



THE  
WAYNE  
Dispatch

FEBRUARY 2019

# Everlasting Love

Wayne Couples Share Their Love Story



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These are a few of the proposed sample homes for Jaycee Park and Kiwanis Park. This project has not gone before the City Council to be approved.

# New home development plan proposed

**By Carolyn Marnon**

Community members gathered at the Wayne Public Library recently to listen to Steve Schafer of Schafer Development present his proposed plan for new homes to be constructed on property he is interested in buying in the City of Wayne. The two parcels of property are currently known as Kiwanis Park and Jaycee Park.

Residents who live within 300 feet of the parks had the opportunity to discuss with Steve the proposed development, ask questions, and voice their concerns. He wants people to have correct information about what his plans are. "We feel," Steve told attendees of the first meeting, "Wayne, with its proximity in Wayne County, is a place for young families to afford homes."

The two parks are currently up for sale by the city. The City of Wayne, which occupies six square miles, has 17 parks and 2 walking trails within its boundaries. These two particular parks can be sold because they have no deed restrictions on them. To be clear, the parks have not been sold. Mr. Schafer is considering the purchase and wanted community feedback before making an offer.

Kiwanis Park is across from Attwood Park. All the amenities at Kiwanis Park are offered at Attwood Park. Residents expressed concern about children having to cross Howe Rd. to go to Attwood to play.

Steve told those gathered that he has been redeveloping property for 40 years. He said the community has to grow for there to be stronger public services. He does, however, understand that people want green space

## Lot and Building Sizes

- ➔ 22 Single-Family Lots:
- ➔ 18 interior lots will be 60' wide x 135' deep
- ➔ 4 corner lots will be 65' wide x 135' deep
- ➔ Home sizes will range from 1,000 - 1,800 sq. ft.
- ➔ Home frontages will range from 20' - 38' wide

and new play equipment.

City Councilman Phil Wagner is concerned that the new homes would make the current 1950s homes look bad. Steve said the new homes would be about 25-50% over the current market rate in that area, but this could also raise the value of the current properties. Please note that because of the Headlee Amendment, the taxable value of current homes can only increase by a limited amount each year.

One audience member commented that there were no vacant houses around the parks, something that is not seen in other parts of the city where there are no parks nearby. Another member asked if there would be a homeowner's association.

Because the park is already platted, people who buy homes there will be maintaining their own space. Another asked what would happen to the new play structure that was put in at Jaycee Park; it would be moved elsewhere.

The biggest concern residents seemed to have is losing the green space the park currently provides. Several times the subject of the developer keeping some green space in the development was brought up. It was noted that Kiwanis Park users could just cross the street to Attwood Park. Mr. Schafer's tone seemed to change slightly with green space at Jaycee Park. It appeared there could be more of an opportunity for residents to get the requested green space in that development. Steve stressed, however, that it depends on how much it impacts the bottom line of the project. It would be an economic and business decision on whether to do it or not.

The homes would be built by a national company if Mr. Schafer decided to move forward with purchasing the park land. He said the company would build and complete a home before it was offered for sale. This would not be a development where orders would be taken or a model home shown and then the houses would be built.

City of Wayne Community Development Director Lori Gouin said she wants to protect the value of homes in Wayne. She wants homes to be owner-occupied. She mentioned that the city can make it a condition of development that the homes be owner-occupied.

The homes would be slab homes; they would not have basements. Conceptual drawings were shared with the audience showing nice one and two-level homes with attached garages. Each park project plan shows 22 60-foot lots. Storm and sewer systems would run underground behind the houses. There would be ample side lots as the homes range from 20-38-foot frontages. The homes would range in price, depending on size, from approximately \$130,000-150,000.

Maintenance of the parks has been an ongoing issue for the city as city officials have worked together to find solutions and cost-cutting measures to address the city's financial issues. Steve said the parks sale is "not a windfall...but you've got to start somewhere."

Between the two meetings, held on consecutive nights, about 40 people were in attendance. Mayor John Rhaesa, Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Porter, Councilman Phil Wagner and Councilman Tony Miller all made appearances.

It is important to Steve Schafer that IF he were to develop the land, he has the support of the community. "I want you to understand what we are trying to do," Steve said. He wants community feedback.

