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APRIL 2017



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Wayne Family Dental serves families

By Carolyn Marnon

You probably pass by the building housing Wayne Family Dental on the corner of Wayne Road and W. Michigan Avenue ever so often. Get to know the people who operate this fine establishment.

Dr. Bhavani Swarna is the owner and dentist of Wayne Family Dental. Dr. Swarna graduated from Detroit Mercy in 2004 with a Bachelor's degree in Dental Science. She started her own practice in the building that is currently the Urgent Care office on W. Michigan Avenue. It had originally been a dental office, then a neurology office and now she would make it into a dental office again. It had all she needed, since it had once housed a dental clinic. She built up her practice slowly, from scratch (she didn't buy another dental practice) and eventually had to find a bigger space to practice. In 2012, she acquired the former Comcast building. It's a big building, but she is the only dentist here except for some part-time help she has. "I'm happy with the building. We made a good choice." It took over nine months to remodel the building and move in. The ribbon cutting was on December 18, 2012, and Dr. Swarna and her friendly staff have been working at 35102 W. Michigan Avenue since December 20, 2012.

The reason for becoming a dentist was a simple one. It's what her father wanted. He had wanted to go into the medical field when he was young but had been unable to because of finances. It became his dream for his children that they would enter the medical field. Dr. Swarna's brother became a dentist, so she followed in his footsteps.

Dr. Swarna was born and grew up in India. Her parents still live there. She married Sreeni, her husband, while still in India. They moved to Michigan in 1998 where Sreeni worked for a Livonia business. "I was a bit scared moving to the country (U.S.) leaving the whole family behind. It took me over a year to adjust and understand the culture. I started applying for school and got myself busy. From then it has been an on-going journey, and here I am today," said Dr. Swarna.

"The biggest difference between the dental fields in India and the U.S.



Dr. Bhavani Swarna views x-ray. By using digital x-rays and digital panoramic/cephalometric, x-ray radiation is reduced up to 90%. Photo by John P. Rhaesa



Dr. Swarna with her husband Sreeni and their two daughters.

has to do with opportunity. In the U.S., there is proactive, comprehensive dental care with insurance to cover most of it. In India, the system is reactive. If there is a problem with your teeth, that's when you go to see the dentist," said Dr. Swarna.

In her free time, Dr. Swarna likes to watch movies of all kinds. She laughingly asks, "What free time?" as she has two kids: Varsha is in the 5th grade and Siri is in 4th grade. She doesn't like science fiction or ac-

tion movies, but will watch almost anything else. One of her favorite movies is "Shrek." She also enjoys yoga.

What was it like growing up in India? "Growing up in India, my memories were rich and vivid. I grew up in a time where smart phones were not available. We had more quality time with friends and family. I can't say the same now. In India, we had more family support every step of the way until graduation, even up

until I got married. It was more of a challenge to make wise decisions and stay focused. Now we are here (in the U.S.) with little to no family support."

Dr. Swarna's children are bilingual. They visit their grandparents in India most of the summer and get to spend time with their cousins there.

When Bhavani and Sreeni came to the U.S., they lived in Canton. After they had their children, they moved to Northville where they currently live.

"One thing I can say having a practice in Wayne is that it's a cute little town. I had a lot of support from my patients. A few of them actually give me emotional support as well," said Dr. Swarna.

Dr. Swarna is very proud of the water treatment in her office. "We make every effort to use the latest infection control and anti-contamination technology. While many offices overlook the potential of infection from the tap water they use, we address this threat with the VistaClear Advanced Water Filtration System, the most advanced dental water treatment system available. The VistaClear system protects patient health and safety by filtering the water used in each treatment room. Our state of the art VistaClear water system is maintained regularly and consists of specialized water treatment components that improve the microbiological quality. Our water meets all water quality goals and standards set by Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the American Dental Association (ADA) for use during dental procedures. We also use VistaPure, which provides two grades of high-quality water for autoclaves, ultrasonic cleaners and the rinse cycle of instrument washers. The system connects directly to the city water supply and sends purified water anywhere you need it in the steri-center for easy, on-demand use."

The office also uses digital technology and is a paperless office. By using digital x-rays and digital panoramic/cephalometric, x-ray radiation is reduced up to 90%.

See **DENTIST**, page 10

NEWS BRIEFS

Nankin Transit Service available to residents

Nankin Transit is a connector bus system that offers curb to curb service for seniors and the disabled who reside in Wayne, Westland, Garden City and Inkster. Nankin Transit operates anywhere within the four cities and one mile outside of the four cities. They also service the destination points of St. Mary's Hospital in Livonia, Henry Ford Health Care on Haggerty in Canton, Oakwood Hospital Main in Dearborn and Metro Airport (one-way drop off only). To schedule a ride, call (734) 729-2710. It is requested that medical appointments be scheduled two days in advance and one day for all other travel needs. The fare is \$3 one-way. The one-way only fare to Metro Airport is \$5. Each bus can hold a total of 17 without special needs. Each bus is equipped with a wheelchair lift and can hold two wheelchairs. Hours of service are 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The service does not run on major holidays, and the system is closed the week of December 24-January 1.

Ladies Literary Society fundraiser

The Ladies Literary Society of Wayne invites you to their annual scholarship fundraiser on Tuesday, April 18, at 7:00 p.m. The event will be held at the First Congregational Church, 2 Towne Square, in Wayne. The theme this year is "Books in Bloom." There will be talks about a few different topics such as gardens featured in books, books about edible and medicinal plants, bees and



We are better together

More than 90 volunteers joined Wayne Main Street for today's Wayne Community Clean Up Day called, "I Love a Clean Wayne." Wayne Rotarian John VanStipdonk shows off his new volunteer t-shirt. Photo by John P. Rhaesa

roses. There will be dessert and non-alcoholic drinks, chances to win prizes, socializing and having fun. This event raises funds to award \$1,000 scholarships to two young ladies, one from Wayne Memorial High School and one from John Glenn High School. Donations of any amount are accepted.

