



THE WAYNE Dispatch

JULY 2016

The Future of Wayne is up to you

Please Vote
August 2nd

CITY OF WAYNE
SMORSA
TOWN HALL MEETINGS
July 13th and 27th
See page 3 for details

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Vote YES on "S" !

Tuesday, August 2nd, To Protect Our Families

Why do we need a millage for Police and Fire?

Wayne's taxable value has decreased drastically from its high in 2008 of over **\$607 Million** down to just about **\$350 Million** today. Since 2010, the City has **lost** over **\$33 million** in tax revenue and we've lost **\$7.5 Million** revenue sharing. 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 have taken large cuts in wages, pensions and retiree healthcare has been eliminated for new hires. Not only has the City consolidated services with other communities, it has outsourced many non-essential services to save money.

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 increased Police and Fire presence?

Yes. Once Proposal "S" passes we will have the financial ability to improve our Public Safety. 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 this will 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).



For the average home owner, \$1 a day will get
4 additional Police Officers
and 3 Fire Fighters



An Emergency Manager will **CUT EVEN MORE**

- Crime will continue to increase
- Delaying Response Times
- Sacrificing Our Safety
- Reducing Park Maintenance
- Cutting Snow Plow Service
- Decreasing Property Values

WE CAN'T AFFORD AN EMERGENCY MANAGER IN WAYNE

VOTE YES ON "S" on August 2nd, TO KEEP OUR VOICE

Paid for by Wayne Citizens United for Police and Fire, P.O. Box 193, Wayne, MI 48184

Learning about SMORSA vote

By Carolyn Marnon

The second of four neutral information meetings about the upcoming South Macomb Oakland Regional Services Authority (SMORSA) issue on the August ballot was held on June 29 at the Wayne Public Library. The room was filled with concerned residents who came to get the latest information on SMORSA and to have their questions answered.

Community Development Director Lori Fodale moderated the meeting. Police Chief Al Maciag, Mayor Susan Rowe, Contracted Finance Director Tim McCurley, City Manager Lisa Nocerini and Eastpointe City Manager Steve Duchane were among those who were available to answer questions.

Eastpointe City Manager Steve Duchane told the audience that SMORSA started when he was reflecting one evening on how Michigan had failed local governments. Michigan has underfunded local governments for a number of years. He wondered what would happen if a new public authority was created that didn't actually consolidate services. Hazel Park was a community that was also facing the challenge of reducing services or finding a way to expand revenue. Eastpointe and Hazel Park came together to form SMORSA. The millage passed in both cities. SMORSA has been very

City of Wayne resolutions regarding SMORSA

The City Council has passed two resolutions regarding SMORSA at their most recent meetings.

The first resolution states that if SMORSA passes, the City Council will rollback General Operating mills under certain conditions: 1) each year, the City of Wayne shall review budget projections as part of the budget process to determine if the General Fund is financially stable, and 2) the City will review the projected General Fund cumulative fund balance to determine if after consideration of projections for revenue and expenses, there is a minimum projected cumulative fund balance reserve of 20% and 3) upon completion of the fiscal year and after the audit is complete, the City shall rollback up to 5 operating mills for the subsequent fiscal year by an amount identified as excess revenue based on the process established in number 1 and number 2 above, and 4) the budget review and implementation process shall take place each fiscal year.

The second resolution states that if SMORSA passes, the City Council will authorize the hiring of additional staff for the safety of the public. This includes one firefighter per shift for a total of three firefighters and one police officer per shift for a total of four police officers.

successful for them. They have found that residents are not paying much more in taxes as a result of SMORSA than they were in 2008 before home values decreased so drastically. It's been successful "because they (residents) invested in their community," said Steve.

When asked what he dislikes about SMORSA, Steve said it would be the cost. "No one likes to spend

more," but Eastpointe residents were able to get two more police officers on the street. "There isn't going to be a sudden blast of intelligence in Lansing," Steve told the audience, "Nobody else is going to help you if you don't help yourself."

