



THE WAYNE Dispatch

JUNE 2016

WMHS Class of
2016

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GRADUATES!

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YOUR SOURCE FOR POSITIVE COMMUNITY NEWS

Vote YES on "S" !

Tuesday, August 2nd, To Protect Our Families

Why do we need an Emergency Services millage?

Wayne's taxable value has decreased drastically from its high in 2008 of over **\$607 Million** down to just about **\$350 Million** today. The operating revenue that the City receives has dropped by **\$3.8 Million**.

- Since 2010, the City has **lost** over **\$33 Million** dollars in tax revenue.
- Over the last ten years the City has **lost** over **\$7.5 Million** dollars in revenue sharing from the State.
- This year, the City will lose well over **\$1 Million** in personal property tax revenue as a result of the elimination of this tax by the State.
- Ford Motor Company has been awarded a **\$590,000** Tax Tribunal settlement that the City will have to begin paying in October of this year.

With the significant loss in revenue over the last 8 years, Proposal "S" is the only option the City has to provide the proper **POLICE, FIRE AND EMS SERVICES NEEDED TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE.**

What Has the City Done to Avoid Raising Taxes?

- The City has cut the workforce by over **54%** in the last 10 years.
- Employees are contributing 20% towards their healthcare.
- Retiree healthcare has been eliminated for employees hired after January 1, 2014.
- The City switched health insurance carriers on January 1, 2016, moving to a self-funded health insurance plan saving **\$500,000 annually**.
- The City has consolidated services with other communities to save money (Emergency Dispatch, Fire Services, Ordinance, the DPW Director, etc.).
- The City has outsourced various non-essential services to save money (i.e. Recreation Center).

When the Millage Passes, How Will the Money Be Spent?

100% of money received through the millage must be spent on Police, Fire and EMS in WAYNE.

How much will the General Operating Millage be rolled back when Proposal "S" is successful?

City Council unanimously passed a resolution on June 7th, 2016 to roll back up to **5 mills**. When Proposal "S" is successful, it will provide a long term solution in solidifying our essential services.

When Proposal "S" passes, will I see an increase Police and Fire presence?

Yes. Once Proposal "S" passes we will have the financial ability to improve our Public Safety. The Mayor and City Council are committed to having more Police Officers and Firefighters on duty to respond to your home. If the proposal does not pass, the number of Wayne Police Officers and Firefighters that can respond to our homes in an emergency will remain at unsafe levels and will be reduced even further.

What Happens If It Isn't Approved?

The General Fund will be depleted in December of 2017 and Wayne will enter into a state of insolvency, which would lead to a state-appointed emergency financial manager. The City will be forced to lay-off police officers, firefighters and outsource/eliminate certain essential services (Public Works, Buildings and Engineering). The City would also jeopardize its ability for future sustainable economic growth with limited public safety numbers.



By Carolyn Marnon

When Lt. Rob Puckett was hired at the Wayne Police Department 21 years ago, there were 45 officers. Today, there are only 21 officers and the workload has not changed in the past 21 years. Although he loves his job and doesn't want to leave, Lt. Puckett, a former Wayne resident, will be retiring this month. He purchased time so he could retire with 25 years and one month on his record.

Lt. Puckett has lived most of his life in Wayne. His mother still lives in the house he grew up in. He attended Taft, Franklin and Wayne Memorial schools. He thanks his parents every day for moving to Wayne. "Wayne has given me so much in my life."

The day Lt. Puckett retires will be one filled with honor for the father he lost to lung cancer on Mother's Day in 2015. June 22, his chosen retirement date, is his father's birthday. He says his dad was his greatest supporter and also a supporter of Wayne and the police department.

Lt. Puckett recalled how his father would fix lawn mowers and snow blowers for the officers. His Dad was proud that his son worked in the city where he lived. His dad coached his baseball teams when he was younger and was his hunting buddy. Lt. Puckett's favorite memory



Lt. Rob Puckett and his father Roy enjoyed hunting together.

"The impact he had on the city and the department will live on for years after his retirement. I wish him nothing but the best in his retirement, and he will be missed."

