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MAY 2018

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Drawing of the State of the District done by Yen Azzaro.

State of the Wayne-Westland School District

By Carolyn Marnon

An overflow crowd had to settle into the John Glenn High School media center on April 11 to listen to Wayne Westland School District's inaugural State of the District Address given by Superintendent Dr. Shelley Holt. Dr. Holt told the crowd gathered in the school's auditorium that they had expected 15-30 people to show up. Over 400 people RSVP'd to the event and it appeared over 200 people had shown up that evening. The event was also being broadcast live on Facebook.

Dr. Holt has been the school district's superintendent since last September. She has four children who are currently attending Wayne Westland schools. Mistress of Ceremonies Courtney Conover introduced Dr. Holt by saying she "created internal and external systems of communication to spread the good news of Wayne Westland and ensure we are all on the same page moving forward." She also noted Dr. Holt "restructured the district to create the climate, culture and social emotional learning division to help improve the working

"Excellence is the expectation here in Wayne Westland, and we will continue as such."

Dr. Shelley Holt

conditions of all employees."

"We embody the true passion of great futures...We are in the midst of starting right here a movement to make excellence the expectation here in Wayne Westland," said Dr. Holt before sharing some of the district's points of pride:

- Well-developed music programs
- Award winning JROTC program
- Alternative high school opportunities which have led to more than double the graduation rates in the last few years
- Online learning opportunities including dual enrollment, direct college, advanced placement and special services
- Transportation department that busses 7500 students daily
- Food services prepares 10,800 meals daily
- Newly restored planetarium at John Glenn

• Reigning Ethics Bowl champions for the state

• Varsity girls basketball at Wayne Memorial made it to the state quarterfinals

• Winter percussion team competed in the world championship

• Middle schools with award winning history presentations and students taking high school courses in middle school

• State coach of the year in wrestling at John Glenn and state coach of the year in varsity girls basketball at Wayne Memorial

"Excellence is the expectation here in Wayne Westland, and we will continue as such," said Dr. Holt.

Several educational issues since 1998 were addressed. No Child Left Behind, which declared every child would be proficient by 2014, was passed. Students had been taking the MEAP in grades 3-8 and 11.

Common Core Standards were adopted. Between 2009 and 2014, the economy was slowly coming back financially, but it wasn't as good as it was in 2008. There became an expectation for safety and security as campus shootings started to become epidemic and were a source of anxiety. Educational testing targets were changing with the changes from MEAP to MSTEP and from ACT to SAT. It is difficult for educators to hit a target that keeps moving. Enrollment was steadily declining, like it is all over Michigan, due to declining birth rates and school of choice options. Free and reduced lunches are increasing at the schools. Did you know the largest family shelter in Michigan is in the boundaries of Wayne Westland?

Charts were presented showing how Wayne Westland was progressing compared to peer schools. WW is losing the most students to Garden City and Plymouth Canton while gaining students mostly from Inkster and Garden City.

There is a steady decrease in Cau-

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casian students while the number of African-American students has stayed fairly level. Standardized tests in grades 3-8 have showed students underperforming compared to Peer Districts and has been in a steep decline since 2014. Dr. Holt said the deepest decline has been in mathematics.

While WW's graduation rate was increasing from 2013-2016 to 76.6%, it then dropped to 72.9% in 2017. Peer districts graduation rates have been rising to approximately 81%. The dropout rate in WW was 13.1% in 2017 compared to peers with less than 8%. Both WW and the peer district's dropout rates seem to be steadily declining.

WW received \$11,150 per student in 2017 compared to approximately \$11,600 for peer district students. However, revenue appears to be increasing for all.

General fund expenditures per student were \$10,571 in WW vs. over \$11,000 in peer districts.

Before 2016, WW had the highest general fund expenditures per full-time employee over peer districts. However, the expenditures have been declining since 2013 in WW while other peer districts have been increasing.

The student teacher ratio in 2017 in WW was 18.3. It was at a high of 19.6 in 2013 and 2014. Peer districts are at about 17.8 students per teacher.

Videos from several teachers were shown during the presentation. These teachers spoke of how Wayne Westland was the place to work 11 years ago and about how hard it was to get a job in the district. Now, they say, it is hard to keep teachers. Teachers are leaving for better jobs in other districts. There are frustrations because of the pay freeze. One teacher came to WW from a charter; she had to take an \$8,000-10,000 pay cut to come here. In five years here, she has had three principals at her school.

Dr. Holt thanked Dr. Greg Baracy for his 17 years as superintendent. "I thank Dr. Baracy for doing his absolute best to set us up for success," she said. "It is very easy to critique from the outside the decisions that are made, but I have to believe that everyone who sits in this seat is going to do what they believe is best for children." She commended prior



Dr. Holt talks to parents after the Date of the District event.



State of the District - School Board Vice-President Carol Middel, Superintendent Dr. Shelley Holt, Secretary Melandie Hines, and President Shawna Walker.

superintendent Dr. Michele Harmala for building bridges over the hurt, anger and lack of trust among all levels in the district.

The missing piece, Dr. Holt believes, is having a central office support system. Staff felt they weren't getting the support they needed from central office. Central office thought they were doing all they could to help. As luck would have it, Rebecca Peck discovered that the University of Washington Center for Educational Leadership had a central office support framework that WW could adopt. As things are implemented, schools will be able to move forward with them. "I knew this was risky," says Dr. Holt, but the teachers

wanted support. The support will be tailored to meet the needs of the

schools. Dr. Holt shared that the support structure that had been in place at WW was the same support as 20 years ago.

