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**Wayne
Dispatch**

DECEMBER 2017

Christmas
Wishes

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the **GIRLS** and **BOYS** of Wayne

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Holiday Night

at the MUSEUM



Wayne resident Kenleigh, 9, shares her wish with Santa.



Pat Rice, Mayor Susan Rowe and Santa.



Downtown Wayne kicked-off the Holiday Season with Fun!

The City of Wayne had a special reception for a very special guest...SANTA CLAUS! Hundreds of Wayne residents came out on this chilly December 2nd night to welcome Santa and enjoy the festivities with family, friends and neighbors.

The evening began with Christmas Carols performed by Wayne Memorial High School's Choir from the steps of the Wayne Historical Museum. Then a parade of high energy music by the Wayne Memorial High School Band, dancing and a whole bunch of Rosie's...followed by a message from Santa, where he declared there were only GOOD boys and girls in the City of Wayne. To honor Wayne's special guest, Mayor Susan Rowe presented Santa with a key to the city.

The city also had another special guest to celebrate this evening with...Wayne's "Diamond of the Community," Pat Rice, accompanied by her grandchildren. The trio rode into the event with Mayor Susan Rowe in the cab of a Wayne Fire Truck. Pat was given the great honor of lighting the giant Christmas tree in front of the Historical Museum for all to enjoy.

The fun didn't stop there... Santa was taking pictures and wishes (Photos with Santa provided by Annetta Johnson of clickflashzoom photography.) Horse and pony rides were underway and plenty of fluffy animals in the petting farm were ready for treats and hugs from kids. Hot chocolate, hot coffee and cookies galore served by volunteers with friendly smiles. Children had plenty of arts and crafts to make and take home. Lots of holiday inspired face painting and hand tattoos. Popcorn and candy canes, Christmas music and fire pits all added to the cozy hometown event.



Celebrating the Holidays in Wayne

It's December and the holidays are fast approaching. We all have traditions that make the holiday special. Many of our special traditions are part of our childhood and the childhoods of our parents and their parents before them. We carry on the traditions and pass them on to our children. All of the early settlers and immigrants who came to this country long ago seeking freedom and a new life, brought with them the customs and traditions of the country they came from. As the years passed in this melting pot of a nation, traditions and customs were shared among the people until today we have a mixture of traditions from many of the European, Middle Eastern, Asian, Mexico and other countries.

We have St. Nicholas, Father Christmas and Santa Claus among the many names for a jolly old man who brings presents to children. We have the fir tree from Germany which was decorated with fruit, flowers, candy, candles and colored paper. Mistletoe, which was long ago used by druid priests in winter celebrations and by ancient Celts for healing purposes, was also used by the Scandinavian countries to decorate for the holidays. They believed that those who kissed under the mistletoe would receive happiness and good luck throughout the year. Holly was placed over the door of a home to drive away evil. The poinsettia plant came from Mexico and the candy cane from Europe. Stockings have long been hung from the fireplace where they wait to be filled with toys and goodies. Special holiday foods and treats, that are often only prepared once a year, fill our tables to overflowing and are enjoyed by family and friends, young and old.

Many of these traditions and customs from all around the world have been woven into the celebration of the holidays by the people of our community. One of the favorite events remembered by long time residents of Wayne was Santa Land. In the 1950's and 60's Santa Land was sponsored by all of the local service clubs in Wayne and was located in downtown Wayne in the park next to the Methodist Church. (At times it was set up behind the old city hall on Sims Street in what is now Goudy Park.) Santa Land opened a few



Memory Lane

Darlene Hawley

weeks before Christmas and consisted of displays, cut out characters, small buildings and houses and even an igloo. Santa Claus arrived in a Christmas Parade and children would line up to visit him and make a request for Christmas presents. (The parade was made up of floats from area clubs, businesses, organizations, churches and school bands.) One building housed small farm animals and one had displays from local businesses with goods you could purchase. Some booths sold food and hot chocolate. Santa Land was open in the afternoon and evening during the week and all day Saturday. The fire department ran the generator to power the flood lights and Christmas lights so people could enjoy the festivities. The whole town turned out for this celebration. At the end of the first week in January, Santa Land was taken down and stored at Wayne's DPW. In 1966 the DPW building caught fire and Santa Land was destroyed.

