

THE WAYNE Dispatch

JANUARY



CITY OF WAYNE
DDA

DATE 12/20/2017

PAY TO THE
ORDER OF

Kelly Skiff

\$ 1,000.00

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Shopping Spree

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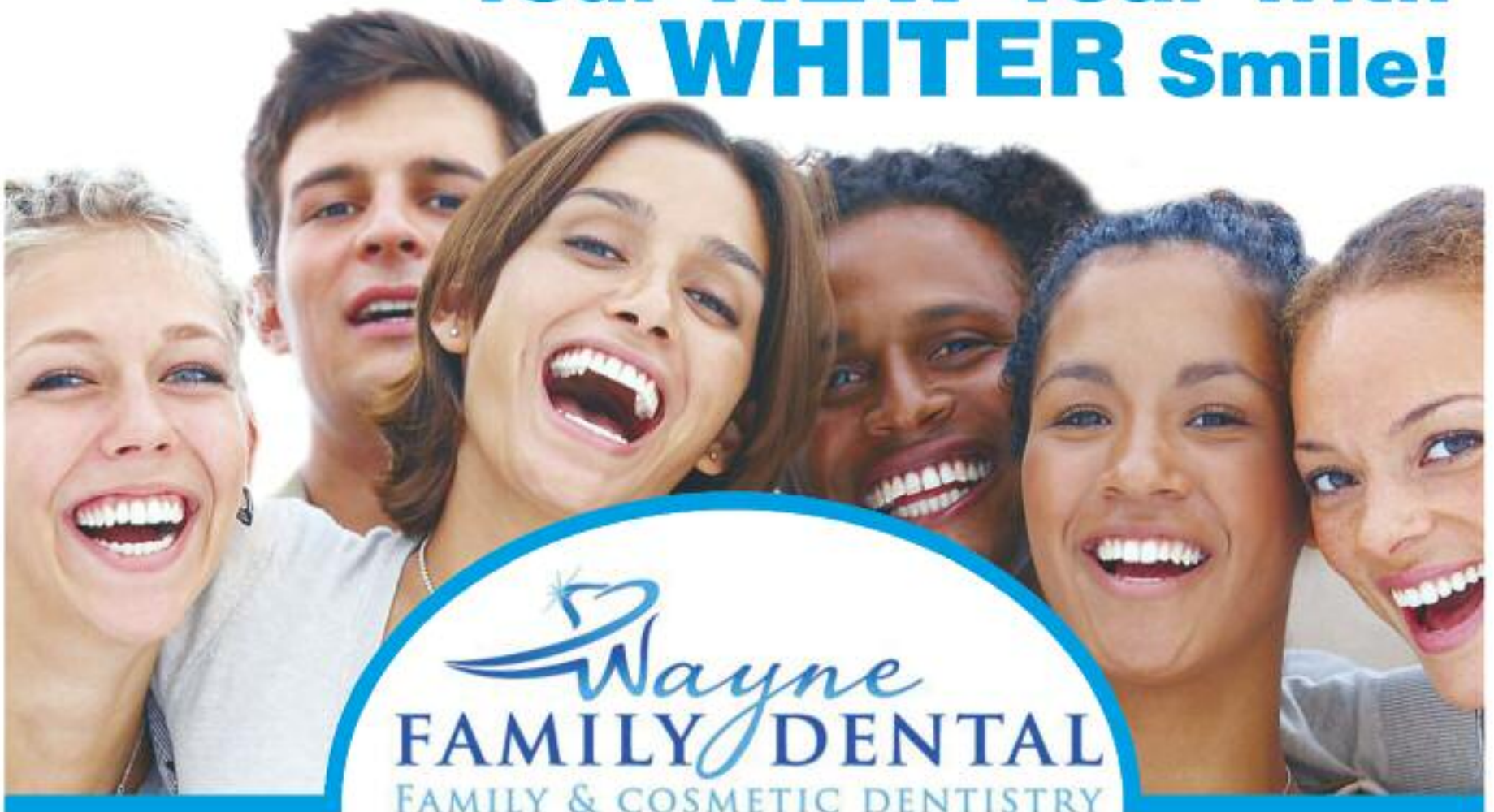
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NEWS BRIEFS

Police community meeting

Police community meetings are still being held at the Wayne Police Department. The next one will be Thursday, January 25, at 7:00 p.m.