If the millage passes on August 2, it will go into effect with the winter taxes which are billed in December.

One audience member wanted to

know if there would be enough money to hire good quality police officers. Chief Maciag noted the financial status of the city has been a challenge in hiring. Jobs are so plentiful right now that new recruits want to go to a city where they can stay. City Manager Lisa Nocerini commented that with no health care and no pension, why would anyone want to put their life on the line and be encouraged to work in Wayne? If the millage passes, this could be a key to getting a more productive police department. With the funding, the city would have the funding to pay for new officers for the next 18 years.

Lisa told the crowd, "I'm not acting like SMORSA will pass. That would be irresponsible." She is currently taking all steps she can to decrease costs in the city.

If SMORSA does not pass on August 2, Mayor Susan Rowe said the city had an exit strategy in place. On August 3 the mayor and city council would request a financial review from the state treasurer. An emergency manager would probably be sent to Wayne and then the city would have no say in what would be done. "Everyone has to make a decision on August 2," Mayor Rowe said. "It didn't take us one year to get here, and it won't take one year to get out."

The next neutral information meeting will be July 13 at New Hope Baptist Church from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

CITY OF WAYNE TOWN HALL MEETINGS

The City of Wayne will be having two Public Safety Millage Town Hall meetings. These meetings will be for questions about the millage only. (Campaign information will not be permitted into these meetings. Meetings are meant to give information about the city's current financial situation and SMORSA only to provide an opportunity for residents and businesses to ask questions.)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13th

6:30-8:00 p.m.

New Hope Baptist Church

33640 Michigan Ave.

Ed Klobucher, Hazel Park's City Manager will be a panelist

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27th

6:30-8:00 p.m.

New Hope Baptist Church

33640 Michigan Ave.

Steve Duchane, Eastpointe's City Manager will be a panelist

NEWS BRIEFS

On your mark, get set, read!

The Wayne Public Library youth summer reading program is happening now. The theme this year for youth is "On Your Mark, Get Set... Read!" Visit the youth desk before July 5 to register. Youth can win prizes just for reading their favorite books. There will be special events including 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.

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. July 20 is Kids Game Day. Jimmy's Party Rental will be providing a children's activity each week. Come to Goudy Park and support the farmers market.

Mud day!

Wayne County Parks presents Mud Day on Tuesday, July 12, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Hines Park, Nankin Mills Area. Mud Day is for kids ages 12 and younger. Games and relays are planned. Kids should wear old clothes and shoes or a bathing suit. Plastic bags will be provided for muddy clothes. You should



Are you ready for Free Concerts in Goudy Park every Wednesday in August this summer? On the back page of this paper you can find the schedule of dates and performers. All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. at Goudy Park behind City Hall. (100% of the funding has been donated by local businesses).

bring a towel to dry off with. There will be a crowning of King and Queen of Mud at this free event. The Western Wayne Hazmat Team will be on hand to hose off the muddy kids at the end of the event. For more information, call (734) 261-1990.

One-stop health screening

There will be free blood pressure screening, cholesterol screening and glucose (diabetes) screening on Wednesday, July 13, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at HYPE Recreation Center (4635 Howe Rd). No fasting is required nor is an appointment. You must be 18 years or older. This event is courtesy of Community Health-Beaumont.

Vacation bible school

Children in grades K-5 are invited

to attend Vacation Bible School at First United Methodist Church in Wayne (3 Town Square across from the post office) from Sunday, July 17, to Thursday, July 21, at 6:00-8:00 p.m. each day. The theme this year is Surf Shack. For more information, call the church office 9:00 a.m.-Noon Monday through Thursday at (734) 721-4801.