The City and many groups in Wayne including the Rotary Club continued the Christmas Parade in our community. It included floats, community groups, school bands, civic leaders and of course Santa Claus. Families lined the streets to watch the celebration and children joyfully gathered up candy passed out by those in the parade. Hot chocolate was served to all and often the State Wayne (Phoenix) theater was opened for families to enjoy a free Christmas movie after the parade. (This parade has not been held for several years but is greatly missed.)

One tradition that has been going on for years in Wayne is the tree lighting ceremony in front of our Historical Museum. With the help of the Wayne Historical Society, the Main Street Organization, Wayne Rotary, the City, and many local businesses and organizations, a wonderful kickoff of the holiday season takes place in early December. This year the "Christmas Tree Lighting and Night



Wayne families spent many years enjoying the Santa Land festivities in town. Photo Courtesy of The Wayne Historical Museum



Former Police Chief Ed Yester painted Christmas pictures and messages on the windows of our old police station on Sims Street. Photo Courtesy of The Wayne Historical Museum

at the Museum" was held Saturday, December 2, from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. After the tree lighting there was music, caroling, a petting farm, pony rides, crafts, cookies, hot chocolate, gifts, tours of the museum and of course Santa Claus who arrives with a small parade of people. Children visited Santa inside the museum where they asked for a special toy or present. Everyone enjoyed the new displays and artifacts in the museum that tell the history of our community. Many people worked

very hard to plan and fund this wonderful event for the people of our community.

Also, be sure to notice our light poles that line the main streets of Wayne and display our holiday banners and proclaim the Holiday Season. As you prepare for the holidays, take a moment to think about your family traditions and how much they add to the joy of the season. It's a great time to enjoy the traditions of our community too. Happy Holidays to you and yours!!

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Letters of intent signed

Wayne Memorial High School senior and varsity basketball player Camree Clegg signed her National Letter of Intent on Friday, November 10, 2017. Next fall, she will attend Clemson University in South Carolina and play basketball for the Clemson Tigers.

Rashad Williams, a senior varsity basketball player at Wayne Memorial, also signed a National Letter of Intent. He will attend Cleveland State University next fall and play for the Vikings.

Ring in the season

Lenny and Christy Powell are promoting the "Ring in the Season" Vendor and Craft Show at HYPE Recreation Center, 4635 Howe Rd, on Sunday, December 10, from Noon to 5:00 p.m. Do your Christmas shopping or just have a nice relaxing day out.

Polar express party

The First United Methodist Church of Wayne-Westland (3 Towne Square, Wayne) invites you to their Polar Express Party on Sunday, December 17, from 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. All ages are welcome! There will be crafts, refreshments and a movie! The church is requesting a donation of a non-food item such as laundry soap, dish soap, or toilet paper. The donations will help the church meet the needs of others that are assisted by the church. You must reserve your family's tickets by December 15 by calling the church office at (734) 721-4801 or emailing fumcww@yahoo.com. Please provide your name, phone number and how



Trish Hampton presents the winner of the Cruze in for a Cause campaign to Karen Hallem, who was selected out of 38 participating Chevrolet dealerships in metro Detroit. Hallem has been purchasing her vehicles from Mark Chevrolet since the 1960s.

many are attending.

What and where was Nankin Township?

A presentation will be held on Thursday, December 14, called "What and Where Was Nankin Township? Can You Be a Founding Family of Wayne?" The talk will be given by John Mills at 7:00 p.m. at the Wayne Historical Museum following the Wayne Historical Society's monthly business meeting at 6:00 p.m.

State Wayne receives preservation award

The Detroit Area Art Deco Society is giving the State Wayne Theater their 2017 Preservation Award.

The award will be presented at their annual meeting on Thursday, December 7. The Society recognizes the "fabulous restoration and renov-

tion of the Wayne theater."

"We are honored to have our State Wayne Theatre selected for this unique recognition. We are extremely proud of our classic theatre and the community support we have enjoyed in the City of Wayne," stated Cory Jacobson, owner of Phoenix Theatres Classic State Wayne.

