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Dispatch**
SEPTEMBER 2020



Growing the Family Business

Local Business Owner Opens First Recreational Dispensary in Wayne

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Local family plants another business in Wayne

By Carolyn Marnon

Prior to the 20th century, cannabis was found in pharmacies to relieve migraines and various pain conditions. Many online resources state that problems with cannabis started in the early 1900s when the US had an influx of Mexican immigrants. These immigrants brought with them their culture and customs, one of which was smoking marihuana. Law enforcement officials in Texas thought marihuana incited violent crime in users and that the immigrants were distributing it to American schoolchildren. By 1931, at least 29 states had outlawed the Jekyll and Hyde drug. The American Medical Association is said to have objected to the illegalization because of the plant's medicinal benefits.

Michigan's Finest, located at 39112 Van Born Rd in Wayne, is the first cannabis company I have ever been to. I was to meet the owner, Scott Gocaj, a longtime Wayne businessman whose family has overseen the US 12 Bar and Grill for decades, to tour his brand-new business. Located off a gravel road alongside Van Born, there were plenty of signs along the road to guide me in.

As I pulled into the parking lot, I was greeted by Rico, a uniformed security professional. He asked the reason for my visit and then directed me to a designated parking spot. There is one area for medical marihuana customers and one for recreational customers. The one-story grey building is well-maintained amidst the undeveloped land that surrounds the business. Scott's arrival was delayed, but Doug Rose, Director of Operations, and Hanna Gocaj, Vice President, came out to welcome me and invited me inside.

As I stepped inside the door, I was immediately drawn to the large TV and the fireplace in the lobby. Employees dressed in matching MF t-shirts and black pants were engaged in various activities-folding t-shirts, filling orders, handling payments and staying busy. All were wearing masks to protect each other from COVID-19.

Doug showed me the office where Ashley was waiting for orders to come up on an iPad nearby. Once an order comes in, she will make sure a Cannabis Consultant gets the



Scott Gocaj, with his daughter Hanna and wife Rachel are proud to receive the first Recreational marihuana license in the City of Wayne.

order and fills it for pick-up. Because of COVID-19, all business is conducted online or with a consultant armed with an iPad at the customer's car window. The Cannabis Consultants are all "tried and true experts" in cannabis products and can help customers make selections to fit their needs.

There are several monitors throughout the building that display what is going on in various areas of the business, one of the safety features throughout the facility. Every time the front door opens, there's a loud bell that keeps everyone aware of comings and goings.

When we walked into the retail sales room, my first thought was "This is an adult candy store!" Packages were neatly hung on the walls with space between each item so you could easily make out what you were looking at. Doug explained that one wall and glass cabinet held all the medical cannabis products while the other wall, not nearly as large, held the recreational products.

I wondered out loud why the medical and the recreational had to be separated. If both were now legal in Michigan, what difference did that make? Apparently, it makes a lot of difference. Customers who use marihuana medically can save money, but there is also more state regulation over it. Doug says the business has to obtain more information from these customers than they do from the recreational users. Because of state regulation, medical products cannot be bagged with recreational; they have to be kept separated.

I asked what an average buy would be. I was told it really depended on the type of customer. There are those who purchase for daily use. There are those who purchase based on a certain budgeted amount. There are senior citizens suffering from chronic pain who may place an order once a week for enough to get them through the week. There is more consistency to purchasing on the medical side.

I was amazed at the variety of

products available. As I browsed over the recreational side of the room, I was seeing products like crispy rice squares, brownies, chocolate chip cookies, caramels, mints, gummies. All items were in sealed packages. There were several rows of clear jars containing what looked to the untrained eye like dried up clover flowers. These were referred to as flowers, or buds. My eyes landed on a jar marked Stuffed French Toast. The flowers are the #1 seller.

Did you know you can buy peanut butter and butter infused with cannabis? A small jar of either retails for \$16.

Like alcohol consumption, the tolerance level for each individual is different. For a first timer, it is recommended that one start with a light potency flower or perhaps a gummy. Cut the gummy into quarters and start with just one quarter. You can then add another quarter as your tolerance level builds up.

Evelyn, one of the Cannabis Consultants, informed me that edibles were dangerous for a first timer. It can take 45 minutes or longer for the cannabis to activate in one's system and if you're not feeling anything, you might consume more. She likened it to pharmaceutical drugs that have time-lapse properties. The worse that would happen in the case of ingesting too much marihuana, she laughed, was that you would become a couch potato and get lots of rest. The flower, on the other hand, tends to provide a psychoactive reaction in 10-15 minutes.

