

# THE WAYNE Dispatch

JANUARY 2017

## Three Generations of Compassion

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Learn how to research your house or property

On Wednesday, January 11, at 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. join the Wayne Historical Society at the Wayne Public Library to learn how to do research on your old house or property. Tyler Moll, a recent graduate of EMU's Masters in Historic Preservation program, will lead a presentation on how and why people want to research buildings. Topics that will be discussed include deed searches, Sanborn maps, tax records, paper archives, city directories and photo archives. Bring a picture of your house and Tyler will tell you where to start and an approximate age of your house.

### Upcoming events at Wayne Memorial High School

Talent show--Wayne Memorial High School will be hosting a Talent Show on Friday, January 27. Call the high school for further details (734) 419-2200.

Rival staff dodgeball game--The Wayne Memorial vs. John Glenn staff dodgeball game is on Friday, February 10.

Awards banquet--The first semester awards banquet for Champions of Wayne will be February 8. The school administration is working on coordinating student speakers for this event to showcase how hard the students have worked during the first semester.

### Quarterly police community meeting

The next Police community meeting is Thursday, January 26, at 7:00 p.m. It will be held at the Wayne Police Department. All are invited to listen and ask questions.

### The Distinguished Young Women of Wayne-Westland

The Distinguished Young Women of Wayne-Westland will be having their Program Orientation on Monday, January 23. It will be at 37995 Glenwood at 7:00 p.m. Any high school junior girl who lives in Wayne



### Wayne's newest firefighter

The City of Wayne welcomed the newest member of the Wayne Fire Department in December. Adrian Garduno was hired under the SAFER grant the city received and was officially sworn in at Wayne City Hall on December 15 by City Clerk Matthew Miller.

or Westland can participate. No one is turned away.

Distinguished Young Women is a national scholarship program that inspires high school girls to develop their full, individual potential through a fun, transformative experience that culminates in a celebratory showcase of their accomplishments. Distinguished Young Women strives to give every young woman the opportunity to further her education and prepare for a successful future.

Any girl can participate! There are no requirements that have to be met other than being a high school junior. Most girls who do participate end up with some small form of college scholarship dollars. Any high school junior girl who lives in Wayne or Westland may register and participate. Girls can go to [www.distinguishedyoungwomen.org](http://www.distinguishedyoungwomen.org) and click on "Apply Now." There will also be representatives who will come to Wayne Memorial and John Glenn and help girls register.

Jodi Berry and Lauren Perry, Co-Directors for the Wayne-Westland Program, are looking forward to having many girls participate! The show date will be March 10.

make a reservation or get more information, contact Trish Hampton at (734) 890-6934.

### DIA Inside/Out Program

The DIA Inside/Out Program, which brings reproductions of art to a city, will be coming to Wayne in 2017. Wayne Main Street applied to bring the program to Wayne. Installation is being scheduled for early April.

### WMS has new executive director

Wayne Main Street announced that Maxwell Cameron will be the new Executive Director. Maxwell started in his new position December 12. He introduced himself to the Council and community at the December 21 City Council meeting. If you would like to meet Max and see what you can do to contribute to the success of WMS, call Max at (734) 629-6822 to set up an appointment. He would love to meet you!

### Notre Dame Lounge invites you to join them

Come to Notre Dame Lounge located at 3144 S. Wayne Rd (near Jack's Sporting Goods) for dinner and drinks. The Lounge is open to the public every Wednesday and Friday. Upcoming events include The Ultimate Man Cave (Feb. 3), Big Game Viewing Party (Feb. 5) and An Evening With Barry Manilow (Mar. 11). Wednesday nights feature a Euchre Tournament at 7:00 p.m. The Hall is also available for rent for private events. Call (734) 260-3238 for more information.

