

THE WAYNE Dispatch

APRIL 2016

Confidence Builder

**Ford/UAW
Local 900
member says
goodbye fat,
hello fit**



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YOUR SOURCE FOR POSITIVE COMMUNITY NEWS

313 Robotics team meets their goals

By Carolyn Marnon

They may not be going to the state competition, but they still consider themselves winners. According to team member Oliver Gietzen, "We just finished our 2nd district event last week. We didn't do too well at Waterford (the first event) and had a lot of issues with things needing repairs at both events, but we got through and made it to eliminations at Livonia (the second event). We were so excited and while we most likely won't be going to states, we are happy that we did far better than last year and met all of our goals for our robot to accomplish in matches that was in our mission statement this season."

Wayne Memorial High School's Bionic Zebras are Team 313 in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition. According to the FIRST Inspires website, "under strict rules, limited resources, and an intense six-week time limit, teams of 20 or more students are challenged to raise funds, design a team "brand," hone teamwork skills, and build and program industrial-size robots to play a difficult field game against like-minded competitors. It's as close to real-world engineering as a student can get. Volunteer professional mentors lend their time and talents to guide each team."

Each year, there is a different game that teams have to design and build their robot for. The 2016 game was called "First Stronghold" where robots are programmed to break through opposing teams' fortifica-

tions, weaken the opposing tower with boulders, and capture the opponent's tower. Robots score points by breaching their opponent's defenses, scoring goals by getting boulders into the opposing tower and in the final 20 seconds of the round, robots can scale and climb their opponent's tower.

Joshua Barnett, a mentor of the Bionic Zebras, says this year's game is semi-medieval. The team had to build the various field elements out of plywood to simulate the obstacles that would be at the competitions. To make the elements out of the actual competition materials would be too costly. They only needed to have the simple structures to test their robot on. Obstacles included rough terrain, ramps, opening gates, getting over drawbridges, and lifting doors. The more obstacles the team robot can overcome, the more points the team earns. It is important to weaken the opponent's tower by throwing boulders at it and even more points are scored if the robot can do a chin up on the tower bar near the end of the round.

The team was founded in 1998 by John Vuchovich and Scott Simons, both no longer with the team. The team is now being mentored by Joshua Barnett and Karl Heinrich. There are 24 members on the 2016 team. They are divided into 6 sub-teams that each have their own role in making the season a success. The team is 100% student-driven.

The team meets almost every day during the competition season in their own room at Wayne Memorial



The build team Oliver Gietzen, Naaman Chaudray, Karl Heinrich and Teddy Ivanac waiting for their turn at the Robotics competition the Livonia Churchill. Photo by John Rhaesa

with a "Robotics" sign over the door. They compete in two district tournaments of their choosing. Team 313 chose to compete at Waterford and Churchill this year. There are rules about when the team can actually build the robot, referred to as build season. At the conclusion of build season, they must bag and tag the robot. They then move into design week where they are transitioning between the build and getting ready for competition. Then follows an open bag period leading up to the competitions where there is a small win-

dow of time to take the robot out of the bag, do any final tweaks, and get the robot back into the bag.

Team 313 ranked 294 out of 411 teams in the FIRST in Michigan District. They did better than they did last year and were able to make their robot overcome each obstacle at some point in the season. The team goal was to be able to cross all obstacles and scale the tower. "We didn't do them all at the same time, but all of them were done this season so we're counting it as a win," said Build Captain, Oliver Gietzen.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Gone with the Wind

Join local Gone with the Wind expert, Kathleen Marcaccio, as she shares insights about this legendary novel and film. Learn about author Margaret Mitchell, her real-life inspiration for Rhett Butler, and other intriguing background information. The presentation will also include a treasure trove of GWTW memorabilia. This program is presented by the Friends of the Wayne Public Library and will be Wednesday, April 6, at 6:30 p.m. at the Wayne Public Library. Please call the Adult Reference Desk, 734-721-7832, ext. 630, to register.

Zebra safari-watch out!