Calling Wayne Westland high school junior girls!

Orientation for Wayne-Westland Distinguished Young Women Program is set for Monday, January 22, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at 37955 Glenwood in Wayne. All high school Junior girls, who live in Wayne or Westland, are encouraged to attend along with at least one parent or guardian. Girls who sign up will have fun participating in this yearly event and earn money for college. Girls will make new friends, learn life skills like interviewing and public speaking, and have fun showcasing their achievements. The Show will be on Friday, March 9, 7:00 p.m. at Wayne Memorial High School. For more information, contact Wayne-Westland@DistinguishedYW.org

Snow reminder

The team at the Wayne Department of Public Works works hard to clear the snow and ice on our local roads. If the City has a snowfall of 4 inches or more, residents are asked not to park on public streets. You will be notified via the general media when the snow emergency is over and street parking is once again allowed. The DPW clears major roads first, then residential streets, dead-end streets and cul de sac areas. If you have any questions, please con-



New Animal Control Officer hired

Karl Hicks has completed training and is now certified by the State of Michigan as an Animal Control Officer for Wayne.

tact the Wayne Department of Public Works at 734-721-8600.

Best of Wayne

The Wayne Chamber of Commerce honored "the best of Wayne" at their holiday luncheon in December. Winners were chosen by Chamber members and voted on by chamber membership. The awards were based on their community involvement and commitment to the Wayne community.

Corporate Business of the Year: Jack Demmer Ford

Retail Business of the Year: Northside Hardware

Non - Profit Business of the Year: Community Living Services

Volunteer of the Year: Maria Trinidad - Lobo Tire

And the honor goes to...

At the December 5 city council meeting, resident Lenny Powell was honored with a certificate of appreciation from Mayor Susan Rowe and the Wayne City Council for all of his hard work raising much needed funds for equipment for the Police Department, Fire Department and Department of Public Works and for his many contributions as a volunteer in the City of Wayne.

Mid-Century Modern Architecture

Learn about the origins of modern architecture in Europe and how it inspired and challenged American designers to find their own voice. This presentation at the Wayne Historical Museum on Thursday, January 11, at 7:00 p.m. will cover the

period 1920-present and look at a few local examples of this type of architecture.

An evening with Barry Manilow

Frank M. Sternett is a premier Barry Manilow tribute artist who has performed in Las Vegas. He has had the privilege to open for The Four Tops, Tanya Tucker, Frankie Avalon, Rich Little and many more. He has also appeared on Regis & Kathie Lee, Geraldo, and has even come face to face with the man who "Writes the Songs," Mr. Barry Manilow! Come to Notre Dame Lounge, 3144 S. Wayne Rd., for dinner and the show on Saturday, February 24, at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$35.

History of amusement parks in America

Join us for the rise, fall and rebirth of amusement parks in America. Beginning with small trolley parks and picnic beaches and going up to the multi-billion dollar parks of today, the history of amusement parks is a real rollercoaster ride. Join the Wayne Historical Society at this special presentation about the rise, fall and rebirth of amusement parks in America. The talk will be given on Thursday, February 8, at 7:00 p.m. at the Wayne Historical Museum.

History of the Wayne Post Office

Learn about the history of the Wayne Post Office from its humble beginnings to today. The Wayne Historical Society presents "History of the Wayne Post Office" on Thursday, March 8, at 7:00 p.m. at the Wayne Historical Museum.

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 Recreation Center in the area designated Wayne Senior Services.

CITY OF WAYNE RENEWAL PERIOD

2018 DOG & CAT LICENSES

The 2018 dog and cat tags are available for sale in the City Clerk's Office at City Hall. All dogs and cats four months of age or older must be licensed (certificate of rabies vaccination required) and wear a collar with current tag attached. Tags obtained by February 28, 2018 will be at a lesser fee.