If city council were to vote on the sale of the parks to Mr. Schafer, there would first be a public hearing process before the council vote where community members would have another opportunity to voice their opinions. If Mr. Schafer decides to make an offer on the properties, it would take 5 yes votes from the city council to sell the city property.



## NEWS BRIEFS

### Tragedy at Hickory Hollow

On the evening of Friday, February 1, City of Wayne Police and Fire personnel responded to a wellness check request at Hickory Hollow Cooperative. When Police and Fire officials arrived at this location, they found an unresponsive woman and an unconscious man in the dwelling.

Wayne-Westland Fire Chief Michael Stradtner stated the cause appeared to be related to high carbon monoxide levels due to the chimney not properly venting in the unit because of ice build-up due to the extreme temperatures.

Concerned about the safety of the residents who reside at Hickory Hollow Cooperative, First Responders went building to building to check carbon monoxide levels in 267 units. Several additional units reported high levels of carbon monoxide and were immediately evacuated.

The Wayne Police and Fire Departments are working on finalizing reports at this time.

The City of Wayne would like to thank the following for their assistance: Westland Fire Department, Inkster Fire Department, Inkster Police Department, Garden City Police Department, Consumers Energy, and the Hickory Hollow Cooperative management and maintenance staff.

### Upcoming Wayne baseball association events

The Wayne Baseball Association will be hosting a fundraiser at Buffalo Wild Wings, 6677 N. Wayne Rd, in Westland on Monday, March 4. Come for lunch and/or dinner on this day and 20% of all purchases accompanied by a fundraiser certificate will be donated to Wayne Baseball Association.

Sign ups for the 2019 Wayne Baseball Association season are coming soon. Register at the Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Rd, on Tuesdays (February 12 and 26; March 2 and 16) from 5:30-7:30 p.m. You can also register on Saturdays from 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the library on February 16, March 2 and March 16. There will be a special registration at Mark Chevrolet, 33200 Michigan Ave, on Monday, February 18 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Players from

### Seeking distinguished alumni

This year's commencement will continue the tradition of awarding a "Distinguished Alumni" medal to a former graduate of Wayne Memorial High School.

"We have had many outstanding people graduate from Wayne Memorial," states Kevin Weber, Wayne Memorial's Principal. "Many have contributed significantly to the betterment of society on a local, state, national or international level. The Distinguished Alumni Award has become a part of the annual commencement ceremony of Wayne Memorial High School. Each winner is awarded a medal inscribed with the official school seal. "This is an opportunity for our current graduating class to hear first hand from a former alumnus who has made his/her mark on society." The most difficult task is to locate the many alumni who have distinguished themselves since their graduation. For that reason, Wayne Memorial is asking the community to help in its search. If any member of the community wishes to nominate a Wayne Memorial graduate, they are asked to contact Mrs. Rawson, Secretary to the Principal, at Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth Street, Wayne, Michigan 48186. Mrs. Rawson's phone number is (734) 419-2206.

A "Distinguished Alumni" committee has been established at Wayne Memorial to decide on the recipient for 2019. An announcement of the winner will be made in mid-May, and the recipient will then be honored at commencement, June 1, 2019.

Nominations should be returned to Mrs. Rawson by February 28, 2019.

all cities are welcome! To register a player new to the league, please provide a copy of your child's birth certificate.

Wayne Baseball Association is also looking for girls born 2002-2012 for fastpitch softball. Registration will be held at the Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Rd, on Tuesdays (February 12 and 26, March 5 and 12) from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Saturday registrations will be held on February 16, March 2 and March 16 from 12:30-2:30 p.m. also at the Wayne Public Library. A special registration will also be held on Monday, February 18, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Mark Chevrolet, 33200 Michigan Ave. Players from all cities are welcome! 10-14 girls are needed per team to enter the league. New players must provide birth certificates. For more information, call (734) 722-6400.

### Michigan POW camps in WWII

During World War II, Michigan became a temporary home to six thousand German and Italian POWs. At a

time of homefront labor shortages, they picked fruit in Berrien County, harvested sugar beets in the Thumb, cut pulpwood in the Upper Peninsula and maintained parks and other public spaces in Detroit. The work programs were not flawless and not all of the prisoners were cooperative, but many of the men established enduring friendships with

their captors.

Author Gregory Sumner will be at the Wayne Public Library on Wednesday, February 13, to tell the story of these detainees and the ordinary Americans who embodied our highest ideals, even amid a global war. This free event will start at 7:00 p.m. and is co-hosted by the Friends of the Library with the Wayne Historical Society.