I was told about a gentleman in his late 70s who stopped eating due to kidney failure. He was given edibles which activated his appetite to eat again. "It helps different people with different ailments in this world," said Scott.

The process Scott and Doug have set up at MF is very simple. Doug is proud they were able to copy other smart businesspeople and make those ideas work for Michigan's Finest. Doug likened it to the processes that Amazon uses to move its products. MF has been open since July 10 selling medical marihuana only. It is the first licensed

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The “road of the future” coming to Wayne

By Carolyn Marnon

The majority of motor vehicle crashes involve human inattention or error according to the NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.) The road of the future could change those statistics.

On August 13, Trevor Pawl, Chief Mobility Officer of the State of Michigan's new Office of Future Mobility and Electrification, announced along with other federal, state and local partners, that SE Michigan regional transportation is going to be transformed. Michigan is doing something that has never been done that will change the world-creating the road of the future. “Today,” he said, “we begin building the road of the future: a self-driving vehicle corridor between Detroit and Ann Arbor.”

The proposed corridor will improve access to transportation for those who have had trouble accessing it in the past. Pawl proclaimed that Michigan will be an early leader in a new way of transport, one that has a smarter and safer infrastructure for the next generation.

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer said that in 2019, Michigan had record-breaking investments in next generation automotive, advanced manufacturing and cutting-edge technology. Michigan will close transportation gaps with the ambitious project of building the “world's most sophisticated roadway.”

“With opportunity also comes responsibility to advance our State's technology and automotive landscape in a way that also has the potential to improve the quality of life for countless individuals in our State that includes our workforce, small business owners and residents in communities all along the corridor,” said Gov. Whitmer.

Two years ago, Ford Motor Company Chairman Bill Ford stood outside Michigan Central Station and announced its purchase with the intention of restoring it and making it a hub of mobility for Corktown and Detroit. He wanted to make transportation more convenient and help restore a Detroit icon to beyond its former glory.

“When I announced the purchase of Michigan Central Station, I laid out a vision for a mobility corridor that would span from Detroit to Ann Arbor,” Ford said. “And my vision



A Cavnu concept rendering of the new Michigan Connected Corridor vehicles. Photo Courtesy of Cavnu

was that this corridor could serve as a proving ground where Ford and partners could design, test and innovate on services and solutions that would connect communities and provide affordable and equitable transportation.” The vision is to build for the world we are moving into.

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan commented, “Today is a day that I think nobody would have predicted five years ago.” People thought the expertise was in Silicon Valley and Northern California. He said that Waymo is installing self-driving systems in vehicles at a Detroit plant nearby. According to Duggan, Michigan Avenue has the width needed to provide this futuristic transportation corridor.

Ford is investing \$750 million and 5000 people into Michigan Central Station to design and engineer the vehicles of the future. Now, there is a need for a place to test those vehicles.

No longer will the road of the future be considered science fiction. It will be coming said Jonathan Winer, co-founder and co-CEO of SIP (Sidewalks Infrastructure Partners.) He and his partners have formed Cavnu, the company that will work with MDOT and other stakeholders to implement this project. The interstate system, launched in 1956, changed how people across the US connected with each other through a high-speed, high-capacity system without stoplights and with exits spaced at least a mile apart. The CAV-C (Connected and Autonomous Vehicle Corridor) is the next major transportation infrastructure move to the future.

The project is expected to begin with connected buses and shared mobility vehicles such as vans and shuttles, later expanding to additional types of CAVs like freight and

personal vehicles. Connecting Detroit to Ann Arbor with communities along Michigan Avenue and Interstate 94 that link to destinations like University of Michigan, Detroit Metropolitan Airport and Michigan Central Station is the vision.

Phase One of the CAV-C project will focus on testing technology and roadway design and exploring different viable financing models to determine the feasibility of the project. This phase is expected to last 24 months, with construction and implementation part of future phases.

During the feasibility analysis in Phase One, work will focus on technology testing and roadway design, and exploring different financing models with an aim toward determining project viability from both a technology and business perspective. Subsequent construction and implementation would be part of future phases of the project, to be determined following the initial 24-month period.

According to a Fact Sheet produced by Cavnu, “While billions have been invested into developing on-vehicle technologies - including advanced driver assistance systems (“ADAS”) and fully autonomous driving solutions - a small fraction has been spent on developing infrastructure to support and enhance advanced roads. Cavnu is developing and integrating technologies that will power the world's most technologically connected roads. Cavnu's approach is centered around creating a digital model of a roadway that analyzes and optimizes road conditions in real-time, shares information, and provides proactive guidance to vehicles and drivers. This supports enhanced safety, efficiency, and road operating environments.”