Fees during annual licensing period ending February 28, 2018	
Regular license	\$18.00*
License for spayed or neutered animals	\$10.00*
 Fees from March 1 through December 31, 2018	
Regular/spayed or neutered animals	\$30.00
Replacement license (all year)	\$1.00

*Dogs and cats under four months of age or owned for less than 10 days qualify for these rates at any time of the year.
Any questions please contact the Clerk's Office at 722-2204.

ALL CATS MUST BE LICENSED IN THE CITY OF WAYNE

Krissy's Pantry helps seniors meet their pet-care needs

By Carolyn Marnon

Jackie Olweean (sounds like Halloween) noticed that a huge company in Arizona was asking for monetary donations to a program that would help senior citizens with the costs of caring for their pets, most notable of which was food. There are times when a senior will forego a meal just so they can provide food for their much-beloved pet. Jackie thought the idea of helping seniors take care of their pets was a good one, but she didn't want people's money. What she wants is donations.

Krissy's Pantry was the result of Jackie's endeavors to help seniors take care of their pets. A resident of Wayne for the last two years, Jackie grew up in Livonia. She has found that the Wayne community is very supportive when it comes to helping each other in times of need, no matter what the need is.

Since its start several months ago, Krissy's Pantry has taken off so much more than Jackie dreamed it would. The biggest problem she has run into is how to reach the seniors in Wayne about her program. Many are wary of strangers coming to their door, even if that stranger is bearing gifts. Jackie was scheduled to do a meet and greet with the residents of Wayne Towers last month to tell them about her program and how it can help them in caring for their pets.

Krissy's Pantry is named after a silky yorkie Jackie once had named Krissy. To help more seniors who might be wary of Jackie showing up on their doorstep with donations, Jackie is willing to meet at the police station, city hall, HYPE recreation center or other public space. She will drop items off whenever they are needed. There is no set time limit to receive help.

Jackie hopes her new passion will become an ongoing program

within the community. Everyone is so giving during the holidays, but this program will need donations all year long. She is seeking donations of dog and cat food, dog and cat treats, leashes and collars. She is forming partnerships with other organizations like the TLC Animal Sanctuary who has already donated items to her. She has come home from work and found her porch filled with food and treats for the pets. With four dogs of her own, three of which are rescue dogs and one a foster dog, Jackie knows what it takes to care for household pets. She also knows how important pets become to people as they get older.

Jackie has found that older people tend to have older animals. Those older animals many times need canned and/or wet food. She would love to get more wet/canned food donated to Krissy's Pantry.

If you would like to donate to Krissy's Pantry, you can take items to a drop box that has been set up at ICON Computers (35858 W. Michigan) or get in touch with Jackie for information on how to do a porch drop off. Her phone number is (734) 516-3051. If you don't get an answer when you call, please leave a message. You can also message Jackie at the Facebook page for Krissy's Pantry. Suggested donations include: dog food - canned and dry, cat food - canned and dry, dog/cat toys, treats and chew bones. If you have old blankets or would like to donate small/medium sized fleece blankets, Jackie's helpers are making beds for as many fur babies as they can.

Having worked in nursing homes and senior assisted living centers, Jackie knows how important animals can be to their owners. Krissy's Pantry was started because Jackie thought there was a need and decided that if she could help those pets, that was one less thing an older person had to worry about.



Roscoe, a 10-year old shepherd-lab mix that Jackie rescued stands guard over the donations to Krissy's Pantry.

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Shopping big!

By Carolyn Marnon

And the winner is....Kelly Skiff! Wayne Main Street, in partnership with the Wayne Downtown Development Authority, sponsored a \$1000 shopping spree contest last month before Christmas. Kelly was chosen as the lucky winner to shop at five stores in downtown Wayne.