### Rotary casino trip

Join the Wayne Rotary for a day of fun. On Saturday, January 14, they will be taking a bus trip to Firekeeper's Casino in Battle Creek and they would like you to travel with them! The bus will leave the 29th District Court parking lot on Sims St at 2:00 p.m. Cost is \$35 per person. Each participant will receive \$20 in slot play and \$5 in food credits. You must be at least 21 years of age to travel. The bus will leave Firekeeper's at 9:00 p.m. for the return home to Wayne. If you would like to

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# Family business serving area for three generations

By Carolyn Marnon

The Rediske family aspire to pass along the traditions of providing outstanding service to the community. Continually striving to offer the most complete and compassionate funeral care and after care possible, the Rediskes treat others in the way they would want to be treated. Recently the business was handed down to Harold L. Rediske II (Howie), son of Harold Rediske, Jr.

Uht Funeral Home, located on Glenwood in Westland, had its beginnings in the 1800s in Huron Township (now known as New Boston). Mantous Uht's grandfather and father were cabinetmakers. As many cabinetmakers did in those days, they also built and provided coffins for families that experienced a death within their family.

In 1925, Mr. Uht came to the Village of Wayne and purchased an existing funeral home from Web Morton. The building was near the corner of Wayne Rd. and Main St. Mr. Uht operated the business until the 1940s when he then took on Harold Kennedy as a partner. The business was known as the Uht Kennedy Funeral Home until late 1951 when their partnership terminated.

On March 1, 1952, a new association was formed with Harold Rediske, Sr. and continued until the death of Mr. Uht in January 1961. The funeral home remained in its location at Wayne and Main (near to where the current Wayne Public Library is) with remodels and major additions being done. In 1965, the City of Wayne purchased the building and property in order to begin their Urban Renewal Program. The new Uht Funeral Home was built in the City of Westland, at the corner of Glenwood and Harvey St. and was moved into in March of 1967. Uht Funeral Home is still located there. The Rediske family still maintains ownership.

## The Rediskes

Harold Rediske, Sr. purchased the business in 1952 and spent nine years as a funeral director. Harold Rediske, Jr. grew up in the business and remembers living in the old building by the library which had a residence the family lived in. Harold Jr. married to Claudia, who



Harold Rediske and Mantous Uht look down on Harold and Claudia Rediske and new owners Harold (Howie) L. Rediske, II, Gayle and Mackenzie. Photo by John P. Rhaesa

has also spent many years as a stylist for the funeral home. Harold Jr. still comes in to do some of the day to day operations of the business. He opens the mail and does what they call "roadwork" - he gets doctors to sign off on the paperwork.

Harold L. Rediske, II (Howie) remembers working at the business as a kid. He would tell people where to park their cars in the lot for the procession. He says he was so small he had to look up to see in the car windows. One day, there were three services held. That was a lot for one day. When it was all over, he was taken over to Wild Bill's where he got to pick out a mini bike.

Howie did a few other things outside the funeral business including completing one enlistment with the US Army where he was deployed to Bosnia as a licensed aircraft mechanic. He returned to the family business in 1996 to complete his schooling and graduated from Wayne State University School of Mortuary

Science in 1997 and received his license. Howie has now been working in the family business for 20 years.

Howie has gone through the chairs of the Michigan Funeral Director's Association (MFDA) District 2 twice and served on the MFDA grievance and ethics committee. He belongs to the Wayne Rotary where he has served on many committees and projects. He is also a proud life member of the Veteran's of Foreign Wars (VFW) and has served as a trustee for two terms at his local post. Currently Howie takes over the day to day operations and oversees a staff of 5 licensed funeral directors and 4 support staff.

Howie is married to Gayle Rediske and has a daughter, Mackenzie. They currently live in Brownstown after having lived in Wayne for 18 years.

Uht is a business that has remained a positive force in the Wayne community. They are heavily in-

involved with many organizations and sponsor several community events. They're sensitive to the needs of individuals whose families are in crisis and offer discounted services in those situations. There is never a charge for infant services, for first responders killed in the line of duty, or for active duty military members.

When asked about what traditions have carried on at the funeral home through his time, Howie (son) responded "grey hair and wrinkles" while laughing.