The Wayne Memorial High School Zebra Parent Advisory Council invites you to A Zebra Safari, a fundraiser to benefit the Class of 2016 Farewell Event and other activities. The fundraiser is a dining experience prepared by the Wayne/Westland Community Schools



Leaders in the making

Roosevelt-McGrath Elementary School hosted their annual Leadership Day on March 23. This student-led morning included presentations by the Project Unify team and the Student Lighthouse team, tours of the school, and classroom demonstrations. Parents, district officials and community members were invited to the school so students could show how they are using the 7 Habits of Happy Kids to become student leaders.

William D. Ford Career-Technical Center Culinary Arts staff and students. There will be a "killer" amongst the audience. You are invited to solve the "murder" during this murder mystery dinner being held on Friday, April 8, at the Dyer Senior Adult Center on Marquette Rd in Westland. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.; dining begins at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$40 per person. Contact Kevin Weber at (734) 419-2206 to purchase tickets.

Garden Club program for April

Come to the April meeting of the Wayne Garden Club on Wednesday, April 13, at 12:30 p.m. at the Wayne Public Library. The program topic is "Drought Tolerant Plants and Water Drip Systems." The speaker will be Pat Seibel, Display Garden Supervisor at Four Star Greenhouse. The Club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the library, unless there is a field trip. Come to the meeting, meet some of the members and learn how to help your garden during the hot, dry Michigan summer. The Wayne Garden Club is celebrating their 100th birthday in 2016.

Building basics webinar

Business and property owners who are located in the Wayne Main Street district are invited to attend a Building Basics webinar on Monday, April 11, at 6:00 p.m. at the Wayne Historical Museum. The webinar is required of anyone who would like to apply for Design Services from Wayne Main Street. WMS receives up to three design services from Michigan Main Street Center each year.

These services include a site visit by the Michigan Main Street Design Specialist who also meets with the property owner, schematic drawings detailing the proposed façade improvements, paint samples, example photographs, and additional information needed to complete the work. Each service is valued at \$2000-3000.

Anyone is invited to attend and get more information. Past recipients of these services have included Wayne Dairy Queen, the building at 3023 S. Wayne Rd, Helium Studio, Greater Than Dreams Church and Greater Than Dreams office.

Champions of Wayne 5k

The Wayne Memorial High School Champions of Wayne will be holding their 2nd annual 5K on Friday, May 6, at 6:00 p.m. The walk/run will be held at the high school track. The route will go around campus, to the flats, through the woods and back up around the soccer field.

You can register online at www.championsofwayne.org or on the day of the event. Registration at the event begins at 4:30 p.m. The cost to participate is \$20 and includes a t-shirt.

The Champions of Wayne is an educational incentive program that includes mentoring, academic goals and financial rewards. The Champions program creates an opportunity for WMHS students to earn a \$200 award if they reach a customized academic goal.

Students choose a staff member as their mentor and for one semester, they create and work toward an academic goal. The program is funded by The Helpie Charitable Foundation.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Empty bowls fundraiser

Tinkham Educational Center High School in Westland will be having their annual Empty Bowls luncheon event on Friday, May 13. The Empty Bowls program, designed to bring awareness to the hunger crisis throughout the world, is a combined fundraiser for programs (culinary and art) and is a fundraiser for a local organization that services the students at Tinkham. There will be a raffle table comprised of local business donations. Call Tinkham for more information (734) 419-2425.

Casino trip

Join the Wayne Rotary for their next casino trip to Motor City Casino on June 4. Bus leaves Wayne District Court on Sims St. at 2:00 p.m. Bus will depart Motor City at 8:00 p.m. Cost is \$35; you will get back \$30 in slot play. Space is limited. Contact Trish Hampton for further information at (734) 890-6934.

Wayne Golden Hour Club

The Wayne Golden Hour Club is a social group that meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at the Senior Services office at HYPE Recreation Center. There is a potluck luncheon at 11:00 a.m. followed by cards, games and socializing. Anyone 50 years and older is welcome.

Garden club

cookbook available

The Wayne Public Library now has one of the Wayne Garden Club cookbooks in circulation. If you like what you see in the cookbook, you can still purchase a cookbook. Call Alicia Marnon at (734) 595-4217 to get one. They are only \$10 each. The Wayne Garden Club is celebrating their 100th year in 2016. Be a part of their celebration.