DIA Inside/Out program opens in Wayne

Wayne Main Street would like to invite you to their Opening Party of the DIA Inside/Out program on Thursday, April 13, at 6:00 p.m. at

Helium Studios. The event is free. Participants are encouraged to register by contacting Wayne Main Street, (734) 629-6822.

The Inside/Out program, funded by The Knight Foundation, brings reproductions of masterpieces from the DIA's world-class collections outdoors to the public. Guests will have the opportunity to receive a copy of the official DIA Inside/Out map, tour the art placements and be one of the first to see these wonderful works of art in Wayne, meet with local stakeholders and community members, and hear about the Inside/Out program and upcoming events.

Zebra marching band earns first place

The Wayne Memorial High School Zebra Marching Band had an outstanding performance in the annual Detroit St. Patrick's Day Parade last month. The band fought through the cold to earn first place for the second year in a row and for the seventh time in the past eleven years. The band is directed by Matt Diroff with his assistant Pat Brown.

Chocolate Walk

Wayne Main Street presents their second annual Chocolate Walk on Saturday, May 6, from Noon-4:00 p.m. Walkers are able to fill a box with chocolates, made by Corden Chocolates, that they gather at each business that is participating in the walk. Last year, this event sold out quickly. Only 98 tickets are available this year. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 day of the event if any are still left. Call (734) 629-6822 or visit Wayne Main Street, 1 Towne Square inside the Wayne Historical Museum, to get your tickets.

Families Against Narcotics

Opioid addiction is on the rise and affects more than just those who are addicted. The Westland Police Department would like the public to know about the Families Against Narcotics (FAN) chapter that has been formed in Wayne County.

"Families feel embarrassed and ashamed that their loved ones are struggling with this disease, and they isolate and withdraw. What they really need to do is reach out for help,"

See **CALENDAR**, page 12

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Staying connected

Communication is an extremely important part of every individual's life. We all must communicate with each other to maintain ties with family, friends and the world around us. For many years, mail delivery served as a communication link between people who lived apart and did not see each other on a regular basis.

When our country was young, a system was developed in the colonies in which merchants, slaves and Native Americans would pass mail (letters and parcels) from one person to another until they reached their destination. When the Constitution established the postmaster general position, the Founding Fathers were worried about how to get the new nation's increasing volume of mail delivered. Passing mail from person to person soon gave way to designated mail carriers who traveled via horseback and stagecoach. One short lived offshoot of the horse system was the Pony Express. When gold was discovered in California in 1848, thousands of prospectors, investors and businessmen made their way west. When California became a state in 1850 and her population surged, a fast route to the Pacific was needed to link our country from East to West. The Pony Express was founded in the late 1850s by William Russell, Alexander Majors and William Waddell, businessmen already in the freighting business. They held government contracts for delivering army supplies to the western frontier and had a similar idea for contracts with the U.S. Government for fast mail delivery. They utilized a short route between St Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California, using mounted riders rather than stagecoaches. The Pony Express was put together in the winter of 1860. It had 120 riders, 184 stations, 400 horses and several hundred personnel. The rider could not weigh more than 125 pounds, the mail bag weighed 20 pounds along with the 20 pounds of material carried by the horse for a total of 165 pounds on the horse's back. The riders rode day and night and changed horses at the stations after riding for 75 to 100 miles at break-neck speed. This technique allowed for the mail to be whisked across the continent in record time. The



**Memory
Lane**

Darlene Hawley

movies made the life of a Pony Express rider look exciting and glamorous even though it was grueling work. They earned about \$100 a month at a time when the wage for an unskilled worker was between \$15 and \$30 a month.

The Pony Express was able to deliver messages from the Atlantic to the Pacific in a record ten days but was a short lived program. It was in operation only 19 months due to the telegraph invented by Samuel Morse. His first telegraph message was delivered from Baltimore to Washington in 1844 and by 1866 Western Union completed laying the first transcontinental line to open communication across the country. But mail delivery was still an important part of daily life. Early mail was delivered by stagecoach, wagon, ships, train and eventually airplanes. Villages, towns and cities had a U.S. Post Office in their community to handle incoming and outgoing mail. In early Wayne, the "Post office" was located anywhere there was room. The Postmaster had the authority to move it wherever he deemed appropriate, which was usually his place of business. Mail was picked up and sent from general stores, banks, shops and other public places. The first rural carrier out of Wayne was Civil War veteran Harvey Heywood. In 1893, the first Post Office building was built in Wayne. John Cullen was Postmaster at the time. It was used until 1919 when it was moved to the Masonic Temple Building.

In 1938 a new Post Office was built on Newberry Street at Park. In 1964 it was enlarged and remodeled. During the depression, artists from the Works Progress Administration were sent around the country to paint murals in post office lobbies. Wayne's mural, which disappeared with the remodeling, was a pastoral scene with cows grazing behind a fence and a train with a steam locomotive pulling a train across the



Wayne's first Post Office Building was built in 1893.

countryside. In later years, huge moose and elk heads adorned the walls of the lobby.

This post office building still stands today and is in use even though all mail is sent to the Westland post office for processing. A "For Sale" sign stands out front of the building. The US Postal System has had to downsize dramatically over the last few years as the competition from iPhones, internet and email has drastically cut into its budget. Technology today is changing the way we communicate with each other and the way we do business. Online banking, shopping, bill paying, business transactions and more is making mail delivery almost obsolete. The USPS is planning major cuts, including Saturday mail delivery, to prevent projected billions of dollars lost over the next decade. It is the first time in USPS history that a lack of mail has been cause for major concern.