To become a funeral director, you need to get licensed by the State of Michigan through a four-year program. This includes 2 years of prerequisites, 1 year as an apprentice and then 1 year studying mortuary science. This is a tradition father and son shared as they both attended Wayne State University.

Grandpa's day was very "cookie cutter." People would have a choice from a couple vaults, about five caskets and about five memorial folders. What made a service special was the song. There wasn't anything individualized back then.

Ten years ago with dad Harold, the showroom held about 30 different full caskets that could be considered. There was no order to the room. It used to be overwhelming to walk in to the showroom and walk through a maze of caskets.

Under Howie, the showroom now has partial caskets on the walls along with displays of accessory pieces like corners and crosses that can be added to the caskets. Families have more options than ever before. There are boxes and urns for cremains. There are protection features for vaults. Now you can have personalized photos on the memorial folder covers.

These days, son Howie says they will have requests for unusual items to be brought in: items like jet skis, motorcycles and even the family pet. Howie says as long as it fits in the door and doesn't tear up the carpet, he will fit it in to the service.

In grandpa Harold's day, it wasn't unusual to have a funeral at a house. Back in the old days, farmhouses in New Boston and Romulus were big and the doorways were bigger. For 2-3 days, the remains could be at a

See **UHT**, page 4

**UHT**, Continued from page 3

house or the funeral home. Dad Harold says it's been about 30 years since they have done a home funeral.

**Changes in the business**

There are about 60% more cremations now with son than there was with grandpa. Grandpa probably had less than 5% of cremations.

In grandpa Harold's day, there might be 150-175 funerals per year. Now with Howie, there are about 275 per year.

During grandpa Harold's time, he had a plane which he would use to fly remains from Willow Run to Kentucky or Pennsylvania back in the 1970s. At that time, Kentucky and Tennessee didn't have major airports.

in the long run.

I had heard mention of something called Green Burials. I asked if Uht had dealt with any green burials. They have not, although Howie thought there were some special burial grounds in the Metro-Detroit area. He said caskets are biodegradable materials that go into the ground, there is no embalming and certain time frames are involved.

**Changes in technology**

Back in 1996 when Howie came back to the business, there was one computer in the office and it was used by the secretary. Since 2001, everyone has a computer which are all networked.

The viewing rooms now have TV's in them. Pictures can be



The original Uht Funeral Home was in downtown Wayne where the library is today..

most popular right now are Thumbies®. These are fingerprint keepsakes that are cast in precious metal. Other types of cremain jewelry are also popular.

The Rediske's long standing commitment to the community, valued traditions and reputation for compassionate care are just a few of the

reasons local families have entrusted their loved ones to their care for decades.

If you or a loved one are looking into prearranging a funeral or have questions concerning funeral services, please contact Howie and he and his staff would be happy to assist you.



Harold Rediske, Jr. poses with a new hearse.

During dad Harold's time, he had an ambulance service. He might go to the football game or other event in town with the ambulance. If something happened to someone, the ambulance either went to the hospital or to the funeral home.

Back in the 1980s-90s, preplanning became a popular thing to do. However, there were no financial incentives then, so it didn't take off as well as it could have. Now, people are able to pay today's rates to put into a funeral plan that helps save money

scanned into a special system Howie has and then continuously played on the TVs.

He used a special software from Kodak that can scan approximately 100 pictures in a minute to provide a slide show.

**Keepsakes**

Back in the old days, there was no memorabilia.

These days, there are all sorts of options one can consider to hold a loved one closer. Howie says the



Uht Funeral Home is at 35400 Glenwood in Westland.

