. This program is one that I am incredibly proud to be a part of, and I find it to have a positive impact on young ladies. One of our main goals is to provide an avenue for our participants to supplement their college experience via scholarship opportunities and to rec-



Wayne and Westland girls are preparing for the annual Distinguished Young Women awards on December 4th.

ognize their individual strengths and capabilities."

In the fall, the program seeks out girls who are interested in participating. An orientation follows to give the girls more information about the program. There are five mandatory practices held through October and November, each about three hours long. These practices include mini workshops where girls learn interview skills, how to dress for an interview, and other important skills a young woman should have. They also learn a routine for the physical fitness part of the program.

The program has traditionally been for high school senior girls. The program is transitioning to a focus on high school junior girls, so this year there will be juniors and seniors participating. The transition came about because it was thought that junior girls were beginning their college journey and needed help earlier with scholarships. A senior girl will become the 2016 winner while the junior girl will be named the 2017 winner at this year's event in December.

The girls are judged in five categories: talent, poise, scholastic, interview and fitness. Two girls will be awarded scholarship money in each category. Scholastic is based on their transcript in school. Fitness is based on how well they do in a routine the girls all do together. For poise, the girls answer a question on stage wearing a knee-length dress. Talent can be anything the girl is good at. A talent does not have to be dancing or singing. This year, a girl will be showcasing her bowling talents and another will be showing off her figure skating talents. This is done by showing videos during their talent segment while the girl talks about her talent and/or passion on stage in detail. Interview involves a 10-minute interview with the girl by the judges and also how she is dressed for the interview.

There is no cost for a girl to participate in the program. The girls are asked to help sell advertising in the program (a way to give them experience in new skills), but they are not required to sell any. The more money that is brought in through ad-

vertising and donors/sponsors, the more that goes toward the scholarship awards. There is no set amount for each scholarship award. Each year, it is based on how much has been raised for that year's program. The program recently had a fundraiser at Buffalo Wild Wings in Westland where 20 percent of the diner's bill was donated to the program. They will be holding a Poinsettia Fundraiser November 7-21. Prices range from \$10-\$25 with a choice of red, pink or white flowers. Orders will then be available for pick up on November 29. If you would like to order poinsettias and help increase the scholarship money, you can email Lauren at wayne-westland@distinguishedyw.org.

This year's participants include:
Juniors: Elaena Wojtowicz, Nicole Duque, Kaitlyn Balko, Emma Diamond, Hannah Gottman and Antrunika Alonzo.

Seniors: Kelsie Wysong, Riana Hardyniec, Emily Dietz, Brooke Arcuragi, Crystal Pinard, Tirzah Ault and Alyssa Brown.

The Distinguished Young Woman program is being held Friday, December 4, 7:00 p.m., at Wayne Memorial High School's auditorium. Tickets are \$10 if you pre-order them by emailing Lauren at the email listed above.

Tickets are also available the night of the event for \$12. Student tickets are \$8.

Everyone is invited to attend. You do not have to know a girl participating to enjoy the show. The 2016 winner will go on to the state competition held in Saline and then possibly to the state competition held in Mobile, Alabama.

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The Damitio family: Carey, Albert, Sue, David and Amy at the beginning of Alberts 22 year council run.

Damitio, Continued from page 3

two, Damitio is not able to run again.

When asked if he would run if he could, he isn't quite sure.

"You know, that's a good question," Damitio begins. "I had intentions to, but I can't say for positive that I would have. I wouldn't have minded to serve further, but at this point, there's no choice, really."

One thing is for certain, however: That Damitio is appreciative of the get-well cards, prayers, and visits he received when he was diagnosed with melanoma cancer in the beginning of 2011.

"I had a large cyst about the size of a fist in my right leg," Damitio recalls. "The morning I dropped off my petitions to run for council, my wife drove me straight from there to U of M Hospital for my operation. And the fact that I received such over-

whelming support from this community – when everyone's got their own problems – makes it even more impressive."

To say that Damitio has had a great run as councilman would be an understatement, and perhaps the largest boon is that he continues to love the City of Wayne.

Says Damitio, who is also a retiree of Chrysler after a 39-year career as an engineer with the company, "I love the State Wayne Theatre, the mural, and museum."

With a successful career and tenure as councilman now in his rearview mirror, Damitio and his wife now look forward to traveling more. The couple has already visited France more than a dozen times and vows to return soon.

And just as they've done in the past, they'll come right back home... to Wayne.



Albert's family: Connor, David, Sue, Peter, Albert, Amy and Mike at his last meeting as councilman in the City of Wayne on November 4, 2015.