### Local trip available

The Wayne Senior Services office and the Wayne Sometimes Travelers announce a motorcoach trip to local attractions on Tuesday, February 19. The trip includes lunch at Meriwethers in Southfield, a guided stroll through The Whitney mansion in Detroit while sipping champagne, and a self-guided tour at Pewabic Pottery. Cost is \$69 per person.

Call Wayne Senior Services at (734) 721-7460 for more information or to sign up.

### Coffee hour with state representative

Kevin Coleman, the 16th District State Representative, has set up office in Lansing. The phone number to contact him in Lansing is (517) 373-2576. Kevin's email is Kevin-Coleman@housemi.gov.

State Rep. Coleman will be joined by State Senator Dayna Polehanki for a coffee hour in Wayne on Thursday, February 28, at Karma Coffee, 35634 W. Michigan Ave.

### CITY OF WAYNE RENEWAL PERIOD 2019 DOG & CAT LICENSES

The 2019 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, 2019 will be at a lesser fee.

#### Fees during annual licensing period ending February 28, 2019

Regular license	<b>\$18.00*</b>
License for spayed or neutered animals	<b>\$10.00*</b>

#### Fees from March 1 through December 31, 2019

Regular/spayed or neutered animals	<b>\$30.00</b>
Replacement license (all year)	<b>\$1.00</b>

\*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**



**By Carolyn Marnon**

Every February, The Wayne Dispatch tries to honor Wayne couples who have a love story to share. This year, our couples have been married 20-55 years. If you know a couple we can feature in 2020, please contact us.



Brenda and Matthew Ozog with their children Courtney, Tiffany and Anthony.

**Matt and Brenda Ozog**

Matthew Ozog and Brenda Sheneman-Holmes met when they both worked at the now-closed Kmart on Wayne Rd. and Cherry Hill Rd. in Westland. Matt was working in Sporting Goods while Brenda worked in Clothing. The couple married in April 1993 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Wayne.

Matthew works in IT at General Motors while Brenda is a Family Service Worker for the Wayne Westland Community School District Head Start program. In their spare time, Matt coaches football and Brenda is a ghost hunter. Matt belongs to the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America and Brenda belongs to the Daughters of the American Revolution while also volunteering at local museums.

Brenda has lived in Wayne since she was 14 years old. Matt lived in Romulus before the couple got married.

Brenda believes the secret to their successful marriage is that they spend time together and try to be supportive for each other. Brenda's advice to other couples? "Take your time to make sure they are right for you. You don't have to marry early in life. Be happy and respect each other's time and space." Matt and Brenda will celebrate 26 years of marriage in April.



**Chris and Jennifer Gietzen**

Chris and Jennifer Gietzen will be celebrating 20 years of marriage in April. They both worked at a diabetic supply company in Livonia when they met. Chris worked in the shipping department while Jennifer was the evening receptionist. "Chris would come and chit chat with me when he turned in his daily logs as he worked the day shift, and I worked the evening shift. Finally I went to day shift and Chris quit to do his lawn business full-time, but he asked me out for a lunch date. We

went on several lunch dates and then finally made dinner plans and started dating," says Jennifer. Chris says that he knew he was going to marry Jennifer the minute he met her.

Chris currently works for a sub-contractor at the GM Romulus plant. Jennifer is a Reservation Specialist for Enterprise, Alamo and National rental cars. In their spare time, Chris likes to golf while Jennifer likes to do crafts with her new DIY company, Chalk Couture. They also give back to the community. Jennifer is president of the Wayne Goodfellows. Chris helps her with the Goodfellows while also serving in the Knights of Columbus.

The couple married at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Wayne with a reception at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland. They lived in Wayne for seven years, spent seven years living in Westland and then came back to Wayne where they have made their home the last six years.

What is the secret to their successful marriage? According to Jennifer, "We were friends first and we remain friends and enjoy hanging out together. Joke and have fun together." Her advice to other couples is to stay friends and always say "I love you" before leaving the house.

**Phil and Liz Marnon**

Alicia (Liz) Barton was selling candy bars for a Methodist church youth group shortly after Phil Marnon's family had moved in down the street. Phil was sitting on his porch with his older sister. He says Liz was wearing a polka-dot blouse, pedal pushers, bobby sox, white tennis shoes and had a ponytail. He didn't have any money to buy candy, but the 12-year old Liz won a sweet spot in his heart.