Five new departments were created. Business, Maintenance and Instructional Operations: If the heat goes out, the computers go down or pipes break, the school can't function. Operations win out over instruction in these cases. "We have never shut down school because of a math lesson gone wrong," joked Dr. Holt. She said all testing is now online so wifi is needed.

Employee, Community and Government Relations (formerly known as HR-Human Resources): WW has had only one family resource person for the entire district and she worked out of one school. That has now been increased to five resource persons spread out among multiple schools. It is also hoped that the district will be able to bring back parent liaisons to help the teachers.

Professional Learning and Accountability: There are many new teachers and administrators in the district. Employees at all levels need to be developed.

Climate, Culture and Social Emotional Learning: The climate and culture of the district has been a source of consternation for some time, according to Dr. Holt. The district hopes to move the behavioral dial by focusing on five core competencies in social emotional learning: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and good decision-making.

The fifth department is Standards, Learning and Innovation.

Dr. Holt encouraged people to join any of the advisory committees that they are setting up. For more information, contact the school district. Excellence is the expectation.



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Helping students soar to new heights

By Carolyn Marnon

Connecting. Modelling. Joining. Shaping. Bringing together. Uniting. All these words are related to the word “welding.” They can also be used to describe what happens in the welding classroom at William D. Ford Technical Center, part of the Wayne Westland School District.

Nick Regets is the teacher in charge of the welding classes. He does all he can to teach the students welding as well as show them further opportunities for learning once they are outside the classroom.

Several times a year, the students take a bus trip to a local college. At Schoolcraft College, college advisors are on hand to talk about classes, how to earn credits with dual enrollment, allow the students some time to weld in their lab, and hold a mini competition to test skills taught in the classroom. At Washtenaw Community College, students attend an all-day competition with about 8-10 other high schools where they can win welding machines and helmets. Sometimes even scholarship money is available. Mr. Regets can only take 30 students to the competition, so he is watching for students who show up to class all the time and who would care to actually be at the competition.

Yes, there are kids in the welding class that don't have a passion or interest in welding. They took the class thinking maybe it would be an easy A. “This is a hard class,” says Nick. Students have to learn theory and process before they ever get to touch the equipment. Much of the math involves Algebra 2.

Nick is proud of his 13-year relationship with Woolf Aircraft, located in Romulus. He takes his students there every December to show them around the facility. Students have the opportunity to weld with career welders and to see all levels of manufacturing from design to prototype to out-the-door. Woolf Aircraft also holds a competition in April just for his students with anywhere from



William D. Ford Technical students work on a problem at Woolf Aircraft.

one to five prizes. The students earn points through various events. Solving a math problem earns points. Two teams face off in a game show format regarding employability. Small groups gather to do critical problem solving with equipment and finally, there is a welding task where they are given so many minutes to complete the task. Nick is grateful for this partnership with Woolf as they donate parts, labor and equipment

and even shut down the facility the day of the competition for his students.

In the end, Nick tries to make his students good human beings. He tries to teach them ethical behavior, responsibility, accountability and how to support each other. “Maturing and growing up is a process,” he says.

Jacob, one of Nick's students, says Mr. Regets is “making kids accountable.” Jacob is the foreman of the afternoon class. His responsibility is to teach the other students how to fix machines and how to clean them every week. He says the classroom is set up like a real working environment. A former student and 2016 graduate, James Bedzyk, stops by to get advice and support from Mr. Regets. He was getting ready to do a weld test at Woolf Aircraft in the coming days. He commented, “They (Woolf) seem top of the line with what they do.” Nick says James has been reliable and committed. James admits he joined the welding class as a joke. Others had told him the class involved fire and sparks and he could earn over \$125,000 a year in a career. He said the class was no longer a joke to him “when someone told me I was doing a good job.”

Those students who gain advanced skills during the year have the opportunity to participate in the Lincoln Electric Competition. Students must submit a CAD drawing, an introduction stating what they are going to do, a list of safety procedures to follow, a materials list, a list of the steps used to build their project and pictures to prove they did the project. The submission is due in June and judging takes place through November.

As he talks about his students and all that he tries to provide for them in terms of welding, much of the time he comes back to talking about being a role model, providing a positive environment where students can learn, helping students strive to be better and in general, just how to be good citizens. Welding. Connecting. Modelling. Joining. Shaping. Bringing together. Uniting.

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Ghost hunting: is it real?

By Carolyn Marnon

Friday the 13th. It can strike fear into anyone. Long considered an unlucky day in Western superstition, it has inspired a 19th century secret society (the Thirteen Club), an early 20th century novel (Friday the Thirteenth), a horror film franchise (Friday the 13th), and two terms: paraskavedekatriaphobia and friggatriskaidekaphobia that, according to History.com, describe fear of this supposedly unlucky day.

What could be more fun than to spend Friday the 13th (April 13, in this case), at an Adult Ghost Hunt being held at the Wayne Historical Museum? The event was a fundraiser for the Wayne Historical Society. I was invited to the event by Marketing Chairman of the Wayne Historical Museum, Brenda Ozog. Having never been to a Ghost Hunt before, I thought it would be interesting. I decided to go.

Since I didn't want to get in the way while the event was starting up at 8:00 p.m., I decided to come in at 9:00 p.m. to observe. The museum had sold tickets in hourly time slots with the event ending at midnight.