Kelly said no one ever expects to win, but you always imagine what you might do if you did win. She thought it would be nice to buy gift certificates at the State Wayne for everyone on her gift list. Unfortunately, the State Wayne was not one of the businesses involved with the shopping spree.

"I had to spend it all in one day," Kelly said. There were five stores involved and she spent money at every one. She says she already shops at Northside Hardware and shopped a long time ago at Designer Wearhouse. She bought a few clothing items at Designer Wearhouse and then bought things like a shovel, salt and other things you don't like to have to spend money on at Northside.

Kelly is a resident of Wayne; she said she has never been in Leo's before. She isn't big on jewelry and didn't realize they had a gift section in one half of the store.

She was able to find a pair of tennis shoes, boot-style, for her son at Puffer Red's. She found the prices there quite reasonable.

The final stop on her shopping spree was at Helium Studio. She had already decided if she had extra money to spend at the end of the day, she wanted to spend it there. "I loved it! I ended there in case I had extra money. I spent more than half of what I won there."

According to Wayne Main Street's Executive Director Maxwell Cameron, "We really tried to show off the assets downtown has as a shopping destination." The shopping spree contest was just a portion of a larger marketing campaign geared toward Wayne and outside communities to show off downtown Wayne. The shopping spree was a pilot project this year.

"The DDA (Downtown Development Authority) partnership with Main Street is invaluable!" Lori Gouin, Community Development Director for the City of Wayne, enthused. "Wayne Main Street plays a very important role in promoting our downtown. The annual holiday shopping campaign, co-sponsored by the DDA, achieves the DDA's mission in reinvesting in our downtown and supporting our local businesses."

"It was really a lot of fun, said Kelly. "It was an unexpected blessing, for sure."



Kelly picks out Christmas gifts at Northside Hardware.



Kelly shows off her son's Christmas present with the staff at Puffer Red's.



Kelly gets checked out by Helium Studios owner Kim Jenkins.



Kelly looks for a gift for herself at Designer Wearhouse.

Students thrive under youth mentorship program

By Carolyn Marnon

"I don't know how to wrap," said one student while twirling a roll of Christmas wrapping paper in his hands.

"I can teach you," said another as she was already attacking a box with wrapping paper. Her unorthodox method baffled onlookers, but she told them she had this wrapping thing under control.

This scene played out at the Christmas party held by Director of the Youth Mentorship Program, Emily Koch, for her students at The Henry Ford. Emily has ten students from Wayne Westland Community Schools in her program this last fall semester. Four are from Wayne Memorial High School, four are from John Glenn High School and two are from Tinkham Educational Center.

While the students enjoyed the homemade lunch Ms. Koch prepared for them, including ham, green bean casserole and hot cocoa in a crock pot, Ms. Koch spoke about the program she is responsible for.

In the early 1990s, The Henry Ford Museum was looking to do some community outreach. At the same time, Wayne Westland School District was looking for an organization they could partner with. From that small beginning came the Henry Ford Youth Mentorship Program funded by donors, The Henry Ford and Wayne Westland Schools.

The students in the program are sophomores or higher who have been identified by a school principal or counselor as someone who is at-risk academically and could benefit from having a mentor. They attend classes at their respective schools in



The 2017-18 fall semester students of the Youth Leadership Mentor program with the donations they wrapped for the family homeless shelter.

the morning and then are bussed over to The Henry Ford Campus in Dearborn to do online classes and work study.

Students are also taught about community service. They held a month-long canned food drive at The Henry Ford. The donations were organized on tables in the Christmas party room. These donations would go in the boxes the students were wrapping at the party. The students would then be bussed over to the family homeless shelter on Michigan Avenue in Westland the next day to deliver everything.

Classes are held Monday through Thursday. Fridays are designated for Service Learning. The students go to Hamilton Elementary School where they serve as mentors to two second grade classes. They help with reading comprehension, currency counting, and whatever else the Hamilton 2nd grade teachers need help with. The Henry Ford students are told

what those needs are, brainstorm how they can teach those subjects and then implement their strategies. On this one day a week, the mentees become the mentors.

