

THE
WAYNE
Dispatch

FEBRUARY 2017

Celebrating
OUR **100TH**
EDITION

The *Love Story* Behind
The **Wayne Dispatch**

How They Met, Married and Began
Their Life and Career Together

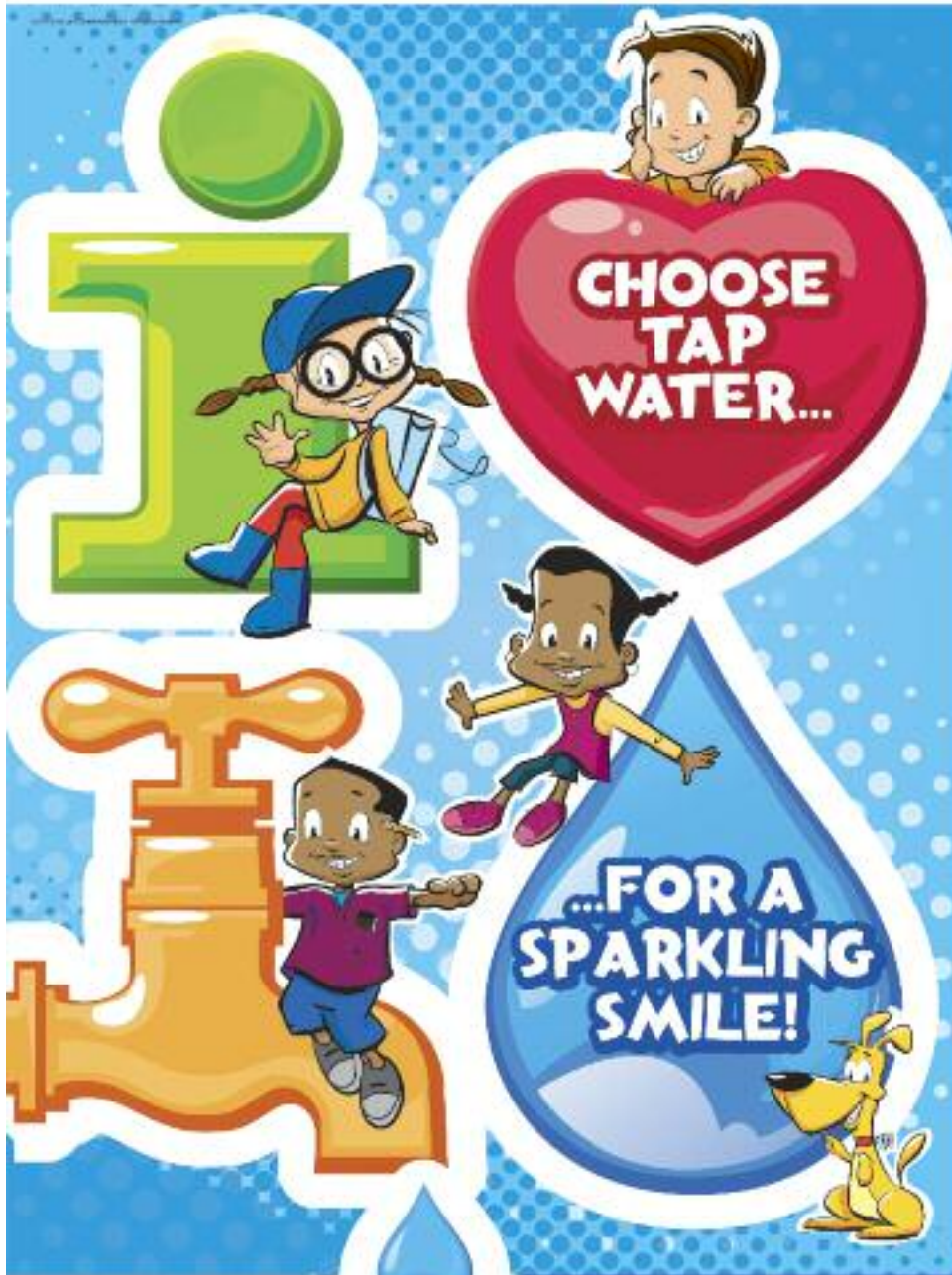
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YOUR SOURCE FOR POSITIVE COMMUNITY NEWS

February is National Children's Dental Health Month



ADA.org/ncdhm

Brush two minutes, two times a day.
Clean between your teeth daily.
Limit snacks, eat healthy meals.
Visit your dentist regularly.

ADA Foundation
www.ada.org

ADA American Dental Association
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2min2x!

Brush 2 minutes 2 times a day
AND eat healthy for
a healthy smile!

Why should I fix my child's baby teeth when they are going to fall out anyway?

Baby teeth are susceptible to the same problems as permanent teeth. A baby tooth can get a cavity, can become infected, can cause toothaches or swelling just like a permanent tooth. Our goal is to avoid significant tooth problems that can cause your child to have tooth aches or possible tooth infections which may lead to sleepless nights and/or time out of school.

If a baby tooth is lost prematurely due to decay or trauma, it can lead to space loss problems and potential orthodontic needs. Starting infants off with good oral care can help protect teeth leading to a lifetime of healthy smiles. The AAPD and ADA recommend that children visit a dentist no later than the first birthday and then at intervals recommended by the dentist.

What is the value of a space maintainer? Why is my child's dentist recommending a space maintainer?

Space maintainers help hold space for permanent teeth. If your child loses a baby tooth prematurely due to decay or trauma, adjacent teeth can drift into the empty space and cause potential crowding and bite changes. To prevent this from happening, the dentist may recommend a space maintainer.

My child has a permanent tooth coming in behind the front baby teeth. Is this okay?

One concern that many parents have is permanent teeth coming in behind the baby teeth. Believe it or not, this is a common occurrence. Around the age of 6 years old, children begin to exchange their front teeth for permanent teeth. Sometimes we notice a tooth coming in behind the baby tooth rather than pushing the baby tooth out directly. As all situations may be different, we recommend that your child have an evaluation with a pediatric dentist to determine if immediate treatment is necessary.

What is the difference between baby and permanent teeth?

The enamel (hard white material that covers the tooth) and dentin (main bony part of the tooth that surrounds the pulp) are thinner in baby teeth and the pulp (inner structure of tooth that contains nerves and blood vessels) is bigger relative to the rest of the tooth. This means that if your child gets a cavity, it can spread much faster to the nerve of the tooth. Baby teeth also have shorter roots and may fall out more easily if your child falls or hits their mouth.