As I arrived, I noticed quite a few small groups and couples leaving the museum. I was greeted by Brenda when I arrived and introduced to a small group of people seated in a back corner of the museum. There were a few gadgets on the floor in the middle of the group. A man and woman were the only ones who were guests. The rest in the circle were members of Motor City Ghost Hunters. We were told not to whisper because the machines that were recording messages could pick it up.



Carolyn Marnon observes a ghost hunting session on Friday the 13th at the Wayne Historical Museum.

We should talk in our normal voices. We were also told that the investigation was ours, not theirs.

The members got excited when they recorded a temperature drop of 20 degrees. For reasons unknown to me, they thought it was Chief Goudy standing behind a member. One of the gadgets being used was called an ovilus, also known as a spirit box. It is a device that purportedly allows the user to communicate with the dead by using energy changes to trigger words. Words that came up for us included caress, muddy, frigid, give, whose, chance, two, trapped, thick, excel, numb, raw and chain.

After this experience, we were taken into the front room where a Motor City member was saying a woman at the top of the stairs wants to leave, but a man is holding her and keeping her from leaving the top of the stairs. I started talking to the couple who came from Garden City to attend the ghost hunt. The woman said this was the second investigation she had been to. She had an in-

terest in the paranormal, but she was as perplexed as I was by what was going on at the museum. We were allowed to go upstairs where other members were excited about some "hot" readings they were getting on their gadgets.

Back downstairs, I had the opportunity to talk to Brenda and a few other members of the Motor City Ghost Hunters. Brenda explained that a flashlight that is loosened can provide yes and no answers to questions. Specialty cameras are also used. When going to homes where the resident speaks of having cabinet doors that open and close on their own, the ghost hunters will check whether they are level with marbles.

Motor City Ghost Hunters are busy. There are different types of mediums (an intermediary between the spirit world and ours) on the team. They normally do residential investigations on Fridays and businesses on Saturday. I spoke with Chass who says she is a medium. She can't turn off the spirit world;

they are with her 24/7. She says she needs a fan, TV, nightlight or a noise machine to be able to fall asleep. She also talked about the period between October 30 and November 3 where the veil between life and death is said to be very thin and where she feels things even more strongly. She relayed the story of her son and his "abilities." When he was a year old, she was giving him a bath and drying him off when he pointed to himself and said "Just" (his name is Justin) and then to the mirror and said "Ry." This surprised Chass because Justin had an identical twin brother, Ryan, who had died after birth. Justin didn't know this. Everyone in her family tree on one side has some type of "ability," she says. She tells of a near-death experience where she is looking down on herself. When I asked about the white light I have heard about, she said there wasn't one in her experience.

I learned that most people get involved with paranormal investigation because of a near-death experience.

Before leaving, we were advised that we should each be saged, otherwise known as smudged. MCGH members used sage to cleanse us of negative energies or influences. We were also told we should tell the spirits not to follow us home. Whether I believe or not, you can bet I told those spirits not to follow me home.

All in all, this event did raise \$1300 for the museum. That is a positive outcome. If you are interested, the Motor City Ghost Hunters expect to be back at the museum around Halloween. Tickets sell out quickly, so don't delay when they do become available.

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Historic recall in Wayne

By Carolyn Marnon

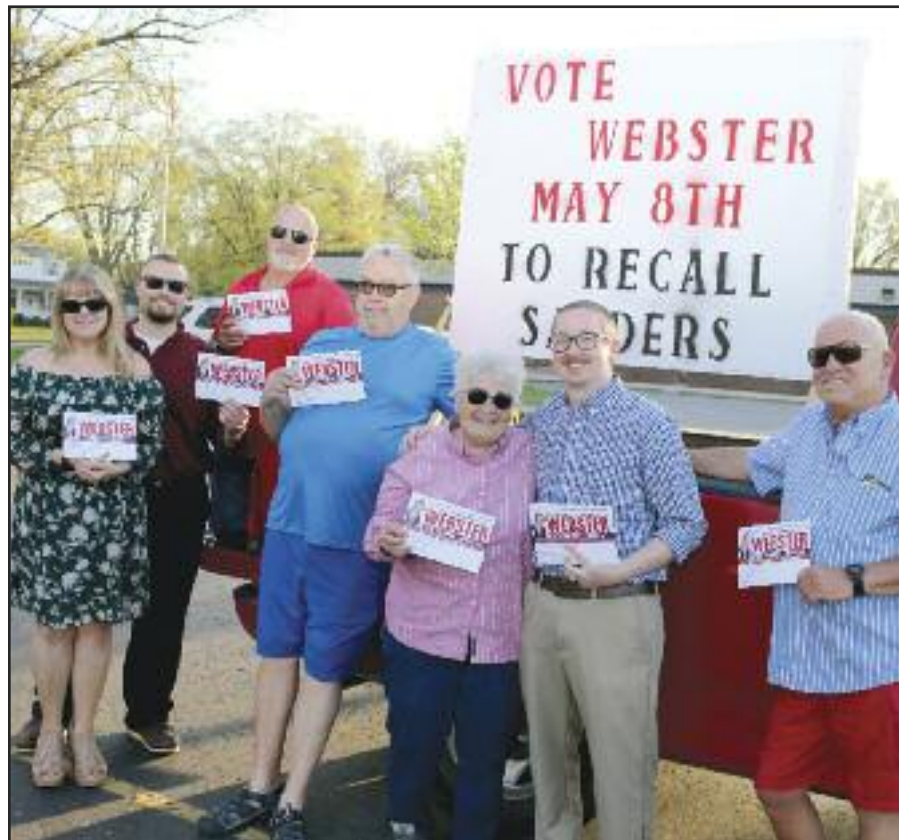
The election to recall City Councilman Christopher Sanders has finally occurred despite obstacles to get the recall on the ballot. After a dispicable and slanderous campaign by Councilman Sanders, Councilman Jeremiah Webster defeated him by approximately a 3-1 margin. Webster's seat expires in November. He will now fill the remainder of Sander's seat that expires in 2020.