What happened next is unclear, but the two were going steady the following summer. Although they broke up once over Christmas (neither remembers why they broke up, but Phil remembers that she threw the ring he gave her in the garbage. He dug it out and later gave it back to her), they have been together ever since.

She was 18 when they married; he was 21. She worked at Wayne State University; he drove a truck. Her mother had told her she had to



Jennifer and Chris Gietzen will be celebrating 20 years of marriage in April.

See **Love**, page 6



## LOVE, Continued from page 6

be 18 and Phil had to have a job before Liz could get married. She turned 18, he had a job and that was it.

They had planned to marry the following summer, but Phil got a draft notice sometime around Thanksgiving. He had to report for a physical on December 13, so they moved up the wedding to Saturday, December 14 thinking he would be sent off somewhere. Since he was Catholic and she was Methodist, they joined the Episcopal church and attended counseling sessions. Because Phil suffered from chronic bronchitis, he failed the military physical, but they still got married. They were married in the choir loft of St. Christopher's in Detroit.

Where did they go on their honeymoon? "We didn't," says Liz. They went home to the apartment they rented. It was about 3 years before they went on their first big trip together to Washington DC.

They had talked about Hawaii as a honeymoon destination, but they never went. 40 years later, they renewed their wedding vows wearing matching dress and shirt they had



Liz and Phil Marnon on their wedding day in 1963.

purchased at Hilo Hattie's. The vow renewal took place on a sandy beach in Kauai with a special dinner at an expensive hotel following.

Liz finds it remarkable that of the 10 kids in Phil's family, seven of

them have reached over 50 years of marriage. No one has divorced. "I think it's amazing," she said.

When asked what has been the secret to their long marriage (they just celebrated 55 years last Decem-

ber), Phil jokes, "Stay away from her." Liz looks at him. "Respect. That's what I've always thought," she says. "Yes," he replies. "And working together." "I won't say anything to hurt you," she adds. "No," he agrees.

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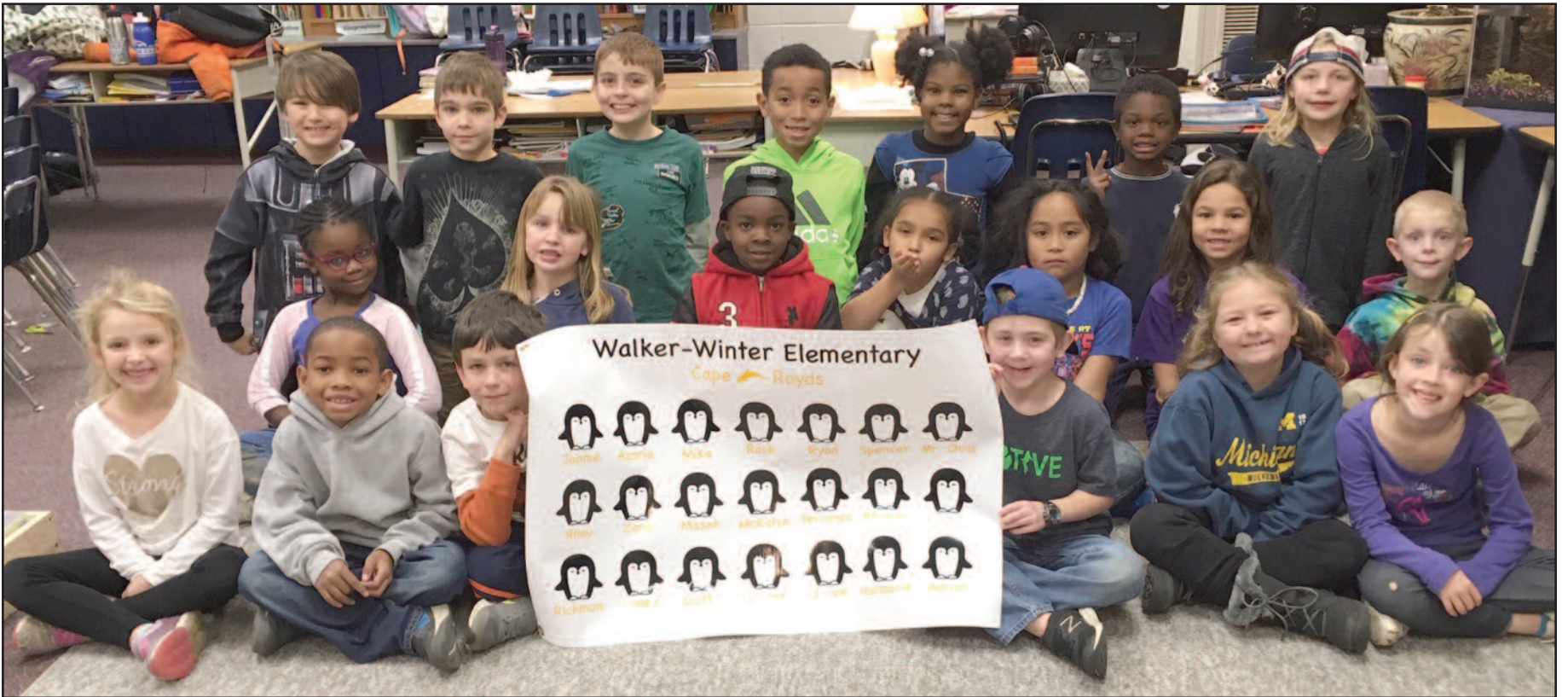
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Mr. Kozaczynski's 2nd grade class with their flag that flew in Antarctica.