Wayne Police Chief Al Maciag

of his dad was the last time they went hunting together. They went on a hunting trip to Wisconsin; they knew it would be their last trip to-

gether. When he was sick, his dad never left the house and it was hard for Lt. Puckett because "you'd think he (your dad) was the strongest man."

The wisdom his father passed on to him includes being a good person; treating others like you want to be treated; honesty, integrity and a great work ethic; and to be loyal to where you work. Lt. Puckett has been very blessed that he has had his dream job for all these years.

Lt. Puckett met his wife 22 years ago when they were students at Franklin Middle School. They married in November, 1994. They have two children, a son and a daughter, who attend St. Mary's Catholic School. He studied law enforcement in college on his way to becoming a police officer in Wayne. Because he lived and worked in Wayne, he wanted the community to see the other side of a police officer. When he had to fill up his own car with gas, he used gas stations in Wayne. Instead of using the gym at the police department, he bought a membership at the recreation center and used that so people could see him in the community. He tried to shop local whenever he could.

He would like to be able to work in some capacity of public safety. He used to work in the schools as a D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) officer for about six years and also as a resource officer. He says meeting kids, "was so rewarding for me."

Wayne Police Chief Al Maciag says, "I've worked with Lt. Puckett my entire career and can say he truly cares about the city and the citizens he served. Lt. Puckett was born and raised in Wayne and after college returned to Wayne to become a police officer in the city that he loved. Everywhere you went in the city, people knew Lt. Puckett. I guess you would say he is a hometown celebrity.

The impact he had on the city and the department will live on for years after his retirement. I wish him nothing but the best in his retirement, and he will be missed."

When he retires on June 22, he will be presented with a gun that has the date he started with the police department and the date he retired: June 22, 2016.

What a wonderful way to honor the father whom he loved and who taught him so much.

NEWS BRIEFS

On your mark, get set, read!

The Wayne Public Library youth summer reading program will begin Tuesday, June 7. The theme this year for youth is "On Your Mark, Get Set...Read!" Visit the youth desk between June 7 and July 5 to register. Youth can win prizes just for reading their favorite books. There will be special events including Healthy Me with Lynn Hartwig (June 21), Magic with Jeff Wawrzaszek (June 28), Flying Aces Pro Frisbee Team (July 15), Summer Olympics-Library Style (July 19) and Shake, Rattle and Roll: an Interactive Concert (July 26). Contact the library at (734) 721-7832 for more information. There is also a reading program for teens, "Get in the Game: Read." For every 100 pages a teen reads, they are entered for a chance to win Amazon gift cards and a Kindle Fire.

Women of Wayne fashion exhibit

Wayne Memorial High School students who make up Junior Main Street invite you to their first event, the Women of Wayne fashion exhibit. The exhibit opens on Friday, June 10, at the Wayne Historical Museum and will be available for viewing from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. that evening. The exhibit will feature women's fashion throughout Wayne's history spanning the Civil War era through the 1950s. If you can't make it to opening night, visit the museum whenever they are open through the end of August. Admission is free. The talented teens of Junior Main Street have done a great deal of work

City of Wayne
Town Hall Meeting
Ballot Proposal (S)
 (This is a neutral meeting and will be for informational purposes only):
Wednesday, June 15th
 First United Methodist Church located at 3 Towne Square
6:30 p.m.
 This meeting is for informational purposes only and is not intended to influence a yes or no position. This meeting is being held by the City of Wayne to allow the public to ask questions about the upcoming police and fire millage on the August 2nd ballot.

to bring this exhibit to life. Show your support by joining them on their opening night.

Afternoon Tea with the Mayor

Join the Wayne Historical Society for a formal Afternoon Tea with Mayor Susan Rowe on the lawn of the Wayne Historical Museum. Catered by Victoria's Tea Salon, tickets will include a variety of tea sandwiches, scones, pastries, and teas. Garden attire required! Don't miss this fun, family friendly event in historic downtown Wayne on Saturday, June 11 at 3:00 p.m. For more information, please call (734) 722-0113. Event proceeds will help support continued programming at the Wayne Historical Museum and the improvement of exhibits and storage of artifacts.