While we still enjoy the convenience of having our own post office in downtown Wayne, one wonders what will happen to this seventy nine year old landmark in our community in the future. You don't have to look far to find one answer. In downtown Plymouth, their beautiful old post office building was closed and a smaller, more modern one built across the street. The large old building could not be justified with the great reduction of mail and package business. The building was purchased by Westborn Market of Dearborn and turned into a beautiful and unique high end grocery store. If you haven't visited there, you are in for a treat. It houses not only beautiful fruits and vegetables but a deli, fresh

meat and seafood counters, cheeses, a wonderful bakery, prepared foods including meats, casseroles, salads, vegetables and soups and so much more. You can shop for ready made dinner items or foods to prepare at home. You can purchase prepared foods by weight and eat your lunch or dinner on site. They offer a sitting area with tables at the front entrance where you can view the historical mural on the wall or read the history of the building. If the weather is agreeable, you can eat outside on their patio. The basement is converted into a beer and wine shop and houses the kitchen and ovens where all of the food is prepared and cooked or baked on site. Huge glass windows allow shoppers to view the process. All in all, a wonderful way to make good use of a beautiful historic building in a downtown community. We hear about and see many other possibilities in surrounding communities for our old buildings. Wayne's Post Office is in a prime location for someone with a plan! As technology changes the way we live today, let's hope we can make it work in conjunction with our past!



Wayne's current Post Office was built in 1938.

Hays named Wayne Memorial's #1 fan

Ron "Corky" Hays moved to Wayne (Norwayne) in 1956 at the age of 13. He attended Adams Jr. High the first full year it was open (1956), he was in the 8th grade.

Deno DeLuca was his gym teacher and basketball coach at Wayne Memorial High School. Mr. DeLuca would let students in the back door so they could attend Wayne Varsity games. This was Ron's first of many games and events at W.M.H.S.

Ron played basketball at W.M.H.S. for 3 years and one year at Eastern Michigan University. Looking back Ron recalls all the great games and players. The 1962 team his brother Rob played for won their first 14 in a row before losing the Regionals and finishing 17-2.

In 1996 and 1997, Wayne Memorial made it to the Breslin Center and the Final 4 both years. These were the teams led by Lorenzo Guess. Over a 4 year stretch, they were something like 84-14. "During a 15 year run I would say Wayne averaged a 16-18 win year," Ron said.

Ron stated, "the current W.M.H.S. Basketball team of 2017 was an excellent team, finishing about 20-4, probably in the top 3 of all time." Ron added "This year's Girls Basketball team was the best of all...Wayne Memorial High School has produced many fine players who have gone on to careers in college."

"The most exciting was a 5'5" dynamo named Genois Safford who played at Wayne High in 2000 - 2003. He led the team in everything and went on to play at Schoolcraft college. I can only imagine what he could have done had he been 6'2". It is hard to compare players and



Wayne Memorial High School Principal Kevin Webber presents Corky Hays with 2 tickets to every Wayne sporting event for being the schools #1 fan. Photo by John Rhaesa

teams over the years." Ron said. Ron's good friend Bill Sexton was the force behind this award honoring Ron "Corky" Hays along with help from Principal Kevin Webber and A.D. Greg Ambrose. It has been estimated that Ron has seen over 1,000 Wayne Memorial High School sporting events, therefore the "Wayne Memorial High School's #1 Fan" award was born. Ron still attends as much and as many events as he can. This last year he attended 2 high school football games in Georgia while visiting his grandchildren who he also took to the game making it the four year old's first football game. He also went to a football game in Kentucky while visiting for a family reunion. "I also attended basketball games in both Georgia and Kentucky," Ron added.

Ron began working in the Press Box for football games about 25 years ago with the late Bill Brooks. He's still there. Ron gets to see foot-

ball, basketball, baseball, track, and cross country meets and an occasional soccer game. Once in a while he will even attend some of the plays at W.M.H.S. "There is nothing like going to high school events. The best thing about the whole deal is all the kids I get to meet and some that I know personally. Some are children of my friends and some are new ones

I meet each year. It is a great feeling when they come back and remember me and acknowledge me... great memories," Ron recalls. Ron says that sometimes he can't remember what he ate for breakfast (L.O.L.), but he can remember games and scores from many years ago. After all, he has been at this for over 60 years.

Ron and Bill Sexton still attend many Wayne High games and both miss the late Bill Brooks and Don Graham. "They really would have enjoyed the last couple of years at Wayne High basketball games," Ron says.

Ron still loves Wayne High although some teams have been down, they still have great spirit and drive. As many know, Wayne's football team has only won 3 games since 2009, however the crowds keep coming and the kids keep competing. Ron says, "I'm sure things will get better. Our JROTC program competes nationally and our academics are at an all-time high. I am going to attend events at Wayne High for as long as I can. GO WAYNE PRIDE!"

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Robofest promotes STEM learning

The William D. Ford Career-Technical Center hosted Robofest 2017 Little Robots, Big Missions on March 30, 2017. The competition consisted of two rounds.

In Round 1 each team used a fully autonomous robot to play a game called RoboHit. In the RoboHit game the robots are programmed to locate and hit a ping-pong ball resting on top of a water bottle, using a pencil as a bat. Teams earn points when they remove the trash objects, the Lego blocks from the bases and return to the home base to stop. There is a two-minute time limit.

Round 2 was called the unknown problem and the teams had 30 minutes to reprogram their robot to fix a problem.

The exhibition competition gave each team a chance to show off their creative autonomous robotics project.

Participants included teams from John Glenn High School,

Wayne Memorial High School, William D. Ford Career-Technical Center, Northville High School, Battle Creek, Novi, Troy and Walled Lake.

The Northville and Battle Creek teams will advance to the state competition.

Robofest is Lawrence Technological University's international autonomous robotics program for students in fourth through twelfth grade and college. Student teams design, construct, and program their robots to act independently and compete for trophies in a variety of competitions.