As the numbers came in to City Clerk Matt Miller at City Hall, the unofficial results at 8:51 p.m. were released. Jeremiah Webster had received 870 votes over Christopher Sanders with 335 votes totaling 1,205 votes. Unofficial results at 9:32 p.m. had Webster at 928 and Sanders at 359. "I'm just relieved," said Jeremiah after the preliminary results were handed out.

A few concerned voters came to City Hall to learn the results. Bernadette Brock said she came because "I wanted to hear it myself." Councilman Webster came early because "I'm running in this election.

I'm anxious to know the result." Watching the poll workers bring the ballots back to City Hall and check in everything was like watching luggage rolling through airport security. Councilman Sanders was not seen at City Hall from 8:00-9:00 p.m. It is unknown if he showed up later.

Some of the supporters of the recall of Councilman Sanders gathered at the home of Bob Boertje. Bob took out the recall petition from the Wayne County Clerk to initiate the recall process last fall. He and a small group of citizens gathered the required number of votes that were later certified as valid. Councilman Sanders filed a protest with the Wayne County Clerk saying the wrong form was used because it didn't include a box for the petition circulator to mark indicating whether they were from out of state. The case went to court where the judge determined that the petitioner should not be harmed just because the county clerk handed out the wrong form. The County Clerk was ordered to issue a recall election.



Victorious Councilman Jeremiah Webster with some of his supporters at the polls.

"I'm not surprised by the results. The people of this community wanted him gone, and they spoke," said Bob regarding Councilman Sanders. One of the petition helpers, Vern Amos, said the recall election "is a historical thing."

After toasting Jeremiah, Jeremiah told the group "I couldn't do this without you" and thanked Bob.

Bob's attorney, Wayne resident Scott Ruark commented, "This election is my proudest moment as a citizen of Wayne because it highlighted how hard the residents are willing to fight for its integrity. The allegation alleged by Mr. Sanders that signatures were fraudulent is completely baseless. It was nothing more than a

last-ditch effort to prevent the will of the people. What Bob Boertje did for our city is incredible."

Councilman Sanders posted the following message on his Facebook page: "Today, my home town, the City of Wayne held a special election for recall. The recall was aimed at me... I came up very short, losing to my opponent 870-355." (Note: Election Summary Report states 335)...the VOTERS obviously envision a different type of leadership for their council. I can respect the will of the people. Congratulations to my opponent, Jeremiah Webster, may you represent the people of Ward #1, and indeed the entire community with distinction."

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Building in Wayne makes local news

By Carolyn Marnon

"Danger: This structure is declared unsafe for human occupancy or use." This is the red sign visible on the doors of the apartments located at 35732 and 35736 W. Michigan Ave. You might know the building-it's the Tudor Revival that might remind you of a Bavarian inn when you drive by located next to Kurt's Caps in downtown Wayne.

The building was built in 1929 and was billed as Wayne Inn, a restaurant and dance hall. Information from the Wayne Historical Society indicates it is unknown whether it ever opened as the depression hit soon after.

The so-called slumlord issue got local news coverage by Local 4 News and ClickonDetroit when Hank Winchester of "Help Me Hank" stepped in. In speaking with Ajit Subnani after his court appearance, Mr. Subnani tells Hank "The building is so good." He also goes on to say, "It's a beautiful building. I'm the one who's helping the whole world."

According to residents, the build-



The apartment complex on W. Michigan Ave. has been declared unsafe for human occupancy or use.

ing has no working smoke alarms, the floors are spongy, the ceiling has leaks, there is white mold in the basement, cracked walls, illegal electricity work, water damage and bed bugs. It is unknown whether these same conditions exist in Mr. Subnani's own home in Rochester Hills.


The building came to the attention of Mike Buiten, Director of Buildings, Engineering and Ordinance and Building Official Larry Wegrzyn last month when the situation was reported to them by a tenant. Three tenants then responded officially by submitting a written report


to the City. Mr. Buiten says there is a long list of violations, especially structural issues. City Attorney Breedra O'Leary told the Court recently "The fire department has informed me that the building is too unsafe for a firefighter to enter in the event of a fire."

Mr. Subnani was taken to court by the City to address the unsafe conditions of the building he rents out to mostly low-income residents. Judge Laura Mack had Mr. Subnani placed in jail. He agreed to refund the deposit money the residents had paid and was released from jail. The money was given to the Court which distributed it to the residents.

Mr. Buiten hopes the building can be restored. Mr. Subnani was supposed to meet with a structural engineer on May 3. The city is allowing Mr. Subnani all options to making the building safe to repair and to have occupancy in.

An anonymous group of individuals in Wayne stepped up to provide additional funds to the tenants to assist them in moving to new homes.






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Experience the sauce

By Carolyn Marnon

"I'm not a store shelf sale to make money. I'm selling you something I created that I put my heart and soul into," says Benjamin Welch, owner of Chili Sauce and Dogs, a local food truck.