FRIENDS...people helping people

This wonderful program was started in 1998 to help a Wayne resident whose home was in need of some 'tender loving care'. Volunteers continue to help residents improve the curb appeal of their homes every year as part of Friends...People Helping People. Homes are usually chosen based on the homeowners' inability to handle the work themselves, due to either financial or health constraints.

The FRIENDS committee coordinates with willing volunteers to complete whatever project is needed. If you would like to nominate yourself or a neighbor for help, donate or volunteer; please call the Community Development department at (734) 419-0118. Homes must be owner occupied. This program is free to the homeowner and is completely funded through donations and volunteers. This is a 'feel good' project which will take place on Saturday, August 10th, (rain date is August 17th). Donations are greatly appreciated.

Another new business opens in Wayne

Queso Mexican Grill, located at 33970 Van Born Rd in Wayne, has opened. They had their official grand opening on June 3 after a soft opening where they tested their products and recipes and made improvements.

They are open Monday-Friday 11:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Classic Car Show

On June 11, the Wayne Masonic Lodge will be holding a Classic Car Show at 37137 Palmer Rd in Westland. The hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will also be raffles, prizes and a food court. All proceeds from the show will go to benefit Rainbow Girls and Demolays. July 9 is the alternate rain date.

Wayne Farmers Market

Visit the Wayne Farmers Market on Wednesdays through October. The market is open 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and averages about 20 vendors. Special events are coming up this month. June 15 features an ice cream social. June 29 will be auto history day. Jimmy's Party Rental will be providing a children's activity each week. Come to Goudy Park and support our farmers market.

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SMORSA - what is that?

By Carolyn Marnon

You've probably been hearing about a 14-mill ballot proposal being called SMORSA and wondering what it is. The information here is intended to help you understand SMORSA. A mill rate is the amount of tax payable per dollar of the assessed value of a property. If your property has a taxable value of \$100,000, and you're assessed a 1 mill tax rate, you'll pay \$100 in taxes.

What is SMORSA?

SMORSA stands for South Macomb Oakland Regional Services Authority. It is a joint collaborative public financing organization founded by the cities of Eastpointe and Hazel Park to utilize funding options for emergency services, as outlined in Public Act 57 of 1988.

How does it work?

The sole purpose and intent of SMORSA is to provide funding for emergency services (police and fire). All dollars collected in Wayne will stay in Wayne. SMORSA was not created to assume any role in Wayne's decisions regarding service levels, personnel or the consolidation of public safety departments.

Why are 14 mills needed?

Wayne's taxable value has decreased drastically from its high in 2008 of over \$607 million down to just about \$350 million today. The operating revenue that the City receives has dropped by \$3,855,000.

Since 2010, the City has lost over \$33 million in tax revenue. Over the last ten years, the City has lost over \$7.5 million in revenue sharing from the State. This year, the City will lose over \$1 million in personal property tax revenue as a result of the elimination of that tax by the State. Finally, Ford Motor Company has been awarded a \$590,000 Tax Tribunal settlement that the City will have to begin paying in October 2016.

The 2016/2017 budget will not be balanced. The passage of the 14-mill proposal will generate \$4.9 million annually. This will be specifically dedicated to police and fire services only.

When will the millage referendum be on the ballot?

It will be on the ballot for the August 2, 2016 election. If the millage passes, the 14 mill tax levy will be assessed for 18 years and would expire in 2034.

If the millage passes, how will the money be spent?

100% of the money received through this millage must be spent on emergency services (police, fire and EMS) in Wayne.

If the millage fails, what will happen?

The General Fund will be depleted in December 2017. Wayne will enter into a state of insolvency. This would more than likely lead to a state-appointed emergency financial manager. The City will be forced to lay-off police officers and firefighters and outsource or eliminate certain essential services such as public works. The City would also jeopardize its ability for future sustainable economic growth with limited public safety numbers.