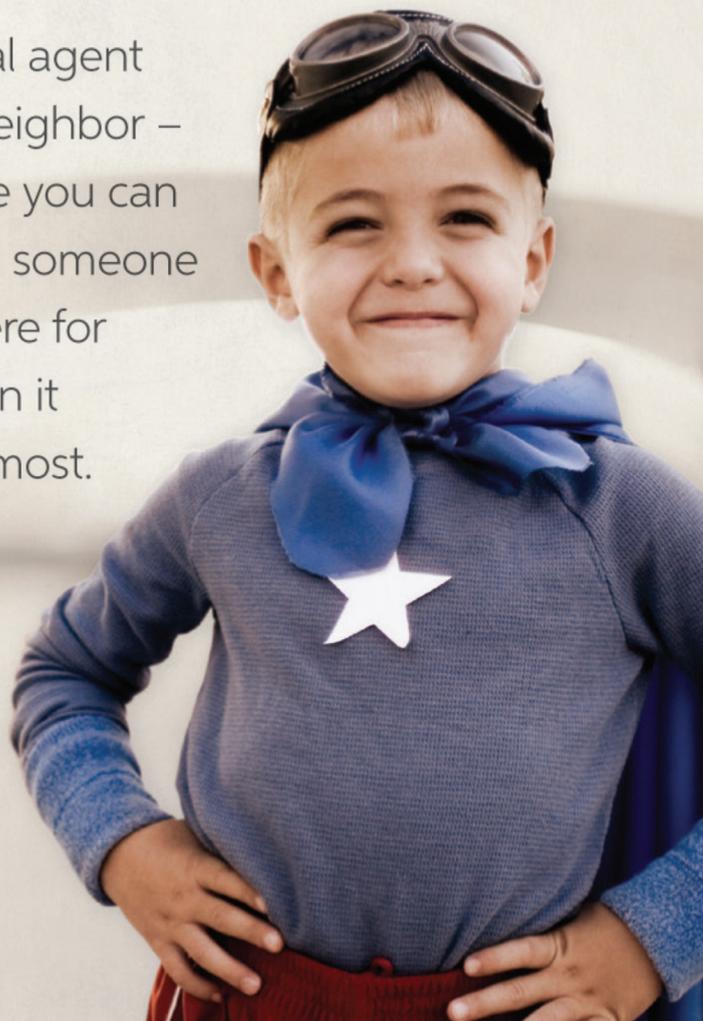
Robofest's mission is to generate excitement among young people for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), develop creativity and problem solving skills, and prepare them to excel in higher education and technological skills.

For more information on Robofest, visit www.robofest.net.



Wayne Memorial's Zebra team gets ready to compete.

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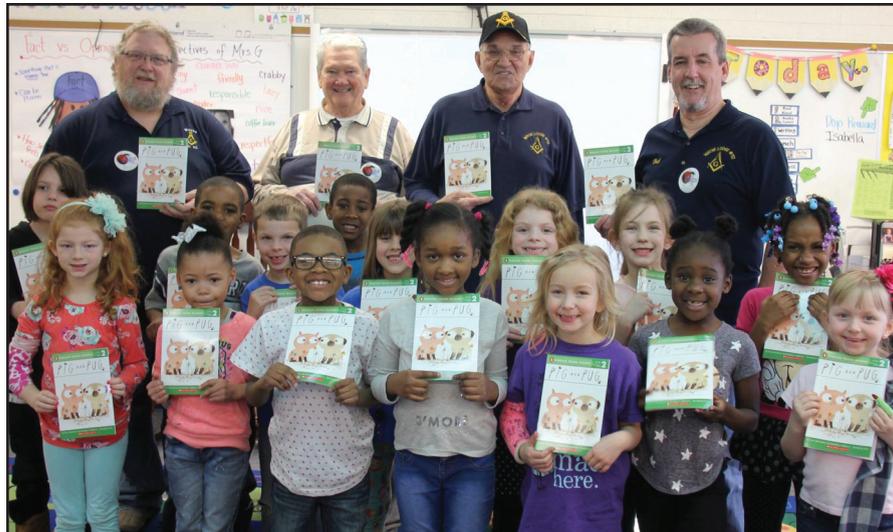
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Local Masons help their community

March Reading Month

On March 29 and 30, members of the Wayne Masonic Temple, along with their wives, branched out to the first grade classrooms of eleven elementary schools in the Wayne Westland Community School District to present a book to every first grader in the district. They handed out approximately 900 books in honor of March Reading Month.

The Masons started working on this project about a year ago. The Masons knew they wanted to do something that helped children. MaryAnn Brewer, the wife of a member and very active in lodge activities, is a retired reading specialist for the Garden City schools. She suggested the project to help the kids read better. There were many meetings with the school district to work out the details. Feedback had to be obtained



Volunteers from the Masons with first grade students that they donated a book to every first grader in the Wayne Westland School District.

from teachers and others involved in how to make the project be a success. The schools then purchased the books with the Masons reimbursing them for the cost. Mason Bud Prough said the schools were very helpful in making this all happen.

The reading specialist for the Wayne Westland schools picked out the book, "Pig and Pug" by Laura Marchesani and Zenaidas E. Medina. It's about a pig living on a farm with other animals. All the animals have friends except for Pig. A new animal comes to the farm, Pug. Pug has a curly tail, likes to play in the mud and even snorts, just like Pig. Even though Pug is not a pig, maybe they can be friends. This story about friendship was given to each first grader.

"Feedback was really wonderful with everyone involved...My hope is that we'll do something along those

lines every year...Schools did a wonderful job in making this happen," said Bud Prough. He said the kids, teachers and principals were all enthusiastic about the book project.

JROTC Fundraisers

For a couple years now, the Masons have done spaghetti dinner fundraisers twice during the school year to benefit the JROTC program at Wayne Memorial High School. The JROTC program "helps keep a lot of kids out of trouble and progressing not only to their high school diplomas...but to a secondary education... They help motivate the kids in that direction," said Mason Bud Prough.

Prough is a school bus driver. While driving the JROTC to one of their events, he was able to spend the whole day talking to members and their leaders about the program. He went back to the Masonic lodge

and told his lodge brothers about the program. They agreed it was a worthwhile program to support.