All class reunion banquet

The Wayne Memorial High School All Class Reunion Banquet will be held on Friday, May 13, at the Wayne Tree Manor on Van Born in Wayne. They will be honoring and launching the Class of 1966 Reunion celebration. Make your reservations at www.waynehighalumni.com



Golden

Husain Foxworth and Coach Erskine Wade from the Norwayne Boxing Gym after Husain won the Detroit Golden Gloves at the Kronk Gym in Detroit. Husain will represent Michigan in Salt Lake City, Utah later this year at United States National Golden Gloves. Photo by John P. Rhaesa

Class of 1966 50th reunion

Join other classmates from the Wayne Memorial High School Class of 1966 on Saturday, May 14, for the 50th reunion celebration. The reunion will take place at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Rd, Westland from 5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$40 if you register before April 16. April 16 – May 1 the cost goes up to \$45. A cash bar will be available. To make reservations, please go to www.waynehighalumni.com and click on Additional Reunions. If you are interested in attending a Golf Outing on Saturday, May 14, please contact Don Farmer at 734-968-4466.

Beginners Tai Chi class

If you are looking for a no-impact exercise class, join the beginners Tai Chi class. Tai Chi has been proven to help with memory, breathing and balance. No special equipment is needed. The class starts Tuesday, May 3, (as long as there is enough interest) and will run 10 weeks. Cost is \$65 for the 10-week session. Pre-registration must be completed by April 20th. Preregister at HYPE Recreation Center through the Senior Services office.

Ladies literary club

The Wayne Ladies Literary Club will be holding their annual scholarship fundraiser on Tuesday, April 19, at 7:00 p.m. at Wayne First Congregational Church. The Ladies Literary Club was founded in 1896 to offer women in the community the opportunity to gather for educational and social experiences. One hundred and twenty years later, they still meet for social and educational experiences as well as enjoying the opportunity to serve the needs of the community through the scholarship program. Each year, the Club chooses one girl from each high

school, Wayne Memorial and John Glenn, to receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Please come and bring your friends for a fun night out. The theme of this year's event is Game Night. Suggested donation is \$20, but any amount is accepted. The Club wants you to enjoy yourself and have the satisfaction of knowing that you helped two young women get started in college.

Holland tulip time

Join the Wayne Sometimes Travelers for a trip to Holland, MI on Tuesday, May 18. Start out with lunch at Alpen Rose restaurant, a local favorite for over 20 years. You'll learn about historic areas, city parks, Tulip Lanes and much more with a step-on Dutch-costumed guide.

You'll visit Windmill Island Gardens that features a 250 year old Dutch windmill and have the opportunity to visit Veldheer Tulip Garden. There will also be free time for shopping. Cost is \$89 per person. Admission to the Garden is not included in the price. Travelers must be age 30 or older.

The Little Mermaid is coming to Wayne

The Wayne Memorial Theatrical Guild will be presenting "The Little Mermaid" April 28, 29 and 30 at 7:00 p.m. and April 30 at 12:00 p.m. in the Stockmeyer Auditorium at Wayne Memorial High School. Reserved seating is \$12. Box office hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 4:30-6:30 p.m. April 11-April 21 and one hour before each show.

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Ford/UAW member says goodbye fat, hello fit

Carolyn Marnon

Imagine coming into work every day at the Ford Michigan Assembly Plant in Wayne and having a hard time on the assembly line doing your job because you are overweight. Would you complain about how hard your job is and not make any changes? Or would you do as Louise “Lulu” Ogadinma did and make some personal changes that will dramatically affect your life, both at work and personally?

Lulu started working at the Ford plant on Michigan Avenue in February, 2011. She had been obese since childhood, had low self-esteem and no confidence in herself. Her weight would yo-yo, going down, then up, then down and up again.

A fellow member of the UAW-Ford Local 900 union kept encouraging Lulu to go with her to the exercise facility that is inside the plant and that is available to employees. That union sister’s persistence changed Lulu’s life. Lulu had been having a hard time bending over to do her job. “I’m too young to wear a back brace,” she said. “I’ll just get serious with this.”