Distinguished Young Women fundraiser

The Distinguished Young Women (DYW) Wayne Westland Alumni Reunion fundraising event will be Saturday, July 16, 2:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the home of Wayne residents Pat and Dennis Hermatz, 37955 Glenwood. DYW Wayne Westland is celebrating 50 years of giving scholarships to local girls. Everyone

is welcome to attend -- judges, volunteers, city officials, past participants, people from other local programs and anyone who is interested in learning more and supporting the scholarship program. Cost is \$20 for adults, \$10 for students, free for children under 5 and will include a catered meal, beverages, outdoor activities and more. Tickets can be purchased by going to the website: [https://www.tilt.com/tilts/the-distinguished-young-woman-scholarship-program DYW \(formerly Junior Miss\) is a program open to local high school juniors that combines the chance to win college scholarships with a focus on life skills training to prepare young women for the world after high school. Locally, over \\$500,000 in scholarships have been awarded.](https://www.tilt.com/tilts/the-distinguished-young-woman-scholarship-program-DYW-(formerly-Junior-Miss)-is-a-program-open-to-local-high-school-juniors-that-combines-the-chance-to-win-college-scholarships-with-a-focus-on-life-skills-training-to-prepare-young-women-for-the-world-after-high-school-Locally,-over-$500,000-in-scholarships-have-been-awarded)

Historic Howell trip

Join the Wayne Sometimes Travelers as they take a bus trip to Howell, Michigan on Thursday, July 28. Travelers will visit Livingston Antique Outlet where over 200 of the finest dealers from Michigan sell their wares. There will be lunch at the family-owned Diamonds Steak and Seafood restaurant where you will have a choice of either filet mignon tips, grilled salmon or teriyaki chicken. Tour the Howell Opera House.

The Opera House was built in 1881 and has recently had the first floor restored. There will be shopping time in downtown Howell before heading back home. Cost is \$61. For reservations and information, contact the Wayne Senior Services office at (734) 721-7460.

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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.

This year's sponsors include The Wayne Dispatch, STEP Tried and True Thrift Store, Mark Chevrolet, American Jetway Corp., CLS Holding Company, Lower Huron Supply Co. and more.

Ice cream social

The Friends of the Wayne Public Library and the Wayne Historical Society invite you to an old-fashioned ice cream social on Saturday, July 30, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Wayne Public Library. There will be free ice cream along with games and activities.

Cooking Matters Extra for Diabetes

The Cooking Matters Extra for Diabetes workshop is a 6-week commitment of fun, interactive sessions presented by trained culinary and nutrition instructors. Hands-on presentations demonstrate the link be-

tween nutrition and health, the affordability of healthy eating, healthy meal planning, and cooking tips. Free groceries and cookbooks are included to practice new skills at home. The workshop is appropriate for people who are newly diagnosed as well as those who have been living with Type 2 diabetes for years, and those with prediabetes.

The workshop is free of charge and will be held Wednesdays from August 3 until September 7. They will be from Noon until 2:00 p.m. and will be held at HYPE Recreation Center (4635 Howe Rd). Visit oakwood.org/diabetes or call 1-800-543-9355 to register.

Amish Acres arts and crafts festival

Spend the day at Amish Acres Arts and Crafts Festival on Saturday, August 6. This is a bus tour presented by the Wayne Sometimes Travelers. Once the bus arrives at the festival, you can enjoy the day at your leisure. A lunch voucher is included for a festival sandwich buffet at the Barn Loft Grill or a sandwich basket at designated Amish Acres food locations on the festival grounds.

The 54th annual Arts and Crafts Festival features classic and contemporary crafts made by a variety of artisans from around the nation.

Amish Acres, the site of the festival, is America's only old order Amish farm listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Cost of the trip is \$70. For reservations and information, contact the Wayne Senior Services office at (734) 721-7460.



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"I Wish This Was..." during Cruisin' US 12

Join Wayne Main Street during the Cruisin' US12 event on Saturday, July 9th, in two vacant downtown buildings on Michigan Avenue.