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Small Business Saturday

Saturday, November 28th, 2015

Small Business Saturday is an American shopping holiday held on the Saturday after US Thanksgiving during one of the busiest shopping periods of the year. First observed on November 27, 2010, it is a counterpart to Black Friday and Cyber Monday, which feature big box retail and e-commerce stores respectively. By contrast, Small Business Saturday encourages holiday shoppers to patronize brick and mortar businesses that are small and local. Small Business Saturday is a registered trademark of American Express corporation.

This year, our celebration is going to be even bigger than last year! Shop Small Passports, a scavenger hunt, carolers, multiple door prize drawings, a gift wrapping station, and more – you won't want to miss the big day!

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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Lindsey Wooten



up your FREE shopping bag, Shop Small Passport, and event information. Then hit the town to collect stamps on your passport, listen to the sounds of carolers, and participate in the Shop Small scavenger hunt all while supporting our local economy!

12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

at Wayne Historical Museum

End the event by stopping into the Wayne Historical Museum to turn in your Shop Small Passport to be entered to win one of several door prizes. You can warm up with hot chocolate and get the gifts that you purchased wrapped at the gift wrapping station.

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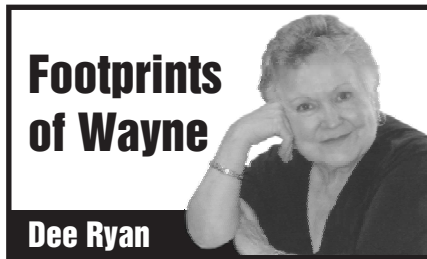
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Van Stipdonk newest diamond of the community

Our newest Diamond of the Community---Lois Van Stipdonk, is a woman of great charm, talent and doer of many good works. Wayne is a better place because of Lois. She is an officer in our city's Rotary Club, a former Director of the Wayne Library, and she and her husband John are members of the Detroit "Mass Mob." It was inspired by Buffalo's "Mass Mob" Movement.

On a chosen Sunday, everyone attends Mass at a specific parish. The Masses have drawn as many as 2000 people, filling these beautiful old churches and providing them with monetary support. To get a schedule of upcoming Masses and Churches, google "Mass Mob."

Lois was honored with dinner at Wayne's Community Center on 9/15. She received plaques from Wayne's Commission on Aging and the Wayne County Commission. Thanking everyone, especially her husband John, whom she decided to marry after their 3rd date. This year marked their 50th Anniversary.



Footprints of Wayne

Dee Ryan

After the dinner, Lois was proclaimed this year's Diamond of the Community by the Wayne City Council.

Lois says her service to the Community stems from John F. Kennedy's speech---"Ask not what your Country can do for you, but rather what you can do for your country."

Another Garden Club Member also took a trip "across the pond" this summer.

Jo Ann Hanson the Club's former President, vacationed in England and France.

She caught up with friends whom she knew as a flight attendant with TWA.

She flew 'stand by' from Chicago, so was able to fly first class both going and returning. Her first stop was London where Sue, her friend of 50 years, picked her up.

First things first, don't you agree--so they immediately went shopping.

Next morning, they left by ferry for St. Malo, France. St. Malo is in the cultural Region of Brittany. It's famous for being a walled fishing village located on The English Channel.

Another village visited was Quimper, which JoAnn describes as being like our Maine seacoast with much, much seafood. It is also renowned as a center for the popular Quimper Pottery.

The house where they stayed is called a Longere. Many of these homes started out as an enclosure for farm animals, then little by little the family built additions as they were needed. These were usually built at each end of the original structure, which ended up as a long thin building.

Along with viewing Chateaux and Cathedrals, good friends came to visit from Ireland and the Cotswold's. And always, there was shopping and enjoying all that seafood.

Arriving when the Camillas were in bloom, Jo Ann left when it was lilac time.

And we are so glad to have her home.

The newest member of our Wayne Library is Rachel Ditmore. She is a page and we were so pleased to meet her at last month's Board Meeting. A smiling, lovely young woman, who is the granddaughter of Patty Ditmore. One cannot live in Wayne without either meeting Ms. Ditmore, or at least

talking to her on the phone. She has worked at the Wayne's Public Works Department for 57 years.

Aren't we lucky to have both Grandmum and Granddaughter working for our City?

Nancy Wojewski Noel, Director of Wayne's Hype Senior Center, tells me how happy she is with this year's Senior Olympics. Along with 15 other Western Wayne County Communities, our city had a very fine showing.

Of the 37 residents, 21 medals were given out. There were 14 gold medals, 4 silver, and 3 bronze. This was the 11th annual Senior Olympics and it's open to senior residents who are 50 or older.

Two of our Garden Club Friends, Phyllis Stein and Jean Radley are on the mend. As is Sharron (Mrs. Wild Bill) Copland.