**THE WAYNE Dispatch**  
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# Retiree health benefits confusing week by week

By Carolyn Marnon

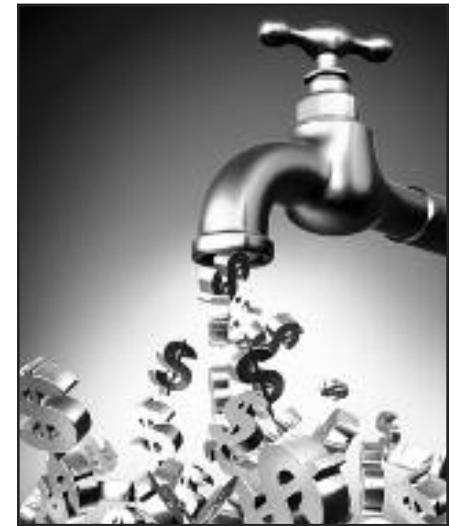
“Motion by Rhaesa, seconded by Porter the motion carried by 4-3 roll call vote, it was resolved to go with Option #4 for retiree healthcare that includes a monthly stipend: \$175/single, \$400/two person, \$485/family and \$110/post 65.” This is what appears in the December 6 city council meeting minutes that are posted on the city’s website.

Prior to this time, insurance was provided through Priority Health whereby the City paid 70% of the retiree’s healthcare while the retiree covered the remaining 30% with a cap.

At the December 20 city council meeting, after many retirees addressed city council about retiree healthcare, a new motion was made. “Motion by Sanders, seconded by Gabriel the motion carried by 4-3 roll call vote, it was resolved to place a stay on the motion for Option #4 for retiree healthcare that includes a monthly stipend: \$175/single, \$400/two person, \$485/family and \$110/post 65 and place Retiree Healthcare Options on the January 3, 2017 City Council Agenda.” This motion stopped the City from moving forward at all with health care changes and to stay at the 70/30 plan.

At that previous 70/30 plan, if a retiree’s insurance cost \$100 per month, the city paid \$70 and the retiree paid \$30. If the plan increased, the retiree was responsible for paying for the increase in the plan. Now that the Dec. 6 motion has been stayed, the city will have to absorb the cap of the insurance increases.

With the stay of the “new” motion in effect, Ed Murphy, an insurance expert with Plante Moran, attended the January 3 city council meeting to try to explain insurance costs and how it affects the city’s budget. The solution proposed at the meeting was to continue paying the 70/30 plan which the city will continue to do for the next 6 months. He figures the city will now be paying approximately \$75,900 per month for retiree healthcare. For now, the monthly stipend is out of the picture. The stipend would have allowed the



retiree to go through the local insurance marketplace.

City Manager Lisa Nocerini mentioned at the meeting that there is a Michigan Supreme Court ruling that for retiree healthcare benefits to not change, the wording in the contract needs to say “this is a lifetime benefit,” otherwise, benefits are for the life of the particular contract.

John Smith stood before council to say “You’re driving every retiree into poverty,” with healthcare reductions. Other citizens were concerned because there were apparently 4 healthcare options that council had been considering, and yet residents did not know what those options were. One woman addressed the council with “When I retire, I’m retired until I end.” 89-year old Jane McGill said, “I never knew your health care stopped while your retirement was going on.”

At the end of the evening, Councilman Sanders made a motion, seconded by Councilman Miller, to suspend the hard cap for a period of 6 months so the personnel director could sit down with retirees and also to fully fund an HSA for eligible employees. It was recommended that City Manager Nocerini meet with the retirees, even though they are not a legal bargaining entity.

Mayor Rowe, who is working hard to keep the city from bankruptcy, thinks that something is better than nothing for the retirees. “We are looking at a city of 17,500, not just 200 (retirees).”

# Zebras are a team not to take lightly

By Dave Merchant

Varsity high school basketball can be one of the best activities to watch on a cold, snowy Friday night. People from Wayne will warm up when they see how this team plays.

One thing is for certain this season. The Wayne Memorial High School Zebras men's basketball team are not to be taken lightly. In the middle of December, the team was off to a 3-0 start and ranked eighth in the state in the Detroit Free Press Poll and 15th by the Detroit News.

Third year coach Nkwayne Young is excited about his team especially the nucleus.

"We have 12 guys on the team and five of them are seniors," Young commented. "We play in a tough league but I really feel it is up for grabs this season (Kensington South League).