High School to host 8th grade parent night

Wayne Memorial High School will be hosting an 8th grade parent night at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at the Wayne Memorial High School Stockmeyer Auditorium, 3001 Fourth Street, Wayne. This evening is for current eighth-grade students and their families or families interested in getting more information about Wayne Memorial High School for the 2018-2019 school year. Students do not have to be currently attending a Wayne Westland Community School to participate in this event. Topics covered will include: scheduling, graduation requirements, testing out requirements, direct college courses, AP courses, extra-curricular activities, and much more. All are welcome to attend, and questions are encouraged. Parking is available in the Glenwood Street parking lot, and guests should enter through the front of the auditorium. For questions, please contact Wayne Memorial's counseling department at 734-419-2215.

Tigers spring training trip

Start saving now! Coming in March 2018 will be an extended trip: 15 days and 14 nights in Clearwater Beach, Florida. This trip will feature Tigers Spring Training. Deposit holds your spot. Payments can be made. All trip flyers are available at the HYPE Center in the area designated Wayne Senior Services.

Buddy Benches promote kindness and inclusion

Ten schools in Wayne-Westland Community School District had Buddy Benches installed on their playgrounds last month. Buddy Benches are a place for students to sit when they are looking for a friend. The benches promote inclusion in play and are a way for students to communicate they want a friend to play with during recess. The rules are simple. If students see a classmate sitting on the Buddy Bench, they walk over and start a conversation and then ask them to play.

The goal of the Buddy Benches is to eliminate bullying and loneliness and encourage kindness and friendships on the playground and beyond.

These benches were made possible by a donation from resident Virginia Attwood. Benches were donated to Edison, Graham, Hicks, Roosevelt, Schweitzer, Taft, Walker-Winter and Wildwood Elementary Schools and Adams and Marshall Upper Elementary Schools.

OBIT

Atwood, Virginia - December 2, 2017, Age 86 of Canton. Beloved wife of the late Warren. Dear mother of Scott (Linda), Greg (Kimberly), Jodi (Dave), Sandy (Gary), and Kim (Andrew). Sister to Yvonne and Andy. Grandmother of 21 and great grandmother of 3. Visitation was at Uht Funeral Home, Westland, December 6th. Funeral service from First Congregational Church of Wayne, Thursday, December 7th. Burial place at Bethlehem Cemetery, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Family requests memorials to the Salvation Army. Please view memorial and send tributes at www.uhtfh.com.

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Highlighting the “super” in superintendent

By Carolyn Marnon

Dr. Shelley Holt grew up in Moreno Valley, a small town in Southern California. She left her position as Executive Director of Student Services for the Fontana Unified School District in sunny California to brave the cold winters of Michigan as the new Superintendent of Wayne Westland Community Schools where she officially took over on September 19.

Before coming to Wayne-Westland, she had been a teacher and math coordinator at American Indian Charter School (Oakland CA), teacher and grade level chair at Bret Harte Elementary (Burbank CA), assistant principal at Fruit Ridge Elementary (Sacramento CA), John Still K-8 (Sacramento CA) and Grant High School (Sacramento CA) and principal at Bret Harte Middle School and Fairbanks Elementary (Sacramento CA).

She has always been interested in why people think the way they do and why they do what they do. “Psychology allowed me to study the way the brain influences our actions and how we can shift our thoughts and actions based on experiences,” she said. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from University of California-Berkeley. She then fell into teaching after college while she was taking a break before heading to graduate school. She loved seeing the children learn and realized she could change lives through increased learning.

Dr. Holt has a Master of Arts in Urban Education and Leadership from California State University-Sacramento and a Doctor of Educa-



Dr. Shelley Holt

tion in Urban Education and Leadership from University of Southern California. “Continuing education is necessary to continue to refine and grow skill sets and build upon ideas for improving student learning using evidence and research-based strategies. I always want to learn more about how to serve our students and families more efficient and productively. My father always encouraged me to “go figure it out,” and I always

understood that as-I needed to learn more and be the very best I could in whatever I did. To this day, I believe in giving everything 110% and striving to be the best!” Education was so important in her home growing up, that while she wanted to be a country and gospel singer as a kid, she also wanted to be a doctor.

When she is not working, Dr. Holt spends time with her husband and children. “They are hilarious, and we

have a lot of fun together.” Her children range in age from 1 to 23: Jaxson, A.J, Courtney, Taylor, Jordan, Angelica and Jhannique. “They were very excited about moving to Michigan, but they were disappointed that there wasn’t any snow when they got here.” Her school-aged kids attend PD Graham Elementary and Wayne Memorial High School.