How can I learn more?

There will be Ballot Proposal Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, June 15, at First United Methodist Church (3 Town Square) at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to influence a yes or no position. The meeting is being held by the City of Wayne to allow the public to ask questions about the upcoming police and fire millage on the Aug. 2 ballot.



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NEWS BRIEFS

Jazz at The Avenue

Join Wayne Main Street as they present the 2nd annual Jazz at The Avenue fundraiser on Wednesday, July 27, at 6:00 p.m. The event will be at The Avenue American Bistro located at 3632 Elizabeth Street. Drink and dine on the outdoor patio while listening to a live jazz trio. You will also be able to sample craft beers and Michigan wines. This event helps Wayne Main Street further their efforts to revitalize downtown Wayne. Tickets are \$50 each or two for \$80 and are available for purchase at the Wayne Historical Museum during museum hours. Tickets are limited.

Public announcement from the Wayne police department

The lobby of the police department is now designated as a "Safe Exchange Zone" where citizens can meet to buy or sell items from the Craigslist web site. The lobby is open 24/7. If you have any questions, please contact the Wayne Police Department at 734-721-1414.

Yamasaki in Detroit

The Wayne Public Library will be the location of a presentation, "Yamasaki in Detroit" with John Gallagher, author of Yamasaki in Detroit: A Search for Serenity, on Tuesday, June 28 at 6:30 p.m. Best-known for the World Trade Center in New York City, Japanese American architect Minoru Yamasaki (1912-1986) worked to create moments of surprise, serenity, and delight in dis-

tinctive buildings around the world. In his adopted home of Detroit, Yamasaki produced many important designs that ranged from public buildings to offices and private residences. Register in advance by calling the adult reference desk at (734) 721-7832.

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.

JROTC team to compete in National Leadership Bowl

After advancing through two phases of online competition, the Wayne Memorial High School JROTC Leadership Team will compete in person at the Championship event in Washington, DC. The 2016 Army JROTC Leadership Bowl Championship will be held on the campus of The Catholic University of America, June 24-28. The event is sponsored by the Army JROTC and is conducted by College Options Foundation.

The Wayne Memorial JROTC team earned top scores out of the 1,378 Army JROTC teams that competed from around the world. They placed first in the Region of 7th Brigade (Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee).



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Wayne Memorial High School Class of 2016 valedictorians: (Front) Riley Hardyniec, Gabrielle Niemiec, Emilie Blair, Aliyyah Spencer and Samantha Wass. (Back) Kelsie Wysong, Haley Scott, Amiee Hutton, Carmen Mata, Brett Macek and Carol May.

Class of 2016 valedictorians

The Class of 2016 from Wayne Memorial High School was awarded over \$6.7 million in scholarships. Let's celebrate the valedictorians, those typically having the highest academic achievements of the class.

Emilie Marie Blair

Daughter of Jennie and David Blair
Emilie is graduating with a 4.12 Cumulative GPA
She will be attending the
University of Michigan- Ann Arbor
Studying Pre Medicine

Carmen Cailey Mata

Daughter of Chad and Becky Mata
Carmen is graduating with a
4.20 Cumulative GPA
She will be attending Georgetown University
Studying International Relations

Haley Kay Scott

Daughter of Christina and Rodney Scott
Haley is graduating with a 4.04 Cumulative GPA
She will be attending
Central Michigan University
Majoring in Meteorology

Riana Aline Hardyniec

Daughter of Anastasia Hardyniec
and Richard Hardyniec
Riana is graduating with a 4.11 Cumulative GPA
She will be attending the
University of Michigan- Ann Arbor
Studying Pre Medicine

Carol Marie May

Daughter of William and Elizabeth May
Carol is graduating with a 4.06 Cumulative GPA
She will be attending the
University of Michigan- Ann Arbor
Majoring in Chemistry

Samantha Lynn Wass

Daughter of Deborah and Curt Wass
Samantha is graduating with a
4.16 Cumulative GPA
She will be attending Michigan State University
Majoring in Veterinary Medicine