Old Bank of America Building & Warfield Building
35150 Michigan Ave,
Wayne, MI 48184



Feel like there's something missing in downtown Wayne? Stop by the old Bank of America building during this year's family event of the summer, Cruisin' US 12, to tell us what you'd like to see fill a vacant space in downtown Wayne! We will be handing out free bottled water to everyone who fills out a sticker!

Wayne Sidewalk Sales July 14 - 16th

Wayne Chamber of Commerce and Wayne Main Street invite you to attend the downtown Wayne Side-

walk Sales! This longtime tradition is a great way to spend the day with the family! Come on out and enjoy specials offered by several of our downtown businesses including 25 cent hot dogs and pop being served at Northside Hardware!

Other vendors will be setting up in the future home of "Derby's Alley" on Michigan Avenue between the GI Surplus store and Flagship Boutique!

Stay tuned for details on participating businesses and the specials they'll be offering! www.downtown-wayne.org/sidewalk-sales.

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734-629-8558 | 3) US12 Bar & Grill
34824 W. Michigan Ave. / Wayne |
| C) Northwest Alano Club
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734-725-3811 | K) Tried and True Thrift Store
35004 W. Michigan Ave. / Wayne
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35501 W. Michigan Ave. / Wayne
734-467-5958 | 4) Mark Chevrolet
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(Old SAVE-A-LOT Parking Lot) |
| D) Trendsetters Boutique
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| | | | | 6) Dan's Enterprises Glass
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Cruisin' and shoppin' Downtown Wayne

Summer was made for outdoor adventures and family fun. Downtown Wayne has plenty of both this month. Sit back and watch the beautiful classic cars cruisin' up and down Michigan Avenue or take a stroll through the Downtown Sidewalk Sales. Take a moment to stop in and meet the new store owners, browse fabulous finds and take home some special deals and maybe a few pieces hand-crafted by local artisans.

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day....so why not join some cruisers at Harry J. Will Funeral Home for a pancake breakfast? Breakfast will be served from 8:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 9th. After breakfast check out Mark Chevrolet's new models featured in the old Save-a-Lot parking lot just across the street. Enjoy classic cars while you enjoy classic rock with the musical talent of "TC and the Katz" at US12 Bar & Grill.

Don't forget your delicious 25¢ hot dog and pop at Northside Hardware's Sidewalk Sale. Cool down with a cone of creamy soft serve from Dairy Queen or drive through and grab a treat from McDonald's.

Looking for a unique experience... ..make your way to Icon Computer



There is always room for a hot dog from Northside Hardware.

on Michigan Avenue and have a burger specially prepared for you at the Casketeria Grill....yup that's right, a barbeque grill made from a casket. Pair your burger with a "Zombie Soda" and peek inside some unusual hearses while you're there. Events at Icon will run from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 9th.

Just a fun way to make memories with family, socialize with friends and neighbors and support your community and Downtown busi-

nesses. Don't forget to stop in at Dan's Enterprises Glass and get your "CRUISIN' US12" t-shirt! Cruisin' US12 takes place on Saturday, July

9th, 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Sidewalk Sales take place Thursday, July 14th, Friday, July 15th and Saturday, July 16th.

Wayne Garden Club celebrating 100 years

The Wayne Garden Club, established in 1916, is hard at work preparing for a celebration of their 100 year anniversary. Saturday, August 20th, is the date selected and the community is invited to participate. It will be held at Goudy Park beginning at 11:00 a.m. and close at 3:00 p.m. A program will be held at noon to recognize the many accomplishments of this club over the years and its service to the City of Wayne. There will also be a plaque dedicated to the City to commemorate this club's 100 years of continuous activity.

There will be something for everyone including children who can work on crafts and learn more about gardening, our Rouge River and nature around us. Booths will circle the gazebo and will be manned by garden experts who will share information on successful gardening, answer questions about plants and flowers, display pictures and information about Garden Club projects in Wayne, pass out information on Garden Club meetings and programs and much more. Refreshments will be served and gift bags distributed.