Mr. Holt is studying for his Bachelor’s degree in Religious Studies. He plans to graduate June 2018. His wife can’t wait to see him cross the stage. He has worked in catering and politics, but with his current studies, he would like to go into education as a physical education or elementary teacher.

The Holt family arrived in Michigan in September. Is she prepared for the Michigan winter?

“We shall see...I have a couple of coats, but I think the kids are more prepared than I am.”

How did she learn of the superintendent position for Wayne Westland Community Schools?

I “received a call from a colleague while on the Footsteps to Freedom: Underground Railroad Tour and I told her that I thought Detroit was an area that I could make a difference. A few minutes later she forwarded me the posting and the rest is history in the making.” She was inspired by the student achievement data, the discipline data and the changing demographics. The one thing that stood out to her while applying for the job was the idea that this was a

See **HOLT**, page 13

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Deputy Fire Chief Gilstorff retires

By Carolyn Marnon

He spent 23 ½ years serving the community as a member of the Wayne Fire Department. December 1 was an emotional day for Deputy Chief Fred Gilstorff as he said goodbye to his work family and headed into the sunset--his retirement years.

Retirement? Not really. On Monday, December 4, he opens a new chapter in his life as Fire Chief for the Peninsula Fire Department in Peninsula Township, population 5,433 according to the 2010 census. Peninsula is near Traverse City.

Searching for fire chief jobs for the last year or so has been a past-time of Deputy Chief Gilstorff. He was looking for something that would provide more security for his family: a wife and 8-year old son. He also has two grown sons.

Gilstorff is proud of his achievements as Wayne's Deputy Fire Chief. He had to reorganize the Wayne Fire Department after the department's separation from Westland. He worked night and day for a month to ensure that radios and communications were in order so the department could respond seamlessly to emergencies. There was no interruption in service to Wayne residents as Gilstorff worked with Chief Straedtner and Office Manager Cathy Lutkenhoff. Regaining the Wayne Fire Department's identity was important. When the merge occurred some years ago, Wayne had to adapt to Westland's way of doing things.

Working with the citizens of Wayne, especially Bernadette Brock

and Sammy Willingham, to fundraise for a new Jaws of Life was another worthwhile accomplishment. Gilstorff thinks it is important to get the department involved in the community.

As a bored 19-year old cleaning up radioactive waste at a nuclear power plant, Gilstorff didn't have a clear vision of what he wanted to do with his life. The Monroe fire chief lived down the street from the Gilstorff family and recruited Fred to volunteer at the Monroe Fire Department.

Fred loved the work and decided he wanted to be the best fire fighter he could be. After volunteering for 4-5 years in Monroe, he then worked three months at the Warren Fire Department. From there, he came to Wayne for the next phase of his fire-fighting career.

Peninsula is a beautiful place, Gilstorff says. The fire department there is smaller with full-time, part-time and volunteer fire-fighters.

He took his family up to Peninsula Township after he got the job. His wife's dream was to move up north and retire. He laughs when he says "she'll have baggage with me and a kid." They are super excited to make the move.

Gilstorff will miss Wayne. His co-workers here have been his family for 23 ½ years. He says this is "see you later, not good-bye." The friendships he has made with his co-workers and community will be what he misses most. "Wayne community has always been good to me and treated



Deputy Chief Fred Gilstorff retired December 1st.

the fire department with respect."

It's all about people communicating and being there for each other, he says. "It's a family, everyone is there for each other. It's awesome."

"I've been through a lot of chiefs and deputy chiefs," says Cathy Lutkenhoff who has been with the Wayne Fire Department for 28 years.

She says she always tried to lighten Gilstorff up because he took his job so seriously.

Gilstorff will continue working on his Bachelor in Public Safety Studies online while making improvements to Peninsula's ALS (Advanced Life Support). Yes, he does take his job seriously.

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Wayne County Clerk Assistant Director Jennifer Redmond officially stamps in 130 pages (1,390 signatures) to recall Councilman Christopher J. Sanders turned in by Wayne resident Bob Boertje.