Lulu started working out during her three breaks each day. When she decided to get serious with weight loss in February 2013, she weighed 232 pounds. She started researching ways she could change her diet and started a new food regimen. By the summer, she was down to 175 pounds. She found that losing the weight made her job easier. She gained confidence.

By 2014, other Ford employees at the plant were asking her to train them. They had seen the transformation in Lulu, and she was getting a reputation at the plant. Everyone seemed to know that Lulu spent her breaks in the Ford gym. Lulu would train other employees on their breaks. She was an inspiration to others. As she lost weight and became stronger, she decided to try out for a women’s football team in Detroit in January 2015. She had not played sports when she was younger, but she had gained confidence in herself to now try. She made the team and played for a short time. Eventually, Lulu chose to leave that team to start her own team, the Flint City Riveters. Lulu said the endeavor was expensive and challenging. She



Louise “Lulu” Ogadinma

and her three partners now have 24 girls on their team.

As the middle linebacker, playing football is another way she keeps in shape. She continues to work out daily. “It’s so addictive,” she says.

When she was focused on losing weight, Lulu did cardio 2 times a day for an hour. She is very strict with her diet. She believes meal prep is important to sticking with a diet. She chooses a “less busy” day each week and does her meal prep for the week. Most of her meals consist of chicken, vegetables, brown rice and/or sweet potatoes. She finds that by doing the meal prep ahead of time, she doesn’t have to think about what she is going to eat, she just has to grab her meal and go. When she started her diet regimen, her diet was 95% clean. That means she was not eating much junk food or processed food. Now, her diet is 80% clean. She does allow herself the occasional pizza and what she calls a “cheat meal” each week where she can eat whatever she wants for

that one meal. By not depriving herself of some of the foods she really likes, she is able to maintain her diet the rest of the week.

Lulu’s current job at the assembly plant is securing the center console on the car and putting the airbag clip on the side panel. She stands on a conveyor belt that moves with the car and has about 45 seconds to get her job done before she has to move on to the next car. She works on about 70 cars an hour. When she started her current job, she had vertigo which she attributed to a high sodium diet. Her diet now has resolved that issue.

Lulu lives in Melvindale with her 7-year old daughter who loves to play soccer and dance. It took six months, but Lulu is now a certified ISSA (International Sports Sciences Association) personal trainer. She plans to take advantage of the UAW/Ford ETAP (Education Tuition Assistance Plan) to attend Henry Ford Community College and get an associate’s degree in Fitness. The

ETAP provides up to \$6,000 for tuition and approved fees for approved courses that lead to a GED, associate degree, bachelor degree, master degree, PhD, certificate or diploma at regionally accredited educational institutions. After she gets her associate degree, she would like to attend Eastern Michigan University to study Sport Performance and Fitness Entrepreneurship.

The exercise facility at the Ford Michigan Assembly Plant in Wayne is open 24 hours a day. All Ford workers and UAW employees have access to it. It is equipped with cardio and strength training machines. The current contract that was passed this last year awarded the UAW workers funds to repair and maintain the machines as well as to purchase some new equipment. “It’s awesome that Ford Motor Company really cares for our health. I can’t wait to see the new equipment!” Lulu said.

If you would like to learn more about Lulu’s fitness business, go to www.luluplusyoufitness.com

Memorial Day Parade planned to honor hereos

This year's parade is Sunday, May 29, 2016. At the present time 200 invitations are out but the parade committee is always looking for more participants so if you or your group hasn't received an application and you are interested ... all are welcome! The parade committee is also looking for volunteers for the parking lot, the ceremony, and every year they have a group to pass out flags to

the onlookers on the parade route, if this is something that you or your group are interested in, please contact chair person, Dan Stachow at 734-427-2520 or our parade coordinator, Heather Robertson-Mitchell at 313-576-7268 or Hrobertson70@gmail.com, The parade committee meets at VFW post 3323, their next meeting is April 27, 2016, at 7:30 p.m..



Easter fun for everyone

The Marshmallow Drop sponsored by CrossPointe Community church was a huge success. Lots of candy, breakfast, crafts and a visit from the Easter Bunny. When you visit the Easter Bunny make sure you bring carrots.



