

THE WAYNE Dispatch

DECEMBER 2020



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SCOTT GOCAJ'S TOYS FOR TOTS Event

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Councilman combats cancer during covid

By Carolyn Marnon

He started feeling bad on March 24, the day Michigan implemented the stay-at-home order for all residents due to the coronavirus. It wasn't until two weeks later that Wayne City Councilman Tom Porter was able to "see" his primary physician via a video appointment. He didn't have any of the symptoms associated with COVID-19, the virus that was sweeping the country and the world and the reason for the state lockdown. The doctor prescribed antibiotics. Not yet returning to health, Porter had another video appointment with his doctor and was referred to a rheumatologist with whom he had yet another video appointment. That doctor prescribed him steroids because Tom's feet began to swell up. By May 6, about a month and a half after falling ill, Porter had lost 15 pounds and still had not been examined by a physician in person.

Tom says he was lethargic and so tired he could barely walk. Because of COVID, doctors weren't seeing people in person. On May 7, Tom went to the Emergency Room to see a flesh and blood doctor in person. He was advised to go see a different rheumatologist. His primary doctor sent him on May 8 to get a CT scan and an x-ray. The scan and x-ray didn't indicate any problems. A few days later, May 11, with prescription in hand to get a COVID test, he was denied the testing because he didn't have a fever. On May 12, he was able to get tested at another facility; the test was negative.

"It was very emotional for me," Tom recalls. "I didn't know where I was at. I didn't know what was wrong with me. How was I going to get diagnosed?" He began reading "Dr. Google" like many tend to do when trying to figure something out. He says his research led him to believe he had cancer, but no one had yet diagnosed him with it.

Aggravation was coursing through Tom's veins. His feet were swollen. His lymph glands were swollen. The guessing had to stop. "I need someone to diagnose me," Tom pleaded. An infectious disease doctor physically examined him, told him he had nodules and swollen lymph glands and sent him for an-



Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Porter was sworn in at his home by City Clerk Tina Stanke.

other CT scan (13 days after the first one). The results came back on May 26. "Not good at all," said Tom. Two days later he was seeing an oncologist who referred him to a surgeon who did a biopsy on his neck on June 8. It had now been two months, and Tom was still waiting for a diagnosis.

June 17. Two months and 24 days after falling ill, Tom finally had a diagnosis, albeit not a good one. He had non-Hodgkin's lymphoma large B cell stage 4, a cancer that originates in the lymphatic system -- the disease-fighting system that spreads throughout the body. He had cancer in his liver and both lungs.

Frustration. It should have taken a month at the most, Tom says, to diagnose. Certainly not 89 days! The terrible delay because of COVID had him depressed. "I thought they wanted to kill all us old people!" Tom credits the infectious disease doctor who made the diagnosis possible.

A bone marrow biopsy soon followed. It was negative. A PET scan ensued which uses a dye that highlights different cancer points in the body, according to Tom. His abdomen, chest and neck were checked to see where the cancer was located and how bad it was. There were a lot of tests being done.

And then another bombshell. A heart issue was discovered. His

heart was only putting out 32% blood volume when the minimum that should be pumping through is 55%. Doctors want to see 75%. Medication is now regulating Tom's heart until he is done with chemotherapy. Cancer eradication is the first priority. Once it's in remission, a stent will be put in to address the heart issue.

A port was installed with a small incision in Tom's chest to start chemotherapy. He says there is a plastic hose that goes into a blood vessel. The port will stay in until he is done. It gets flushed out every now and then to keep it clean and clear. This method is preferred over trying to stick needles in him every visit.

The first "primary" chemo treatment, he got there at 8:00 a.m. His blood was drawn and then it took an hour for everyone to look at the results, get him pre-meds and Tylenol and feed him 4-5 bags of differing lengths. By 3:30 p.m. Tom was tired of sitting.