"It's truly an art."

Who is Benjamin Welch? Benjamin is a 2003 graduate of Wayne Memorial High School who currently resides in Dearborn. A real estate agent for the past 12 years, he is now pursuing his food truck fantasy on the side. He says he has always been "salesy," selling baseball cards and matchbox cards while he was in school. He went to college briefly before starting an industrial pressure washing business with a former Wayne police officer. He learned on the go, studying industry, and eventually went back to school to get his associate's degree in marketing.

"I understand the passion behind what a chef does," says Benjamin. However, "I'm not a chef. I am a

cook." He had the idea to make a better chili dog or a version of a chili dog that "gave someone an experience while they were eating it." Benjamin prides himself on selling experiences. He says this year's experience will be different from last year's experience.

First came the sauce. The chili sauce is homemade. "No one's tasted it before," says Benjamin. He spent a lot of time in the kitchen tweaking the levels of ingredients he was using.

A lot goes into starting a food truck business. While sitting at home, he started sketching a logo. For some reason, he wanted to use Ray's in his business name, maybe Ray's Greatest Tasting Chili Dogs. He started wondering, though, if that name would express what he wanted to say. He asked himself questions. And then the name came to him! Once those words were in his head, he says he wouldn't tell anyone until he had it trademarked; he was that passionate about the name.



Erica Welch, Trevor Smith and Benjamin Welch would love for you to visit Chili Sauce and Dogs.

Next, he had to decide whether he wanted a brick and mortar business, a food truck, or a concession trailer. He decided that the food truck was the more attractive choice what with the Detroit movement in food truck rallies.

"I discovered my truck on Craigslist on April 14, 2016 at 11:42 PM; while sitting on the john. I accidentally typed "concession truck" instead of "concession trailer" and found this beauty. It was posted by a farmer in Morenci, Michigan who acquired it by trading a Kubota with a guy from Ohio. The Ohio man and his brother converted this old truck into a food stand by the name of 'Scott Concessions.' These two guys crafted custom wood fixtures, installed an old Kohler generator, and ran through the mechanics of this 1966 Ford P350. After the Ohio man's brother passed away he lost interest in the business.

Many alterations had to take

place because of health department regulations but the energy of these two men live on in this classic." This is how Benjamin Welch describes the acquisition of his first food truck on his website www.chilisauceand-dogs.com.

Having a food truck is not for the weak-hearted. Used equipment can break down. He says he has had problems with the generator breaking down, with contractors and with information gathering. He went through three contractors before he was able to get his truck painted. He happened to stumble upon Tarek at Wayne Auto Collision who saw his vision and was able to get the truck painted the way Benjamin wanted.

Benjamin found that people in the food truck industry were not helpful when it came to sharing information about running a food truck. His plan was to get experience on an-

See **SAUCE**, page 15





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Beavers, wild turkeys now living along revitalized Rouge River

By Kurt Kuban

I began organizing Rouge Rescue in Wayne back in 2001. In the months leading up to that first river clean up, I was walking along the Rouge trying to figure out where to start. Everywhere you looked there was trash -- shopping carts, tires and just about anything else you can imagine -- littering the riverbed in the various parks near downtown. Nasty logjams choked the river's natural flow. It wasn't exactly a beautiful river landscape.

As I walked that day I came upon a man who looked to be in his 50s sitting next to the river, smoking a cigarette. We struck up a conversation. He told me he grew up in Wayne, and resided here his whole life. It struck me that he might just be a perfect candidate to volunteer with our fledgling effort, so I explained to him what I was hoping to do and invited him to help out on Rouge Rescue.

He looked me straight in the eye, chuckled under his breath, and uttered a response I will never forget. "Don't waste your time. This river is dead," he said to me.

I wasn't quite sure how to respond, but I know I felt a little rage burning in my gut. "How could he think that?" I thought to myself.

"Yeah, well, we'll see about that," I quipped, walking away while shaking my head.

I wanted to prove that guy wrong in the worst kind of way. His words became my battle cry.

Thank goodness our community did not take that same approach of hopelessness and despair when it comes to our most important natural resource. The City of Wayne, along with other communities in the Rouge River watershed, have spent millions of dollars in the last quarter century trying to repair the river from all the damage inflicted upon it by the generations that came before, with their lousy planning and construction practices.

At the same time, we have had thousands of volunteers come out for Rouge Rescue and other river



Busy beavers have been chewing down trees in the woods.

clean-up days. From local school children to senior citizens, people have come out in droves to help revive the Rouge. Relying on brute strength and determination we have pulled a virtual mountain of trash from the river, filling dump truck after dump truck. At the same time, we have restored areas along the river, planting important native vegetation and removing the invasive ones.

We have opened logjams for canoeing and kayaking. In fact the city added a kayak launch in Goudy Park, and Wayne County Parks is planning two more further downstream in Venoy-Dorsey Park.

We are now officially part of a nationally-recognized urban water trail (<https://therouge.org/rouge-river-water-trail>).

It's no longer uncommon to see people fishing, either. Yes, fishing. And that's because the fish are returning. I personally participated in a fish survey near Wayne Road after the dam was removed that netted nearly 20 different species of fish -- everything from pike and bass to numerous minnow species, which provide important food for the gamefish we love so much.