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Safe, friendly and fun softball league for kids

By Carolyn Marnon

The Dad's Athletic Club of Westland, Inc. Softball League is looking for boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 18 to play softball this spring/summer.

The DAC has been a part of the Wayne/Westland community since 1966, providing a safe, friendly, and fun environment for kids. They average 300-375 young people in the softball program every year. This is

a volunteer-run program that includes coaches, umpires, field maintenance, office workers and everyone behind the scenes. With summer coming soon, kids need a place to go and a place where they can make friends, get exercise and be a part of a team.

There are no tryouts involved. Every child plays in every game. There are six divisions: ages 6-8 COED (girls and boys play together),

Intermediate Girls (ages 9-12), Intermediate Boys (ages 9-12), Senior Girls (ages 13-18), and Senior Boys (ages 13-18). There is a blind draft to pick teams. After the draft, each child will get a call from their coach who will introduce themselves and tell when the first practice is.

The teams play behind Adams Upper Middle School on Palmer Rd. The season starts at the end of April and continues through the end of July. Games are played Monday-Thursday, 5:00-9:00 p.m. There are two Saturday events planned. There will be 14 games plus a month of practice. There will be an

All-Star Game after the first half of the season and an end of the year family picnic. You do not have to be a resident of Wayne or Westland to play. The league is open to everyone. The cost is \$30 per player or \$60 for a family with three or more children. Participants will need a mitt and running shoes; cleats are not needed. Everyone gets a team jersey and trophy. There are no candy sales or any other hidden costs. There is a 50/50 raffle at each game that helps to keep the costs down. To sign up or obtain more information, you can visit the webpage www.dadsclubsoftball.com or call Sandy at (734) 722-8442.



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THE WAYNE Dispatch
A JoNa Media LLC Publication

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

John P. Rhaesa
Publisher
john@thewaynedispatch.com

Natalie Rhaesa
General Manager
natalie@thewaynedispatch.com

Writers: Carolyn Marnon, Dave Merchant
Columnists: Darlene Hawley, Dee Ryan, Lindsey Wooten

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Police return stolen vehicle to couple

Carolyn Marnon

You hop into your car one morning and start it up. Oh no! You forgot something. You hop out of the car leaving the engine running and run into the house, grab whatever it is you forgot and head back outside, expecting to hop back into your car. Only what happens when your car has suddenly disappeared?

For thirty years, Deborah Wass of Wayne, has never had a problem with starting a car and leaving it running while it warms up. At least, not until last month. Her husband Curt started their truck up about 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 16. He realized he forgot his uniform, came back in the house, grabbed it and went back outside. He came right back inside and said "Honey, call the police" to Deborah. The truck had disappeared in that brief amount of time. Deborah later learned from her neighbor that police had been in the

neighbor's backyard shining flashlights around at 5-6:00 a.m. that morning. It was speculated that someone had been hiding in the neighborhood and saw a crime of opportunity.

The officer who responded to the call happened to be the officer of the year, Deborah said. He was there within five minutes. "He was great, very personable," said Deborah.

Shortly after filing the report, Deborah reached out on Facebook to report what had happened. Perhaps someone would see their truck somewhere. No one saw her truck, but she did get a lot of support from others on Facebook and from her neighbors. The situation opened up many conversations with the neighbors about safety in the neighborhood and about keeping things locked and putting lights on at night.

One week later, on March 23, the Wayne police department called Deb-



Curt and Deborah Wass had their vehicle returned by Ypsilanti Police after it was stolen.

orah to say the truck had been recovered in Ypsilanti. A juvenile male had been pulled over for driving a stolen vehicle. Deborah said the truck only had about a quarter tank of gas in it when it was stolen, so she imagines someone had to have needed to put gas in it at some point.

Deborah had to pay \$227 to get her truck back and then dropped it off at K & S Auto Service in Wayne to get it looked at and to make sure it was okay. She likes working with

Ray at K & S. There was a problem with the heat shield and some rattling that was tightened up. She still is not able to use the truck because she has to wait for the insurance adjudicator to look it over since it was a stolen vehicle.

Luckily, nothing was taken from the car. However, something was left in the car -- a terrible smell that was left behind as part of a week-long joyride. It will take some time to get rid of that.