Dr. Bhavani Swarna DDS
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Wayne, MI 48184

734-728-8800

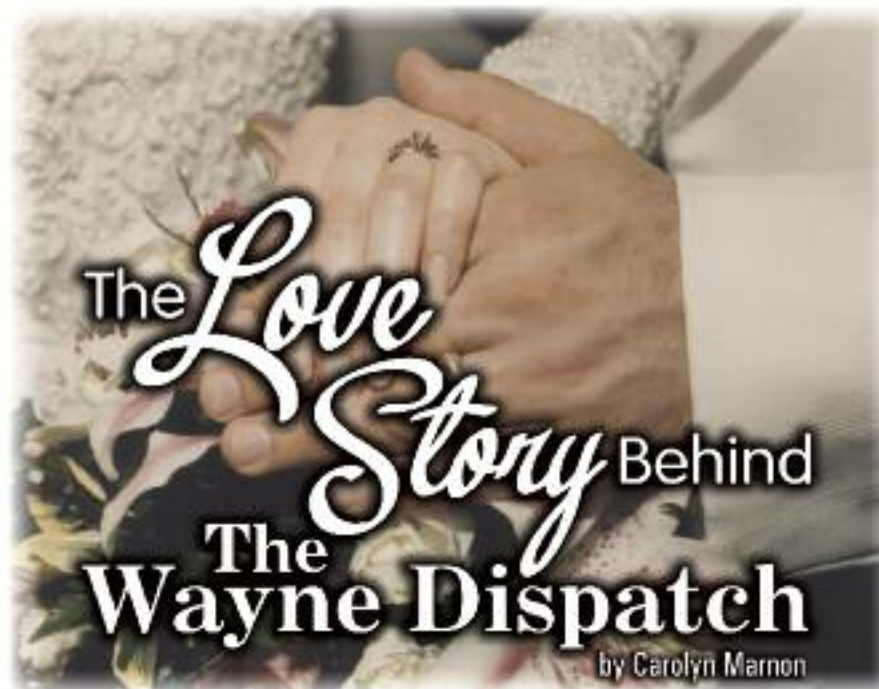
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"We all have a story... they may not be international bestsellers like those found in the pages of a Nicholas Sparks novel or gross millions at the box office accompanied by popcorn, soda and Junior Mints... and yet we all have them. Somewhere between the bookends of "once upon a time" and "the end" is where our story lives. Though prone to base our favorite cinematic experiences and classic paperback tales on how a story ends, often times we forget how sweet the beginning is. Chance encounters, unfortunate incidents, risk taking and just plain fate can lead us to the best story we will ever know... our story." – Natalie Mae Rhaesa

A Chance Encounter: Natalie McCurry, then 21, and one of her high school friends, Marsha, were excited to have the responsibility of providing their favorite Christian band "The Newsboys" with lunch at their Westland concert venue, Full Gospel Temple church in the fall of 1992. John Rhaesa, then 24, was put in charge of transporting the band members from their hotel to the concert venue where a mutual friend casually introduced the two, they met and life went on. Natalie revealed that several years after they were married she was looking through a photo album from this event and there was John standing right behind her. Someone told John that Natalie worked at JCPenney at the Westland Mall location. He would go there from time to time hoping to run into her. Though she did work at the mall, she did not work at JCPenney. She worked at Lerner New York across from Hudson's at the time.

The same mutual friend who introduced the two a year earlier, knew Natalie had studied graphic design in college and was looking for an internship and possibly a permanent position. The friend was able to get her an interview at The Wayne Eagle where John happened to work as Art Director. She was interviewed by Sean Rhaesa, the Production Manager, who also happened to be John's younger brother. When John saw that Natalie had come in to be interviewed for a job with Eagle Graphics, he told his brother "You have to hire that girl!" She started working there in the fall of 1993.

An Unfortunate Incident: Natalie spent lots of time processing



August 1994 - Our Third Date



December 1995 - Our First Christmas



September 2000 - Our 5th Wedding Anniversary Cruise, Grand Cayman/Mexico



photos in the dark room, many days she was in the dark room for several hours. On one such day in the spring of 1994 she was processing photos for a booklet Eagle Graphics produced annually for the Belleville Strawberry Festival. After working 6 plus hours in the dark room, she finally emerged with a fresh batch of photos to wax and paste up on tabloid grids. As she approached her light table she began to experience tunnel vision and then she passed out. She fell to the floor, but not before breaking her right collarbone on one of the drawers someone

forgot to push in. While she was out, John had gone to gather cold cloths to place on her forehead and wrists in hopes to revive her. When she finally opened her eyes, she was looking directly into John's eyes. John and Natalie still joke to this day that she 'literally' fell for him.

After spending several hours in the hospital, she went home to convalesce. John dropped by to deliver her paycheck and flowers from the company. They talked for awhile on this first visit. He gave her his phone number and said to her "if you need anything, just call me". Her

boyfriend stopped by to bring her flowers and a teddy bear while John was visiting her. John didn't think much of it since he knew Natalie had brothers and just assumed he was one of them. When John left, Natalie's boyfriend turned to her and said "he doesn't know who I am, does he?"

Several weeks would pass and John and Natalie would go on long walks and talk for hours when he came to visit her. Since her injury kept her from doing her keylining job, she worked the switchboard for The Wayne Eagle answering and transferring calls. John would stop by and invite her to his softball games and Christian concerts. She wouldn't accept any of his invitations.

They ate lunch together at the office almost everyday. "I used to work my schedule around the time she would eat lunch so I could have lunch with her," John said. She says he was a big help when she needed someone to quiz her on her Art History Class note cards. One day at lunch, John said, "Are you going to go out with me or what?" He said if she didn't go out with him on Friday, that would be the last time he would ask her. She agreed to go out with him-with stipulations. One was that they could not go further than an hour away.

Taking a Risk: When Friday arrived, she dressed up wearing a dress and heels even though she still had to wear the brace for her broken collarbone. "I wore a jacket over my sundress so the brace wouldn't show," Natalie said. He arrived, wearing a suit. He took her out of the country, well just to Windsor, Canada where they dined at The Riverfront restaurant. After dinner, they walked along the waterfront talking and holding hands. They sat on a park bench and drank sparkling juice from plastic champagne flutes. They snacked on packages of cheese and crackers.... "the ones with the red plastic stick to apply the cheese," Natalie recalls. John took notice that she would eat those cracker packs and yogurt almost everyday at lunch.

Their second date was also their first movie together, "Forest Gump" also the name she gave to the first teddy bear John purchased for her. After dating for about 6 weeks, Na-

See **LOVE** page 4

LOVE, Continued from page 3

talie and her mother were heading to the hospital for Natalie to have a CT scan to see why she had passed out. Natalie said just for fun, they stopped in a bridal shop in Dearborn and she tried on wedding gowns. "Even though it was just for fun, I fell in love with the first one I tried on.....I guess you could say I said 'Yes to the Dress,' she laughs "Because that was the dress I wore on our wedding day."

Two weeks later, Trisha Yearwood was performing at the Michigan State Fair. John knew she was a huge fan and thought it would be a fun date. However, the morning of the concert John told Natalie that he did not want to talk about marriage (a subject that came up on those long walks and telephone conversations). This did not make Natalie happy, she was pretty upset over it, but then she thought "I like Trisha Yearwood, so I might as well still go so I can see her in concert." John showed up at her parent's house to pick her up, it was Saturday, September 3, 1994. The ride to the fairgrounds was slightly awkward. They sat in the bleachers eating cotton candy while waiting for Trisha Yearwood to perform. When she sang one of her hit songs "She's in Love With the Boy," John made a band out of the cotton candy twist tie and put it on her ring finger.

After the concert, John told Natalie that he needed to stop by his church and pick up something to copy for the church youth group. He asked Natalie, "Do you want to go in with me?" She said she would go with him. The church was dark, no one was around, he led her past the main sanctuary and to the church's tiny chapel. The doors to the chapel were open, and the chapel was lit with candles and the aisle was lined with rose petals that led to the altar. Celine Dion's "When I Fall in Love" was playing softly in the background... this song would later be performed at their wedding ceremony. Upon the altar lay two white roses with a princess cut diamond ring holding the two stems together. It was there at the altar of the chapel that John asked her to marry him. She said yes. John was asked earlier by the pastor if he could leave a few rose petals on the alter in the main sanctuary if Natalie said yes ... she still has those rose petals to this day.