Moving forward, Cavnu will

work with MDOT to establish five Working Groups to strategically address key dimensions of the project. Once established, those groups are expected to deliver a set of goals within six months.

The City of Wayne and its residents would most likely be interested in the Routes, Community Engagement, and Economic Development Working Groups since Wayne will be along the futuristic corridor.

The six-month deliverables of this group include:

- Finalize a set of key points of interest and route options.
- Develop a process for community engagement with residents along and affected by the Project, including evaluating the need to engage an advisor or firm with a track record of success in Michigan community engagement.
- Provide an initial analysis of critical factors on potential routes, including traffic patterns, demographics, physical characteristics, utility and contamination surveys, redevelopment, and land assemblage activities.
- Identify key economic development objectives and opportunities.

12-Month deliverables include:

- Begin an ongoing community and public engagement process to garner feedback and align on support by stakeholders.
- Based on engagement with stakeholders, identify key opportunities for encouraging economic development.

24-Month deliverables:

- Complete Phase 1 community engagement, supporting alignment with residents along and affected by the Project.
- Complete analysis of economic development opportunities.
- Finalize a route and phasing proposal for the Project, drawing on civil engineering, environmental, and other key analyses.

Intelligent vehicles are here. Autonomous vehicles are coming. Michigan is getting ready.

“This is great news to have Ford Motor Company and Google working together to create the road of the future and to have Wayne be in the middle of it all,” said Wayne Mayor John Rhaesa.

New library program provides homework help

By Carolyn Marnon

No one knew as we rang in the new decade at midnight on January 1 the incredible upheaval that would enter our lives just three months later. COVID-19 changed the way our students would study and learn during a crazy and unknown time.

Now it is 6 months after schools closed their doors. The 2020/21 school year is upon us. How can we help our students strive and succeed in this new world of on-line learning and remote school?

The Wayne Public Library recently announced that it is offering Tutor.com, a program that provides homework help, test preparation and writing assistance. Best of all, it is free to access for anyone with a Wayne library card!

According to the Tutor.com website, "Our mission is to help every learner first realize and then reach their full potential." The one-on-one learning solutions come via Tutor.com professionals who have been rigorously tested and vetted. Each tutor has a demonstrated ex-



The Wayne Public Library is offering Tutor.com, a program that provides homework help, test preparation and writing assistance.

pertise in their respective subject matter and has passed a third-party background check. With more than 100,000 prospective tutor applicants each year, an average of only 1.5% of those applicants even qualify as tutors.

Tutor.com provides 24-hour service, 7 days a week. The exceptions are New Years Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

Per the website, "Tutor.com offers expert, on-demand tutoring in more than 200 subjects including core academic areas of math, science, computer literacy, computer science, nursing & allied health, English, writing, social sciences & studies, foreign languages, business, and ACT®, AP®, PSAT®, SAT®, GED®, HiSET®, TASC®, and U.S. citizenship test preparation areas."

Because of the pandemic, more people are using e-resources through the library. The library has been allocating more of its budget this year to digital content. "I think Tutor.com will be a valuable resource," says Wayne Library Director Jody Wolak, "because of the one-on-one interaction that learners have with tutors. Having real-time, two-way communication can be such a benefit when trying to understand new concepts. I also really like the variety of subjects that Tutor.com offers help with. They have tutors for the traditional subjects that you'd expect in primary and secondary school (Math, Science, English, etc.)

but they also offer a lot of resources for adults, like help with resume writing and interview preparation."

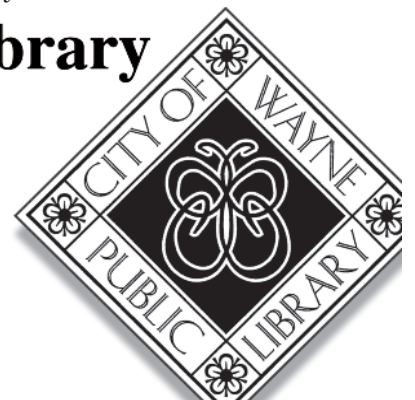
Tutor.com was started back in 1998 when a small group of education and tech professionals had the idea to use the internet to connect students with tutors who were available anytime, anywhere. They created one of the first online, interactive classrooms.