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Saving lives is their mission, saving their equipment is ours

By Carolyn Marnon

What started as a simple request for monetary donations from businesses that had some type of connection to the Wayne Fire Department to help the department purchase a new Jaws of Life has snowballed into a community fundraising event that will be able to help the Wayne Fire Department purchase additional equipment to replace old and outdated items.

Last November, Captain Fred Gilstorff of the Wayne Fire Department, started trying to raise funds for a new Jaws of Life. He sent letters out to businesses that the fire department had had dealings with in the past requesting donations. He also went into businesses when he was available to personally deliver letters. Jaws of Life cost approximately \$27,000.

Wayne residents Bernadette Brock and Sammy Willingham heard about the fundraising efforts of Capt. Gilstorff and decided to work together to help raise funds. They contacted Capt. Gilstorff to ask how they could help. Capt. Gilstorff showed them much of the old equipment the fire department was working with, including the Jaws of Life. Both ladder trucks at Station 5 have the Jaws of Life, but they are over 20 years old. They don't cut through the stronger alloy that newer vehicles are now made of.

At the time of that meeting, Capt. Gilstorff was still about \$7,000 short of being able to purchase the new Jaws of Life.

They started a Go Fund Me account "Jaws of Life for WW Fire Department" about three months ago. As of April 1, only \$180 has been pledged. Since the crowdfunding route wasn't bringing in a large amount of donations, Sammy and Bernadette had to come up with a new plan.

"Saving Lives is Their Mission, Saving Their Equipment is Ours" was born. With the support of the Wayne Fire Department and City Manager, Lisa Nocerini, Bernadette, her husband Alfred Brock, and Sammy started planning a 2-part bowling fundraiser to be held on Saturday, April 16, at Wayne Bowl, 36900 Michigan Avenue.

From 12:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. there will be glow bowling for the



Captain Fred Gilstorff of the Wayne Fire Department, receives a check for \$2,500 from Beaumont Hospital Division President Eric W. Widner towards the Jaws of Life.

Photo by John Rhaesa

kids and families. Tickets are \$10 per person for the glow bowl. There will also be free face painting, a visit from Sparky the Dog, a fire truck displayed outside, raffle prizes and reasonably priced snacks that will include hot dogs, pop and water. The raffle prizes will be geared toward children during this session and will cost \$1-\$5. A bake sale is also planned. If you are not bowling, you are still welcome to attend the fundraiser and buy raffle tickets and/or snacks and mingle with other community members.

Sammy has said that Wayne Bowl has been very helpful. They are closing their concession stand during the fundraiser so attendees will purchase snacks from the fundraiser.

From 8:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. there will be adult only bowling. Adult bowling tickets are \$15 per person. There will also be gift baskets, a silent auction and a 50/50 raffle. There will be food available for purchase. There are 40 lanes at Wayne Bowl. Sammy hopes that each lane will have five bowlers so that 200 bowlers can be accommodated.

Among the items being offered as prizes or for auction are a 50" LCD

TV, a ride in a fire truck, new bicycles, a day at the State Capitol with Senator Patrick Colbeck, a Keurig K350 Coffee Maker, a bowling ball and a birthday party at Wayne Bowl. There are many more items that are being donated by community members.

Since the bowling fundraiser was first announced, the Fire Department has received the entire \$27,000 in donations they needed to purchase a new Jaws of Life. Capt. Gilstorff ordered the best battery-operated system on the market that includes three tools—a spreader, a ram and a cutter. It will replace the gasoline powered unit that uses pressurized hydraulic fluid and has cords that can be a tripping hazard. It is expected to be delivered to the Fire Department the week of April 17th. The fire department will be able to use the new Jaws of Life to remove the vehicle from the victim and not the victim from the vehicle.

The Jaws of Life may have been purchased, but the Wayne Fire Department has other outdated and worn out equipment that should be replaced. Saws need to be replaced as do ropes and rigging systems. EMS supplies like splint kits and a

lift-assist tool (that would greatly benefit the backs of the emergency responders) are wanted. Capt. Gilstorff would like his fire fighters to have updated personal protection items and turn-out gear. The ones they are using are 8-10 years old and federal guidelines recommend replacing them every 10 years. They try to wash turn-out gear after fire runs because cancer-causing fibers attach to the clothing. 12 complete sets of turn-out gear would be ideal. That's another \$45,000. Capt. Gilstorff has applied for a grant through FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters to cover the cost of the turn-out gear and hopes for a reply soon.