The next "secondary" treatment a week later wasn't so bad. He was asked if he minded getting a shot instead of a 2-hour chemo bag. It took just six minutes for the chemo to be pushed into his belly fat with the shot. He has had some fever issues that, in his opinion, he thinks are triggered by the chemo.

What does Tom do while he undergoes chemo? He takes his iPad and his phone with him. He does re-

search. During a recent treatment, he wrote emails to Senator Dayna Polehanki and Representative Kevin Coleman about a bill being considered that would allow a councilperson to remotely attend an in-person meeting if they have a critical illness and their health would be undermined by being there in person. He asked them to please consider voting for it. At other times, he says he has reclined and dozed off. "Sometimes, I just sit there and daydream."

The community has rallied around Tom in his time of need. "I'm a very strange person sometimes. I don't like people doing things for me." He might not like people doing things for him, but people like doing things for Tom. A friend brought him apple cider and donuts after a visit to a cider mill just because that friend thought Tom would enjoy it. The Wayne Police Department sent him a card which all the officers had signed. His daughter-in-law does all the grocery shopping for him and his wife, Bonnie. He was gifted with a 14-day subscription to Mom's Meals, fully-prepared refrigerated meals. His neighbors will stop and talk to him if they see him in the yard and ask how he is doing. He's received numerous cards and letters. He's had other offers of rides and meals. "It's overwhelming to me. There's all kinds of great people in this city and everywhere that are offering me almost anything."

What's in the future for Tom, a beloved member of the city council for his candor, willingness to listen and to research difficult topics? "I want everybody to understand I love this city, and I love the people in it, and I want people to understand what I am doing and why I am doing it," Tom says about his recent run for city council on the November ballot. He said before the election, "Since I'm unopposed, I'm probably going to be re-elected. I'll go with the flow." Tom was re-elected and the council voted to keep him as Mayor Pro Tem. Tom admits he can resign the position if he needs to, such as if he is not in remission and can't attend meetings if they return to in-person meetings at City Hall. April 26 was the last day he could pull his

See **Porter**, page 12

Reaching for a star

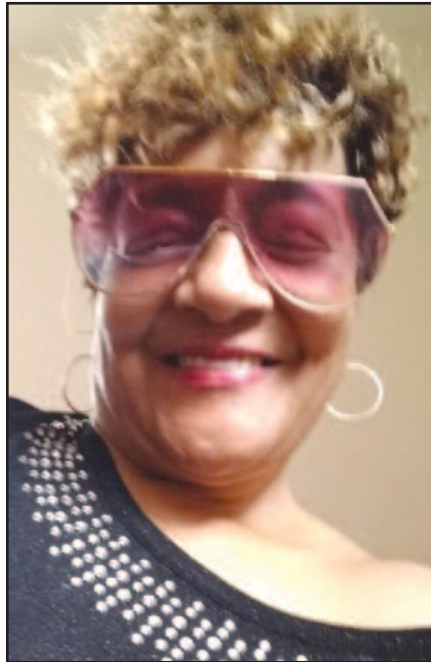
"Maybe it's time for me to shine a little bit," Trudy Ellis said. As a senior citizen Ms. Trudy, as she likes to be called, has been digging into the treasure-trove of creativity that God gifted her with and seeing where it leads her.

Last year, she designed a logo for a Detroit t-shirt that read "Detroit's Coming Back." Ms. Trudy said AKA Custom Apparel in Wayne sells t-shirts and hoodies with the logo "Just Having Some Fun in Downtown Wayne." As a resident of Wayne, she wants to have fun and promote the city she calls home.

Writing jingles is another of Ms. Trudy's talents. She says she writes little ditties for various businesses. "I have a gift of singing also."

She shares that gift on You Tube with a song she wrote called "King of Pop," an ode to Michael Jackson. She said it was a tribute from Detroit to Michael. She felt there was so much negativity around Michael, so she wanted to do something positive. Ms. Trudy wrote the words and then she contacted various musicians to help her record it. Joey Welz, a pianist with Bill Haley and His Comets in the 1960s, collaborated with her to put music to her lyrics and produced the song for her. Joey is from Trudy's hometown of Lipps, Pennsylvania. She had heard about him, so she communicated with him online through his Canadian American Records.