Natalie and John with their Yorkie, Shelby.

This past fall John took Natalie to Las Vegas to see Celine Dion in concert at Caesars Palace to celebrate their 21st wedding anniversary.

One week prior to the engagement, John had tried to get Natalie out of the house (she lived with her parents) by encouraging her to go get ice cream for everyone. He wanted to ask her dad for her hand in marriage and was looking for an opportunity to do so. So when the day came, while John was proposing to Natalie, her mother was trying to break it to her father that she thought John could be "the one." Her dad replied, "I've already seen the ring." Not only was this the day they would get engaged, it was also Natalie's mother's birthday.

They married on Saturday, June 3, 1995, at Clarenceville United Methodist Church in Livonia. The honeymoon was spent in Toronto, Canada where they travelled by train and stayed at the Royal York Hotel. They attended The Phantom of the Opera at the Pantages Theater, the tickets were a wedding gift from Natalie's big sister. Because the couple worked together, their boss teased that two people from the same department could not take vacation at the same time.

They moved into their current home here in Wayne in the spring of 1996 one week before their first wedding anniversary. They continued to work together and shared an office at The Wayne Eagle until the fall of 2002. At the time of their departure, John had been there 15 years; Natalie had been there 9 years. John

began working in Wayne in 1986 at the Wayne Arby's, then in 1987, his senior year, he began working for the The Associated Newspapers (The Wayne Eagle). He is currently serving his 6th year on the Wayne City Council.

Just Plain Fate: The couple quit their jobs on the Friday before Sweetest Day, October 2002. To make ends meet, John worked in a friend's print shop and Natalie cleaned houses. An Eagle Graphics customer found out they left the company and contacted them about doing his "Shopper Stopper" Guide, the couple agreed that they would do the work but all they had was one home computer. When a friend at their church discovered that they were in need of a second computer, he purchased that computer for them. Soon after, a local print shop contacted the couple to do work for them as well. Then another inquiry for work from Lois Van Stipdonk, the Wayne Library Director (at the time), to see if they would be interested in producing the library's newsletters. JoNa Graphics was born....Jo from John and Na from Natalie. Here they are 15 years later still offering quality products to their customers.

John and Natalie had to sustain themselves with their independent work. John also had several DJ gigs. John would comment that if he ever had his own paper, he would direct mail it to everyone in the city. He thought that advertisers would get more value from their ads if every household received the paper in their mailbox. They hired the teenager who cut their grass to dress up like a paper boy and pass out the first edition of The Wayne Dispatch at the unveiling of the State Wayne mural in November 2008. They were also excited to submit their first float to the Wayne Holiday parade...where they took home a trophy for "Santa's Favorite." Their paper focuses on positive news.

While contemplating whether or not they could gather enough positive news each month to produce the paper, John had faith that good news was out there and people needed to read about positive things. It was 2008 and markets were crashing, people were losing their homes, even longstanding newspapers were closing their doors and turning to the internet to inform their readers. "Watching our first edition roll off the

press was very emotional...happiness, pride and fear...I had that tiny moment when you ask yourself 'are we really doing this?' Natalie said. "Here we are celebrating our 100th edition of the paper, and we never missed a single edition along the way, and there is still an abundance of positive news to report" John said.

While the goal has been to spread positive news to the readers, John says there is some news that still has to be told, whether it is positive or not, the community still needs to be informed of what is taking place around them. "Dealing with difficult circumstances like those surrounding the Jennings family, whose 9 year old daughter Alissa's Make-A-Wish was to see the Jonas Brothers in concert...but due to her brain tumor and timing of treatment, could not be fulfilled...local business owners came together to make her wish come true...she passed just a few months after." John said. "The Frank's Furniture explosion was such an unimaginable event to cover, you could feel a cloud of sadness above our city for weeks" John said. "But then again the residents and business owners showed their support, helping to raise funds for the families whose family members perished in the aftermath" he stated.

When October 2017 rolls around, the Rhaesa's will have been working independently for 15 years. They will also celebrate their 22nd wedding anniversary in June and the 9th anniversary of The Wayne Dispatch in November. "The paper gives us an avenue to help people" Natalie said. "It's been an interesting journey, learning more about the people in our community, sharing their stories and experiences. It has definitely had an impact on both John and myself."

"Everyone has a story...and over the years The Wayne Dispatch has published hundreds of them. Thank you to all of the advertisers, columnists, proof reader, writers, reporters and faithful readers, because of you... The Wayne Dispatch has a story. "

– John Paul Rhaesa

Citizens Watch patrol neighborhoods

By Carolyn Marnon

A Neighborhood Watch Patrol has been started by Wayne resident Brian Ewanciw, owner of ICON Computer Solutions, to help keep Wayne safe and be extra eyes and ears for our Wayne PD. The patrol is a citizen-run group of volunteers that patrol Wayne and report any suspicious activity directly to the Wayne PD.

What does the WNWP do? They observe and report. They have broken the city up into six zones. They drive around in their own vehicles using their hazard lights, observing for suspicious activity. When they see something suspicious, they call the non-emergency phone line or 911 depending on the severity of the activity. They do not confront anyone or do anything that would put themselves or others in harm's way.

Our police department is one of the best in the area. They do their jobs with diligence and dedication. As citizens, we can help them do their jobs even better, by observing and reporting suspicious activity and

crimes.

Brian got the idea for the patrol from Garden City. Tracy Tatro, who started the Garden City Patrol group, guided him through the basics of starting the patrol, helping him along the way with procedures and policies for the Wayne Neighborhood Watch group. He contacted City Manager Lisa Nocerini and Police Chief Alan Maciag about starting one in Wayne. They agreed he could do it.

Anyone can join the WNWP. There is a Facebook group where updates are given. There are currently 16 people who volunteer to patrol. As their schedule allows, they are out at night patrolling to keep you safe. Residents Vern Amos and Chris Miller have been going out almost every night, said Brian. The patrols are usually from 10 p.m. until about 4:00 a.m. "You go on little to no sleep but it's rewarding though," said Brian.

WNWP needs more people to volunteer. You can volunteer to patrol for as much or as little as you like.



Vern Amos, Brian Ewanciw and Chris Miller are part of a citizen led Neighborhood Watch Patrol working to help the police department deter crime in Wayne.

Some people only volunteer for an hour at night once a week. There is a \$30 charge for the door decals. You must also sign a liability waiver.

For those who can't volunteer, but want to help, Brian says keeping your porch lights on at night can help the patrol see around your property. He also says to lock your doors, both house and car and keep

your garage doors closed. Since drivers use their own cars and gas, another way you can help is to donate gas cards or gift cards for Tim Horton's so patroller's can get something to drink while they are out.

For more information or to donate gas/coffee cards, contact Brian at ICON Computer Solutions on W. Michigan Avenue.

POLICE NEWS

Michigan State Police patrols

First/Lieutenant Michael Shaw of the Michigan State Police met with Wayne's Police Chief Alan Maciag and agreed to provide troopers to the City beginning January 17. The troopers will be deployed Monday through Friday from 2:00 p.m. to

11:00 p.m. The dates and times are subject to change dependent on when crimes seem to be happening more. The patrols are at no cost to the city. They are a temporary solution until additional officers can be hired by the Wayne Police Department. MSP troopers will conduct patrols and do traffic enforcement.