The community has stepped up and is helping their fire personnel. If you can't afford to take the family bowling, you can still bring the kids to see the fire truck and fire fighters and Sparky the Dog. You could still have lunch or buy a raffle ticket. Sammy says he wanted to make the daytime event family-friendly and that a family could afford to come to. Maybe you don't like to bowl but love to talk. Come out and meet other members of the community. Don't think that you can't help just because you can't afford to bowl or don't like bowling. You could bake something for the bake sale. Whatever you want to do, Bernadette and Sammy would love your help. You can contact them through their Facebook page "Saving Lives Is Their Mission, Saving Their Equipment is Our Fundraiser."

You can purchase tickets in advance at ICON Computer Solutions on Michigan Avenue, JR3's on Wayne Road, and City Hall. Advance tickets are NOT available at Wayne Bowl. Tickets will also be available at the event on April 16. Come out and support our fire personnel. They have done, and continue to do, their very best with the equipment they have. They shouldn't have to make do using aging equipment in a life or death situation.

If you are not able to come to the fundraising event, 7-Eleven located on Annapolis is also helping to raise funds for fire equipment. They are selling stars for \$1 each. Donations can also be made by mail to: Attn: Capt. Gilstorff, Wayne Westland Fire Department, 3355 Wayne Rd, Wayne, MI 48184. Make checks payable to Wayne Westland Public Awareness.

Special Events planned for National Small Business Week

Social Media

Marketing for your Small Business Workshop

Monday, May 2nd, 6:00 PM

Wayne Historical Museum

Presenter: Kristi Trevarrow from Downtown Rochester & Main Street Nation

How are you leveraging social media platforms to help drive traffic to your business? There are a lot of social media options, and you need to choose carefully where to invest your time and dollars.

Through this session, you'll learn about small business marketing trends and tips, and how to incorporate the best social media practices for your business into an overall marketing strategy. Cost: \$25 each.



Register for the workshop by visiting www.downtownwayne.org/events/calendar/workshop Refreshments included.

Please bring your laptop computer to get the most out of this workshop! Interested in a one-on-one consultation IN your business?

Only TWO available! Call (734) 629-6822 for information. Home-based businesses are welcome too!



Mother's Day Chocolate Walk

Saturday, May 7th, from 12-4 p.m.

Wayne Historical Museum

www.downtownwayne.org/chocwalk

Tickets \$5 in advance, \$8 in person. ONLY 50 TICKETS AVAILABLE. Purchase online by visiting <http://waynechocwalk.eventbrite.com> or

in person by calling (734) 629-6822. Explore some of downtown Wayne's unique shops and restaurants while picking up gourmet Corden's chocolate along the way. Each ticket for this event will receive a box to fill with chocolate and a map of participating businesses.

Only 50 tickets available, so get yours now!

Wayne/Westland Crop Walk to stop hunger

By Carolyn Marnon

You are invited to come out and walk on Sunday, May 1, at the annual Wayne/Westland CROP Hunger Walk being organized by Wayne First Congregational Church. Have fun with the family as you walk the approximately one mile designated course that meanders from the church along Michigan Avenue to Elizabeth St to Washington Park and along the river to Josephine and back to the church.

The Crop Walk is a community-wide event that is sponsored by Church World Service and is organized by local churches and groups to raise funds to end hunger at home

and around the world. Twenty-five percent of the money raised at the Wayne/Westland Crop Walk will be shared locally with St. Mary's Bolde Center, Good Hope Lutheran Food Pantry, the Salvation Army and FISH. The remainder will go to Church World Service to aid grassroots development efforts around the world.

Registration for the walk starts at 2:30 p.m. at Wayne First Congregational Church, 2 Towne Square. The walk will begin promptly at 3:00 p.m. Anyone can participate. You can gather sponsors prior to the walk who pledge a certain amount for you to complete the walk or you can make a donation. This is a fun

activity for families to do together.