You can listen to the song by going to YouTube and searching for



Trudy Ellis is living a creative life using the talents God gave her.

Ms. Trudy King of Pop. It is a dream of Ms. Trudy that one day Michael's mother hears the song and contacts her. "Maybe one day Mrs. Jackson will hear my song. I've got over 2000 viewers on that song."

"I've always been a Michael Jackson fan," she said. "I wrote it (the song) because I thought it was a very true and meaningful song."

Trudy raised five children in Detroit before moving to Wayne. "I have no regrets. I can pat myself on the back. I feel I did a pretty good job."

See **Star**, page 12

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Readers share their special ornaments

Christmas ornaments can have deep meaning for people. Several readers shared about their own special ornaments.



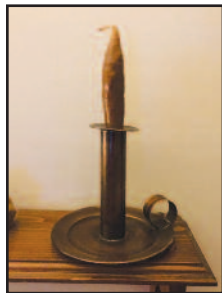
My favorite ornament hung on my family's Christmas tree all through my childhood. When I got married and my mom asked what ornaments from her tree I would like, I immediately asked for the snowman sticking out of the cupcake. It was always my favorite to hang growing up. I can't say how many times I would look at that ornament and wish I could eat it. I was certain it would be the most delicious thing to eat if it was edible. Now that it hangs on my tree, always at the top near our Angel, it is the one ornament I must hang myself. I tell my kids because it's fragile, but really it's because I can still feel that Christmas magic I knew as a child when I hang it. Even for just a moment, it's a moment I always look forward to.

Nicole Conklin
Board Member, Main Street
President, Historical Society



I've been collecting ornaments for 46 years and so many of them hold memories. But this is the one ornament that means the most. My mom used to give me ornaments every year for Christmas. It was a tradition with her. This is an ornament she made for me while in a nursing home suffering from Alzheimer's. It's not fancy or collectible, but it's the last Christmas ornament I received from her. I live in Wayne--back in the house I grew up in, in fact. My parents built the house in 1957 in the Sue Win sub--just a few houses from where the castle used to be. I graduated from WMHS in 1972.

Linda McLachlan
Wayne Resident



I don't have a tree up this year so no ornaments are easily accessed. I do have one thing that my daughter made for me at holiday time. She was probably in second or third grade, and she hand dipped two candles attached

by one wick. We cut them apart, and I got one and her Grandma got the other one. We both have them on display year-round. My daughter, Kristy, is 45 years old now.

Leslie Holland
Wayne Resident



I have my granny and gramps' ornament from their first tree, so that makes it about 88 years old. I also have one of mommy and dad's first tree ornaments that's only 57 years old.

Jackie Jones
Wayne Resident



Although I have received many Christmas ornaments over the years, the one I cherish most is this one: my grandson Hero's first Christmas ornament.

I know many people have "baby's first Christmas ornaments" and display them with pride. The reason this one is so special to me is that Hero was born the day after Thanksgiving and passed away on New Years Eve at just 33 days old.

Hero was our Christmas baby.

He will always be our Christmas angel.

Mary Baryo
Wayne Resident
President, Wayne Garden Club



When I a young girl growing up in the City of Wayne, my father Mike Gouin was the Assistant Parks & Recreation Director under Ted D'Pulos. At the time the Director of the Senior Program (Golden Hour Club) was a beautiful lady by the name of Mickey Meyer. Mickey gave each member of my family and many other families in the city handmade Christmas ornaments. They were each unique and had our names on them. To this day, my "Mickey Meyer" Christmas ornament is hung on my parents tree each year.

Lori Gouin
Community Development
Director, City of Wayne

I have ornaments my grandmother made from crafting beads. About 40+ years old. Star, candy cane, shapes. My grandma gave them to me for my first tree.