Wayne-Westland Special Olympics

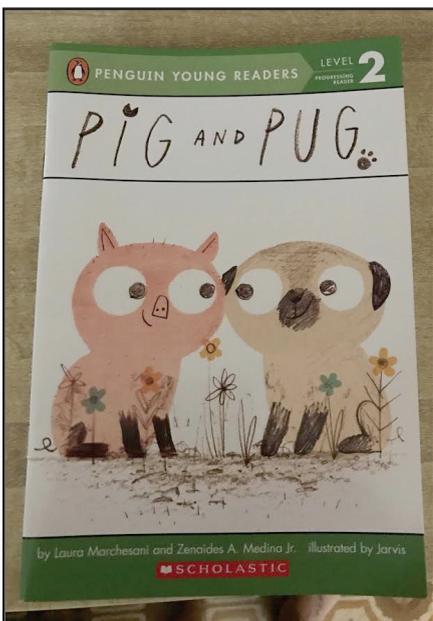
Prough was talking to a co-worker one day when he learned the co-worker had a sister in the Special Olympics. Now the Masons support the Wayne-Westland Special Olympics by hosting their annual awards banquet each year. All the athletes and their families are invited to this special event just for them.

Who are the Masons?

The Masons are a fraternal organization, otherwise known as a fraternity. It is a group of men who like to get together, make new friends, and socialize. There are no other "backgrounds" needed. They also have a women's group called Eastern Star and youth groups: Demolay for boys and Rainbows for girls. The youth groups focus on leadership training and public speaking. You may see bumper stickers that say "Ask one to be one."

The Masons do not solicit members. Membership increases because someone asks a member about joining.

The Masons have two additional fundraisers coming up. On April 28, there will be a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the Wayne-Westland Therapeutic Pool (Dyer Center). On May 5, there will be a spaghetti fundraiser for Wayne-Westland Special Olympics. Both events will be at the Wayne Masonic Temple, 37137 Palmer Rd.





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Sgt. Brent Cahill receives recognition as Police Officer of the Year from Mayor Susan Rowe and Police Chief Al Maciag.

Sgt. Cahill chosen as 2016 Police Officer of the Year

The Wayne Police Department's Citation Board voted Sergeant Brent Cahill as the 2016 Police Officer of the Year. Sgt. Cahill was awarded a plaque from the Wayne Police Department at the March 22 City Council meeting with family, friends, and fellow officers present. Representatives from the American Legion Post 251 and Wayne County District 11 Com-

missioner Abdul "Al" Haidous also presented Sgt. Cahill with recognitions. Sgt. Cahill has been with the Wayne PD since January 2009. "He's a true example of the men and women in the department," said Police Chief Alan Maciag. The American Legion honors law enforcement and fire departments for outstanding public service.

Happy Easter!

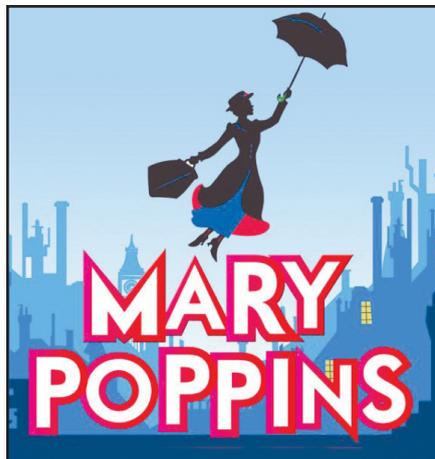
THE WAYNE Dispatch
 Wishing you and your family a Happy Easter!
 John and Natalie Rhaesa & Staff

Mary Poppins to touch down in Wayne

By Carolyn Marnon

This year the Wayne Memorial Theatrical Guild is presenting Disney and Cameron MacKintosh's Mary Poppins! The show centers around the troubled Banks family and their experiences with the Practically Perfect nanny, Mary Poppins. According to Drama Director Katie Sullivan, "We have almost 60 students involved through the cast and crew. Cast members play a variety of roles, including the well-known George Banks and his wife Winifred, their children (Jane and Michael), Bert - the Jack of all trades, Mary Poppins - the magical nanny, chimney sweeps, bankers, toys, and many more!"

"The crew members have been hard at work building the many sets needed for this full-scale Broadway-style production. Crew members also control the lights, sound effects, microphones, backstage scene transitions and so much more. Our show season this year also included Pollyanna last November. Both are



family-friendly Disney productions set in the 1910s with strong female leads. I was intrigued by Mary Poppins when I was a little girl and saw Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke perform in the classic Disney film. I was later thrilled to meet Julie Andrews while attending a conference for theatre professionals during my masters program. I hope that we are able to bring the magic of Disney and charm of Julie Andrews to our com-

munity through our production."

"Students auditioned for this show at the beginning of February by completing acting, singing, and dancing auditions. After casting was decided, students immediately began rehearsing. The cast and crew work for four to six days a week learning choreography, vocals, and blocking the show or building and painting set pieces. Our students dedicate many hours to bringing the best possible theatrical experience to our audiences. Students will have logged almost 170 hours of rehearsal by the time the show opens!"

Sullivan continues, "Hailey Hayward is an Assistant Director for this production, but also plays the title role of Mary Poppins. She is a junior who loves singing, dancing, and acting. Hailey began acting at the age of six and has always had a deep interest in theatre, but especially musical theatre. Hailey has studied theatre and musical theatre at multiple Fine Arts camps, even working with Broadway professionals. She began

performing at Wayne Memorial as an eighth grader in the school's production of Shrek the Musical. After graduating next year, Hailey plans to major in theatre at Carnegie Mellon University, Baldwin Wallace University, or Elon University. She is a driven performer who fully commits to every role she plays. She can't wait to soar through the air as one of the most iconic female characters of all time in Wayne Memorial's production of Mary Poppins!

"This is my twelfth year directing shows at Wayne Memorial High School. I am a graduate of the Wayne-Westland district and was involved in theatre when I was in high school."

Mary Poppins is being presented May 4, 5, and 6 at 7:00 p.m. each evening in Wayne Memorial High School's Stockmeyer Auditorium located at 3001 Fourth Street. Reserved seating and all tickets are \$12.00. Tickets can be purchased online through showtix4u.com or one hour before each show at the box office in Stockmeyer Auditorium.