They will not answer calls to service; those will be handled by Wayne police officers.

MSP will be pro-active by policing high crime areas and narcotic activities. They can also bring in a helicopter and canines, as needed. "We treat people the way we want to be treated" Lt. Mike Shaw said. He also said Wayne does not have a violent crime issue like other areas the MSP usually goes into. He did say that bad guys talk, so the more they realize they are being watched, the more likely they are to move on to somewhere else.

will help with traffic enforcement and the Michigan State Police will be assisting. Wayne is still actively recruiting police officers.

As of Jan. 26, there were 26 traffic crashes in Wayne, 5 residential burglaries, 2 other burglaries, 13 larcenies, 5 motor vehicle thefts, 3 robberies, 6 damage to property reports, 23 assaults (most of which are domestic violence) and no arsons. In 2014 when there were about 26 officers, there were 16,679 calls for service. In 2015, there were 16,597 calls for service. In 2016, with about 19-20 officers, there were 16,731 calls for service. These calls do not include traffic stops.

Police community meeting

Police Chief Alan Maciag held the most recent quarterly police community meeting on January 26. He announced the retirement of Lt. Matthew Spunar and the promotions of Sgt. Robert Amore and Sgt. Brent Cahill. To help Wayne, Wayne County

To help prevent theft, lock your car, your house and close your garage doors, especially at night. "You'd be surprised how many people don't lock their car doors," said Chief Maciag. Thieves are going to take the easiest route-they walk down the street and pull on doors.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Getaway to Niagara Falls

The Wayne Sometimes Travelers will be travelling with Bianco Tours to Niagara Falls for two days Monday, April 24-Tuesday, April 25, 2017. Price of \$186 per person/double occupancy includes round trip motor-coach transportation and one-night stay at the Clifton Victoria Inn with breakfast. There will be shopping at White Oaks Mall with lunch on your own. You will have a free day to explore Niagara Falls. Since the tour will be going into Canada, US and Canadian passengers are required to present proof of citizenship-passport, passport card, enhanced drivers license or certificate of naturalization. For more information or to make reservations, please call Wayne Senior Services at (734) 721-7460.



Champions of Wayne

Dr. Sean Galvin, Napier Bryant, Keri Horton (WMHS Alumni), Kayla Powell, Kameron Climie, Hannah Gottman and Kevin English at the Wayne Memorial Champions of Wayne First Semester Awards Banquet where the students shared their stories on how they became a Champion. Photo by John P. Rhaesa

6:30 p.m. Call the library at (734) 721-7832 for more information.

Free Tax Services

If your annual household income is less than \$54,000, you may be able to get your taxes done free through the Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency. Services will be available at the Wayne Public Library on Wednesday, March 15 and March 22, 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Walk-ins are accepted, but an appointment would be preferable. Call 734-284-6999 or 313-388-9799 for more information or to make an appointment. You must bring social security cards for yourself and all claimed dependents and a valid picture ID. Call to get the full list of additional items you will need to bring.

Notre Dame Lounge invites you to join them

Come to Notre Dame Lounge located at 3144 S. Wayne Rd (near Jack's Sporting Goods) for dinner and drinks. The Lounge is open to the public every Wednesday and Friday. An event called "An Evening With Barry Manilow" will be held on

March 11. Wednesday nights feature a Euchre Tournament at 7:00 p.m. The Hall is also available to rent for private events. Call (734) 260-3238 for more information.

Healthy Wayne yoga

Healthy Wayne has teamed with Citizen Yoga to offer free yoga classes. The next free yoga class will be Wednesday, February 15, at the Wayne Public Library from 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Dress comfortably, bring a yoga mat and enjoy an evening of fun. Future dates include

February 22, March 1 and 8, April 5, 12, 19 and 26.

City Council meetings available for viewing

Wayne city council meetings can be viewed on the city's cable channel every day at 2:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. You can also view the meetings on YouTube via the city's website. At the January 17, 2017 city council meeting, City Clerk Matthew Miller reiterated the average cost of a city council meeting depends on the length of the meeting, staff required, public postings and notices, among other costs such as printing and staff time to prepare council materials.

City council members' email addresses

You can email any of your city council members at any time.

Mayor Susan M. Rowe:
SRowe@cityofwayne.com

Mayor Pro Tem Anthony W. Miller:
AMiller@cityofwayne.com

Ward 1 Councilman Chris Sanders:
CSanders@cityofwayne.com

Ward 2 Councilman John P. Rhaesa:
JRhaesa@cityofwayne.com

Ward 3 Councilman Tom Porter:
TPorter@cityofwayne.com

Councilman Ryan Gabriel:
RGabriel@cityofwayne.com

Councilman Richard T. Sutton IV:
RSutton@cityofwayne.com

Yamasaki in Detroit

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 distinctive buildings around the world. In his adopted home of Detroit, Yamasaki produced many important designs that range from public buildings to offices and private residences.

In Yamasaki in Detroit: A Search for Serenity, Detroit Free Press columnist and author John Gallagher presents both a biography of Yamasaki and surveys select projects spanning from the late 1940s to the end of Yamasaki's life. This program will be at the Wayne Public Library on Tuesday, March 14, at 6:30 p.m. Call the library at (734) 721-7832 for more information.

Job Seekers Workshop

Are you looking for a job in the area? Discover how and where to search for local employment opportunities with the help of staff from Schoolcraft College's Career Services. Learn tips for creating or polishing your resume, preparing for interviews and more. This program is a must for anyone seeking great local employment. This workshop will be held at the Wayne Public Library on Wednesday, February 8, at

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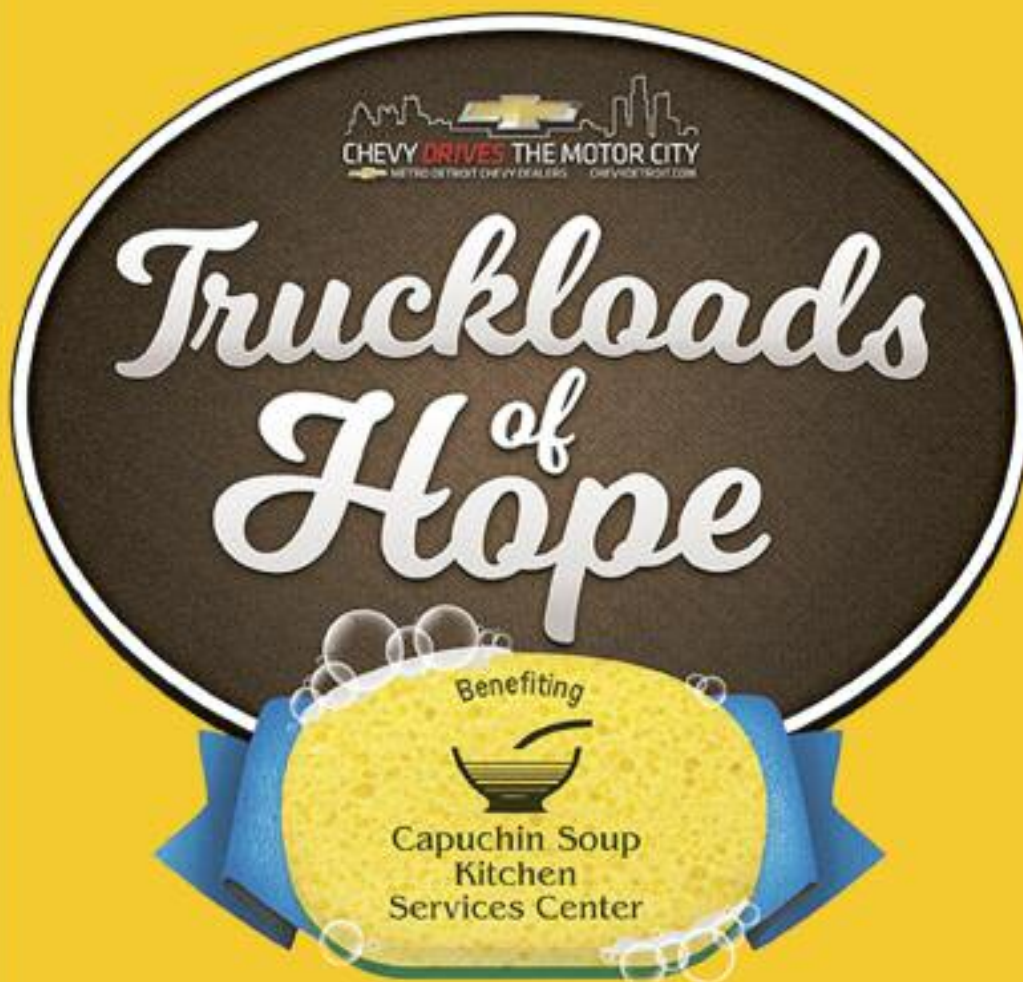
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THE CAPUCHIN MISSION:

Founded in 1929, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen serves Metro Detroit by providing food, clothing, and human development programs to the people of our community. In addition to preparing and serving up to 2,000 meals a day, it operates a shower program, emergency food pantry, and a tutoring and art therapy program for children. It also distributes household items and clothing. Its Earthworks Urban Farm harvests six tons of produce from a two and a half acre organic farm, and educates the community in regards to sustainable relationships between human beings and the earth. The Soup Kitchen's On the Rise Bakery assists individuals "re-entering" society after bouts of incarceration or substance abuse. In addition, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen's Jefferson House—a twelve bed residential treatment facility--assists indigent males seeking to reclaim their lives from addiction.

WHY ARE WE COLLECTING CLEANING SUPPLIES:

In meeting with the Capuchin Organization, they expressed a large need for shower supplies and household staples. The Capuchin Shower Program offers free showers to the homeless. The Shower Program, not only cleans the physical bodies of homeless, but also launders their clothing. This calls out for a great need of shower supplies, towels, and anything that would make someone "feel human again." Household supplies are also in high demand and short supply.



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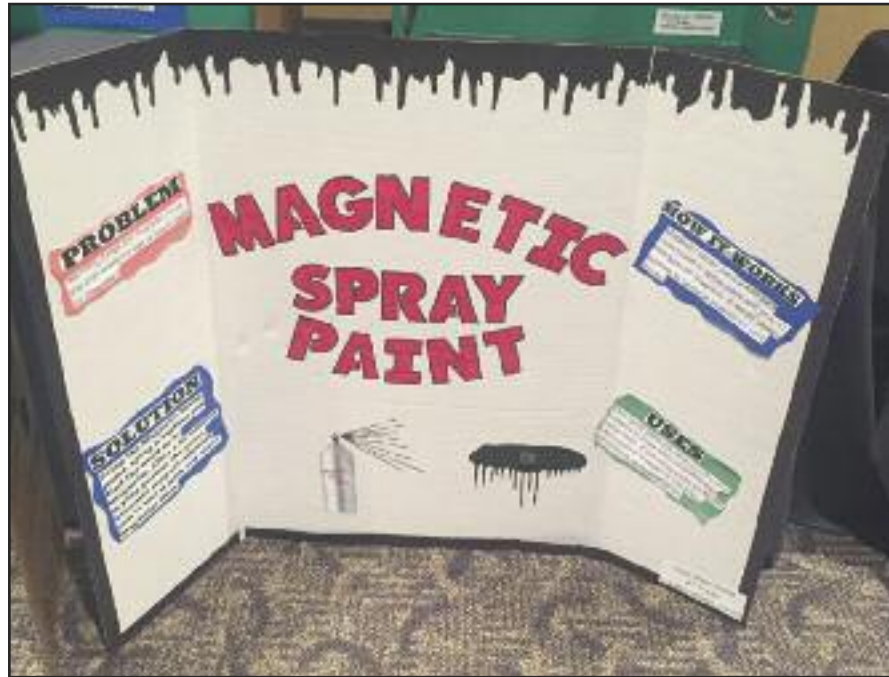
Wayne student does well at Young Inventors Showcase

By Carolyn Marnon

Gage Waterkamp of Wayne took 2nd place among Franklin Middle School students in the Young Inventors Showcase last month. Young Inventors is a contest that was open to students at six middle schools in the Livonia, Clarenceville and Wayne-Westland school districts that are focused on industrial art classes. The students come up with an invention or innovation that would help others. The other students from Wayne-Westland who participated were from Westland and Inkster. Gage was the only Wayne student.

Franklin Middle School and Stevenson Middle School were the district's participating schools.

"All of my classes participated in this contest. The students were to design a poster about the invention/innovation, including pictures and how the product works. Along with that they also had to turn in a one-page essay about their invention/innovation. After all submissions were turned in, the staff helped narrow it down to five inventions/innovations that would be entered in the finals



Gage Waterkamp's tri-fold displaying his magnetic spray paint invention.

against the other schools. Those students then had to make a tri-fold of their invention/innovation along with the essay," said Kim Mandrelle, Technology Interventionist at Stevenson Middle School.

All entries are then delivered to the event's sponsor, Alpha USA—an engineering and product development-based manufacturer in Livonia. Alpha USA design engineers picked the top two inventions from each of

the six schools participating. From those top 12, the engineers picked an overall 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

Magnetic Spray Paint was Gage's invention. It would be made of a spray paint compound along with ground neodymium magnets and would be used on walls or boards or to help construction workers with their small parts.

The overall 1st place winner was Steven Smith from Franklin Middle School. His invention was named the Steven Toothbrush, a travel toothbrush that has the handle pre-filled with toothpaste. A squeeze of the handle will allow the toothpaste to fill the bristles from the bottom and is good for up to 5 uses before disposal. The overall 2nd place winner was Jillian Downey from Stevenson Middle School. She invented the Needle Concealer. The idea is to conceal a needle from children. A silicone hollowed-out animal is the concealer that slides over the needle so kids only see the animal, not the needle. It was to help those who had a fear of shots.



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Dispatch delivers 100th edition

By Carolyn Marnon

The Wayne Dispatch you hold in your hands right now is the 100th issue of the paper that delivers positive news to every household in Wayne each month. John and Natalie Rhaesa's vision is that The Wayne Dispatch is a monthly publication that will celebrate businesses, churches, civic groups, schools, scouts, residents and any other uplifting stories.

The first issue came out in November 2008 and was billed as "Your Source for Positive Community News." You will still find this header on the pages of the paper. The cover of the first issue featured Joshua Winer and David Fichter, the muralists who painted the mural on the side of the State Wayne Theater. The headline on the cover proclaimed "Dynamic Duo Create Historical Masterpiece." From the article inside, "the mural started with an idea from the 'Cool Cities' initiative in 2003. The Wayne 2020 Committee was created and they focused on creating public art." Also, "This is public art that can enhance the downtown and help attract visitors to our community," said Matt Miller, City Planner. "This is a strong, good community and people are willing to give of themselves to make this a great place to live. The spirit is still there and everyone really wants to bring it back," Winer said."