Mary McBain Blaxton



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NEWS BRIEFS

The Wayne Public Library is open to the public. You will need to enter through the doors by the Veterans Plaza. Browsing is limited to 30 minutes for grab and go service. Please do not visit if you are sick. The plaza pick-up service is still available if you wish to do no-contact pick up of materials. Call the library for more information.

The library is doing a December reading challenge for kids called "Walking in a Bookish Wonderland."

Challenges include reading a book about a winter sport, curling up in a blanket with hot cocoa and reading, and reading about a holiday you don't celebrate in your home. You can find the list of challenges on the library's Facebook page.

The City of Wayne now has a Wayne County COVID-19 testing site. Two new, cost-free testing sites with reportedly shorter waiting times were opened in Wayne and Dearborn, both sites at HYPE locations. The sites are open 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday and 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on Saturday.

HYPE Athletics Center -- Wayne, 4635 Howe Road, Wayne, MI 48184

HYPE Athletics Center -- Dearborn Heights, 23302 W. Warren Avenue, Dearborn Heights, MI 48127

Officials say the diagnostic COVID-19 tests are offered at no cost, and are available via drive-thru or walk-in. All individuals over 5 years old are eligible to get tested, though minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Individuals interested in testing do not require a doctor's order or pre-registration before visiting the site. Officials say insurance is requested but not required to undergo testing.

"With the uptick in COVID-19 cases so close to the holidays, our public health teams have stepped up its effort to offer more testing opportunities to keep families safe," said Wayne County Executive Warren C. Evans.

Individuals who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms are encouraged to get tested and quarantine until test results are received to pre-

vent the spread of the virus. Symptoms can develop up to 14 days after exposure to the virus.

Wayne has two new police officers. Officer Sylvia Turner and Officer Keith Zavitz were sworn in as Wayne Police Officers during the December 1 city council meeting. Both graduated from the Wayne County Regional Police Academy at the end of November. They will start their training soon. Chief Ryan Strong said he has several other officer candidates in the works.

The Wayne Police Department announced that Officer Jolly was awarded the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Lifesaver Award. The award is given to officers who support MADD's mission to combat drunk driving, including the enforcement of drunk driving laws. Officer Jolly joined the WPD in 2017. "We are lucky to have Officer Jolly aboard," said Police Chief Ryan Strong.

"We are proud to have him as a

member of our team, and the entire department appreciates his hard work."

The Wayne Fire Department recently announced that Fire Fighter Kevin Pietrasinski earned his badge and is now a certified Paramedic and Engine Operator.

The Wayne-Westland Interact Club, in conjunction with the Wayne Memorial High School counselors, are hosting a coat and canned food drive December 3-16. The Club will be collecting food for the WMHS pantry.

The pantry helps the high school students who don't have enough food over school breaks and weekends to get more to eat. The Club is requesting non-expired items such as: macaroni and cheese, pop-tarts, cereal, ramen, crackers, peanut butter, chips, canned fruit, fruit cups, fruit snacks, dippers, mashed potatoes, rice, tortillas, soup, cheese sauce, salsa, juice boxes, baked beans, instant meals (like Compleat meals), Chef Boyardee, Hamburger Helper and water.



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The DDA recently allocated funds to be utilized for assisting business owners with Façade Improvement Projects.

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Santa helped pick the first two winners last weekend! Stop by City Hall or any of these local businesses to enter and get your chance to win a \$50 gift card courtesy of the Wayne DDA. You can also enter at The Avenue American Bistro, Helium Studio, Northside Hardware, Leo's Jewelry & Gifts and U.S. 12. Photo by Sean Rhaesa

Experience downtown Wayne this holiday season

By Carolyn Marnon

This holiday season, experience Downtown Wayne! If your idea of visiting Downtown Wayne is driving through to get from one destination to another, maybe it's time you make the downtown area your shopping and dining destination.

The Wayne Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is funding the 2020 holiday campaign to show that great things are happening in Wayne. The campaign will consist of social media, print, billboard and TV ads encouraging people to "Experience Downtown Wayne!"