Recall moving forward

By Carolyn Marnon

They needed 1,183 signatures to submit a recall petition to Wayne County. Backers of a petition to recall Wayne Councilman Chris Sanders had a goal of obtaining at least 1200 signatures in the 60 day window they had to get the required number of signatures; they exceeded that by several hundred. Signatures that were obtained the first week of signature gathering dropped off the count in favor of extending the gathering period by one week and getting an even higher number of signatures in the 60-day window.

Wayne resident Bob Boertje submitted the petitions to Wayne County on December 6. The county will verify the count numbers and then send the petitions to Wayne City Clerk Matt Miller for verification that the signers are registered voters in the City of Wayne.

During the city council meeting held December 5, Bob ceremoniously plopped a 4-5 inch stack of papers on the top of the podium while addressing the council during citizen comments. He thanked numerous residents for helping to obtain the signatures. He also thanked all the residents who signed the petitions. Councilman Sanders' looked down while he focused on scribbling something without looking up toward the audience like the other council members were.

This is the first known recall of a



Councilman Chris Sanders

sitting council person. Resident Jeff Wild implored the councilman undergoing recall efforts to resign that evening and save the city the \$20,000 it would cost to have a new election.

"A recall is a key part of our electoral process," said Councilman Sanders. "I respect the seriousness of this citizen's initiative. However, I was elected to serve the residents of Wayne with every vote I make. I have and will continue to do so, so long as the great people of Wayne allow me."

If the recall count is verified and approved, the election to elect a new council person to the position would be in May, 2018. Mr. Boertje has previously said that persons are in place to run for the seat. Councilman Sanders will still have the option to run on that ballot.



Taking the oath

Wayne Police and Fire personnel pack the council chambers on Tuesday, December 5th, to see their fellow colleagues get sworn in for their new duties. Jeremie Schneider (top left) becomes Wayne's Deputy Fire Chief, pictured with City Clerk, Matt Miller, as he takes his oath. Firefighter Jason Reeves (bottom left) gets promoted to Sergeant of the Wayne Fire Department, pictured with City Clerk, Matt Miller, as he takes his oath. Wesley Jolly (top right) takes position as a Wayne Police Officer, pictured with City Clerk, Matt Miller, as he takes his oath.



*Merry
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Where everyone can know your name

By Carolyn Marnon

Would you like a place where you could make new friends and gather with others socially? Wayne has such a place where you will be welcomed with open arms! Moose Lodge #835, 38050 Michigan Avenue, is looking for new members and invites you to come check them out.

Moose International is a fraternal organization of men and women who are dedicated to caring for young and old, bringing communities together and celebrating life. "A burden heavy to one is borne lightly by many" is at the core of what makes this organization unique.

The Moose can trace its roots to 1888 when Dr. Henry Wilson established the first Lodge in Louisville, KY. In those early years, the Moose served a modest goal of offering men an opportunity to gather socially, care for one another's needs and celebrate life together. Since then, the organization has expanded to include service to its communities and the care of children and teens and of senior citizen members.

Mooseheart Child City and School is located in Mooseheart, IL, 40 miles outside of Chicago. It is a 1,000-acre campus for children whose families are unable, for a wide variety of reasons, to care for them. Some have lost one or both parents; others were living in environments that were not conducive to healthy growth and development. The children at Mooseheart are cared for in residences that are designed like spacious single-family homes. 6-12 children live in each home. Most homes are named after states. The children who live in those homes usually come from those states.



There is always something to do at the Moose Lodge #835, 38050 Michigan Avenue.

Mooseheart wants to help children retain some tie to where they are from. There is a Michigan residence.

Moosehaven is a 70-acre retirement community near Jacksonville, FL where Moose members can retire to.

Barry Rayman is the Governor of the Wayne Lodge. He says the goal of Moose International is to raise funds for Mooseheart and Moosehaven. Locally, Lodge #835 raises money to help community members. Recently, the Women of the Moose Lodge #835 raised \$200 for the TEARS Foundation. They also recently ran a basket raffle inside the Lodge. 17 baskets were put together by members, businesses and friends of the funds recipient's mother. The funds helped her 27-year old son who has stage 4 germ-cell cancer.

The Moose is a family center. Barry and the Senior Regent for Women, Sue Honke, encourage families to come see what they have available. The Moose women do a lot of kid functions, especially at Christmas, Halloween and Easter. There

are a variety of leagues and activities members can participate in: dart league, pool league, corn hole, horse-shoes, men's golf. Sue says they would love to start a Junior Moose for teens. Moose International offers a scholarship to children of members.