To sign up, students can visit the Wayne Public Library website at wayne.lib.mi.us. Students will need a Wayne Public Library card number and PIN. Jody says "Normally children would have to come to the library with their parents to get a library card, but during the pandemic we have started offering temporary digital cards so Wayne residents can access our digital resources from home. To apply for a digital card, you can go through the link on our website or go directly to <https://melstage.tln.lib.mi.us/Registration/wayn/pReg.html>. If people have any trouble signing up, they can contact the library via email (help@wayne.lib.mi.us) or phone (734-721-7832) and we'll be happy to help them get started!"

"You do need to reside in the City of Wayne and have a Wayne Public Library card in order to access Tutor.com through the Wayne Public Library," Jody continues. "For those people who are interested in Tutor.com but who don't live in the City of Wayne, I'd encourage them to check with their home library to see what resources that library offers." Because Tutor.com charges libraries based on their legal service area, the Wayne library can only offer the program to residents of the City of Wayne.

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NEWS BRIEFS

The former BJ's Kitchen on Wayne Rd has a new owner and is undergoing renovations. We will keep you updated as more information becomes available.

The Westland Planning Commission recently approved the plan to split the 16-acre Eloise property into five separate parcels. The redeveloped property could include a hotel and event space.

Congratulations to Lt. Andrew McKay who retired from the Wayne Police Department after 23 years of service. Lt. McKay has served Wayne as Police Lieutenant, Firearms Instructor, Taser Instructor, Evidence Technician, Accreditation Manager, and many other duties. Lt. McKay is well known for his commitment to service, his family, and his fellow officers. Prior to serving at the Wayne Police Department, Lt. McKay worked at the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, and served in the United States Marine Corps.



Congratulations to Tyler Xuereb, winner of the 2020 Wayne Police Department Scholarship. Tyler recently graduated from Wayne Memorial High School and will be pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University. The Wayne Police Department Scholarship was started by Carolyn Strutz, widow of beloved police department maintenance man, Sam Strutz. The scholarship is designated for Wayne Memorial High School students pursuing higher education in the criminal justice field. The scholarship is entirely funded by donations. Tyler received \$1,000 toward his studies at Michigan State University.

Grewal Trucking was given approval by the Wayne City Council to utilize vacant land along Annapolis as a truck terminal. The company is planning to pave the vacant land to use for truck parking. They also plan to build a 400 sq. ft. building on the site. Some time in the future, a 6400 sq. ft building will also be constructed.

Gleaners Community Food Bank is holding free food distributions at Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood St, Garden City. The next date is September 16 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Families and individuals in need of food are encouraged to attend this drive-up distribution which includes 30 pounds of groceries. Items could include milk, fresh fruits, vegetables, lean protein and other shelf-stable items. You will stay in your vehicle; groceries will be placed in your trunk. No appointment is needed. You do not need proof of eligibility or identification to receive food.

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Officer of the Year Michael Bolton with his girl friend Delani Derr and their son Owen.

2019 Wayne Police Officer of the Year

By Carolyn Marnon

Keeping his community and fellow officers safe is the goal Officer Michael Bolton has when he arrives to work at the Wayne Police Department for his shifts. Hired in November 2016, Officer Bolton has recently received the distinguished title of 2019 Police Officer of the Year. He exemplifies the core values of the police department and has a dedicated work ethic.

Currently assigned to Road Patrol, Officer Bolton is also a Field Training Officer. During 2019, he made numerous arrests for serious crimes, including weapons offenses

and home invasions. He is a positive role model with his passion for law enforcement and keeping the community safe.

"I felt it was an honor and a privilege to be voted Officer of the Year by my peers. I couldn't have done it without my co-workers and command staff," said Officer Bolton.

"We're definitely lucky to have Officer Bolton in our department," said Wayne Police Chief Ryan Strong. "He epitomizes a hardworking officer who cares about keeping the community safe. He's just a really good, hardworking officer, and we're lucky to have him," praised Chief Strong.

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Setting students up for success on first day of school

By Carolyn Marnon

As the first day of school loomed large, parents were busy establishing “classrooms” in their homes for their children. No one could have imagined at the start of 2020 that after taking memorable pictures of their children posing with signs, bought and handmade, declaring age and grade of each child, that the child would then step back inside the house and start school. No walking to school. No running up to friends unseen all summer (or shall we say since schools shut down in March?) No hugging their new teachers.