# Second grade students visit the world

By Carolyn Marnon

The doors through which I entered Walker Winter Elementary School from the parking lot did not seem very welcoming. Once I walked down the hallway and stepped into the school office, it was a different story. There were chairs arranged around an electric fireplace that seemed to scream out "sit down and make yourself comfortable!" A student was snuggled up on a bench reading. She said it was a very comfy spot.

I met Mr. Chris Kozaczynski outside the office. He led me down the hall to his classroom where he teaches 2nd grade TAG (talented and gifted) students. The room was lit with small lamps scattered around the room rather than the usual fluorescent bulbs that fill classrooms with light. It was like entering your own living room to pursue your studies in. Mr. Kozaczynski says that many of the classrooms are like this because they have found that natural light is more relaxing for the students.

Mr. K has taught K-3 in the Wayne-Westland School district for 22 years. The last 12 years have

**"Not all of us have all the answers,  
and we're learning from each  
other all of the time."**

**Mr. Chris Kozaczynski**

been at Walker Winter Elementary School teaching 2nd grade. The last six years have been teaching in the TAG program. Because students in the TAG program all stay together as they move through the grades, the students really have a chance to get to know each other. The families become close and do activities like mini golf together in the summer.

The structure of the TAG classroom day is different from the regular classrooms. Since the students are able to pick up on subject matter more quickly than regular students, subjects are moved through at an accelerated pace. The students are also able to go more in-depth on subjects. "Not all of us have all the answers, and we're learning from each other all of the time," says Mr. K.

Mr. K's classroom uses a different

educational style called project-based learning. The subject matter that the students are expected to learn are all embedded in a project that pursues their interests. Students are more engaged in learning and have fun choosing what to learn about. The learning goes deeper and there is more questioning going on.

Distance Learning is a new concept that Mr. K is in his 2nd year teaching to his students. Each of the schools now has a Technology Interventionist who can research things for teachers and help them with technology. Rebecca, the TI at Walker Winter, showed Mr. K how he could use technology in his classroom so students can visit with people in different places using the internet. Last year, she researched a lot of the places the students learned from,

but this year Mr. K has done more of his own research on places. He also taught other Walker Winter teachers last summer how they can connect technology with learning.

The students have been on some incredible adventures with Distance Learning. Mr. K says students were recently disappointed when the school district called a snow day because that happened to be the day they were supposed to do one of their SKYPE calls with Chichen Itza to learn about Mayan and Egyptian cultures.

The penguin project is in its second year for the students in Mr. K's class. He was able to write a grant that made it possible for the students to visit the Detroit Zoo and see the penguins up close. Students were able to speak to penguin experts there. Later, the class made a Skype call to a penguin researcher in Antarctica while she was working. They could see penguins in their natural habitat and ask the researcher questions. Through these calls, students are able to make "true, meaningful connections to learning," says

See **World**, page 9





Wayne Memorial student volunteers help clean-up Downtown Wayne.