Big players for the Zebras this season include senior Kevin Epps (six-foot, six inches) who plays wing and has already committed to play college hoops at Eastern Michigan University. Three-year starter junior Rashard Williams (6-3) point guard has had offers from EMU and Cleveland State. Senior Travez Nyk (6-4) wing man is a starter.

The other starters on the team are Terance Williams (6-1) guard who has started for three seasons for Young. Rounding out the starters is two-year varsity player Isiah Lewis (5-9) sophomore guard.

The sixth man off the bench is senior forward Natier Bryant (6-3) talented forward who has played three years on varsity. Other key bench players are senior guard Xavier Moore (5-9) who has played varsity for three years. Also, key off the bench is Kobe Price (6-4) junior forward.

"It is a good nucleus we have," he said. "I like the fact that eight out of 12 guys on the roster are on the honor roll."

Of the three games played by December 13th they had beaten Detroit Edison by 22 points; Detroit Cornerstone by six points the Novi Wildcats 65-58. Wayne's only loss was on Dec. 26th at at Cass Tech against East English Village 92-77.

"This team reminds me of the 2014 team I coached at Detroit

Fredrick Douglas," he said. "We had three guys go on to play Division 1 and seven players all together who went on to play college ball."

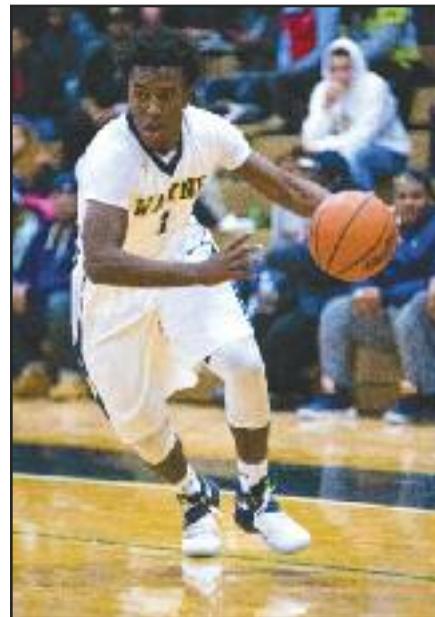
That team lost in the State Semi Finals.

"Our league is tough," he said. "You have John Glenn, Canton, Plymouth, Livonia Churchill and Livonia Franklin."

Wayne started the league's season on January 5th with a 67-52 win against Plymouth. Bringing their record to 7-1. A big game for the team according to Young is Jan. 24th against Clarkston.

Class A districts will be played Downriver this season for Wayne. The teams in the district are the ever-fearsome Romulus Eagles, the Lincoln Park Rails, the Allen Park Jaguars, the Taylor Truman Cougars and the Taylor Kennedy Eagles. Tough competition for sure.

Young said it is a tough district and the Romulus Eagles are always tough to play.



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## NEWS BRIEFS

### **HYPE Café now open**

The Hoops Café inside the old ice rink/new basketball courts at HYPE Western Wayne Recreation Center is now open! Hours are 3:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. weekdays and Noon-8:00 p.m. on the weekends.

### **Healthy Wayne yoga**

Healthy Wayne has teamed with Citizen Yoga to offer free yoga classes. The next free yoga class will be Wednesday, January 18, at the Wayne Public Library from 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Dress comfortable, bring a yoga mat and enjoy an evening of fun. Future dates include February 1, 15 and 22; March 1 and 8, April 5, 12, 19 and 26.

### **An opportunity to meet new women**

It's a new year, and with it comes new opportunities to make new friends and help others. The United Methodist Women of the First United Methodist Church of Wayne-Westland (3 Towne Square) have some small groups that meet once a month that you might be interested in joining.

1st Monday of the month-Charis Circle-7:00 p.m. Learn about women leaders in the Bible who accomplished so much in a patriarchal society.

2nd Tuesday of the month-Esther-Martha-Have fun and learn some Bible Trivia.