Wayne resident Alexandria Offer set up desks in her dining room, one for each of her four children. Her youngest school-aged child, Steven, who started Kindergarten, had some problems staying interested after a bit each day on the first few days of school, but Alexandria says that’s due to his intellectual disabilities. Otherwise, everyone did really well. The kids love their specials. “They’re a little bummed about not having face to face interactions with their classmates and teachers,” she said,



Sophia Wittenmyer (3rd grade) and Steven Offer (Kindergarten) work in their dining room classroom. Photo by Alexandria Offer

“but overall they are enjoying their set-ups. I feel like Wayne-Westland really put some time into figuring out these classes. They have all been very easy to navigate and my older ones remember using all of this from last year, so they’re pretty self-suffi-

cient.”

There have been some issues with getting Chromebooks to students who need them. With the high demand for mobile technology across the nation, the supply chain is strained. The school district has not received their latest shipment which has delayed some students from getting started. The school district has assured parents in a letter that went out that assignment due dates will be extended.

Shery McIntyre commented, “I am looking forward to at least some form of school to begin. We purchased a cheap desk and chair so she (her daughter) could at least have a place to study, and she is so excited to be doing some form of school. Her teacher, the school principal, and the school district have kept us informed during this difficult time. This is a new norm for all of us and hopefully we can return to learning the way we are used to.”

“For my high school senior,” said Jason Powers, “he got a gaming computer last Christmas, so he will be using that for his schooling this year.

We had to buy a web camera to hook up to it for class sessions, an additional monitor so that he can use one monitor for the class and the other to type or look up assignments on, and a recording microphone. He is going to be doing a class second semester that he will need this so that he can talk in class sessions.”

Wayne-Westland teacher and parent Michelle Tackett-Braden says, “My daughter gets to spend her time out of her room at a desk in the main hall while her mom (Michelle) has taken over the dining room/office/classroom. It’s going to take a lot of patience in the beginning from everyone while the kinks get worked out.” She went on, “I think once things get rolling and routines are established, we’ll be fine. I know students and parents will feel inundated with tons of emails and posts in Google Classroom. We all need to be as positive in our attitudes as we approach this school year. The kids emulate what we do first.”

Distance Learning throughout the district will last at least through the end of the first quarter October 23.

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Bill paying may have just become more convenient

By Carolyn Marnon

Are you looking for a more convenient way to pay your bills? The answer could be the DivDat kiosk, described by Bob Walter of the DivDat Kiosk Network, as a "reverse ATM." Many Wayne residents have already been using a kiosk located at the Dollar Castle on Ford Rd. Now those residents and others who are being introduced to this bill-paying system will find a more convenient location right here in Wayne.

Installed in the lobby of the Wayne Police Department, you are able to pay any bill that you could do at the City Hall payment window. According to Walters, DTE bills are the most popular to pay at the kiosk.

Paying bills at your convenience in a safe environment is key to DivDat. DivDat kiosks accept cash, credit card or personal check. This payment center is fee free and you will get a "real time" receipt to avoid any shut-off notices. For your security, your payment information is not stored in the kiosk.

According to DivDat.com, Wayne residents will benefit in many ways:

- If English is a second language, the kiosks are multi-lingual:
- Fee "free" - customers preferring cash can pay multiple times in a month without any fees:
- No need to travel to a payment center with limited hours:
- Account look-up capability based on service address or account number:
- Immediate account posting - alternative payment agent payments do not post for 48 hours:



You can now pay your City of Wayne and other popular bills at the Wayne Police Department.

- Immediate receipt - on paper or text or email:
- Shut-off prevention - when a shut-off notice is given, payment time becomes critical. The kiosk, with real-time posting, allows the utility additional flexibility to receive payments:
- Extended hours to making payments:
- More local languages:
- Privacy, dignity:
- Easy to use:
- Placed in safe locations instilling confidence:
- Convenience - kiosks are strategically located in community centers, retail stores, government office service centers:
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WAYNE WESTLAND
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FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Scarecrows are serious business in Wayne

By Carolyn Marnon

Scarecrows are serious business in downtown Wayne during the month of October. Families, organizations and businesses gather their supplies and imaginations and create a gallery of characters to parade up and down Wayne Rd. and Michigan Ave. in the downtown core.

Wayne Main Street sponsors this annual event. There is a voting contest on Facebook, an in-person voting contest and a Judges' Choice Award.