Watch for more information in the August Dispatch and plan to join us at Goudy Park on August 20th. (Call 734-716-0780 for information).

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THE WAYNE Dispatch

A Wayne Media 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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NEWS BRIEFS

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 a home 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.

Experience Chicago

Experience the excitement of the Windy City as you explore a behind-the-scenes look at Chicago. This 3 day/2 night trip with the Wayne Sometimes Travelers includes a downtown river cruise architectural tour, a guided tour of lifestyles of Chicago's celebrities, free time for shopping and sightseeing, dinner at Marchello's Restaurant, the Gold Coast Historic District, the Mansion of the Gilded Age and a tour of the Chicago Theater. Cost is \$497 per person, double occupancy. Contact the Wayne Senior Services office

(734) 721-7460 for more information.

HYPE celebrates one-year anniversary

On Friday, August 19, you are invited to celebrate the one-year anniversary of HYPE in Wayne with an anniversary dinner. Tickets are \$30. There will also be a Family Fun Day on Sunday, August 21, where the community can visit the center, swim, play basketball, enjoy games and bouncers along with free popcorn and hot dogs.

Rouge-a-palooza

Rouge-a-Palooza, normally held in October, will not be held this year. This event has been run entirely by volunteers. Hopefully, the event will return in 2017.

Boxing instruction for all ages

Monday-Friday (4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.) and Saturday (Noon-4:00 p.m.) boxing instruction for all ages, 8-80, is available at the Jefferson Barns Community Vitality Center (32150 Dorsey Rd in Westland). There is no fee to participate. For more information, contact Coach Erskine Wade (313) 425-1999.

Looking for a diamond

The Wayne Commission on Aging is asking for help in nominating someone who is 70 years of age or older and continues to volunteer throughout the community. Nomination forms are available at HYPE, City Hall and the library.

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Running without wind

By Carolyn Marnon

As he races around the track at Wayne Memorial High School, you can see lightning shooting out from Montel Hood's running shoes. Maybe it was just the sunlight hitting the soles of his shoes that fooled the eye into thinking one was seeing lightning bolts. Either way, this young man is fast. So fast that he currently holds the state record for the 400 meter dash and recently placed third at Nationals in the 400 with a time of 46.66 seconds.

Just who is Montel Hood? At 18, he's a 2016 WMHS graduate who is hardworking, loyal to others, "truthful to myself, and I won't stop until I get to my goals."

Montel's sister, 17 year old Anavia (pronounced A-nay-vee-a) Battle is a runner like her brother. Together, they are members of Intensity Track Club at the high school. Intensity is made up of 15 students, not all from Wayne Memorial, who are team players and have great work ethics. They are more serious athletes who are willing to give up their summers to get better at their

events. These athletes eat healthy, drink plenty of water and stay focused on their goals.

Montel and Anavia come from a family of runners. Their grandpa ran track. They used to race up and down their block to see who was fastest. "My older brother was fastest," says Montel. The siblings have the same parents, but their mom and dad never married. Montel took his dad's last name while Anavia took her mom's. Anavia likes her last name, "I think it's kind of cool," she commented as she also mentioned how people will tell her she really battled out there on the track. Why do they stay in track? "It's fun, no matter how bad it hurts," says Anavia. Montel stays to "meet new people, stay in shape." When asked what his biggest challenge has been, he replies, "Besides myself?" "His mental strength," interrupts his coach, Jamal Johnson. "What would it be, coach?" Anavia asks Coach Johnson about her biggest challenge. He says it's accepting that she's really good. She tries to be an open-minded, positive person, but



Montel Hood

Currently holds the state record for the 400 meter dash and recently placed third at Nationals in the 400 with a time of 46.66 seconds.

her biggest obstacle is herself.

Anavia took 2nd place in the 200 meter dash at States and had the fastest legal times in the 100 and 200 meter dashes up until then. She said someone beat her by a toe. A legal time is when there is no wind assisting you while running.