# We need your help

## Volunteer with Wayne Main Street

It is not a stretch to say that volunteers are Wayne Main Street's most precious resource. Each year dedicated volunteers contribute 2,000 hours and add more than \$60,000 in value to our projects and events. We believe that every resident has something to contribute to our work, and we need more residents to step up and be a part of our organization this year. Volunteering with Wayne Main Street is fun, rewarding, and makes a positive impact on our community. Everyone can make a difference in Wayne and if you are reading this article chances are you are already interested in what is happening in your community and may be looking for a way to turn that in-



terest into action. And that is the best part, volunteering with Wayne Main Street is open to all no matter your background, experience, or availability.

### Events, projects, leadership, and office opportunities

Those are the four major areas where we need volunteers to help

out. One of the things that is great about working with Wayne Main Street is the array of projects you can choose from. Whether you are interested in working on an event like Downtown Days, or want to help plan a Clean Up Day, or are interested in working on our mural project, or maybe you are able to assist by making phone calls at our office a couple hours a week, chances are we have a position that suits your interest and schedule.

### Where you go for more information

There are a couple ways you can find out more about how to get involved and keep up with the most

current volunteer opportunities. For an updated list of all our volunteer opportunities you can visit our website at [downtownwayne.org/volunteer](http://downtownwayne.org/volunteer). Or if you want to contact us directly, call our offices at 734.629.6822 and we can talk about upcoming projects and events. Wayne Main Street will also be hosting a Volunteer Open House on Tuesday, February 26th, from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at Wayne City Hall (3355 S. Wayne Road) where we will be talking about volunteer opportunities and answering questions about Wayne Main Street. The event is free to attend and open to the public.

We hope you will consider becoming a Main Street volunteer in 2019!





## WORLD, Continued from page 7

Mr. K. Students have access to gathering front-line info with people who are doing research NOW.

Students were able to name two of the Antarctic penguins themselves- they chose Oreo and Cookie. Graphic design students at the William D. Ford Career Tech Center designed flags as part of their program. The 2nd graders then were able to choose from those designs the one they liked best to use as their classroom flag. That flag was sent to the researcher in Antarctica who then flew it on the continent.

Another favorite Skype call is the Mystery Skype. Students will Skype with another classroom somewhere in the world and try to determine where they are.

Mr. K emphasizes that the level of learning beyond books and google is unbelievable with distance learning. Learning is not about workbooks and worksheets; it is beyond the traditional. Students now want to call places and talk to the experts. "It's what they expect now," he says. "This has become second-hand to how we do things. It's changed the way we

share knowledge and do things."

Student Spenser Parsell says, "My favorite place we have gone so far is Cape Royds, Antarctica. I would like to go to space in the future. Learning this way is cool because we get to go anywhere in the world by a screen and on our seats."

Student Maddox Yun wants to Skype Japan. "The person that started jiu jitsu originated there."

As a sign in Mr. Kozaczynski's classroom reads "Teachers put the stars within our reach."

## Where in the world have the students been this year?

### North America

Boise, Idaho-Students saw researchers at the Intermountain Bird Observatory Lucky Peak Research Station capture and band a Sharp-Skinned Hawk. Researchers are tracking raptor movements and health.

San Diego, California-Students met with Lillygol Sedaghat to learn about Taiwanese recycling programs. They learned that students in Tai-

wan sort all materials every day for recycling.

Bayside, Wisconsin-Students met with Lindsay Obermeier to learn about raptors and their characteristics at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center.

San Diego, California- Elizabeth Forbes, who studied in Kenya, shared what happens to an environment when large animals are affected.

Bellevue, Nebraska - Students played Mystery Skype with a 5th grade classroom. The other classroom guessed they were in Michigan after six questions, while Mr. K's class guessed Nebraska after 7 questions.

### Asia

Bali, Indonesia-Students met with Eli Germanov to learn about whale sharks and manta rays and how they are being affected by plastics in the ocean.

Kolkata, India-Explorer Paul Salopek is a writer and journalist who is currently walking across the world for a decade-long storytelling project called the Out of Eden Walk. Paul has earned most of America's top print media awards, including Pulitzers for his reporting on human genetics and the civil war in Congo. He is 5 years into his journey.