You can register from now until September 21. Call Wayne Main Street at 734-629-6822 to sign up. The cost is \$20 if you need a frame to build your scarecrow on. You will be able to pick up the frame by calling or emailing



WAYNE MAIN STREET PRESENTS

WAYNE Scarecrow Show & Contest

Take part in the fun! Create a scarecrow that will be displayed in Wayne's Downtown Scarecrow Show

SIGN UP TO PARTICIPATE

AUG 24 - SEPT 21

REGISTRATION

\$15*/\$20

DOWNTOWN SCARECROW SHOW

SEPT 26 - NOV 6

downtownwayne.org/scarecrows

facebook.com/waynemainstreet

ahead of time. If you already have a frame from a past year, the cost to sign up is only \$15.

On September 26, you will drop off your finished scarecrow at the Wayne Historical Museum. If you need to drop off early, please call during office hours to make an appointment.

Facebook voting will take place September 28 through October 17.

Wayne Main Street will host their Annual Scarecrow Reception from Noon-3:00 p.m. in Derby's Alley. Participants will be able to cast their vote for the in-person contest. Winners will be announced at 7:00 p.m. Cider and donuts will be served.

Once the Scarecrow Show has ended, you will be able to take down your scarecrow if you would like to keep it and/or the frame. The last day to take down your scarecrow will be November 6. If you don't retrieve your scarecrow, Wayne Main Street volunteers will take it down and disassemble it.

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WARD #2

STAY POSITIVE WAYNE - Vote DOWD November 3rd

NEWS BRIEFS

You're invited to help clean and straighten Shafer Park in Wayne, Michigan on Saturday, September 12, 9:00 a.m. until noon. There will be light weed pulling, raking and picking up of trash. It's a great way to enjoy the outdoors here in Wayne and spend time with neighbors and friends! Long-sleeved shirts, long pants and gloves are recommended. If you have rakes, brooms and other light gardening tools please bring them along.

Peter Pumpkinhead's Workshop is heading to Notre Dame Hall in Wayne on October 3, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Free for kids of all ages, there will be fall and Halloween crafts to make. There will also be candy. The Notre Dame Hall, 3144 S. Wayne Rd will also be offering \$3 Meal Deals!

The Wayne Historical Society has announced a number of programs coming up later this year. Add these to your calendar now and watch this column for further information.

Sept. 10, 7:00 p.m. NorWayne-A Planned Community
Hank Johnson of the NorWayne Citizens Commission will be the guest speaker presenting the history of NorWayne.

Oct. 4, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Annual Cemetery Walk

This year's cemetery walk will be at Westlawn Cemetery and will highlight several local families and fig-

ures. The event is 1:00-3:00 p.m. This is an outdoor walking tour, so please dress appropriately. Donations will be gratefully accepted.

Oct. 8, 7:00 p.m. The History of Eloise

Tyler Moll will present the history of this infamous hospital, poorhouse and asylum at 7:00 p.m. at the Wayne Public Library.

Oct. 17, 4:00 p.m. Witches Brew Tea

A haunted tea party at the Wayne Historical Museum will feature several Wayne characters in a spooky setting. Event is at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$35 may be purchased ahead of time.

Oct. 24, 8:00-11:34 p.m. Ghost Hunt at the Museum

Join the Great Lakes Ghost Hunters as they hunt for paranormal activity in the 140-year-old Wayne Historical Museum. A one-hour spot is \$25.

Nov. 12, 7:00 p.m. Blacksmithing: Bert Green Story

Learn about Bert Green and what life was like as one of Wayne's last blacksmiths. You will also learn how the company continues today.

Dec. 5, 6:00-9:00 p.m. Holiday Night at the Museum

Come out and see Santa, get cookies and hot chocolate, and join in the Christmas cheer as the town Christmas tree is lit.

Wayne's oldest resident turns 110

Winifred Nichols is still Wayne's oldest known resident. The resident of Maple Manor celebrated her 110th birthday on August 18 to much less fanfare than she has been used to.

COVID-19 has caused reduced access to nursing homes, so Winifred's family has not been able to visit her. Her granddaughter, Susan Patterson, said that this is the second pandemic Winifred has lived through. The Spanish Flu of 1918 occurred when Winifred was just a young girl, 8 years old.

Winifred's son, Emery Nichols, said that his mother had the flu "real

bad" back then and that she almost died. He said she still has scars on her lungs from that time. "She went through that when she was 8-years old on the farm."

The family was able to see Winifred on her birthday, but it was from afar. They stood in the gazebo while her doctor wheeled her outside and stayed by her side. She was bundled up and had a mask on, but they couldn't come close.

Maria at Maple Manor calls Emery once a week and puts his mom on the phone. If she's feeling well, Emery says, she might say a few words.