Dr. Swarna and her friendly office staff Helena Klosinski, Ericka Roy, and Renulea Patel are available to assist you with all of your dental needs.

DENTIST, Continued from page 3

The office is currently taking new patients. They have convenient hours, including Saturday hours from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. They take all PPO insurances. They do not take Medicaid as the reimbursement from Medicaid does not cover the

costs of the equipment, supplies and other expenses of the care.

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Edna Hammons will celebrate her 105th birthday with family on April 22nd, pictured with her granddaughter Susie Hammons. Photo by John P. Rhaesa

Citizen to celebrate 105th birthday

Edna Hammons is celebrating a big birthday this month...she turns 105 on April 22nd. Longtime Wayne resident and currently living in Maple Manor, Edna says she enjoys living at Maple Manor. "The staff take really good care of me, they are like family to me."

Edna moved from Evansville, Indiana in the early 1930's and worked at Graham Page during the war. She was also a nurse in the psychiatric ward of St. Eloise from 1945 through the late 1950's. She went on to work at the Plymouth State Home. She earned her LPN at the age of 42. She then worked at Advance Nursing Home until she was in her late 70's.

In the early years Edna worked for a basket and button factory. She also raised her family in Wayne. Her son George and daughter Judy attended St. Mary's Catholic School. Edna spent a lot of quality time with her grandchildren. She loved to plant flowers and tend to her flower gardens and enjoyed cooking and baking... fried chicken dinner was a family favorite and her pumpkin pies were always a big hit. "We spent lots of time with our grandmother. She would take us shopping and out to lunch and she always had beautiful flowers. We have so many wonderful memories of the good times we spent with our grandma," said her granddaughter Susie Hammons.

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NEWS BRIEFS

CALENDAR, Continued from page 4

said Andy Hopson, a Livonia resident who lost his son to the opioid epidemic.

FAN is dedicated to eliminating the stigma associated with addiction and providing families struggling with the disease the support and resources they need.

Westland Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik is an advisory board member of the committee, whose members include other members of law enforcement, concerned citizens, families of those affected by addiction, and leaders in healthcare, education, business, and religion.

The first meeting of the Wayne County FAN chapter is scheduled to take place on April 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the LifeChurch Annex located at 6900 N. Haggerty Rd. in Canton. The keynote speaker will be Judge Linda Davis, President and Founder of Families Against Narcotics. These meetings are open and free to the public.

If you need help, please take advantage of this free program. For more information, please visit www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org

Bunny Brunch

After the marshmallow drop, head over to HYPE Recreation Center for the Bunny Brunch on Friday, April 14, at 10:45 a.m. Brunch tickets are \$8 for adults, \$6 for kids ages 3-11. Pictures will be available for an additional fee. Tickets are on sale at HYPE.

Getaway to Niagara Falls

The Wayne Sometimes Travelers (for those 30 years and older) will be travelling with Bianco Tours to Niagara Falls for an overnight, two day trip Monday, April 24-Tuesday, April 25, 2017. Price of \$186 per person/double occupancy includes round trip motorcoach 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. The trip also includes a stop at the Floral Clock and Whirlpool, an opportunity to visit Casino Niagara



Marshmallow Drop

Wayne's annual marshmallow drop will be held on Friday, April 14, at 10:00 a.m. The event will be at Anderson Field in Attwood Park.

and a stop at Fallsview Casino. For a small fee, Niagara Parks offers a shuttle to other attractions. 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.

AARP Smart Drivers Program

Refresh your driving skills and know the new rules of the road. Learn research-based driving strategies to help you stay safe behind the wheel. There are no tests to pass. Cost is \$15 for AARP members, \$20 for others. The program is Wednesday, May 31, and Thursday, June 1, from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. You must register by calling Wayne Senior Services at (734) 721-7460. Please leave a message if you reach the voicemail.

A knight of dueling pianos at St. Mary School

Join St. Mary Catholic School as

they host three hours of live entertainment by The Dueling Pianos International. Tickets include appetizers, dinner and two drinks. A cash bar will be available. There will also be basket raffles, a 50/50 raffle, silent auction and live auction with exciting prizes. Tickets are \$40 per person and \$75 per couple. The event will be held on Saturday, May 13, 5:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. at St. Mary Catholic School, 34516 Michigan Avenue, Wayne. For more information and tickets, please email auction@stmarywayne.org

Charity car show coming soon

The Wayne Masonic Temple is hosting a Charity Car Show on June 10 at the lodge located at 37137 Palmer Rd in Westland. The event is 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Anyone who has a car they would like to show off is welcome to participate; a classic car is not required. The fee will be \$15 to park and show-off your car; you will also receive a goodie bag. All you have to do is show up that morning, pay the fee, park and enjoy the day sharing your car with others. For those who like to admire cars, admission is free to walk around and

talk to car owners. Parking for viewers will be across the street. Proceeds from the event will go toward programs for the Demolays and Rainbows, the youth groups of the Masons. The poster advertising the event was created by a graphic arts student at the William D. Ford Technical Center.

Memorial Day parade

The annual Wayne/Westland Memorial Day parade will be Sunday, May 28, at 1:00 p.m. The parade will be held in Westland again this year. It will start at the Ford Civic League parking lot on Wayne Rd and head north to the Westland Library Veteran's Memorial.

Fausone and Bohn to continue to represent City

The City Council voted to approve Fausone and Bohn as the city's legal representative. City council interviewed four legal services on February 21 in a special city council meeting. Besides Fausone and Bohn, they also interviewed Pentiuik, Couvreur & Kobiljak, The Correveau Law Firm, and Giarmarco, Mullins & Horton. Breeda O'Leary, attorney for Fausone and Bohn and resident of Wayne, told the council "I love Wayne. I care about Wayne," as she gave her presentation.

Wayne Garden Club fundraiser

The Wayne Garden Club will not be doing their biennial garden walk this year. Instead, they will be selling \$25 gift cards from Schwartz's Greenhouse. The cards can be used to purchase flats, hanging baskets, Mother's Day planters, or anything else available in their greenhouse. Clare Maloney will be handling the gift cards. If you wish to help the garden club by purchasing cards, please call Clare at (313) 562-0094 to make arrangements.