### Australia

Tasmania, Australia-Students visited with Jennifer Lavers to learn about microplastics and how they have impacted Henderson and Lord Howe Islands.

### Africa

Sterkfontein Caves, Africa-Paleo-anthropologist Lee Berger shared about the recent skeleton find in this cave system. In 2013, Lee and his



Ryan asks Mystery Skype guests a question to see if the class can discover where the other classroom is

team discovered more than a thousand fossil elements belonging to Homo naledi, a previously unknown early human relative in the Rising Star cave system in South Africa. They have since discovered many more fossils of this new species including a nearly complete skeleton.

### Europe

University of Bristol, United Kingdom- Patrick Kennedy shared his knowledge of wasps that he has learned while studying them in Central and South America. He was able to tag them with radio transmitters!


### Antarctica

Cape Royds, Antarctica-Students met with Jean Pennycook to learn more about Adelie penguins.

The only continent missing from the class's "travels" at this time is South America.

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# Solving a black history mystery

By Carolyn Marnon

If you have ever visited Glenwood Cemetery in Wayne, you might have noticed a rather large gravestone and plot of the Simons family. This impressive gravestone caught the eye of Wayne resident and former Wayne Historical Society president Ann Zimmerman when the group did a cemetery walk for the community several years ago.

Ann wondered who the Simons family was to have such a prominent grave marker. She set out to research James Simons. In her search, she uncovered data from different sources that indicated James could have been an African American, a Native American, a mulatto.

James lived 1829-1924. He made his home in the area that is now the Birch Hill Golf subdivision in Westland, by the current Westland Municipal Golf Course.

Born in 1829 in Kent County, Delaware to Benjamin Sammons, Sr and Sarah (Miller) Sammons, he went on to spend his boyhood years



James Simons

in Pennsylvania. At age 23, he married Susan Keys (Grimace is the name used in his obituary). They moved to Michigan and settled on a farm that is now the Birch Hill Gold

subdivision in Westland. After 14 years of marriage, Susan died, leaving James with a family of small children. When James died, his obituary listed his children as Miss Prudy and Ben Simons of Wayne and Mrs. Margaret Norwood of Cherry Hill. It is unknown how his name came to be James Simons from Sammons.

James's obituary headline read "Wayne Pioneer Dies Suddenly." He was 95 in 1924 when he died at his home on Dewey Avenue after an attack of paralysis lasting 3 days.

Ann's research of the family led her to a website that listed James as being in the Colored Troops during the Civil War. She has since been in touch with the Sons of the Civil War group in Dearborn about getting a grave marker or dedication for James to show he was a Civil War veteran. It was recommended to Ann that she try to find any family members that might still live in the area. James had a grandson named Benjamin Simons who graduated from Wayne High School in 1923. Accord-

ing to Findagrave.com, Benjamin received a Bachelor's degree from Detroit Institute of Technology and received his juris doctorate from Detroit College of Law. He married Lucy Cahoon. He was in law and real estate before dying at his home in Dundee in 1979.

Findagrave.com indicates James Simons was a Civil War veteran of Company B, 1st Colored Infantry, Michigan. This was later redesignated to 102nd Regiment United States Colored Troops. USCT was an African-American infantry unit of the Union Army during the American Civil War.

The search is now on to find a family member descendent of James Simons who can help obtain the Civil War marker for the gravesite. If you happen to have information that can help solve this genealogical mystery, please contact Ann Zimmerman at the Wayne Historical Museum. She can be reached at waynehistoricalscociety@gmail.com or call the museum (734) 722-0113.

## OBITUARIES

Harold Rediske Jr. Retired

owner/director of Uht Funeral Home, Westland passed away on January 16, 2019. Harold was a Wayne Memorial High School

graduate and was very active in the community through the years. He had served in many functions for the City of Wayne, the last being on the



Planning Commission. Harold belonged to many clubs and organizations including the Wayne Rotary Club, the Wayne Masonic Lodge, and Michigan Funeral Directors Association where he had just been recognized for 50-years as a licensed funeral director.

Harold is survived by his wife, Claudia Rediske, son, Harold "Howie" (Gayle) Rediske II, daughter Heidi Rediske, and granddaughter, Mackenzie Rediske.

Visitation was held Thursday, January 17th, 2019 from 2-9pm at Uht Funeral Home. A funeral mass was held at St. Mary Catholic Church, of Wayne Friday at 11am. Burial took place at Glenwood Cemetery, Wayne, Michigan.