The brother/sister running duo are close. "We have a very close bond. We're best friends," says Anavia. "No matter what happened the day be-

fore," adds Montel.

While Anavia still has another year of running for Intensity Track Club, Montel is headed off to South Plains College in Levelland, Texas to run. He's looking forward to the weather there as the weather in Michigan is treacherous cold and "that's like my worst enemy." It will be interesting to see what the future holds for him in a city named Levelland.



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Neighborhood Watch discussed at community meeting

By Carolyn Marnon

The Wayne Police Department is being assisted by resident Bernadette Brock in getting the Neighborhood Watch program revitalized in the city. Bernadette spoke to those who gathered at the June 30 meeting held at the police station. The program would be run by and operated by the citizens of Wayne. She stressed how citizens need to be proactive in their neighborhoods to keep them safe. She hopes that residents will share with each other and with their neighbors what is going on in their areas. The plan will be to have a "Zone" watch rather than "Neighborhood" watch. Meetings would be held once a month at a community location such as the police station rather than in homes. This is an opportunity for building relationships between the community and the police department and to know who our police are. The program will start small and grow. At this time, "captains" are needed to spearhead the neighborhoods. Come to the next police community



The Wayne Police salute newly retired Police Officer Lt. Puckett last month.

meeting July 28 at 7:00 p.m. to get more information.

Also during the meeting, Police Chief Al Maciag told those gathered that he is looking to hire three officers; Lt. Robert Puckett recently retired. Promotions were given to Lt. Finley Carter and Sgt. Abraham Hughes. The chief is also seeking re-

serve officer applicants. Even though the city is having financial problems and it is hard to find officer applicants, Chief Maciag is not lowering the departments standards to try to hire someone. He is looking for qualified candidates.

As of June 30, 8,186 calls came into the department with only 1,148

of those resulting in a police report being completed. In June, there were 25 traffic crashes in Wayne, 4 residential burglaries, 4 other burglaries, 13 larcenies, 2 robberies, 9 damage to property incidents, 39 assaults and no arsons.

If you are going on vacation, you can complete the Request for Vacation Watch form found on the city's website: http://www.ci.wayne.mi.us/pdfs_2010/vacation_watch_feb_2010.pdf. Officers from the police department will make periodic checks of your home while you are away. Complete the form with as much information as possible and return the completed form to the police department. The police department requires that the homeowner requesting the vacation watch return the form in person to the police department.

Stay informed by attending the monthly police community meetings. They are held on the last Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Wayne Police Station on Michigan Avenue.

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Wayne public safety through the years

In the early 1800's, when George Johnson built the first building in the wilderness now known as the City of Wayne, life was dangerous. People traveling westward by foot, horseback and wagon were prey to wild animals, thick forests and no roads. Johnson's Tavern, built in 1824, provided a place to rest, eat and rejuvenate. When Ezra Derby bought the property and built a saw mill, our little village was under way. Small farms sprang up and a store was built to serve the people in this tiny settlement. Life was simple but still dangerous. Accidents, fires and illnesses were common and help was often many miles away. People counted on one another in times of emergency. Your neighbor was your keeper.

As our community grew there was a need for public safety facilities. Fires were a huge threat to life and property since the town's buildings and homes were constructed of wood. Bucket brigades manned by the townspeople put the fires out using water from the river, wells and ponds. In 1911 a volunteer fire department was formed and in 1928 a full time Fire Department began operation with three firemen who each worked an eight hour shift. Charles Goudy worked the day shift, Dan Dolezky the afternoon shift and Henry "Hank" Goudy the night shift. They were paid \$1 per day and \$4 per fire run.

Another community need was doctors and hospitals to care for accident victims and those who were ill. There were a number of doctors in Wayne in the first half of the 20th



The emergency hospital ambulance in 1901. Dr. Earle, a well known Wayne doctor, is standing on the porch at the left.



century as well as hospitals such as Carpenter Clinic and Hospital, Parker-Vincent Hospital and Nankin Hospital. Transportation to the doctor or the hospital was left to the family. In early years doctors in the area came to the homes of the farmers or town people who were ill or who suffered an injury. If hospital care was needed, they were transported by horse drawn wagon or buggy.