Prayers are still needed for Donna McMurray.

The Annual Biddle Street Block Party was held later than usual this year---on September 10 to be exact. It started with the "George Wootton Open", the yearly golf game that honors the memory of Mr. Wootton. This was the 20th year of the "Open". There were games for the kids, great refreshments---and the exciting moment when our Wayne Westland Fire Department showed up in their huge red truck.

More Library news; another page, Maggie Wax has been hired. She will cover the other page shifts. Sadly, Kim Smith the friendly and helpful gal behind the circulation desk has left after 25 years at the Wayne Library. Goodbye Kim---we will miss you.

OBITUARY



Retired Judge Carolyn A. Archbold passed away on October 26, 2015. She served with distinction as the District Judge for the City of Wayne from September 23, 1985, until her retirement on November 1, 2003. She was 70 years old.

According to one of her many friends, retired Judge Milton Mack, "Carolyn Archbold was a champion of the underdog, highly intelligent, a great golfer and a fierce competitor. She had extremely high ethical standards and did not hesitate to stand up for her principles." She was a leader among judges, serving as Chief Judge of the 29th District Court for 18

years and as President of the Michigan District Judges Association in 1996. She mentored new judges, and partnered with the Third Circuit Court to start a juvenile justice program at the 29th District Court, which continues to this day. She was regarded as an outstanding jurist by litigants and attorneys alike, and "a lot of fun" by her colleagues. She was a world traveler but also enjoyed her homes on Hubbard Lake in northern Michigan and in Palm Springs, California. She loved her nieces and was an avid gardener.

Judge Laura Mack said: "When I look at Judge Archbold's portrait every day in court, I am reminded that I would not be there, but for her. When she decided to retire, she actively recruited me, and then recommended my appointment to Governor Granholm. I wish she could have enjoyed a longer retirement."

There was no memorial service, but donations can be made in her name to Hospice of Michigan, 989 Spaulding SE, Ada, MI 49301. May you rest in peace, Judge Archbold, knowing that you made the world a better place.

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Wayne boy's cross country on a learning curve

By Dave Merchant

The Zebra cross country team always has a tough league to run in and this season was no different. Two of the top three teams in the state are in their conference. The number two team is Northville and the number three team is Novi.

Boys' cross country Coach Tom Gibson had his work cut out for him this season. Last year his team had four runners who ran a seventeen-minute or better race and one that broke 19:00 minutes. Four of them got scholarships for cross country, two to Madonna University and two to Lawrence Technological University. One runner finished in 51st at the state and the other finished 66th.

Last year the team took fifth in the division. He lost nine boys. Six to graduation, one to injury and two runners from last year quit. Last year they were fifth in the division and this year they were 12 out of 12.

It was a challenge this season to work with an almost totally new team of runners. Dealing with what he had was a lot of track and baseball athletes that had never run a 5K. Some were distance runners and some were sprinters.

Gibson's top runner and junior captain was Jamie Carranza.

"Actually he was our number five runner from last year," Gibson remarked. "This year he learned how to run in front, last year he was being pulled by four seniors."

The top five runners on the team this year were: senior Kaleb Allen, juniors Sagib Garcia and Tyler Westfall along with sophomore Cody Macuga.

"All the boys on the team worked really hard," he said. "The team im-



From top left: Nikita Bhangu, Kaleb Allen, Trevor Lloyd, Andrew Winters, Coach Tom Gibson, Coach Kathy Hansen, Jesse Jarvis, Faithann Dennis. Middle from left: McKaylah Gidner, Tyler Westfall, Sagib Garcia, Jessica Leigh, Dennie Williams IV, Cody Macuga, Jamie Carranza, Jr. Bottom from left: Alyssa Johnson, Joshua Harper, Melaina Climer, Kolby Hood, Austin Bazan, Allison Jones.

proved over two and half minutes over the season."

The major win for the team was beating the John Glenn Rockets in the dual season. At the league meet the Zebras finished 12 out of 12.

They are still looking to improve for next summer. Gibson said it really doesn't matter what other sports they play just as long as they compete.

"We have swimmers, baseball players and track runners," he said. "Cardio is the biggest thing (for training). I do encourage track."

He is looking for numbers again next year and if they could have a much better year he says that would be a plus.

The Wayne boys' cross country team competed at the Class A regional at Lake Erie Metro Park on

Halloween.

The girls' cross country team this season was made up of juniors Nikita Bhangu and Melaina Climer, sophomores Jessica Leigh and Allison Jones and a couple of freshmen McKaylah Gidner and Faithann Dennis. Girls' Coach Kathy Hansen couldn't be prouder of her bunch of harriers.