Columns that were present in that first issue included "On the Bright Side" written by Hal Hultman (he encouraged people to visit the mural), "Rearview Mirror" written by Matt Miller (he planned to write about some of the interesting history of Wayne in upcoming columns; he wrote about Ezra Derby, one of the earliest settlers in the area), "Wayne... where everyone knows your name" written by Jill Gaudet, the executive director of the Wayne Chamber of Commerce at the time (she challenged readers to rediscover Wayne for a week by eating at a local restaurant, visiting the community center and/or shopping at Northside, Leo's, The Acorn Shop, which is now closed, and Jus' Shooz which is now called Puffer Reds) and "Footprints

of Wayne" written by Dee Ryan (she planned to write about people who were making good things happen in Wayne).

Other features included "Play 4 All Boundless Playground" at Soroptimist Park and "Election 2008" which encouraged readers to make their vote count.

Finally, this first issue had a Community Calendar that highlighted upcoming events by chronological date.

Issue 25

November 2010 was the 25th issue with lifelong scout leader Larry Shields on the cover. Larry was scoutmaster at the First Congregational Church for Troop 1736 for almost 30 years and was ready to pass the torch on.

The "Footprints of Wayne" and "On the Bright Side" columns continued. A new column had appeared—"Fire House News" by Shawn Bell. He wrote about carbon monoxide danger in this issue. Also new to appear by this time was "Hope Floats in my Hometown"—a column by Christine Easley highlighting Wayne Chamber of Commerce businesses and events. News Briefs had also been introduced by this time.

Features to appear included "Bringing Back Main Street." This article was about the introductory presentation by Michigan Main Street to the Wayne Ripple Effect (now known as Wayne Main Street). "This program is a grassroots effort that can lead to a thriving downtown in Wayne," the article said. The nationally known band Finger Eleven played in Wayne at US 12. The band had 3 hit songs and played for 500 concertgoers. City Council had made budget cuts; an article discusses how they can cut \$1.9 million from the budget. The council also passed a resolution to revoke Ford's tax abatement. Ford was producing the Ford Focus at the time. The council also chose Robert English as Acting City Manager. The Michigan Assembly Plant goes solar. Finally, college help comes to Wayne with Project ACE (Access to College for Everyone) Resource Center that moved into Metro Place Mall.



Natalie and John Rhaesa show off the first newspapers coming off the press in November 2008.

Issue 50

Issue 50 was dated December 2012. The cover showed a collage of pictures of the Wayne Rotary and highlighted the Christmas parade.

While "Footprints of Wayne" continued as a column, we now see "Memory Lane" written by Darlene Hawley. She wrote about holiday traditions throughout the years in Wayne. Also new to appear is "There's More to the Story" written by Buddy Shuh. He talks about his Biggest Loser Season 13 experiences.

Other articles appearing include ones on holiday shopping ideas in Wayne, one highlighting holiday happenings in Wayne, and one discussing how you can lend a helping hand during the holidays. The Parks and Rec Dept. received a \$95,000 physical education and health grant to enhance the physical education and health of K-6 grade students in the Wayne-Westland School District. The State Wayne welcomed the digital age to town with new Christie Digital Projectors with 3D capability, Dolby 7.1 digital sound, new screens, new concessions and an updated lobby. The Fire Department received a \$791,787 grant from the Competitive Grant Assistance Program that

would make it possible to continue the merging of the two fire departments.

Issue 75

Issue 75 was for January 2015. The cover showed 2014 in review with a collage of pictures.

We still have "Footprints of Wayne" appearing, but we also have a couple of new columns show up. "Downtown Wayne Main Street" by Lindsey Wooten highlights the events of Wayne Main Street and "Latest From the Capitol" is written by State Representative Robert Kosowski.

Articles included the City Council working with departments on the budget and the council appointed a new member, Anthony Miller, to fill the seat of Mayor Al Haidous after he resigned to become a Wayne County Commissioner.

President Barack Obama spoke at the Ford plant about the government's efforts to help the automotive industry. Norwaye Boxing Gym held their grand opening at Jefferson Barnes. 2014 articles were reviewed. K&S gives a car to a deserving Wayne mom.

To see all of 100 issues go to www.TheWayneDispatch.com

Big flavor at Big Moe's Kitchen

By Carolyn Marnon

You may drive by it every day and not know it is there. Inside the Citgo gas station at the corner of Elizabeth and E. Michigan Ave is Big Moe's Kitchen. Open since November 15, 2016, it has been raved about on Facebook as having great food and service.

The owner, Moe El-Hamawi, is the only cook in this kitchen. He has been cooking for 14 years, graduated from Schoolcraft's Culinary Arts program and formerly worked at the Detroit Athletic Club. His friend owns the station and one day mentioned that he had a partially done kitchen inside the station from a deli that never opened. "I decided to just go for it," says Moe.

He had to put in vents and gas lines to get up and running. He is the cook. He has someone who comes in to help with cashiering and answering the phone. There are tables for those who want to dine in. While you wait, you can hear food sizzling on

the grill or in the fryer.

Business has been great, says Moe. People are coming back to buy more. He said opening in Wayne was a big challenge due to the city's financial situation. He took a risk thinking that if the food is good, he would do good. He also says Moe's and Citgo help each other. After ordering, customers will wander over to the gas station area to buy their chips and drinks. People who are there to buy gas may wander over to buy something to eat.

Moe describes his menu as Middle Eastern-American burgers. "Whoever comes into the door, they're going to find something they like." He doesn't have a specialty other than his specialty being making great food, he says. He said he has had no complaints on his food. He wants to thank everyone in Wayne for their support, their great support, thank you for their trust and for the Wayne Neighborhood Discussion Board on Facebook for getting the



Big Moe's owner, Moe El-Hamawi

word out about his food.

Big Moe's Kitchen is open Monday-Saturday, 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

They are closed on Sunday.

Moe says they will deliver within a three mile area.

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Community Schools of Choice program

Wayne-Westland Community Schools will offer district residents a Schools of Choice program for the 2017-2018 year for students in kindergarten through grade twelve. The Schools of Choice program provides parents the opportunity to move their child from one school to another within the boundaries of the school district provided there is room available in the school. Transportation to and from the school of choice must be provided by the parent or legal guardian.

School district residents who would like their child to attend an elementary, upper elementary, middle or high school other than their school of residency must submit a 2017-2018 Schools of Choice application. These applications are available in every Wayne-Westland school. Schools of Choice applications for elementary school students, upper elementary students, middle school students, and high school students will be accepted in the Pupil Accounting Office at the Board of Education, 36745 Marquette Rd., Westland, between now and March 2, 2017. Applications received according to these timelines will permit, if space is available, selected students to begin the 2017-2018 year in their school of choice. If more students apply for a grade/building than there are openings, a random selection process will be used to select students. The names of students not selected at this time will be placed on a waiting list for the 2017-2018 year. NOTE: Current Schools of Choice students must reapply to remain eligible for the program next year.



Wayne-Westland Community Schools provide many opportunities for students to succeed.