The students recently went on a tour of Eastern Michigan University. For many, it is the first time they have stepped on a college campus.

Seniors were able to apply to EMU while they were there. Next semester, trips to Wayne State University and Schoolcraft are being scheduled.

The students in The Henry Ford program are mentored by employees of The Henry Ford as they work in different departments there four hours a week. In many cases, they interact and communicate with The Henry Ford guests.

Ms. Koch says that the youth mentorship program gives students a second chance. Regular school doesn't work for everyone. In this special program, the students have fun, but they are learning at the same time. "They really form a family. This is family to them. They form real good friendships. That's important for them to feel supported and valued."

What happens when they leave the program? Some go on to college. Some come back to work for The Henry Ford. One former student had behavioral issues and failing grades

See **Mentor**, page 11



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HYPE hyped it up in 2017

By Carolyn Marnon

HYPE Recreation Center has surpassed the 2000 member mark in the little over two years they have been in the old Wayne recreation center. When HYPE took over in August 2015, membership at the old rec center was approximately 150.

Ali Sayed, Chief Executive Officer and Founder of HYPE, said there have been many upgrades at the Wayne center. The banquet facilities and restrooms outside of them have been upgraded and had cosmetic improvements. Walking down the hallway, the overhead lights reflect a pleasing pattern on the walls. The work out facilities have been upgraded with new equipment.

"I rate this place highly," said member Steve Brown as he worked out in the weight room. Steve visits HYPE to use the weight and cardio rooms 3-4 days a week. "HYPE has done a good job and keeps doing things you can see. I was here when the city had it. They (HYPE) have put a plus to it."

Overall sales have also seen an in-

crease at HYPE. Additional employees have been hired. The Hoops Grill has been open and is doing well. It is open to the general public Monday-Friday 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. You do not need to be a member of HYPE to eat there.

HYPE and its employees have been active in humanitarian aid. In addition to a local toys and food program at Christmas and feeding 250 families at Thanksgiving, they have contributed to hurricane relief in places such as Texas and Florida. They held the Halloween Trick or Treat event and also sponsored 500 Wayne Westland students by providing back to school book bags and school supplies. This past summer, they hosted Meet Up and Eat Up where lunch and dinners were provided to students. HYPE has also teamed up with Wayne Memorial High School and Adams Middle School to offer job training to special needs students in partnership with the Michigan Rehabilitation Services.

Numerous vendor shows and UFC (Ultimate Fighting Champi-

onship) Cage Fighting have been held at the center. Classes are available for group fitness as well as personal training services being offered. A group rents the basketballs courts several times a week for futsal, a version of indoor soccer with a smaller, low-bouncing ball.

Plans for the future include upgrading the area upstairs by the swimming pool where parties are held and a second work-out area exists. Approximately \$20,000 is generated from maintenance fees that are used solely for the upgrades. Ali is contemplating what he will be replacing almost 8,000 square feet of carpet on the pool side of HYPE with.

HYPE in Wayne has several benefits over the HYPE facility in Dearborn Heights. The banquet facilities host weddings, showers and other parties. HYPE also just started 2018 with a new catering service that can make it easier for groups to host events. The other benefit is the pool. HYPE is advertising Women's Only Swim Night on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month from 7:00



Roque Stiltner and Alex Hazime work out at Hype.

p.m.-9:00 p.m. for just \$6 per person. No male or female children are allowed and women must be aged 13 and older.

"It's been an honor and a privilege to continue to serve the wonderful citizens of Wayne," said Ali. "We look forward to a good 2018 here at the center."

HYPE Recreation Center is located at 4635 Howe Rd. For more information, please call (734) 721-7400.

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Recall petition update

By Carolyn Marnon

The petitions to recall City Councilman Christopher Sanders is still in process. Wayne City Clerk Matthew Miller has verified that the petitions all contained valid registered City of Wayne voters. There were 130 pages with 1,281 valid signatures. Clerk Miller returned the petitions to Wayne County and is awaiting word on the next steps in the process.