Family requests donation to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Rd, Livonia, MI 48154 or John Bolde Food Depot at St. Mary Catholic Church, 34530 W Michigan Ave, Wayne, MI 48184.

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# Celebrating love and romance in Wayne

By Carolyn Marnon

Love is in the air this month as we celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14. February is also Creative Romance Month. Where can you find romance or creative gift ideas in Wayne? Here are a few possibilities shared recently by community members.

Leo's Jewelry and Gifts, 34900 W Michigan Ave, has been selling modern designs and classic pieces since 1956. For the person who wants to pop the perennial question of love, Leo's is sure to have an engagement ring to suit your style. Perhaps a Pandora charm bracelet for your loved one along with a special bead (or beads) to commemorate a special time or event. Besides jewelry, Leo's has a wide selection of Vera Bradley handbags and accessories.

Helium Studio, 3127 S Wayne Rd, is "Your HEARTquarters" in downtown Wayne. They have an amazing array of handmade gift items. You can find jewelry, special soaps, candles and so much more. Wayne Councilman Phillip Wagner says, "Helium Studio always has wonderful smelling soaps. My wife and I get these for each other a lot." Helium Studio also has Open Craft Fridays from Noon-5:00 p.m. where you can come in and make a reasonably priced craft or two of your own. This could be a special date night outing for two. Make sure you visit Helium Studio's facebook page to see when they are hosting the next event.

Amy Iatzko's husband, Sean, plays at Benders, 34830 W Michigan Ave, on Thursday nights. She says "It's always nice to go have a couple of cocktails and relax while listening to acoustic guitar." Benders also fea-



The Wayne Dairy Queen will be open just in time for Valentine's Day. DQ will be featuring a Ghirardelli Chocolate and Strawberry Cupid Cake for only \$9.99!

tures Karaoke Night on Fridays starting at 9:00 p.m. Who wouldn't love to hear a love song dedicated to them by their loved one? This could be especially memorable if you are not generally fond of singing, but you do it because you love someone.

Karma Coffee and Kitchen, 35634 West Michigan Ave, will be having a Valentine's Day dinner on February 14. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with dinner service beginning around 7:00 p.m. The theme is "Love Bites" and owners David and Jennifer Romero will be serving small plates and paella along with dessert. Stop by or call to make reservations before they fill up.

Spend Valentine's Day with a spe-

cial sit-down meal at White Castle, 32925 Michigan Ave. This annual event helps you slow down and spend time with your loved one while being waited on at a table for two (or more). It's a creative dining experience you might wish to try because you won't find it at White Castle on any other day.

You can reserve a table through White Castle's website.

Get out of the cold and enjoy heated seats at the State Wayne Theatre, 35310 Michigan Ave. Get cozy in the reclining seats, perhaps bring a blanket to snuggle under, and be transported to another world for the afternoon or evening. You can also enter the Phoenix Theatres' "Valen-

tine's Weekend" sweepstakes. Five grand prize winners will receive a pair of complimentary movie passes. Visit the theatre February 14-17, take a selfie with your Valentine(s) at the theatre, post it to any of Phoenix Theatres' social media sites and include the tag "#ValentinesDate!" After the movie, perhaps you head across the street to The Avenue American Bistro for a nightcap or Pizza Hut for a late-night snack.

For the children you love, you can take them to make a Valentine craft on Tuesday, February 12, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at the Wayne Public Library. Kids can make a heart made of yarn (and love) that they can then keep or give to someone special. There will also be treats and music to enjoy. The program is recommended for children over 6, and caregivers are encouraged to remain with their children. Register by calling (734) 721-7832 ext. 632.

If you are a pizza-lover, you can usually find a pizza place that makes heart-shaped pizzas on Valentine's Day. If the place doesn't make heart-shaped pizzas, perhaps they will place the toppings in a heart-shape for you.

Dairy Queen, 3007 S Wayne Rd, will be open just in time for Valentine's Day. DQ will be featuring a Ghirardelli Chocolate and Strawberry Cupid Cake for only \$9.99! Perfect for two lovers to share. Chocolate lovers, that is!

And if you don't have a special someone at this time, make yourself your special someone. Do something just for you. Buy something just for you. Eat something just for you. Go somewhere just for you. You deserve it!



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