Amiee Nichole Hutton

Daughter of Don and Paula Hutton
Amiee is graduating with a 4.08 Cumulative GPA
She will be attending Kalamazoo College
Studying Pre Medicine

Gabrielle Niemiec

Daughter of Claude Niemiec and Annette Nibert
Gabrielle is graduating with a
4.02 Cumulative GPA
She will be attending Wayne State University
Majoring in Journalism

Kelsie Ann Wysong

Daughter of Robert Wysong and Melissa Wysong
Kelsie is graduating with a 4.1 Cumulative GPA
She will be attending Stanford
Majoring in Bio Engineering

Brett Michael Macek

Son of Kevin and Dawn Macek
Brett is graduating with a 4.06 Cumulative GPA
He will be attending the
University of Michigan- Dearborn
Majoring in Business

Dasia Rochelle Riley

Daughter of Icie Frizzell and Kelvin Riley
Dasia is graduating with a 4.04 Cumulative GPA
She will be attending Wayne State University
Studying Pre Medicine

The class Salutatorian is **Aliyyah Simone Spencer**. She is the daughter of Shelia and Shellie Spencer. Aliyyah is graduating with a 3.979 Cumulative GPA and will be attending the American Musical and Dramatic Academy of New York majoring in Musical Theatre.

Congratulations to these high-achieving students for their dedication to academics.

**CONGRATULATIONS
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Heading off to top-ranked schools

By Carolyn Marnon

Three Wayne Memorial graduates will be heading off to prestigious universities come the fall. Kelsie Wysong will be heading to Stanford, Carmen Mata will be heading to Georgetown and Damani Travis will be heading to Amherst.

Damani Travis

Damani Travis had a 30 on his ACT and is graduated with a 3.8095 GPA. His mother is a single parent who works full-time. He was recently notified that he was selected to attend the Amherst Summer Science program. Amherst will pay to fly him there where he'll stay for three weeks this summer. Damani has always been passionate about science and loves chemistry and physics. He wants to major in chemistry or chemical engineering. Damani was waitlisted at Dartmouth, University of Chicago and Pomona, but he fell in love with Amherst during his visit to the campus in April.

Kelsie Wysong

Kelsie Wysong was ready to head off to the University of Michigan in the fall. She had applied to a variety of colleges, most in California, including UCLA, UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, University of Southern California, Stanford, University of Miami, Perdue, University of Florida and then closer to home: Lawrence Technological University, Wayne State and UM. With a 4.1 GPA and 31 on her ACT, Kelsie was wanted by most. However, she had been waitlisted at Stanford when the official admissions announcement was made in March. Kelsie says she took



Kelsie Wysong will be heading to Stanford, Damani Travis will be heading to Amherst and Carmen Mata will be heading to Georgetown.

it as a rejection because three out of the last five years, no students have been admitted from the waitlist. It was announced in March that the class of 2020's acceptance rate was at an all-time low of 4.69%. 43,997 students applied; 2,063 were accepted.

On May 6, Kelsie received notice that she was removed from the waitlist and accepted at Stanford University with a full scholarship and transportation to/from the university. She started crying, she was so excited to get in. Her family feels it is the best opportunity ever for her. She currently lives with her grandparents. Kelsie's education will be helped with other scholarships she received from Ladies Literary Club, Wayne Rotary Club, Florence Oberlin

Memorial Scholarship and scholarships she received from the Distinguished Young Women program.

Kelsie's advice for her future roommate, whom she says she will not know until she arrives on campus, is to make memories and not focus on the past. Kelsie has never been so far from home alone before, but she is very enthusiastic about this opportunity she has been given.

Carmen Mata

Carmen Mata, an outstanding student with a 4.2 GPA, applied to twelve schools. She was denied admission to Pomona College and Yale and waitlisted at Columbia University. She was accepted at University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Macalester

College, Occidental College, Boston College, Boston University, Middlebury College, Georgetown University, Grand Valley State University and Eastern Michigan University.