Six churches participate in the Wayne/Westland Crop Walk: Wayne First Congregational Church (Wayne), First United Methodist Church (Wayne), St. Mary Catholic Church (Wayne), Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church (Westland), St. Richard's Catholic Church (Westland) and Good Hope Lutheran Church (Garden City).

CROP began in 1947 and was an acronym for Christian Rural Overseas Program. Its primary mission was to help Midwest farm families share their grain with hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia. CROP walks began in

1969 and are considered "the granddaddy of charity walks" according to the Los Angeles Times. On October 17, 1969, a thousand people in Bismarck, North Dakota walked in what may have been the start of the hunger walks related to CROP and raised \$25,000 to help stop hunger. It is thought that the first "official" CROP Walk for the Hungry was held in York County, Pennsylvania followed by more walks in other communities which has spread each year since. More than five million CROP Hunger Walkers have participated in the last two decades alone.

For more information, contact Eileen Rowland at (734) 858-7535.

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Spaghetti fundraiser on anniversary of horrible crash

Father and son John and Bill VerHines own GRAMCO, a furniture restoration company that has been in business in Wayne for 50 years. On April 29, 2015, the two were involved in a devastating crash caused by a young drunk driver, altering their lives in an instant. The two now have traumatic brain injuries requiring daily medical attention. Thankfully after a year of intense therapies which will continue for years, they are slowly recovering. Because of their never ending financial need and uncooperative insurance carriers, the family needs help. A "Restoring VerHines Legacy" Spaghetti Fundraiser is planned for Friday, April 29th, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 3 Town Square, across from the Wayne Post Office.

"We are so grateful to the community for organizing a fundraiser for our family," said Erin VerHines, wife to Bill and daughter-in-law to John. "Friends and family have been wonderfully supportive. This fundraiser will help us pay our daily living ex-



John with his grandson. Bill with his daughter. (Photos taken before the accident).

penses as well as provide for the various therapies and medical attention both men need. My mother-in-law, John's wife, is also disabled and I, myself have a spinal condition. We are sharing a compact car among six people right now. We could use some help." The two families need at least

\$4,000 a month to make ends meet. Bill and Erin also have two small children.

Admission price to the fundraiser is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 6 which includes all you can eat spaghetti, garlic bread and salad. A gluten-free dinner option will also

be available. There will also be a bake sale in which all proceeds go toward the VerHines family. The event is sponsored by the TAFFY (Taking Action For Friends, Family and Youth) Foundation, a 501 c3 non-profit organization that strives to improve the quality of life for Michigan families burdened with hardship. TAFFY's mission is to provide financial assistance and hope to those struggling for a myriad of reasons.

If you would like to donate food or volunteer, please call 734-788-2258. If you would like to make a donation, go to the VerHines GoFundMe page at GoFundMe.com/verhines. Every dollar you donate will help support the family legacy including paying for monthly rent and utilities, medical appointments and therapies not covered by insurance. For more information about the GRAMCO legacy, visit the website at www.gramcorestoration.com. Please RSVP to the fundraiser on the Restoring VerHines Legacy Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RestoringVerHinesLegacy.

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- OCT. 19** - PIE CONTEST
- OCT. 26** - TRICK-or-TREAT
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The City of Westland is pleased to announce the "Mother and Son Evening of Fun" to celebrate MOM for Mother's Day

SATURDAY, MAY 7TH
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Westland City Hall
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ADMISSION
\$25 per couple
and additional
\$5 per additional son

ADMISSION INCLUDES:
DINNER: Chicken Fingers, Fruits and Veggies, Dessert and Beverages
PLUS: Red Carpet Walkway and Photos with Star Wars Characters, DJ and Dancing!

Mother's Day Eve Event.... We welcome Mothers and son or sons ages 4 to 13 and we hope that Fathers will chauffeur Mothers and sons to the event. A fun time for all who attend!

We encourage not only Mothers and their son or sons to attend but Aunts/Nephews and Grandmothers/Grandsons.

For more information or to reserve seating, email: parks@cityofwestland.com www.cityofwestland.com

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