The campaign, which kicked off Thanksgiving week, features a billboard on Ford Rd. Xfinity and WOW! will be airing 30 second segments that will be seen by viewers in Wayne, Westland, Canton, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Romulus, Belleville, Livonia, Redford, Garden City and Van Buren. The segments will run on popular channels such as AMC, Hallmark, Lifetime, and The Food Network. There is also an ad that will run during Monday Night Football on November 30. DDA Director Lori Gouin says there are approximately 1300 spots that will air.

Drive through downtown Wayne in the evening and check out the new holiday lights on the poles at the main intersections, especially W. Michigan Avenue and Wayne Rd. These beautiful lights were custom-designed by Bronner's, the well-known Frankenmuth Christmas store. "We're getting really positive feedback on them," said Gouin. You will also notice new holiday banners, made by downtown business Imperial Press, at these select intersections. Gouin said the DDA will be adding to the holiday lighting and decor each year. Here's what former Wayne resident Sherrie Brindley thinks of the new décor, "They're beautiful. The prettiest I've ever seen."

While visiting Downtown Wayne, make sure you enter to win a \$50 gift card. Entry forms and boxes are found at City Hall, The Avenue Bistro, US-12, Helium Studio, Northside and Leo's Jewelry. From all the entries received, 6 winners will be drawn to receive a \$50 gift card from either The Avenue Bistro, US-12, Helium Studio, Northside, Leo's Jewelry and Phoenix Theatre-State Wayne.

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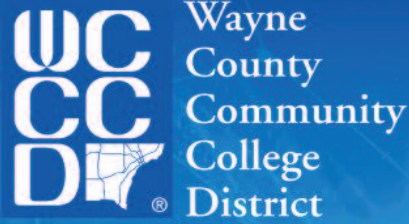
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New face at city council meetings

By Carolyn Marnon

The Wayne City Council looked a little different at the November 17 city council meeting. Gone was former councilman Jeremiah Webster (who did not run in the latest election) and in his place was newly elected councilman Alfred Brock.

If you don't already know Alfred, let's change that.

Alfred lives in Wayne. He's a very active volunteer wearing many hats. He volunteers with Gleaners Community Food Bank working in their Speaker's Bureau as well as other things. He is co-chair for the Detroit Public Television Community Advisory Panel where he meets with journalists, professionals, government officials and many Michiganders. He also volunteers occasionally with DPTV for the Fall and Holiday Festival. He's a Board Member of the Northwest Wayne Chapter of FAN (Families Against Narcotics) working hard to eliminate the stigma associated with drug abuse and addiction.

What inspired Alfred to run for City Council? "I have to say it is a

"As a City Council member, I hope to achieve the admiration and respect of my fellow citizens by carrying out my duties to the best of my abilities for the betterment of everyone who is fortunate to live with us."

Councilman Alfred Brock

combination of my appreciation of our shared American ideals, representative government and personal responsibility. I like to know what is going on in the community and share with fellow citizens as well as help them when I can. There are lots of problems all around us but there are even more opportunities for improvement. I believe that compas-



Newly elected councilman Alfred Brock is sworn in by his wife Bernadette. Photo by Natalie Rhaesa

sion, help and knowledge are better than inhumanity, violence and aggression. I know that Wayne is a great community, and I want to do all I can for it."

"As a City Council member," said Alfred, "I hope to achieve the admiration and respect of my fellow citizens

by carrying out my duties to the best of my abilities for the betterment of everyone who is fortunate to live with us."

Councilman Tom Porter, who was re-elected to serve a second term, received a unanimous vote from council to continue as Mayor Pro Tem.



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Porter, Continued from page 3

name from the ballot. He wasn't diagnosed until over a month later at which time, he couldn't take his name off the ballot.