Georgetown doesn't do the Common App. One of the essay questions involved Carmen telling them about herself. She says she spoke about her identity, how she identifies as Hispanic, but that she is not seen as such. Because she applied to the School of Foreign Service, she had to discuss something she saw as a global issue. The global issue she has noticed the most is involvement. "Countries are often involved in the conflict of others to protect their interests rather than to protect people. The U.S. is no exception, and I believe we need to restore our sense of humanity."

When she was accepted into Georgetown, she was ecstatic and relieved. Not only was she accepted to one of the top colleges in the country, she would be able to do so with little to no cost to her parents. Carmen wanted to go to a college out of state; she saw this as a perfect opportunity for her. She received the GU (Georgetown Undergraduate) scholarship and the 1789 Scholarship. She has also received the Rotary Club Upward Bound Service Scholarship, the Wayne-Westland Building Administrators Association Scholarship and the Flora Dozier Memorial Scholarship.

Carmen will be going to Georgetown for five weeks this summer to participate in their summer program on campus. She will be able to earn college credit and potentially another scholarship.

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Soaring to become an Eagle Scout

By Carolyn Marnon

About 2 percent of eligible Boy Scouts have earned scouting's highest honor since the Eagle Scout Award began in 1912. Robert Shork, a Wayne resident, plans to become a member of that elite group. The Eagle rank must be attained before a boy turns 18; Robert is only 15 and almost there.

Robert is a member of Boy Scout Troop 735 which meets at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Wayne. He is completing his sophomore year at Henry Ford Academy in Dearborn. He's been working on his service project over the last few months to help him soar to the rank of Eagle. He is reawakening an old garden at St. John's Episcopal Church in Westland and making improvements to it so he can help his community.

To earn the rank of Eagle, a Boy Scout must fulfill several requirements, including being actively involved in his troop for at least six months after he's have achieved the rank of Life Scout; demonstrating that he lives by the principles of the Scout Oath and the Scout law in his daily life; earning 21 merit badges that include topics like first aid, citizenship, communication, cooking, personal fitness, the environment, personal management, camping, family life, emergency services and sports; serving in a position of responsibility for six months in his troop; planning, developing and giving leadership to others in a service project that helps a church, school or his community; taking part in a



Eagle Scout Robert Shork

unit leader conference and finally, successfully completing an Eagle Scout board of review.

Robert wanted to help his church and the community, so he chose to do a community garden. The church's old garden had sat dormant for a number of years and was overgrown with weeds. It was just a patch of dirt in the middle of the back property. Robert asked various members of the church questions about the old garden, what had been done in the past to maintain it and what they would like to see in the future. His goal with the garden is to help shelters and outreach centers get fresh produce that they can then distribute it to those in the community who need food.

The service project requirement, Robert says, teaches you to be a

See **EAGLE**, page 12

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EAGLE, Continued from page 11

leader. He has to lead a group through all the steps it takes to complete the project. He says the project chosen has to benefit the community; it can't benefit the troop or his family.

Robert has held fundraisers to raise the money needed for the garden. He has had ongoing pop can drives, held a spaghetti dinner at St. John's, and Home Depot in Canton has donated \$150 for a raffle basket that was raffled at the spaghetti dinner and for miscellaneous items like weed-prevention fabric, a 150 foot garden hose and hardware for a fence.

Robert and his team of workers (10-15 troop members, both scouts and adults) have built a fence around the garden with two gates, one at each end. The garden plot was originally 35 x 15 feet; Robert increased the size to 20 x 40. The fence is intended to keep animals out of the garden.

Fruits and vegetables will be grown, including tomatoes, zucchini and radishes. Wayne Metro Community Action gave the church a grant of plants and seeds to start the gar-

"Don't not get your Eagle Scout rank. It's known more widely than you think. It looks good on applications. I've been told by adult members that they didn't get it because of something small like a requirement done. Your reward is far beyond what you could have done."

Robert Shork

den. Robert will have to give a report back to them at the end of the season on how the grant helped.