The concept of an ambulance to transport critically injured or sick

people came about in early wars where soldiers often died because of the length of time it took to "carry" them to field hospitals. A horse drawn carriage was designed, staffed by a medical officer and an assistant with room for several patients on stretchers. Ambulances were used during the Civil War and the first civilian ambulance service was organized in 1865 by the Cincinnati Commercial Hospital. By the turn of the century, most major hospitals had their own private ambulances. The first motorized ambulance went into operation in 1899 in Chicago.

In areas where there were no major hospitals, the local undertaker's hearse was often the only vehicle capable of carrying a patient on a stretcher so many funeral homes provided ambulance service. As a result, the design and construction of

ambulances and hearses remained closely related for many years. The first hearse in Wayne was owned by Funeral Director A.F. Ditsch in 1893 and was drawn by horses.

Mantous Uht operated a funeral home in New Boston but moved his business to Wayne in 1925. It was located on Main Street behind what is today our Veteran's Memorial near the Wayne Library. It was a beautiful old home on a street with other large old homes and giant trees that filled downtown Wayne. In 1952 Harold Rediske Sr. finished his service to our country and joined the Uht staff. His son, Harold Jr. began helping in the business while in grade school. He washed cars, mowed the grass, parked cars and later graduated to delivering the funeral flowers to the cemetery ahead of the funeral procession in preparation for the grave side burial.

Recently, Harold Rediske Jr., today's owner and operator of the family business which now includes his son Harold Rediske II, related how ambulance services operated over past years when his father was director and in the early days of his own career. Most early ambulances were simply intended to transport patients. The funeral home employee had no medical training and the ambulance carried no first aid equipment. If a traffic accident occurred, the Wayne County Sheriff's Dept. was called or a local doctor. They would in turn call the funeral home and ask for ambulance service. Simple first aid might be applied

See **SAFETY**, page 15

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Harold Rediske Jr. use to drive an ambulance for UHT ambulance service.

SAFETY, Continued from page 14

and then the patient was loaded into the ambulance and taken to a local hospital often riding alone unattended. The funeral home was paid \$15 by the Sheriffs Dept. for the service of transporting the patient. (If more than one patient was transported, they were still paid only \$15.) Citizens might call for ambulance service if someone was injured in their home, became ill or was urgently ready to deliver a baby. Many ambulance runs by the funeral home were from nursing homes to the hospital and back again. Mr. Rediske remembers the funeral home purchasing a new bright red ambulance in the early 1960's. After two years of use, they sent it back to the plant to have it painted grey and then used it as a hearse. In 1967 urban renewal forced Uht Funeral Home to move. They found a new location at the corner of Glenwood and Harvey St. That year also ended their ambulance service. Many local fire departments had become involved in rescue and the need for the funeral home to practice this service was coming to an end. The Wayne Fire Department entered the ambulance

business in 1964 when they purchased a Ford Econoline Van called a Fire Rescue Wagon.

In 1966 the federal government passed the Highway Safety Act and that changed things dramatically. Among its many standards, the new act set requirements for ambulance design and emergency medical care. New high bodied vans were needed to accommodate additional personnel and equipment. Radios were installed in these vehicles, along with advanced equipment and medicines.

Today, ambulances and rescue squads come in many varieties, shapes and sizes. The simplest designs are equipped to provide basic life support while the larger more sophisticated designs provide more advanced life support. These are operated by private companies, hospitals and local fire or police departments.

Life has changed drastically over the years taking us from bucket brigades to put out fires and hearses to transport the sick and injured to the high quality, efficient and well equipped, highly trained services we have today.

(Thanks to Harold Rediske Jr. for his assistance with this article.)



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