After the deadlines stated above, Schools of Choice applications will be accepted until August 24, 2017, at the elementary, upper elementary, middle, or high school the parent/guardian would like the child to attend. These names will be added to the 2017-2018 school year waiting lists on a first-come, first-served basis. Building principals will use the waiting lists to notify qualified students of an opening. Building principals will be allowed to place Schools of Choice students only through September 15, 2017. No Schools of Choice placements will be made after this date.

A Schools of Choice student will be moved back to his/her home

school if an overcrowding situation occurs within the first 10 weeks of the school year. After 10 weeks, the student will be permitted to remain

in the school of choice for the remainder of the school year, provided all other conditions continue to be satisfied.

It is the policy of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools Board of Education to prohibit any acts of unlawful discrimination in all matters dealing with students, employees, or applicants for employment. The Wayne-Westland Schools reaffirms its policy of equal educational and employment opportunities for all persons without regard to race, color, gender, religion, age, height, weight, marital status, or disability which is unrelated to an individual's qualifications for employment or promotion, or which is unrelated to an individual's ability to utilize and benefit from the School District's services, activities, benefits, privileges, or programs. Inquiries concerning the application of Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, and Title II legislation should be directed to the Executive Director of Student and Legal Affairs, Wayne-Westland Community Schools, 36745 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185 (734-419-2083).



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Tattoo shop now Wayne

By Carolyn Marnon

A certain block on W. Michigan Avenue is a little brighter since Mean Ink opened their doors last October. Located at 35128 W. Michigan Avenue, you will see this once-vacant building lit up at night, displays in the windows and an array of people hanging around outside the doors while they wait to be worked on.

Dan Wagner and Steve Griffin are the co-owners of this new business; they already have a steady stream of customers through their doors. Dan is a tattoo artist while Steve is the man behind Sick Sense, a line of clothing that is sold at Mean Ink. They both own Mean Ink while the clothing line is owned solely by Steve.

Sick Sense

Steve started designing Sick Sense in April 2011. He sold his creations out of the trunk of his car and through Facebook. He said people gravitated toward his logo which looks much like a grumpy ping pong ball.

Born and raised in Ypsilanti, Steve started designing shirts that just said Ypsi on them. They were so popular that others started asking why he didn't make them with other cities on them. Steve branched out and did a shirt with Detroit on it. From there, his business grew even more, leading him to start selling shirts with other cities on them. The shirts had "Explicit Content" written on them, such as you would find on a music CD package which warns parents about what might be on the CD.

Tattoo artist

Dan started playing around tattooing with needle and thread when he was about 17. He couldn't get equipment at that time because you had to own a shop or be an apprentice to purchase it. When he was about 23, he was finally able to get some equipment. At 24, he started selling his tattooing services. Because he was working a landscape job, things were slow during the winter. This allowed time for him to do 80-90 tattoos. From there, a friend was able to get him into a tattoo shop in Monroe where he worked full time learning shop etiquette. He went on his own for awhile before

working at another shop in Dundee. Prior to the opening of Mean Ink, he was back to working out of his home. He's self-taught and has never apprenticed. After being raised in Texas and living in both Wayne and Westland, Dan graduated from John Glenn High School.

Coming together

Four years ago, the duo met. A mutual friend had a limo bus that ended up taking both of them to a concert. They didn't have any interaction during that first encounter, but Steve says he thought to himself "look at the dude with the tattoos all over his f----- face." At a later date, a friend had a party at Skateland West with music and merchandise booths. The guys call them "merch booths," and they both had them at the event. After this, they started seeing each other more, started hanging out and going to concerts and on vacations together. This led them down the path to opening their business together.

"Let's get a store and try to open in Wayne," said Dan. Dan and Steve tried to look at another building in Wayne, but the owner couldn't meet with them very quickly. Property owner Kelly Eggers and his real estate agent were able to meet with the guys within an hour and go over the property for lease. They came to an agreement, and a new business on Michigan Avenue was soon to open. Spaces were constructed for the various tattoo artists to work from. The health department came out to do their inspections. Dan is very pleased with being in the middle of downtown Wayne in a beautiful location and that Mean Ink is the first tattoo shop in Wayne.

4-5 years ago, Dan had tried to open a tattoo shop in Wayne near Dairy Queen on Wayne Rd. He said Ann Arbor and Plymouth have tattoo shops, why not Wayne? There was an ordinance at that time that stated if there were residents within so many feet of the proposed business, Dan would have to get a certain number of signatures of residents that were not against the business opening nearby. There were too many obstacles to overcome with the property owner and the city so nothing came of his aspirations.



Both Steve and Dan are very talkative and enthusiastic about their business. When asked what exactly you would call a person who does the tattooing, the duo chimed out with tattoo artist, therapist, doctor, problem solver.

The Sick Sense clothing line seems never-ending. There are bandanas, hats, tank tops, leggings, sweat pants, swim trunks and items for babies and toddlers. Sizes range from XS to 6X. T-shirts range in price from \$23.99-\$28.99 while hoodies are \$35.99-\$39.99. "No matter how big or small you are, there is something hanging on that wall for you," says Steve, referring to the long wall that runs over half the length of the store.

There are six tattoo artists currently at Mean Ink-Andrew, Dr. Phil, Big Tone, Lane, Chris and of course, Dan. There is also a female piercer. These artists subcontract a space to do their work in. Before Dan and Steve rent them space, they check out the artist's work and make sure they have a solid clientele. If the artist doesn't have regular clientele, they aren't likely to be able to pay for their space.

Mean Ink has not had to pay for any advertising. Much of their business comes from Facebook and word-of-mouth. The artists all have good followings of clients.

Walk-ins are welcome at Mean Ink. If you have never had a tattoo before, they will consult with you and try to get to know you. There are photo albums in the lobby where you can check out each artist's work. After discussing what you might like, they will design a tattoo for you to ap-

prove. How long it takes to get the tattoo done depends on you and your ability to not "tap out." It could be half an hour or up to 15 hours. Tapping out means you can't take any more of the pain and need to end the session. You would then come back later for another session to work on the tattoo again. Tattoos typically take about two weeks to heal.

While I was at the shop, I met Kevin Wellner of Westland. When the shop opened in October, Kevin was in getting tattooed every day. Someone asked if he was doing a 30 day challenge; that's how the 30 day challenge came to life and he decided to get a tattoo every day for 30 days. They call him the 30 Day Challenge. Although he already had tattoos, he rolled up his pant legs and told me he had had nothing on his legs prior to the challenge. His legs are now covered. He decided to let each of the artists that were at the shop during those 30 days work on him. The artwork on his body is also unique in that his right side is all color tattoos while his left side is all black and white. He said most of the art is religious or based on his personality. He estimates 25-30 people have tattooed on him. "These people are family."

Mean Ink is open Tuesday-Saturday, noon-10:00 p.m. and Sunday, noon-6:00 p.m. It is closed on Monday. Watch for the grand opening in the spring. Steve says Sick Sense has new releases weekly. "Come check us out." If you mention this article when you visit, you can save 15% off the cost of anything, including clothing and tattoos.

NEWS BRIEFS

Daddy-Daughter Dance

HYPE Recreation Center will be hosting their annual Daddy-Daughter Dance on Thursday, February 9, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at HYPE. Tickets are \$15 per couple which includes refreshments and a flower corsage. For more information, call (734) 721-7400.