The garden will need to be maintained after it is planted. Robert hopes that members of the church will volunteer to look over the garden, but if no one else does, he and Father Steve Domienik will do so. Most of the produce will go to the food pantry at the church. The rest is expected to go to the family homeless shelter at the old Eloise on Michigan Avenue.

Robert said his challenges included communication, writing stuff down and keeping things organized. The most physical part was carrying the wood for the fence, putting the fence panels together, stapling chicken wire to the posts and then

digging the post holes.

Robert's advice to other Boy Scouts: "Don't not get your Eagle Scout rank. It's known more widely than you think. It looks good on applications. I've been told by adult members that they didn't get it because of something small like a requirement done. Your reward is far

beyond what you could have done." He also advises boys to get it before they get into high school or get a girlfriend or a driver's license because then you'll be too busy to do it. He emphasized that scouts should keep at it because they are so close to getting it.

The food pantry at St. John's is open the second Wednesday of every month from 10:00 a.m. until noon. It currently serves approximately 50 households. Families are allowed one grocery bag of food each month. The church doesn't have any requirements to receive the help. The pantry is stocked by congregational donations and special collections. They are in the process of trying to get Gleaners to also help with the pantry.

THE WAYNE Dispatch
A John P. Rhaesa LLC Publication

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



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Wayne awarded market analysis service

Wayne has been selected to participate in a market analysis service through our participation in the Michigan Main Street program. The market analysis service is one of several application-based services that is offered to all Selected and Master Level Michigan Main Street communities.

Wayne Main Street's Business Empowerment Committee applied for the market analysis service in February, and received official word from Lansing in April that we had been awarded the service following a statewide comprehensive review of application-based services.

The training and consultation service specifically assists with not only gathering quantitative information that identifies business opportunities in the commercial district, but how to use this information to attract and retain business. The market analysis service is valued at more than \$20,000.

The market analysis service will not only help Historic Downtown



Wayne more effectively grow in target markets, but it will also be a tremendous asset to the City of Wayne and surrounding area.

Consultants from Downtown Professionals Network (who also worked with Wayne Main Street on our Communications Planning Service in 2015) will visit Wayne this year for a driving tour, walking tour, visits with businesses, and then guide Main Street project team through a general outline of tasks, follow up dates, and deadlines. There will be several public meetings for public participation throughout the year. The study is expected to wrap up by the end of the calendar year.

If you're interested in learning

more about this service or if you'd like to volunteer to conduct surveys for the analysis, please contact our office by calling (734) 629-6822 or by emailing director@downtown-wayne.org.

Wayne Main Street to host "Main Street in Practice" training

On Tuesday, June 21st, starting at 9:00 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church's Fellowship Hall, the Michigan Main Street Center in conjunction with Wayne Main Street will conduct a Main Street in Practice training for Associate Level communities in Michigan interested in becoming Select Level Main Street programs. As hosts, Wayne Main Street will expose all that we do and the important foundation that was set by the initial volunteers of the program. We will provide a real life example of where our community has been, where it's going, and the resources along the way that got us



here. It's an opportunity to showcase not only our program, but our downtown. For more info on the Michigan Main Street Center, please visit: michiganmainstreetcenter.com

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Turn off the alarm!

By Carolyn Marnon

For 64 years, Marion Lozen, Wayne resident and forever young at age 89, awoke each workday to head off to her job working in the meat department for Kroger. On April 1, 2016, she finally retired from the company that had treated her so well for so long.

Marion started at Kroger on March 29, 1952. Her goal was to earn enough money to buy a new refrigerator. Like the energizer bunny, she kept going and going and going.

On May 12, Kroger threw her a retirement party at their training center in Westland. There was a gigantic table filled with food and a refrigerator full of soft drinks and water. Display boards filled one side of the room highlighting Marion's achievements throughout her career. A cake was waiting to be cut into later in the afternoon.

Despite using a walker to get around, Marion always had a smile on her face and greeted everyone who came up to her. At one time, she was pulled aside to go to another room for a television interview. When she came back to the party, she stood in the doorway and gazed at everyone who was there to celebrate her.