2nd Thursday of the month-Lydia Circle-10:00 a.m. Meet and pack up Blessing Bags.

Anyone can belong to the Heavenly E-Circle, facilitated by Kim McCain. Kim sends out an encouraging message that is sometimes very thought provoking. You can also share your concerns in a confidential setting at these meetings. Won't you think about stepping into one of these amazing groups of women?

### **Water warning**

The program to replace all the water meters in Wayne had an expected duration of 18 months. The program is going so smoothly, it could end well before then if the city can get more cooperation from about 700 households left to change over.



Local 900 provided Christmas to over 100 kids in the community Tanyia Dickerson, Jr. Robinson, Katie Martin, Judy Reynolds, Judy Reynolds, Mike Smith, Jermaine Harris, Ebony Kennedy, Patty Martin, Delshanna, Ulysses Edmonson II and Lloyd Allen.

DPW employees are trying to determine how best to get the remaining households to call PMI, the company contracted to do the replacement, and set up appointments. One suggestion has been to shut off the water to those homes until the owner/resident calls to set up the appointment, at which time the water would be turned back on. Some council members believe this is a drastic step and have asked for DPW to come up with some other ideas, including possible surcharges on water bills for those people who haven't changed over. If you have not had your water meter changed, please take the time right now to call PMI at (855) 620-7989 and make your appointment. It takes approximately 20 minutes for the technician to come in and make the change. They are also able to set up appointments after regular working hours. If there is some other reason you are reluctant to make the change, please call City Hall and share your concerns.

### **Wayne Memorial to host 8th grade parent night**

Wayne Memorial High School will be hosting an 8th grade parent night for those transitioning to 9th grade or interested in getting more information about WMHS for the 2016-2017 school year. Students do not

have to be currently attending a Wayne-Westland Community School to attend. The event will be held on Wednesday, February 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the WMHS Stockmeyer Auditorium. Topics covered will include scheduling, graduation requirements, testing out requirements, direct college courses, AP courses, extra-curricular activities and much more. All are welcome to attend. Questions are encouraged. Parking is available in the Glenwood Street parking lot and guests should enter through the front of the auditorium. If you have any additional questions, please call the Counseling Department at (734) 419-2215.

### **Healthy Communities Champions awarded for their outstanding efforts**

Beaumont Health is appreciative of all the champions who make up the Healthy Wayne community coalition for their work above and beyond what is expected of them as volunteers and their commitment to the health of the City of Wayne. Beaumont Health is especially thankful for the support of Mayor Susan Rowe and her staff as well as the Wayne-Westland Community Schools District staff from several departments including Assistant Superintendent Kelly Bohl who not only

attend local coalition meetings but also Leadership Coalition meetings to guide the work of Healthy Wayne.

Beaumont Health recently awarded Albert Damitio and Ali Sayed acrylic Healthy Communities Champion Awards in appreciation for their significant efforts to influence and improve community health.

### **One-Stop Health Screening**

On Wednesday, January 8 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., community members aged 18 or older can obtain free blood pressure screening, cholesterol screening and glucose (diabetes) screening sponsored by Community Health in partnership with Wayne Senior Services. The screening will be held at HYPE Recreation Center. No appointment is needed. No fasting is required. If you need more information, you may call (313) 586-4938.

### **Wayne Dairy Queen planning expansion**

Dairy Queen is in the planning stages of having a small addition made to their building that would include a drive-thru. Jenn Petrou said, "We are not looking to become a Grill and Chill at this point, but the drive thru would allow us to expand our customer base. We are in the early stages, having only received approval from the council at this point, but very excited about the possibility of bringing more business and more job opportunities to Wayne."