Valentine's dinner

Karma Coffee & Kitchen is presenting, a four-course dinner party on Tuesday, February 14, that includes appetizer, soup, your choice of chicken, beef or vegetable lasagna, potato and vegetable, dessert and coffee or tea. Tickets are \$60 per couple including taxes and gratuity. Dinner starts at 6 p.m.. Seating is limited; reservations are required. RSVP before February 11 by phone at (734) 589-0304.

Inspecting and copying public records

All assessing records for the city of Wayne are located at City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Rd. City Hall is open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Assessing staff is on site during the days and hours of Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 p.m. -4:30 p.m. to assist the public in the inspection and copying of public assessment records. When assessing staff is not on site, the inspection and copying of public assessment records is the responsibility of the Finance Department's office staff. Additionally, the public assessment records are available online through the City of Wayne's website through the Finance Department section.

St. Paddy's Dueling Piano Party

The Wayne Rotary is presenting their annual St. Paddy's Dueling Piano Party on Saturday, March 11, at 7:30 p.m. at HYPE Recreation Center. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. There will be food available for purchase, a cash bar, 50/50 raffles and lots of fun. Tickets are \$20 each or you can get a table for 10 for \$180. For more information, contact Gayle Rediske at (734) 502-3202. Tickets are available at Henry's Service Cen-



70th Anniversary of the Phoenix State Wayne Theatre celebration was a huge success last month.

ter, the Wayne Public Library and at HYPE. Proceeds from the event will benefit Wayne Rotary and the Wayne Police Department.

Dairy Queen opens for season

Dairy Queen will be opening for the 2017 season on February 9.

Wayne Memorial to host 8th grade parent night

Wayne Memorial High School will be hosting an 8th grade parent night on Wednesday, February 8, at 6:30 p.m. for those transitioning to 9th grade or interested in getting more information about Wayne Memorial High School for the 2017-18 school year. Students do not have to be currently attending a Wayne-Westland Community School to attend. The event will be held in the Wayne Memorial High School Stockmeyer Auditorium. Topics covered will include scheduling, graduation requirements, testing out requirements, direct college courses, AP (Advanced Placement) courses, extra-curricular activities and much more. All are welcome to attend. Questions are encouraged. Parking is available in the Glenwood Street

parking lot. Guests should enter through the front of the auditorium. If you have any questions, please call the Counseling Department of WMHS at (734) 419-2215.

Looking for female high school juniors who live in Wayne or Westland

Do you know a female high school junior who lives in Wayne or Westland? If so, encourage her to participate in the 2017 Distinguished Young Women of Wayne/Westland program to earn scholarship money for college. The program representatives want to help every girl who signs up succeed. There is an abundance of Distinguished Young Women program scholarship money given by colleges

across the country that goes unclaimed each year that could be available to a girl just because she participated in her local program, not because she won. The Wayne/Westland program is celebrating its 50th year as a local program. For more information, email wayne-westland@distinguishedyw.org right now! Rehearsals are getting underway; the Distinguished Young Women of Wayne/Westland show event is Friday, March 10.

Relay for Life Pizza Palooza

Join Relay for Life Westland-Wayne as they celebrate their kick-off party with Pizza Palooza on Thursday, February 16, at Westland City Hall. Come get inspired and enjoy a pizza-tasting from your favorite local pizza places all under one roof. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Pizza-tasting is 6:30-7:30 p.m. with Relay for Life info and pizza awards from 7:30-8:00 p.m. \$10 wristband sold at the door gets you all you can eat. Wristbands for kids age 6-10 are \$5; kids five and under are free. 100% of the proceeds go to the American Cancer Society.

Possibility and Disability Exhibit

"Possibility and Disability Exhibit" will be at the Wayne Historical Museum on Wednesday, March 15, from Noon-3:00 p.m. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Healthy Wayne

Community citizens and organizations are invited to join Healthy Wayne for the monthly meetings held on the 4th Thursday of each month at HYPE Recreation Center. The meetings include a healthy breakfast and run 8:30-10:00 a.m. Come see what Healthy Wayne is all about.

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

Wayne will represent Michigan in Ethics Bowl

On the last weekend in January, 13 well-coached teams from eight regional high schools gathered at the University of Michigan campus for the fourth annual Michigan High School Ethics Bowl, to hold an ethics argument and discussion face-off for the state championship — and the opportunity to represent Michigan in the prestigious National High School Ethics Bowl. Wayne Memorial High School emerged victorious from the two-day “collaborative competition.”

The event is sponsored by local nonprofit A2Ethics in partnership with the University of Michigan Department of Philosophy Outreach Program and high schools in the Michigan Ethics Bowl League.

The Bowl competition is not designed to pit one idea against another, but rather to encourage students to consider differing viewpoints and flex their analytical skills on issues relevant to their lives as well as the wider world.

“The Michigan High School Ethics Bowl is a celebration of philo-

sophical thinking and camaraderie. It is a chance for high school students to challenge each other and to reason together about real world ethical dilemmas in a range of fields and different situations,” said Jeanine DeLay, president of A2Ethics.

The 2017 winners “The Herd from Wayne” will be traveling to the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill from April 7-9th to participate in the National High School Ethics Bowl.

Winning team member Hannah Miller offered, “I never thought critically as I do now—our team learned so much from each other.”

“It is a wonderful competition where students are encouraged to engage intellectual discovery rather than debate,” said team sponsor David Kangas, Wayne Memorial High School English teacher.

In the span of two years, the Wayne Ethics Bowl program has grown to include enough students to field several more than the two teams eligible for the state competi-



Ethics Bowl team members are (in random order) Mikayla Wallace, Joseph Wise, Shivam Patel, Gina Gunter, Hannah Miller, Zoe Wolf, Ashley Highland.


Traveling with the team will be Caroline Perry, U-M graduate student and a member of the U-M Dept. of Philosophy Outreach program. The Philosophy Outreach program is a graduate student-led group committed to teaching student teams the ethical theories and ideas upon which they base their arguments about the case studies in the competition.

In its fourth year, the annual competition set a new participation record, attracting 13 teams fielded by eight regional high schools and comprised of 86 students—11 more than last year. This year’s contenders included Ann Arbor Greenhills, Ann

Arbor Huron, Ann Arbor Pioneer, Wayne Memorial, Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy, Saline High School, Ypsilanti Community High and Washtenaw Technical Middle College.

The 43 judges for this year’s Bowl include philosophy professors, researchers and students, and attorneys. The competition’s case studies draw on real world experiences over a range of professions—from medicine, business, sport, the military, technology, and education. This year’s case studies argued by the final teams were “Informed Consent” and “Persons with Disabilities in Institutions.”

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OBITUARY

JOHN E. "JACK" DEMMER died peacefully in his home surrounded by his loved ones on January 31, 2017; he was 93 years old. Jack is survived by his wife of 68 years, Margaret, his children Patricia (Tom) Groszko, Susan (Bill) Hermann, Bill (Sharon), Jim (Linda), Marianne (Art) Nelson and Jean (Colin) Zick, 21 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren. He was



preceded in death by his daughter-in-law, Shirley (nee: Dudek) Demmer. Funeral was held on February 4, 2017 at Divine Child Catholic Church. Memorial contributions may be made to the Monsignor Herbert Weier Scholarship Charitable Trust, Kelly's Kidz Foundation, Penrickton Center for Blind Children, Starfish Family Services or Angela Hospice. Funeral arrangements by Hackett-Metcalf Funeral Home and John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home.

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