Marion worked in four Kroger stores during her career. She started at the Wayne store which was then located where Mark Chevrolet now stands on Michigan Avenue. When that store closed, she moved on to the store at Merriman and Warren in Westland. Later, another move to the Kroger at the Westborn Shopping Center in Dearborn; that

store was where Marshall's now is. Finally, she ended her career at the recently closed store on Michigan Avenue. She had been at that store since it opened in September, 1978. When Marion started work in 1952, minimum wage was 75¢ per hour; now it is \$7.25, although this is not to say that Marion made minimum wage.

Before the Wayne store was set to close, Marion was scheduled to be transferred to the Garden City store at Ford and Middlebelt. She decided, due to health reasons, it was time to retire instead.

Throughout her career, Marion only missed ½ day of work when her late husband, Bernard, had a heart attack.

What does she plan to do now that she is not working? She has four grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren who all live nearby. She wants to spend more time with them. Her daughter, Judy Hurley, is her only child. Amazingly, Judy retired from teaching before her mother retired.

Judy commented, "When my father decided to retire in 1980, she told him she wasn't quite ready which he understood. He passed away in 1989. At that point she kept working to help her stay active and be with others. After she retired, we discovered that my father's retirement date from Ford Motor Company was April 1, 1980 while her date from Kroger was April 1, 2016."

Jayne Homco, President of the Michigan Division of Kroger, was at the party. She said that Marion could outwork 5-6 employees. She



Marion Lozen

trained each new employee to the meat department the right way. Marion was an excellent mentor, coach and trainer.

Kroger does not have a retirement age or a minimum number of years to work before retirement, according to Jayne.

Jayne spoke to the crowd gathered about how much Marion liked working in the meat department. Marion piped up, "I enjoyed working for Kroger's. They were good to me." Jayne referenced the display boards

that Marion's daughter had kept up with on all the events through the years. Judy even made a book about a trip to Kroger headquarters in Ohio. The board and book "keep track of an historic career," said Jayne. "You are the energizer bunny...You are the most positive person anyone could be around." She also said that Marion was leaving a legacy with the company. "What you've given our company is ab-

See **RETIRE**, page 15

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Exclusive used auto sale

By Carolyn Marnon

Come on out to Wayne Westland Federal Credit Union on Saturday, June 18, from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. and enjoy some light refreshments catered by Texas Roadhouse. And while you're there, check out the 35 used autos available for purchase from Mark Chevrolet. It is WWFCU's third annual used car sale. This year it features cars from Mark Chevrolet. In past years, cars have come from North Brothers Ford and Jack Demmer.

All makes and models will be available; there will not be just Chevrolets. At least ten vehicles have been sold each year at this annual sale.

Prices will be clearly market on the vehicles. There will be sales peo-



ple from Mark Chevrolet available to answer your questions and help you. WWFCU will be open to buyers and will be able to give on-site approval for loans. Interest rates for loans will be as low as 1.95% based on credit history.

If you live, work or do business in the Wayne/Westland area and are in the market for a car, come out and see what's available.

RETIRE, Continued from page 14

solutely remarkable."

President Homco presented Marion with a plaque showing Kroger's appreciation for her. She also received a statue/trophy recognizing her years of service from District 5.

Marion's daughter, Judy, said the most memorable moment she had of her mother's career "was when she was honored at the Kroger headquarters in Cincinnati with others for community service, health and wellness, leadership and time with Kroger company. My mother and I spent two days there. This took place 4 years ago." Marion's most memorable moment was when computers were brought into the meat department which automated many steps. She was scared and didn't

think she could learn to use them. She wasn't given much help, so she just started using them. She became quite good at them. Things then got much easier since the computers were automatic; employees no longer needed to do so many things by hand.

Marion enjoyed her customers and was always willing to help them. Some even brought her lunch! She was known to help some of the older customers with their shopping. She exclaimed "That's why I'm living so long," when she was asked about her work at Kroger and the people she had been around. "It's the people. Absolutely 100%."

As one of the display boards put it: Enjoy your retirement! (turn off the alarm).

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