According to Lisa Williams-Jackson, Director of Communications for the Office of the Wayne County Clerk, "The office holder impacted by the recall petition has an opportunity to file challenges against the validity of the registration or the genuineness and validity of the signatures of the circulators and signers of the recall petition. Sanders filed a challenge before the January 5, 2018 deadline.

"The County Clerk's Office (Elections Division) must complete the final review of the recall petition no later than the 35th day after the petition filing date, which is January 10, 2018. If the County Clerk determines signatures are sufficient, then



Councilman Christopher Sanders the County Clerk is required by law to call a special election. The County Clerk will call a special election to be conducted on the next regular election date that is:

- 1) At least 95 days after the date the recall petition was filed; and
- 2) Falls on the May or November regular election date, whichever occurs first.

If the petition is determined sufficient, then in this instance the special election will occur in May 2018. If the petition is insufficient, then the County Clerk must notify the petitioner and office holder of the insufficiency."



Now open for veterans

Crossing Bridges founder Shawna Walker (center) and her husband Dwayne Walker (right with banner) celebrate their Grand Opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony at their new location in Downtown Wayne.

Shawna's husband Dwayne, a Desert Storm Vet, served 13½ years in the Marines and one son is currently serving in the US Navy. In 2017 Shawna decided that more needed to be done to assist military families who have sacrificed so much to make us free. So in partnership with her husband and the help of a few dedicated volunteers, Crossing Bridges was formed. CROSSING BRIDGES is located at 3850 Second Street, Suite 150, Wayne, MI 48184. Their web address is www.crossingbridgesmi.org.



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Wayne's newest addition

By Carolyn Marnon

The Wayne Police Department made a huge leap forward recently when it welcomed Wesley Jolly into it's ranks last month. Officer Jolly was sworn in at the City Council meeting on December 5, his second day on the job, while his friends and family looked on.

Officer Jolly grew up in Wayne and attended Wayne Memorial High School. This is his first job in law enforcement.

Since he was a kid, Officer Jolly wanted to be a police officer; it's his dream job. He knows the City of Wayne, likes the people of Wayne, and thinks this is a great place to

work.

He has had a great experience since graduating from the 17-week Wayne County Regional Police Academy.

Officer Jolly finds police work to be a good opportunity to do a lot of different things that people don't get to do on a regular basis and to use problem-solving skills.

Officer Jolly's mother was apprehensive about his career choice. She is now very proud of him and happier with his new job.

Asked if he was worried about budget cuts in the fiscally-strapped city, Officer Jolly said he wasn't concerned. He has his dream job.

We need your help

Do you know of someone in Wayne who is doing something positive for the community or elsewhere? Do you know of an event coming up in Wayne that others might want to hear about? Do you have an idea for a story that has a local connection? Do you know of former residents or former students who have gone on to do great things? Do you know of a group or someone in Wayne who is doing a community service project? Are you a part of a Girl or Boy Scout troop or similar organization that has a story to share? Are you part of a Wayne church that has special projects going on that should be shared? Do you know of a school group or club that is doing something special? Do you belong to a special group or club that does wonderful things? Do you know someone in Wayne who has won awards for something? Do you know someone who has a spe-

cial collection of whatever? Is there a business or business owner that you feel has done something special that needs to be shared? Has a new group or business come to town that we don't know about? Are you helping some group or organization or doing a special project on your own that benefits others? Do you know of a local sports team or individual who is achieving great things? Have you always wondered about the history or story of something in Wayne?

Every one of us has a story that simmers in our mind when we read The Wayne Dispatch. However, if it stays simmering in your mind, it likely won't get told. We need your help! Please contact us with your story ideas at cmarnon@the-waynedispatch.com or john@the-waynedispatch.com.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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District welcomes three new administrators

Wayne Westland Community Schools Superintendent Shelley Holt recommended the following administrative placements to the Board of Education on December 21, 2017. The Board approved the placements.