There are no special requirements to become a Moose member. There is an application fee and an initial fee. After that, there are only yearly dues to pay. Your Moose card enables you to enjoy time at any Moose lodge anywhere.

Barry says he grew up in the Lodge. His parents were both members. One Saturday, his dad took him to a bowling alley to join the youth Moose bowling league. He bowled from age 7-18. When he turned 19, he got married and lost touch with the Moose. Ten years later, an encounter with a friend resulted in an invite back to the Lodge. He's been a continuous member since 1993. Overall, he has had over 40 years of experience with the Lodge. He is currently in his second

term as Lodge Governor; he has also been Junior Governor and is serving his fourth year on the Moose Board.

Sue Honke and her husband, Rich, were invited to karaoke night at the Moose lodge several years ago. They liked what they experienced and joined. She is in her first term sitting on the Moose Board. She tries to get involved, do different things and help wherever she can.

The Wayne Moose has about 375 men and 212 women members. Becoming a member can help you get out of the house, meet new people, and have camaraderie with others. Barry says it's "a night out of the house instead of sitting in front of the TV." Every Friday night is a game called "Show Me the Money." On Sundays, football games are playing and there are drink specials. Drop-in Euchre happens on Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m.

If you want to check out the Moose, it is easy to do! You can walk in anytime they are open, look around and ask questions. You don't have to know another member to do so. You can come check out the Friday night "Show Me the Money." Everyone, including the bartender, at the Moose is a volunteer. They give their time to something they truly believe in. Membership can mean different things to different people. You are the one determining what you want to get out of the organization, and what you want to give back.

For more information, you can call (734) 721-6844. Tell them you learned about them in the Wayne Dispatch. Ask questions. Come by (38050 Michigan Avenue). See for yourself what a great group of people support Moose Lodge #835.

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Teacher to make presentation at international conference

Jacqueline St. Antoine is a dual-diagnosis teacher at Franklin Middle School. She teaches students with cognitive impairments and social/emotional/behavioral deficits. In December, she will travel to Tampere, Finland to present at an international conference.

"I'll be attending the Art, EcoJustice, and Education Conference at the University of Tampere in Tampere, Finland. My presentation is on EcoJustice Education and Disability. EcoJustice Education is an approach to teaching that is concerned with an ecological analysis and pedagogy of responsibility to develop citizens who are prepared to support and achieve diverse, democratic, and sustainable societies," she said. "In short, EcoJustice Education is an approach focused on relationship building, place-based learning, increasing engagement, and fostering community. It focuses on building partnerships between students, families, schools, and the outside community. Typically, this approach has not included individuals with disabilities."

Three years ago, she and Amanda Meyers began Franklin Unified, a student-led inclusion program at Franklin Middle School. Franklin Unified does a variety of activities. They hold unified athletics during the school day to bring together general and special education students. This year, they are planning unified basketball and unified bowling. Each spring they have a unified field day.

Aside from athletics, Franklin Unified students create videos promoting respect and positivity within the school. They also hold an annual pledge campaign where students sign and commit to respect and include others.

"We have increased participation by 400% in the last three years. Students are motivated to make a differ-



Jacqueline St. Antoine will be presenting at an international conference in Finland this month.

ence, take ownership in their school, and to lead," she said. "Franklin Unified's goal is to develop pride in our students for their school community while promoting inclusion and acceptance. When students care about their school and their community, they are more engaged. Students can develop relationships that make school a safer, more joyful, and more supportive place. When families see their students as a part of a community, they feel more positive and invited into the school culture."

St. Antoine's students have started a class business called Nest

Cafe where they sell breakfast and beverages to the staff at FMS to help financially support their fundraising and service learning efforts.

The staff supports the Franklin Unified effort too.

"This winter we will be holding a fundraiser for Special Olympics Polar Plunge - our principals, Stacy Williamson and Deena Pringle, will

be getting taped up! I'll be jumping into Lake Belleville this February for our team. We also do a community service project each year, which has been building and maintaining a memorial garden at FMS," she said.

St. Antoine has taught at Franklin Middle School for six years and is in her eighth year with Wayne-Westland Community Schools. She is also completing a doctorate in Educational Studies with an emphasis on Urban Education and focus on Disability Studies at Eastern Michigan University and is an adjunct professor at EMU in the special education department.