FAMILY, Continued from page 3

marihuana business in Wayne to start selling recreational marihuana August 16, and according to Scott, the only one actively selling. It is also the closest cannabis business to the airport.

The consultants are impressive with their knowledge. I was even more impressed by their educations. Liam is finishing his Masters degree in Accounting at Michigan State. Hanna just graduated with a Bachelors degree in Communications from MSU. Doug is also finishing a Masters degree in Business. "We're not a bunch of potheads," he asserts. There are weekly business meetings in finance and marketing. The number one focus is on customer experience.

Safety and security are also top concerns. The building is reinforced. There is 24-hour armed security licensed, bonded and insured by the State of Michigan.

Scott said the City of Wayne determines the hours MF can be open. Currently, it's open Monday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sundays Noon to 8:00 p.m. With fast, efficient and friendly service, you can have the products that will meet your needs quickly. As the business grows, Scott assures me "I'm going to spoil my team." Mention is playfully made of Italy where employees have 2-hour lunches and paid vacations.

The State tracks everything, so Scott says the business has to be accountable for all their product. The State can do unannounced visits twice a year. They can look at anything, he says "because we have nothing to hide!" He doesn't have as many options available of recreational marihuana as he does medical, but he



Hanna Gocaj, Vice President, waits on a customer curbside.

says they are building the inventory.

Hanna, Scott's daughter, worked at a cannabis dispensary in Lansing. She's an advocate for the medical marihuana community as she saw how it helped people with cancers or who suffered from pain-related injuries. She feels blessed that she is able to work with her father in the family business. "The cannabis industry has evolved a lot," she said.

Scott has stepped away from US 12 Bar and Grill in Wayne, the business his parents started decades ago and which is now being run by his brother, John Goci, who also maintains a real estate business. Scott is making MF his main focus and working hard to grow his own family business.

MF has a program called Bud Genius. You can book an appointment online with a Bud Genius and learn more about marihuana and the various products. Scott and his team are eager to educate anyone who wants to learn more. He wants to eradicate the stigma that marihuana has and knowledge is key to that.

"Our mission is to ensure our patients have the finest cannabis experience by combining top grade products with our friendly and knowledgeable team members."

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High school sweethearts give back to community

By Carolyn Marnon

Giving back has always been high on their list of priorities, so when Murray and Bernice Millar both died, several organizations in Wayne were the recipients of the Millar's trust fund.

Murray and Bernice (nee' Greenawalt) Millar were longtime residents of Wayne. They met while attending Wayne High School, became high school sweethearts and graduated in 1946. After marrying in 1949, they became involved in various community organizations. The couple lived on Elm Street for over 30 years.

Murray began practicing law in the late 1950s. He co-founded the firm Millar, Weinberg, Necker and Johnson with Richard Weinberg. The firm anchored the legal community in the western Detroit suburbs. He retired from the law practice in 1990.

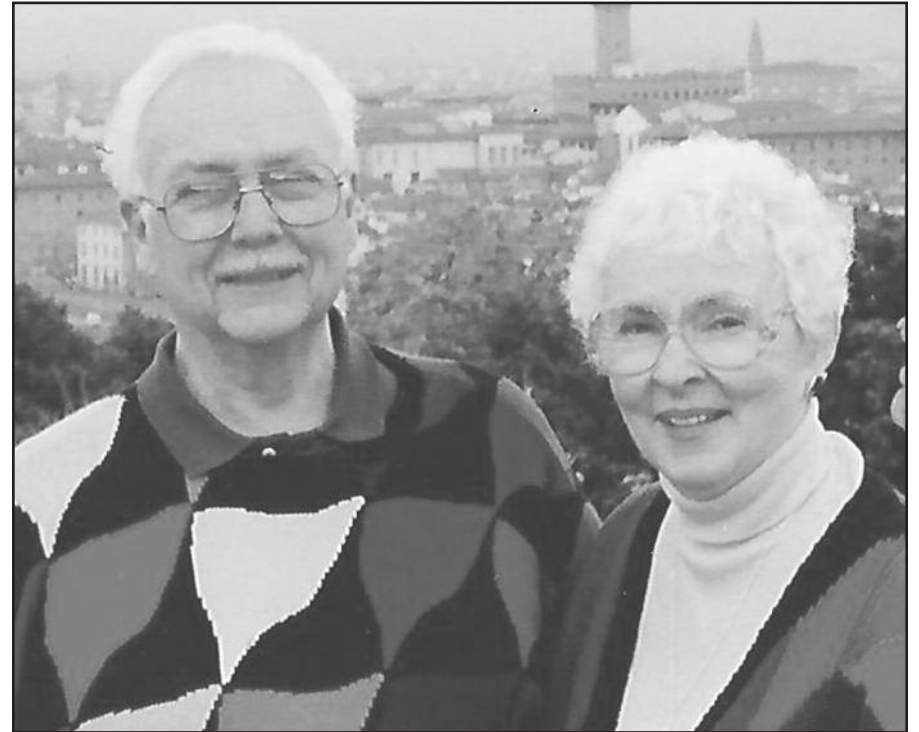
Murray served for many years on the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and was a member of the Wayne 100, a charitable organization that makes annual contributions to needy individuals and groups. Bernice was active with the Wayne Planning Commission and the Wayne