Jennifer Curry - Assistant Superintendent, Standards, Learning & Innovation

Ms. Curry has a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science/Early Childhood, Master of Arts in Literacy with a Reading Specialist Endorsement, and Educational Leadership credits, all from Madonna University. She has Professional Certificates K-5 All Subjects, K-8 Self-Contained Classroom, Early Childhood Education Pre K-K, K-12 Reading Specialist and Social Science 6-8. She has taught kindergarten and 6th grade, been a middle school math coordinator and most recently, a Principal, all with



Jennifer Curry

Wayne Westland Community Schools.

Rebecca Pek - Assistant Superintendent, Professional Learning & Accountability

Ms. Pek has attended Central Michigan University, received a Bachelor of Arts in Education/English from Western Michigan University



Rebecca Pek

and a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Madonna University.

She has worked as VP Sales, Marketing, Training and Operations at Integral Solutions, Inc. been a Teacher, Academic Advisor, Principal and Director of Human Services for Romulus Community Schools and



Jill Simmons

most recently is Director of Human Resources for Wayne Westland Community Schools.

Jill Simmons - Senior Executive Director, Employee, Community & Governmental Partnerships

Ms. Simmons has a Bachelor of Science in Business Management/Human Resources from Eastern Michigan University and a Master in Human Resources/Employment Relations from Penn State University in University Park, PA.

She has been employed as a Human Resources Office Manager at Van Dyne Crotty, Inc and a People Services Coordinator at Wade Trim Operations Services, Inc. Most recently, she served as Human Resources Specialist for Wayne Westland Community Schools.

They will each begin their new positions on January 8, 2018.

MENTOR, Continued from page 6

before coming into the program. The student ended up graduating from John Glenn with a 4.0 GPA and had been accepted to six colleges.

According to Ms. Koch, behavioral issues are indicators of strong

leadership qualities. Students who are loud and/or talkative can be great leaders. They need boundaries in place and a direction to go and then they can thrive. As Mariah Carey Christmas music played in the background, the students laughed while wrapping and packing their

boxes. Shaun, in his second semester with the program, was eyeing the dried seaweed packages that had been donated. Other students were passing them by for their boxes. He couldn't believe no one wanted to put it in their box even though all the boxes were going to the same destination. Shaun is known for his high tolerance for spicy things. He works in food services and wants to go into the culinary arts.

Christian thought wrapping was stressful. He said he was a professional at wrapping a box when it was full, but not a box that has a bottom and a lid that need to be wrapped separately. He works at Firestone Farm in the barn cleaning the stalls and feeding the horses while Green-

field Village is closed. He says the barn is not nearly as fun as the farm is. When he is working the farm when the Village is open, he wears a costume from the 1800s while he works. This is his first semester in the program. He plans to come back next semester. He is a hands-on worker and says this program is good for those kinds of people.

At the end of every semester, the students invite their family members to Family Night. Each student gives a speech about their semester and what they have learned. It's a fitting way to bring closure to their semester of learning and lets Ms. Koch know she and the different department mentors have made a positive impact in these student's lives.

OBITUARY

DAVID L. PUGH, FAICP 1942 – 2017

David L. Pugh has passed away. He was born in Wayne, Michigan, the son of Bonnie and Bert Pugh. He graduated from Wayne High School and received a BFA in Art and an MCRP in City and Regional Planning from the University of Oklahoma. He received a JD in Law from the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

David and his beloved wife Susan met and were married at OU. He was employed professionally as an urban planner in Oklahoma, North Carolina, Missouri, Kansas, and Texas. In 1976 he was employed as an Assistant Professor in the College of Architecture at Texas A&M University. From 1981 to 1985 he served as the Head of the Department of Urban & Regional Planning. He developed an educational workshop for city planning and zoning commissioners. David taught it at over 100 Texas municipalities. He established the Texas Target Cities Program in which Texas A&M faculty and students created comprehensive urban plans for dozens of cities across Texas.