She said, "The work I have been doing centers on the need for community-based partnerships, EcoJustice education, and democratic schooling to be more inclusive of individuals with disabilities. Wayne-Westland is one of the largest hubs for students with special needs in the state. We are truly leaders among low-incidence areas. I am advocating for the need to include individuals with disabilities in more community-based school efforts. Using an EcoJustice framework, I believe this is a real possibility."

She is one of the very few scholars bringing together disability and EcoJustice education.

"I love Wayne-Westland Schools. It has been my home, and I am committed to serving WWCS. We are doing great work here. I want to do more of that important work," she said. "Very few programs of this type are fully inclusive of students with significant disabilities; I want to be on the forefront of developing such a program here at WWCS."

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HOLT, Continued from page 6

community she would be proud to bring her family and children.

“While I have formal educational training from some of the best universities and professors in the country for the work of overcoming barriers to improve student achievement, I have a relentless passion to do what is right not just for our students, but for those whom we task to teach and reach our students on a daily basis in a variety of valuable capacities. Everyone who touches the life of a child is a critical component to the infrastructure that makes public education in Wayne-Westland successful. My understanding of the causes and impact of the school to prison pipeline, how instructional practices can be shifted to include social emotional learning and improve school climate and culture, helping adults and students build working goal driven relationships for improved learning results, bringing together non-traditional groups of people to problem solve, and providing supports for leaders inside and outside of the building/classrooms to



Dr. Shelley Holt with students at PD Graham Elementary.

coach one another up for improved performance,” are what make Dr. Holt an outstanding candidate for this position.

What are her top 3 priorities for her first year as superintendent?

1) Building Collaborative Relationships for Authentic Communication: Learning, understanding, and

building working relationships with our people, our schools, our community by asking questions and listening to the stories behind the work. Creating structures for collaboration, input, feedback, communication and sharing of information.

2) Data Driven Instructional and Organizational Decision Making: Ensuring clearly communicated structures and processes to use quantitative and qualitative data for making programmatic, financial and instructional decisions.

3) Support for Improving Student Achievement: Implementation of the strategic plan by providing support at all levels to improve student achievement through a focus on teaching and assessing our state standards and instructional/leadership frameworks collaboratively and incrementally. This includes supports for addressing climate, culture and social emotional learning at all levels of our organization.

Her long-term vision for the dis-

trict is “to become the lighthouse district of not only Wayne County, but the state of Michigan and an example for the nation of how we embrace a shift in our community dynamics and still have high student growth and achievement. We have talented and hard-working people here in Wayne-Westland, and we are capable of greatness in student achievement, student and community relationships, athletics, and a myriad of other areas. I believe in Wayne-Westland.”

Dr. Holt is an expert in several areas of education, including urban results-focused educational leadership, culturally responsive instruction, data-driven instructional and organizational decision making, building authentic relationships for the benefit of student achievement and growth, district level support for climate, culture and social emotional learning, trained in restorative practices, focusing on equity for underserved populations, eliminating the school to prison pipeline, standards-based curriculum and instructional mapping and bench marking, and addressing challenges of generational poverty.

“While a focus on the quantitative and qualitative data are at the core of decision making, everyone in our community is important and there is a story behind the numbers. Through those stories are solutions, and when we as a community can engage in both comfortable and uncomfortable truths we will be able to create authentic solutions for students. Part of my leadership style involves helping us all face those situations and get comfortable being uncomfortable in a safe environment based in empathetic collaboration for whole child success.”

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The Francisco House

Wayne's old house

By Carolyn Marnon

The oldest house in Wayne is believed to be a 2,660-square foot Italianate home built around 1872 and sits on a nearly quarter acre lot. The home was recently highlighted in the November/December 2017 issue of This Old House magazine on page 118.

The square cupola on top of the house might have been used by Captain William Steers to view his surroundings in all directions. Who knows what dangers might have lurked on the land back then?

The home was owned by the Francisco family for much of the 1900s, thus it is currently known as the Francisco House.

In the 1980s, Mary Francisco Simon did extensive work on the home. Unfortunately, the most re-



cent owner let the house fall into disrepair.

The home, which was for sale for \$70,000, has an offer pending.

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