If you purchase items for your garden each year, please consider helping the garden club by purchasing a gift card and using that at the greenhouse.

See **CALENDAR**, page 13

NEWS BRIEFS

CALENDAR, Continued from page 12

Lenten Fish Fry

St. Mary Catholic Church in Wayne is hosting their Lenten Fish Fry events again this year. The weekly Fish Fry began in March and will run through Good Friday, April 14. They are offering \$7 or \$10 dinners. You can choose from fried or baked fish, shrimp dinner or Mac-N-Cheese. Each meal comes with french fries or baked potato, coleslaw, roll and lemonade, water or coffee. For an additional small charge desserts and pop are available. You will have plenty to eat and good conversation with your neighbors and parishioners or you can have your meal ready to take out. The meals are served from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Into No Man's Land

Join author Irene Miller in discussing her new book *Into No Man's Land: A Historical Memoir on Wednesday, May 3 at 6:30 p.m.* at the Wayne Public Library. Irene Miller, a Holocaust survivor, will take you on a survival journey little written and known about. You will sleep in the winter under an open sky on the no man's land; you will freeze in a Siberian labor camp where the bears come to your door front. In Uzbekistan, you will live on boiled grass or broiled onions, and shiver with malaria. When this is over you will wonder how a child with this background grows up to become a positive, creative, accomplished woman with a joy of living and love to share. To register for this free program, please call the adult reference desk (734) 721-7832 ext 630.

The Last Hobo

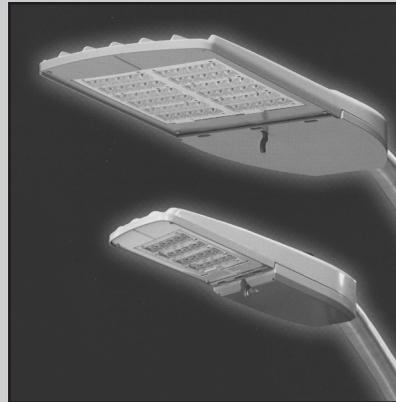
Join Detroit native and local author Dan Grajek in discussing his new book *The Last Hobo*. In the summer of 1979, 19 year old Ted acts out his dream of being a hobo by hitchhiking (and hopping a train) across the U.S. Ted's fantasy-fueled trip often collides with reality. The results are hilarious, nerve-wracking and inspiring. Based on a true story, *The Last Hobo* is a colorful portrait of America and its people during the

LED lights coming to Wayne

City Manager Lisa Nocerini announced at the February 21 City Council meeting that Wayne had received a letter from the Department of the Treasury granting the City over \$347,000 to be used specifically to convert the city street lights to LED lighting.

Gov. Rick Snyder says \$5.1 million is being distributed this year among 10 Michigan cities and one township under a program that benefits financially distressed local governments. Municipalities are eligible if they are experiencing one or more of the conditions indicating "probable financial stress" as defined under Michigan's Local Financial Stability and Choice Act.

"It has been shown that the savings constituted by LED lights is great. One only needs to look at Howe Road after dark to see the change this lighting brought



about. The brightness added to the overall cost savings makes it a win-win for our city," said Councilman Tom Porter.

Most of Wayne will get the new lighting with 1,247 lights being converted. It is expected that the savings to the City will be approximately \$135,056.88 per year over what is currently being paid for street lighting.

dramatic transition from the seventies to the eighties. An older-and-wiser Ted narrates the tale with a unique perspective: He's from Detroit, the icon of America's highest dreams and its worst nightmares. To register for this program which will be held at the Wayne Public Library on Tuesday, April 11, at 6:30 p.m., please call the adult reference desk (734) 721-7832 ext. 630.

Cooking Matters Extra for Diabetes

This free workshop is a 6-week commitment of fun, interactive sessions presented by trained culinary and nutrition instructors. Hands-on presentations demonstrate the link between 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. This workshop provides specialized recipes and information for adults living with diabetes and their caregivers. It 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 pre-diabetes. Registration is limited to one class and is open to adults who have not previously enrolled in a Cooking Matters course. The free workshop will run from Tuesday, April 11 through May 16 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please call 1-800-543-9355 or visit www.beaumont.org/classes-events to register. This workshop is offered by Wayne Senior Services and sponsored by Beaumont, Ford Motor Company and Gleaners.

Healthy Wayne yoga

Healthy Wayne has teamed with Citizen Yoga to offer free yoga classes. The next free yoga class will be Wednesday, April 5, 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 April 12, 19 and 26.

Parking lot flea market

Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill Rd, Westland, will be having their annual parking lot flea market on Saturday, May 20, from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.,

rain or shine. If you would like to participate in the sale, you can rent a two-parking spot-sized space for \$25. Call the church at (734) 728-1088 for more information.

Best Loved Doll Tea Party

The Wayne Historical Society invites you to a Best Loved Doll Tea Party for young ladies of all ages on Saturday, April 29, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Wayne Historical Museum. Petite sandwiches and desserts will be served with tea and pink lemonade. There will also be crafts and door prizes. Bring a doll to the party. Prizes will be given for the oldest doll, the best-dressed doll, the doll who can do the most things, and the doll with the most interesting story to tell. Tickets are available at the Wayne Historical Museum Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. and Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$40 for one adult with a child under 18, \$15 for additional children with a paid adult and \$35 for adults.

Garden Club meetings

The Wayne Garden Club meets the second Wednesday of each month, March-November. The next meeting will be April 12 at 12:30 p.m. at the Wayne Public Library. The topic will be Plants That Make You Itch. All are welcome to attend and learn more about the Wayne Garden Club and their upcoming events.

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JROTC to compete in National Championship

After advancing through two phases of online competition, Wayne Memorial High School's JROTC Leadership Team will compete in person at the Championship event in Washington, DC. The 2017 U.S. Army JROTC Leadership Bowl Championship will be held on the campus of The Catholic University of America, June 23-27, 2017. Wayne Memorial High School is in the top three percent of the nation's leadership teams. They have competed against more than 2,000 high school programs across the country.