Tom has been open about his cancer on city council. At one of the council meetings, a number of City Council members donned Team Porter t-shirts. The t-shirts were designed by Tom's granddaughter-in-law. She went to the local t-shirt shop near her home in Pennsylvania and had shirts with Team Porter and a ribbon imprinted made for the family. Extended family members soon wanted the shirts. Friends and neighbors bought them too. "It just went crazy," Tom says with amazement.

Talking to people face-to-face is important to Tom. He wants to see people and hear their viewpoints.

His primary chemo treatments lasted about four hours and the secondary treatments a week later are less.

Chemo doesn't bother him. He reports no nausea. He has had some fever issues and other side effects



Mayor Pro-Tem Porter with his wife Bonnie.

that bother him, but "I'm working my way through them."

Tom and Bonnie stay home most of the time. "Any cold or infection could kill me quite easily." He had

been looking forward to December 17 when his 6th and final chemo treatment would be done. His oncologist had been impressed that nothing was showing up on Tom's liver

scans and the nodules in both lungs had reduced in size considerably. He said at that time, "The whole thing for me is to get through the chemo, get 100% remission and then get the stent and get the heart fixed and then monitor the cancer to make sure it doesn't come back."

And then last month, Tom got sick after completing three chemo treatments. He was diagnosed with a rare form of pneumonia and a viral infection. He spent 16 days in the hospital.

On November 22, Tom said it was like somebody had flipped the switch. The fever, aches and pains, had all fallen away. He started gaining weight back. Everyone was happy with the progress he is now making.

Tom is waiting on insurance approval for another PET scan which he hopes to have December 16. If cancer is found, he will get a reduced amount of chemo three more times. If it shows no trace of cancer, he will have no more chemo treatments. He will just be monitored to make sure the cancer doesn't reappear.

Tom is staying positive.

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\$1.7 million investment coming to Wayne

By Carolyn Marnon

Vacant land on Cogswell in Wayne will soon be vacant no more! City Council approved the proposed rezoning of the land after the second reading of the proposal. The property was zoned IND-2 Heavy Industrial. The approved conditional rezoning to IND-2 allows for the butchering/slaughtering of animals and for retail sales.

Michigan Meats will be making a \$1.7 million investment in Wayne. Plans call for the construction of three buildings on the site (8000 sq. ft., 3200 sq. ft. and 3000 sq. ft.) Michigan Meats will be a USDA approved and monitored facility to make sure it stays food-grade clean.

There will be a small custom butcher shop. All operations will be completely conducted indoors and will be temperature-con-

trolled. The storage of animals will be entirely indoors; no animals will ever be stored outside. All waste materials will be contained within the structures in a temperature-controlled environment in drums which will be picked up for disposal daily. There will be a four-yard dumpster used for straw and manure which will also be stored indoors in a temperature-controlled environment and picked up as needed.

The facility will adhere to all City noise and odor ordinances. The loudest noise is said to be the compressors that run the cooling systems.

A retail store will operate at the site. No information as to when Michigan Meats will start operating. The 5.63 acre piece of land will still have space for future development.

Star, Continued from page 4

"Music is like a hobby to me. The t-shirts are a hobby to me. I was born with the gift of creativity." She enjoys doing art, designing, and working on collage. "I do my little collages."

I do some things that are pretty nice. God gives me the knowledge to do collages. God gives everybody a gift to do something. He gave me a gift of music and the gift of creativity and drawing, doing collages. But I thank God for this one gift he gave me: the gift of caring for others, the gift of sharing with others. From when I was a little girl, I had the knowledge to share. It's good to give to people. I don't think I have any selfishness in me when it comes to caring and giving.

She says she gives money to people at the gas station who say they want food. "You never know what someone's circumstances are." After she gives them the money, she said "if they don't spend it on food, it's between them and God." It's out of her hands.

In dealing with people, she said, "If I can't get along with them, I keep

"Music is like a hobby to me. The t-shirts are a hobby to me. I was born with the gift of creativity."

Trudy Ellis

moving. If you can't get along with someone, go on to the next person. They might be the blessing for you."