The wildlife has also returned. Just ask one of our longtime volunteers, David Timmerman, who knows the river as much as anyone. He takes weekly paddles or walks. He has documented many different animals, from birds like owls, hawks and egrets, to mink, deer, foxes, coyotes, and muskrat. Two of the most recent to move into Wayne are wild turkeys and a couple colonies of



Student volunteers release salmon hatchlings in the Rouge at Goudy Park.

beavers. Yes, beavers are living in Wayne. I find that pretty exciting.

The bottom line is we are again, using the Rouge River for recreation, just like people had in Wayne for more than a century before we started destroying it in the post-WWII years.

Make no mistake, we still have a ways to go. There is still plenty of work to be done. One of the biggest remaining obstacles, in my opinion, is overcoming the negative stereotypes that persist among some of our fellow residents, who think the Rouge River is a lost cause. They couldn't be more wrong -- just like that guy I encountered on the riverbank years ago.

ROUGE RESCUE

Matt Mulholland and I will again be organizing Rouge Rescue this year, working alongside personnel from

the City of Wayne and our many volunteers. The event will take place on Saturday, May 12, at Goudy Park. Sign up begins at 9 a.m. We will be working on a number of projects to improve our parks and access to the river. We will remove trash from the river and open some logjams, plus improve trails.

All volunteers will get a Rouge Rescue T-shirt and refreshments. But the best part is the satisfaction knowing you get to be part of the Rouge River's revival. If you are one of the many volunteers who has helped us out over the years -- thank you! We hope to see you again. If you've never been out, we would love to have you. Come be part of the solution.

For more information, call me at (734) 716-0783 or Matt Mulholland at (734) 395-8646, or visit us online at therouge.org/rouge-rescue.

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Downtown clean-up day an overwhelming success

On a beautiful April morning (Saturday, April 21), over 150 volunteers gathered in downtown Wayne to participate in Wayne's Annual Clean-Up Day. Volunteers were broken up into teams and positioned throughout downtown, charged with picking up trash and removing debris that had built up from this past Winter.

Volunteers focused on sweeping streets and cleaning up the islands and parking lots throughout downtown.

Friends of the Rouge also led a team of volunteers in efforts to clean up Wayne's portion of the Rouge River and downtown trail system. In total, more than 100 bags of trash were collected.



Volunteers from the Wayne Downtown clean-up.

This event would not have been possible without the help of Wayne

Main Street's partners. The following groups provided invaluable support: Friends of the Rouge, Healthy Wayne, Interact Club, Rouge-a-Palooza, the Wayne Chamber of Commerce, City of Wayne's Department of Public Works, Wayne Memorial High School's JROTC and the Wayne Rotary Club.

Wayne Main Street is grateful to their partner organizations and all of

the volunteers who joined in the clean-up. Professional Insurance Associates and Tubby's-Wayne provided refreshments for the volunteers. Wayne Main Street's Executive Director, Maxwell Cameron, comments on the phenomenal turnout. "When we work together as a community, we can make Wayne an even greater community to live, work and grow together."

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NEWS BRIEFS

Who's on the 2018

November city ballot

Mayor - 2 year term

John P. Rhaesa - Mayor

Christopher Sanders - Mayor

City Council

Ward 4 - 4 year term

Brian Ewanciw

Anthony Wayne Miller

Ward 5 - 4 year term

Eric Cleereman

Kelly Skiff

Ward 6 - 4 year term

Christopher Gietzen

Phillip A. Wagner

Derby's Alley grand opening

The Grand Opening of Wayne Main Street's Derby's Alley project will be Tuesday, May 22, at 3:00 p.m. Inclement weather conditions last month called for a postponement to this new day. Derby's Alley has a sense of place that truly reflects our city's unique personality. Come see the twinkling lights and the new tables and chairs that are the start of this great new community gathering space. Derby's Alley is located in the open space between the former GI Surplus and Flagship Boutique on West Michigan Avenue.

Free yoga in downtown Wayne

Beaumont Healthy Wayne presents "Yoga in Downtown Wayne." This free event will take place Wednesday, May 16, 5:30-6:30 p.m., at the Wayne Historical Museum, 1 Towne Square. All are welcome, although this class is most appropriate for ages 9 and up. Please wear active-wear or loose-fitting clothing and bring a yoga mat or towel. The class will be instructed by Certified Yoga Instructor Dominique Theophilus and her team. If you can't make it, be aware that more classes are expected this summer.

Charity car show

Wayne Masonic Lodge, 37137 Palmer Rd, Westland, will be holding



Coming to the Museum

Always wanted to know more about Carpenter's Lake? Join the Wayne Historical Society on Thursday, June 14, at 6:00 p.m. to learn all about Carpenter Lake. Instead of meeting at the museum, this "Destination Talk" will take place on the site of Carpenter's Lake at the Aigeltinger property on Hannan Road. Mr. Aigeltinger will talk about the history of the site, the lake and show the cabins that still stand on the property. There will also be food and a bonfire. The event is free and kid-friendly.

their annual Charity Car Show on Saturday, June 9, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. All cars are welcome; the entrance fee is \$15 which includes a goody bag and t-shirt. All proceeds go to benefit Rainbow Girls and Demolays. There will be raffles, prizes, music, food court and a live auction.

WABC building purchased

The Wayne Activities and Banquet Center, also known as the WABC building, located at 35000 Sims, was sold by the City to Paladino Realty Co LLC for \$165,000. A micro-brewery and restaurant is proposed for the space. Mark Paladino expects the new business to open in late fall.