Wayne Memorial High School JROTC team earned top scores out

of the 1,378 U.S. Army JROTC teams that competed from around the world. The team is one of only forty Army JROTC Leadership Bowl teams in the nation to advance to the National Leadership Bowl competition. During the two fast-paced preliminary rounds, cadets were tested on their knowledge of current events, leadership values, and leadership skills. The JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl (JLAB) is a nationally recognized competition created exclusively for JROTC students. By participating, cadets learn the values of citizenship, academic competition, and college opportunity.

OBITUARY

Richard Dean ("Dick") Helppie passed away peacefully on March 8, 2017. He was born in Sebeka, Minnesota on November 27, 1927, to Everett and Sadie (Kukkonen Kent) Helppie - after which the hospital promptly caught fire and burned to the ground. Local firefighters carried Dick and his mom to safety. Dick grew up in Detroit with his two brothers, Dennis and Charles, graduating early from Cooley High School at age 16. On his 17th birthday, with the country at war, he enlisted in the Navy and served at various U.S. bases.



At Cooley, Dick met Janet Ellen Colburn and was instantly smitten, in part because she showed up to class with wet hair so he assumed she enjoyed swimming as much as he did. Dick first proposed to Janet at age 17, but it wasn't until they were 20 that she said yes. They were married at Mayflower Congregational Church in Detroit on September 11, 1948.

Dick and Janet's love story produced 7 children, 30 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren (22 in July). After more than 68 years of marriage, they still held hands, enjoyed outings, and competed in Scrabble. He was her rock.

Dick earned his Bachelors degree from Michigan State Normal College (now Eastern Michigan University) and his Masters from the University of Michigan. He also attended Wayne State University's law school for two years to take education-related courses.

Dick was a hard worker, starting with his first job at age 10 running errands for a penny, and was employed at a number of companies, including IBM and Welker Machinery. But Dick's real talent and joy was education. He was a caring truant officer for the Wayne County School District, a teacher at Roosevelt Elementary School, and a swim coach at Wayne Memorial High School. With a steadfast belief that literacy was the key to learning, Dick went out of his way to teach his students to read. He touched numerous lives, and his former students and swimmers continued to call, write and visit him for decades after his retirement in 1983. Dick and Janet reared their children in Wayne, Michigan, where they were active in the community, including the First Congregational Church, Scouts, and sports teams. They moved to Texas in 1988. Dick continued to play tennis and baseball for many years, took up bridge, and read two daily newspapers (voicing opinions on the articles). He loved spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, teaching them to read, making up stories, and inventing games. You could find him behind a microphone at most family gatherings, commenting on the event, imparting words of wisdom, or singing ("Louisville Lou" being a favorite). A grocery store enthusiast, Dick was on a first-name basis with employees at Kroger, Aldi and Sprouts.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, and daughters Jane (Richard Enos) and Martha (Mark Mason). He leaves behind the love of his life, Janet, and their children, Joanne, Susan (Gary Shackelford), Richard Jr. (Leslie), Sally (Michael Stokes) and Mary (Tom Horstman), his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and an amazing legacy.

A celebration of life was held at Rhoton Funeral Home in Carrollton on March 18th at 10:30 a.m., with visitation from 7-9 p.m. March 17th. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that any donations be made to Champions of Wayne, an educational mentorship program: Champions of Wayne, Attn: Sean Galvin, WMHS, 3001 Fourth Street, Wayne, MI 48184 or <http://www.championsofwayne.org/richard-d-helppie.html>

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Ford to invest \$850 million into the Assembly Plant

Ford Motor Company announced on March 28 that the company is investing \$850 million into the Michigan Assembly Plant to retool the plant to build the all-new Ford Ranger and Ford Bronco. Employees at the plant will begin building the Ranger at the end of 2018 and the Bronco in 2020.

Ford Motor Company comprises approximately two square miles of the City's six square miles and is the largest employer in Wayne.

Wayne Mayor Susan Rowe is "elated" at the news, and the timing couldn't be better for a city that is facing some significant economic challenges.

"For some time, there has been discussion about the future of the Wayne Assembly Plant. Since 2003, I've served Wayne first as a council member and now as Mayor. I've seen the ups and downs of the economy and the detrimental impact plant closures have had on communities across the country," said Mayor Rowe.

"Ford brings a tremendous amount of traffic into our downtown,



Ford will invest \$850 million into the Michigan Assembly Plant to retool the plant to build the all-new Ford Ranger and Ford Bronco.

and I believe that this investment in our economy is an investment in our community," the Mayor added.

Mayor Rowe was in attendance at a Michigan Strategic Fund Board meeting in Lansing to support Ford's

request for grant funding and State Essential Services Assessment Exemptions for their upcoming investments in several communities, including Wayne.

When asked by the board what in-

centives the City of Wayne would be providing to Ford during the Wayne Assembly Plant project and what limitations, if any, the City had identified, Mayor Rowe discussed the current financial challenges and the inability to provide abatements. "The City of Wayne was hit hard by the recession of 2008 and still has not recovered. In fact, we are working to stay out of the state's control," said Mayor Rowe. "At this time, with the loss of revenue sharing, the fact that the City owes hundreds of thousands from a tribunal tax settlement and the elimination of the personal property tax, the City is not in a position to provide any tax abatements to Ford for this project."

The Mayor did state that the City could expedite permits through the Buildings and Engineering Department and a letter was sent to Ford acknowledging this commitment.

To learn more about the Michigan Strategic Fund, please visit the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's website at: www.michigan-business.org/michigan-strategic-fund-msf.



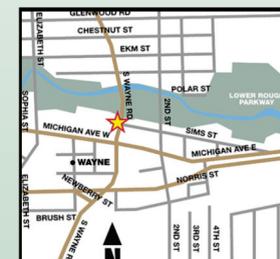
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