About reaching out for your goals and dreams, Ms. Trudy said "If you try, it's better than not trying. Nothing beats a failure but to try. If you at least try, attempt to do something. It's like taking three steps and having God lead you the rest of the way." She continued, "Some people wait for God to do it all. They want it to all go their way. I'm a firm believer that when I ask God for something, I don't wait until I am all bent out of shape. I go to God on a daily basis. I thank him every day for the little things. God will prepare you for the greater things in life in the future."

Community faces increased winter tax bill

By Carolyn Marnon

It's no secret that the City of Wayne has had financial problems for the past 10 years or so. While the City once was a shining gem with summer festivals and fireworks, all of that, and more, has been cut from the budget to the point where there really isn't anything more to cut. Revenues have fallen drastically as a result of the Great Recession of 2008, and now residents are paying a price.

The City Finance Department recently sent out a Winter 2020 Judgment Tax Levy Notice to residents and businesses. Back in April, the city council held a special study session where they discussed the City's retirement pension obligation with a representative from the Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS).

During the Great Recession of 2008, city employees were offered a higher pension if they would retire early. As a result of the added retirees into the retirement system, long-term investment returns being lower than expected and longer life expectancies, as well as other rea-

"We still have a significant imbalance between retirees and full-time employees paying into the system, and that's been a lot of the problem."

City Manager Lisa Nocerini

sons, the City's pension obligation rose significantly in the last 12 years, from approximately \$1.8 million in 2010 to a projected \$7.2 million for 2022.

The recession caused the City to lose close to 45% of its tax base which it has not recovered from. The Michigan state legislature has chosen not to pay local governments billions of dollars of revenue sharing that's been owed over the past 20 years.

The City of Wayne was unable to pay 100% of what was owed to MERS this year. The City does not have a choice whether to make the payment or not. It is an obligation mandated by law in Michigan.

MERS sued the City for breach of contract in Wayne County Circuit Court for \$4,753,409. The court mandated that the judgment be placed on the Winter tax rolls. 100% of the 13.1399 millage revenues col-

lected from the City's taxpayers will be paid directly to MERS.

The judgment levy is only for the current fiscal year. In January 2021, the City will begin evaluating the budget for the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.

"If you want to stop this from happening again," advised Brian Camiller of Plante Moran at the December 1 city council meeting, "you could do a 345 (millage). It could be for a couple 2, 3, 4 mills and that would bolster your budget every year going forward and possibly stave off the situation from happening again."

"We still have a significant imbalance between retirees and full-time employees paying into the system, and that's been a lot of the problem," said City Manager Lisa Nocerini.

"When it comes to your pension system, the employee contributions, while they are significant to the individual employee, no question, but in

the totality of the contribution that the City has to make, the employee portion is really a drop in the bucket. It is a small fraction of the total amount that has to be paid in," said Camiller. "At the end of the day, MERS still needs a significant amount of money." He went on to say that the employee contributions are a factor, but they aren't the primary factor. "The primary factor is the benefits that were given to retirees back in 2008 or 2009 when the City left its old pension system and joined MERS."

In 2009, 30 individuals took the early retirement that was offered. The city council that was in place at that time had voted unanimously in February 2009 to increase the retirement multiplier from 2.7 to 2.8. That increased multiplier cost the City, according to Nocerini, \$1,231,648. She said newly hired employees are now accepting a 1.5 multiplier.

If you have any questions, you are encouraged to call the City for more information at 734-722-2000.



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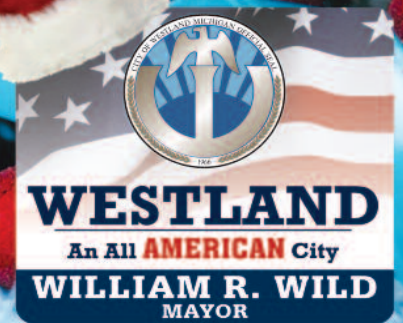
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