"This season has been going exceptionally well," Hansen said. "We came into the season with four returning runners, who all ran over the summer. They put in some serious miles (3 of the 4 ran over 500 miles in 100 days)."

She said it is a testament to how well they are doing this season.

"Their times significantly improved the first meet this season, and have been dropping steadily ever since (3-5 minutes for each girl)," she commented. (Jessica) Leigh broke the school record October 13 when we faced John Glenn. Her time was 20:15, which beat the old mark

of 20:22 set in 1980 by Laura Weyand.

"Gidner has also been a standout, running times that make her one of the fastest freshman in the girl's team history," she said. "Gidner is running right up there with our upperclassmen, (Nikita) Bhangu and (Melaina) Climer. The leadership that the latter two show make this team great."

So far this year, the Zebras have placed 3rd at the Crestwood Invitational, 16th at the Wayne County Championship, and 10th in the KLAAC Conference Meet. These are the highest places the team has gotten in years according to Hansen.

"I am so proud of how the girls have been running this season," she said. "The time and effort they put into practices and meets is tremendous and it shows in their times. Next year they look to be even better."

The girls' competed on Halloween and the Class A regional finals against 10-12 teams.

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John P. Rhaesa
Publisher
john@thewaynedispatch.com

Natalie Rhaesa
General Manager
natalie@thewaynedispatch.com

Writers: Courtney Conover, Carolyn Mamon, Sarah Surge
Columnists: Buddy Shuh, Darlene Hawley, Dee Ryan, Lindsey Wooten

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Monumental experience for grieving parents

By Carolyn Marnon

Tears fell as family members remembered their babies at the unveiling of the TEARS monument in Wayne on October 10. The parking lot of Harry J Will Funeral Home was crowded with friends, family and other caring citizens.

The ceremony opened with Sarah Tweet singing "A Mother's Prayer." Michael Majeski led the audience in the opening prayer followed by Buddy Shuh, Michigan's TEARS representative, giving the opening remarks.

He thanked the many supporters, including Dignity Memorial, whose representative, Kevin Bullock, also spoke.

Sarah Slack, the founder of TEARS, told her story of loss and what led her to establish the TEARS Foundation. Buddy Shuh then spoke about how he came to be involved with the TEARS Foundation after an appearance on "The Biggest Loser."

The Shuh family, Harry J. Will Funeral Home representatives, Patton



Tears monument unveiled in front of Harry J. Will Funeral Home. Photo by Kathy Hansen

Monument representatives and representatives from TEARS gathered around the new memorial before unveiling it to the crowd.

Sheri Blumberg recited her poem, "Angel of Hope", that was written for her baby, Tessa Joy Blumberg.

As Shelby Shuh read the names of all the children memorialized on

the monument, roses were handed out to the families as they approached the monument so they could place them in a large vase at the monument.

While Sarah Tweet sang "Fly," a white dove was released from a basket into the sky.

Rev. Tyson Noffzinger said the closing prayer to end the ceremony.

Attendees were invited into the funeral home for appetizers and beverages. They were also invited to use paper and a crayon to make rubbings from the monument before leaving.

You can visit the TEARS monument outside the parking lot of Harry J. Will Funeral Home on Michigan Avenue.



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NEWS BRIEFS

Wayne Police Department receives grants for radios

The City's grant writing team just received word that the grant they submitted to Lowe's for police radios has been awarded to the Wayne Police Department. This grant coupled with a recent grant from the Ford Fund (with help from the Wayne Rotary) will certainly help to keep our officers safe. Congrats to the Wayne Police Department! (Total for radios to date with grant awards: \$31,950.85)

Holiday night at the museum

On Saturday, December 5th, from 6:00-7:30 p.m., please join us for the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony taking place at the Wayne Historical Museum. There will be musical performances by the Wayne Memorial High School band and choir, a visit from Santa Claus, activities for the children, free coffee, hot chocolate and cookies provided by

McDonald's, Biggby Coffee, Baker's Acre and MI Works! We want to thank our partners, the Wayne Rotary, Wayne Main Street and the Wayne Chamber for their help with the planning efforts. Also, thank you to our sponsors for your kind donations.

Small Business Saturday

Join Wayne Main Street and American Express as they promote Small Business Saturday, held yearly on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

The event will kick-off this year at 10 a.m. Saturday, November 28, at the new Biggby in Wayne. Pick up a passport, a totebag and other goodies and get ready to shop. Wayne Main Street will be at Biggby from 10 a.m. until noon.

After you are done shopping and supporting your local Wayne small businesses, you can take your purchases to the Historical Museum until 3 p.m. and get them gift wrapped for a small donation.



Simply the Best

October 16, with her parents looking on, Samatha Best realizes she has the white rose and just became Wayne Memorial's Homecoming Queen.



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