In 1999 he was awarded an Outstanding Teaching Award by the A&M Association of Former Students. In that same year he received the highest honor that an urban planner can achieve when he was made a Fellow in the first class of fellows by the American Institute of Certified Planners. He retired from Texas A&M in 2004, but continued to teach an occasional class in land use law. In 2015 he was the recipient of the "Legends of Texas" award given by the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association.

In his retirement he began to design and produce jewelry specializing in rings which he sold on First Fridays at the Frame Gallery in downtown Bryan. He was a proud liberal Democrat. He loved woodworking, chili with beans and most Mexican food, small animals, old TCM movies, books on American history, laughter, Bonnie Raitt, and Jazz. His favorite song was: "A Case of You" by Joni Mitchell. He considered her to be the greatest female musician of the 20th Century. He seriously disliked people he thought were loud, pompous, and mean spirited.

He is survived by his beloved wife Susan, his son Justin, daughter-in-law Laura, grandchildren Kennedy and Nathaniel, his sister Norma Pugh Peterson and her family, and his pampered cat Zoey.





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Stop, drop and shop with a cop

By Carolyn Marnon

Stop, drop, and come shop with a cop makes a nice rhyme. At least shopping with a cop became a possibility on Tuesday, December 19, as students from three elementary school families were chosen to Shop with a Cop at Westland Target.

Educators from Roosevelt-McGrath, Hoover, and Taft Elementary Schools chose a family from each school for this special event. The students were chosen based on both their academic leadership and that they might need a little help this year.

Once assembled in the Target cafeteria, the kids enjoyed pizza and soft drinks before the big event. They didn't seem to realize the magnitude of what they were about to embark on.

After a group photo, three of Wayne's finest police officers grabbed a cart and a family and the shopping games began. The kids were told they each had \$200 to spend on whatever they wanted. Carts seemed to magically be pulled towards the toy aisles at the back of the store as if something wonderful awaited them there.

The command and patrol unions used to do golf outings as fundraisers to sponsor the Shop with a Cop program. The program took a break over the last several years and has now returned with the intention to do Shop with a Cop every Christmas season. The Wayne Police Department is looking for ways to fundraise throughout the year to cover the costs of this event.

Eight year old Zahra found what she called a water hula hoop and proceeded to swivel her hips in the



Representing the police officer's union at Shop with a Cop are Officer Talmadge, Officer Hughes and Officer Perez with carts loaded by their respective teams of two kids.

main aisle by electronics. After about 5 minutes in the cart, the hoop came out in exchange for a whale that was as big as she was. Zahra called it a giant killer whale. She now had ahold of her catch and wasn't letting it go.

Faith's eyes were wide as she took in all the toys. What would this 9 year old choose from all that surrounded her?

In another aisle, two of the officers were mesmerized by the Obi Wan Kenobi FX Lightsaber, retailing for \$104.99. It goes to show there is a kid in each of us just waiting for the opportunity to appear.

Mothers had calculators out as kids were placing their carefully

thought-out prizes in the carts.

Zach had his cart full when he found out he could get an XboxOneS. It didn't take long at all for everything to come out of the cart to be replaced by the coveted Xbox. But not before he gave it plenty of hugs. Eyes hovered over him to make sure he didn't drop the box.

Zoe decided she wanted to redo her bedroom. She got a Frozen-themed bed set and a Frozen accent doll pillow. She also decided she wanted to make some slime. To top it all off, a large horse that she could actually sit on, although maybe a little carefully, topped off her cart. Okay, so the horse didn't make it in the cart. Zoe was too busy riding it.

Gabe told his Cop, "I told someone I was shopping with a cop!" "What did they say," he was asked. "They said, WHAT?"

After an hour of rambling up and down the toy aisle, the carts were filled, the kids were sated, photos were taken of each kid with his/her cop and their treasured finds, and it was time to check out in a checkout aisle reserved just for them.

Will this be a Christmas to remember? Only time will tell, but if the smiles and wide-eyed wonder of these children are any indication, it will.

All thanks to the gracious hearts of those who serve in the Wayne Police Department.

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