High school sweethearts Murray and Bernice (nee' Greenawalt) Millar were longtime residents of Wayne who met while attending Wayne High School.

Garden Club. Both were part of the Wayne Couples Club. Both loved to fly and were pilots. It is thought they transferred bodies for Uht Funeral Home by air, when needed.

The Wayne Rotary has received



the most substantial donation from the Bernice and Murray Millar Trust. Murray had been a member of the Wayne Rotary since 1960. He was a past-President and a Paul Harris Fellow. He loved attending the Rotary lunches and cherished his relationships with other Rotarians. He was also active in the Wayne Christmas Parade and chicken barbeques sponsored by the Rotary.

The Millars never had children of their own. They were, however, blessed with nieces and nephews who were also beneficiaries of the trust fund. Both left half their estates to Wayne charities.

The Wayne Historical Society, the Wayne Public Library and the Wayne

High Schools Alumni Association have also recently received generous donations from the trust fund. At this time, only Murray Millar's estate has been finalized. Murray died in 2011. Bernice died December 2019; her estate has not yet been completed. More donations are expected after it has been settled.

Murray and Bernice "were very prominent people around the community and loved Wayne," said attorney Ron Ruark, who is handling their estate. "They were enthusiastic about leaving a large part of their estate to Wayne...They will be thrilled to know how the city will use the money and make the city even better for the citizens."




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Student helping students

By Carolyn Marnon

"Shaping the community's smallest hands to do great things" has been the driving force for Wayne Memorial High School senior Brooke Johnson. Brooke started Community Circle as a force for change after she attended the Civitan Youth Leadership and Diversity Conference in Indiana in the summer of 2019. She came home and began collecting for her first project-school supplies for the upper and lower elementary school teachers in the Wayne Westland district.

Brooke was busy this summer rounding up donations for her latest back-to-school project. Supplies included pencils, crayons, markers, scissors, glue sticks, highlighters, rulers and pencil boxes. This year, she has donated the stuffed backpacks to the Family Resource Center where the bags will then be distributed to students in need. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was unknown what the new school year would look like. If teachers were not at school directly interacting with their students, they might not be

aware of what supplies a student has access to.

"My inspiration for doing this project again was so I could continue helping the community as much as I possibly can. I love creating a change and helping others. This is just one way I can help," wrote Brooke in an email.

Brooke had the support of the community. The Amazon wish list she created brought a steady flow of needed supplies throughout her campaign. "I think it was because people felt safer shopping online, rather than going out to do their shopping themselves," said Brooke. "We were also blessed with donors who sent money to sponsor a student. When they sponsored a student, I did the shopping for the supplies for that student's bag." Brooke requested \$15 donations to sponsor a filled backpack on a GoFundMe page for Community Circle.

Brooke was able to deliver 210 backpacks filled with school supplies to the Family Resource Center. In addition, Brooke says "We were able to bring bags to students in



Wayne Memorial High School senior Brooke Johnson spent her summer rounding up donations for her latest back-to-school project.

need within the community if they messaged/commented to me on Facebook."

"My biggest challenge this year," she continues, "was the negative comments that I received towards the beginning of the campaign. It knocked my spirits down when it happened, but I got back up and used it as a learning tool."

Brooke is looking forward to Summer 2021 when she will do her 3rd annual school supplies drive before heading off to college. She'd like to attend Eastern Michigan University. "My goal would be to study Business Management in hopes to expand my knowledge in Non-Profits so I can grow Community Circle to be its own legal non-profit so we can reach more students and families in need in the years to come. I am always thinking of ways I can give back to the community, so if the need arises, I could be doing something before next year. Stay tuned."

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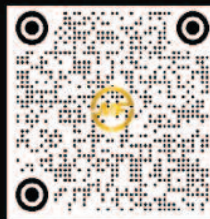


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