Downtown days

Downtown Days will be July 12-14 this year. Wayne Main Street, the Wayne Historical Museum and the Knights of Columbus are already planning events for the community.

St. Mary school mass commemorating 94 years

St. Mary Catholic Church in Wayne will celebrate a School Mass on Wednesday, June 6, at 9:00 a.m. to commemorate the history and mark the closing of St. Mary

Catholic School and to thank God for the blessings He has bestowed upon the school. St. Mary School has served the parish and the community since 1924 with dedicated administration, faculty, and families. Please join the staff, students, and families in celebrating the legacy of St. Mary School as they conclude their last academic school year.

Book sale

Friends of the Westland Library will be holding their next book sale Friday and Saturday, May 11 and 12, from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., at the Westland Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. Everything will be 25 cents in honor of Mother's Day. Stock up on your summer reading at these great prices.

Annual rummage sale

The Michigan Chapter of the TEARS Foundation is holding its annual rummage sale Friday and Saturday, May 25 and 26, at the Westland Free Methodist Church, 1421 S. Venoy Rd, Westland. Donations of goods for the sale can be dropped off at the location on Tuesday, May 22, through Thursday, May 24, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. All proceeds from

the sale go directly to the Michigan chapter of the TEARS Foundation. The sale will run May 22-23 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Victory vertical piano project

Garik Pedersen, an international concert pianist and Steinway artist, will be stopping in Wayne on his national tour to present a multi-media lecture-concert that tells the timeless story of the role of the vertical pianos during World War II. Pedersen will perform music by Samuel Barber, Roy Harris, Duke Ellington, Frederic Chopin, Serge Rachmaninoff, Glenn Miller and many others to provide fascinating, beautiful, and moving glimpses into the war that united us as a people with a common purpose. Pedersen uses descriptive vignettes accompanied by piano music in many styles. This live concert presentation will be on Sunday, May 20, at 4:00 p.m. at First Congregational Church of Wayne, 2 Towne Square. Admission is free.

Scrapbooking workshop

Come to the Wayne Historical Museum, 1 Towne Square, on Saturday, May 19, and learn how to properly mount and protect your pictures while scrapbooking so that they can last for generations to come. Lisa Graham from Creative Memories will be demonstrating products and providing a hands-on workshop. Please bring 4-6 photos to make a practice page. Tickets are \$20 per person and there will be two classes, 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Annual Glenwood Heights & Thinbark subs garage sale

Thursday, May 17: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Friday, May 18: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 19: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 20: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

These subs are located between Michigan Avenue and Glenwood between John Hix and the train tracks to the East of Newburgh.

NEWS BRIEFS

Make a bracelet class

Make your own stack of bangle bracelets while learning some basic jewelry assembly techniques. Learn how to open and close jump rings, as well as other techniques as you prefer, such as building your own charm with papers/metal/glass, and hand-stamping. Class will be led by Kim White-Jenkins, co-owner of Helium Studios along with her husband Dave Jenkins. There is a \$30 minimum registration fee along with piece pricing:

\$5/round bangle- Choose from tones of antique silver, antique gold, antique copper or silver plate, depending on what's available. Two bangle sizes available.

\$2-5/charm- A variety of quality fabricated and handmade charms in various metal tones will be offered.

When you register, you are guaranteed \$30 worth of materials (bangle[s] and charms of your choice, worth up to \$30). If you choose additional jewelry, you will be charged

that day to make up for the differ-

Eloise Museum celebrates grand opening

The Westland Historic Village Park is excited to announce the Grand Opening of the Eloise Hospital Museum in the Rowe House. Members of WHVP are currently preparing and installing exhibits related to working and living at Eloise. The Grand Opening will be on May 19, 2018. Ribbon Cutting will be at 11:00 a.m. featuring guest speakers and guided tours starting at Noon. WHVP is excited about the changes and looks forward to sharing artifacts and information from the collection.

The Felton Farmhouse will also be open on May 19, 2018. Paint has been touched up and rooms arranged to reflect life from 1850-1900.

The Collins House, the Park's Administration Building, has reopened. Research material is still being organized. But it is accessible. Staff can still assist you with your inquiries and research.

The Carriage Shed and the McKee Barn are also closed while exhibits are being completed for them.

The Guthrie Octagon House is available for tours during regular hours. Small, intimate weddings can be hosted in this location. Ask about rates for renting space in the Guthrie Octagon House.

Thank you for your patience as members work to get the park's buildings up and running. Until then, you are invited to drop by most Saturdays between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to stroll around the grounds and share your Westland stories.

p.m. on Thursdays. Admission is free. Art will include ceramics, painting, drawing, digital media and sculpture. While you are at the museum, have a look around at the newly refurbished displays of history in Wayne.

Sometimes travelers club

Several trips are being planned by Wayne Senior Services. You can join in and alleviate the hassle of planning and driving. You can pick up trip flyers at City Hall or the Senior Services office located inside HYPE Recreation Center, 4635 Howe Rd, or you can call Nancy at (734) 721-7460.

*Holland Tulip Time-Tuesday, May 8

Lunch at the Beechwood Inn, shopping in downtown Holland, Michigan, and a visit to Windmill Island Gardens.

Spring rummage sale

First United Methodist Church of Wayne, 3 Towne Square, will be holding its annual Spring Rummage Sale on Thursday, May 10, and Friday, May 11, from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Saturday, May 12, from 9:00 a.m.-Noon is Bargain Bag Day. Two bag sizes will be available for \$3 or \$6 where you can fill your bag as you wish. The church is handicap-accessible.

Swim night for women

HYPE Recreation Center is hosting Women's Only Swim Nights on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month. Cost is \$6 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Girls and women must be age 13 or older.

No children under 13 and no boys allowed. HYPE is located at 4635 Howe Rd. For more information, call 734-721-7400.

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ence. You will leave with your stack(s) in (a) Helium Studio gift box(es).

Two sessions are scheduled:

Saturday, June 9, drop in anytime between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 14, class will start at 6:30 p.m. sharp

There is a no-show policy. Contact Helium Studios at (734) 725-3811 or stop by 3127 S. Wayne Rd.

Art show

Come to the Wayne Historical Museum during open hours anytime through May 10 to view the First Annual High School Art Show featuring works of art from current students at Wayne Memorial High School and John Glenn High School. The museum is open 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and 10:00 a.m.-5:00



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



Wayne Rotarians show off some of the quilts that were donated to Beaumont Hospital. Photo by Bob McClellan

Wayne rotary donates quilts

By Carolyn Marnon

David Carpenter started quilting fifteen years ago. His first quilt, a log cabin quilt with animals on muslin was on display outside the Home Economics department at Wayne Memorial High School at one time. It now graces the back of the couch in his home.

David and his wife, Lynn, started going to The Quilting Season, a quilting shop in Saline, about four years ago. That is when they met up with a group that made baby quilts for premature infants at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor. Some

people cut out pieces for the quilts, others assembled the pieces, some used the long arm quilters available at the shop and others just sewed pieces together. David thought this was a wonderful idea and started making the preemie quilts too.

Many people think of quilts as just the way the fabric is placed in a pattern. A quilt consists of a top and a back with a filler of some sort in between and then edged with binding. Quilting is actually the process of sewing two or more layers of fabric together. David says different people do different things, but they

all make quilt tops.

Although he lives in Canton and works in Westland, David belongs to the Wayne Rotary. The Carpenters were given a \$4000 district grant from the Rotary to use in purchasing materials. Batting is purchased by the bolt, while the fabrics can be bought in smaller quantities. David likes to find fabric with themes pertaining to fishing, the woods and the outdoors. So many fabrics tend to be "girly" and he likes to add the masculine touch. All the baby quilts are made of cotton materials. In addition to baby quilts, he and his wife also

make felt and flannel scent pads. These are pieces of felt or flannel about 4 ½ x 4 inches that the mother of a preemie can put her milk on. This pad is then put in with the baby to help them bond to mom. Often the baby can't be with the mom because the skin is tender. 4-8 scent pads are given to the mother to use since they need to be washed regularly. The staff at Beaumont Hospital put the quilted blankets over the incubators to cut down on the light and sounds that can be overwhelming to a premature infant. The average size of the quilts is 36 inches by 42 inches.

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SAUCE, Continued from page 9

other food truck so he could get acclimated to the equipment and how to run a food truck. No one would help him. He ended up going “undercover” at Sal’s Chicago Classics in Trenton under the pretense of doing a marketing report. He learned how to clean a deep fryer and how to fire up a flat-top grill, among other things and says, “It was a huge help.” He also says the owner was a super, cool guy.

Chili Sauce and Dogs made their Grand Opening debut at Wayne’s Downtown Days/US 12 Cruise last summer outside the Wayne Historical Museum. Benjamin says the chili dogs were good, but they weren’t great yet. It took him two-three months more to get to the point he would call them great.

The food served is halal. Benjamin explained this means a more humane process is used in processing animals. He says he tried non-halal but was disgusted by the smell of blood.

The food truck’s busiest event so far was during Taylor’s Winterfest



Chilli Sauce and Dogs was a popular stop during Downtown Days. Photo by Andrew Khelif.

last November. Benjamin says he prayed, “God-hit us hard!” before the event. He says he wanted the pressure and the opportunity to sweat so he could work out any kinks in his system. His prayers were answered with a solid line for three continuous hours. Although the logo and the design on the truck were done by Benjamin, as well as the early marketing pieces, he has been blessed to make the acquaintance of a young man in

Illinois who is now his intern. While attending a Board of Realtors meeting, he met a gentleman whose nephew wanted to start his own marketing business. Chili Sauce and Dogs also sells deep-fried cornbread nuggets, something you won’t find anywhere else. Benjamin has a trademark pending on it. He wanted to serve cornbread with his dogs and the idea evolved into deep frying it into a nugget. He says it’s like a hush

puppy, but it isn’t one. Another menu item is Saucy Chips where the chili sauce is served over tortilla chips. The best seller, according to Benjamin, is All Jacked Up. It consists of gardenia peppers, shredded cheddar, chili sauce, onions and mustard on a hot dog. His wife, Erica, helps on the weekends. He also gets help from former Wayne resident Trevor Smith and current resident Kay Eaves.

The best advice he can offer others who want to pursue their food truck dream is “be thoughtful of others who are trying to come up in the same manner. Want others to do well.” This could certainly pertain to any other business as well.

You can find the truck at its regular spot in front of Airlines Parking in Romulus every Friday.

The mission of Chili Sauce and Dogs is to be the face of Detroit’s food trucks, continue to grow and never lose sight of quality, service and flavor. If you want to find out other places where Chili Sauce and Dogs will be, visit their website or their Facebook page. They post the schedule for the week every Sunday.



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