### **Winter Wonderland craft and vendor sale**

There will be a craft and vendor sale on January 22 from noon-5:00 p.m. at HYPE Recreation Center. Confirmed vendors include Tupperware, C&F Styles, Younique, Thirty-One, Paparazzi, Scentsy, Usborne Books, LuLaRoe, Pure Romance, Tastefully Simple, Pampered Chef, Gold Canyon Candles, ItWorks, Norwex, Katy Gets Crafty, Mae's Body Blend Soaps, Lilla Rose, Abby & Ann, Perfectly Posh, Plexus, This Old Tub, Ellie's Creations, Origami Owl, PartyLite, Jamberry, Wildtree, Oh MI Scrubs and Suds, God's Work Clocks and Woodwork and Young Living.

# What's old is new again

Three years ago I wrote an article for this paper about Wayne's Historical Museum, the oldest public building still standing in Wayne and located in the heart of our community. At one time Wayne was full of old historic buildings and homes rich in history. I talked about wishing the walls of these old buildings could talk and tell us the stories of life gone by. Stories about how people settled here, how they lived, worked, ate, dressed, socialized, played, educated and governed themselves. But walls can't talk so we learn about our past in other ways. We learn from word of mouth, books, newspapers, diaries, letters, objects, council minutes, pictures and historical records. Our Historical Museum holds the keys to our past and answers our questions through the artifacts and archives stored there.

But, this building was not always a museum. In the mid 1800's, when about 800 people lived in this little community, the leaders recognized a need to incorporate into a village. A charter election was held at the Union Hotel on April 12th, 1869 making our community the "Village of Wayne".

Councilmen were elected and they met in rented rooms in various buildings to govern the community. As the Village grew, a need was seen for a building to hold council chambers and house a "lock up" for "vagrants, drunks and tramps". (Serious offenders were taken to the County jail in Detroit.) In 1877, the Village had a population of 1400 people and the Council appointed a building committee to look into building a Village Hall. A two story



Memory Lane

Darlene Hawley

building was preferred that was approximately 20 x 36 feet. After much debate, a brick building was ordered to be built on the Public Square at a cost of \$1300. James R. Lewis of Detroit won the bid. It featured a French Mansard style roof which was popular in Detroit at that time. The first meeting was held in the new building on November 19th, 1878. The building was used for both Village of Wayne and Nankin Township meetings. All elections were held there, the Justice of the peace rented space there, and the Village Band stored their instruments there. It was the center of all Village activities and all important community questions were debated and decided there. Public meetings were held in the Village Hall, official proclamations made there and momentous occasions officially recognized and celebrated there. It was a beautiful building and the town was proud of it.

Over the years improvements were made to this building. Gas lights were installed in 1902, and electric lights in 1912. In 1916 an addition was put on the back to house fire apparatus so the building could be used as a fire house. In 1928 it housed a new American LaFrance fire truck. In 1929 an addition was put on the North side of



Tyler Moll is a 25 year old graduate from EMU with a Masters Degree in Historic Preservation. Photo by John P. Rhaesa

the building with doors opening onto Monroe Street.

In 1926 our Police Department was organized and their headquarters were in the Village Hall where they could make use of "lock ups" or jail cells in the basement. In the 1950's the Village Hall became home to the Chamber of Commerce and the Junior Achievement. In 1964, the City Council named the old Village Hall the Wayne Historical Museum. The Historical Society began moving their collections into the building and setting up exhibits. The City appointed a Historical Commission in 1969. In 1987 an addition was added to the South side of the building to make room for historical artifacts and displays and an office added for the museum manager.

Our museum has had many caretakers over the years. The City appointed managers who loved history and recognized the importance of

preserving our artifacts and archives. These items are our link to our past and our story. Mildred Hanchett, Hank Goudy, Virginia Presson and Richard Story were managers of the museum who grew up in Wayne and whose families were part of the history of our community. (Virginia's daughter Val Latzman wrote a wonderful book on Wayne with many photographs.) The Wayne Historical Society has always been an important part of the museum giving support in many ways. Matt Miller, our City Clerk, grew up in Wayne and has a great deal of knowledge of our community history. His positions in our City government have had him overseeing the museum and the Historical Commission as part of his responsibilities.

As we prepare to celebrate the beginning of a New Year, we pause to

See **Museum**, page 12

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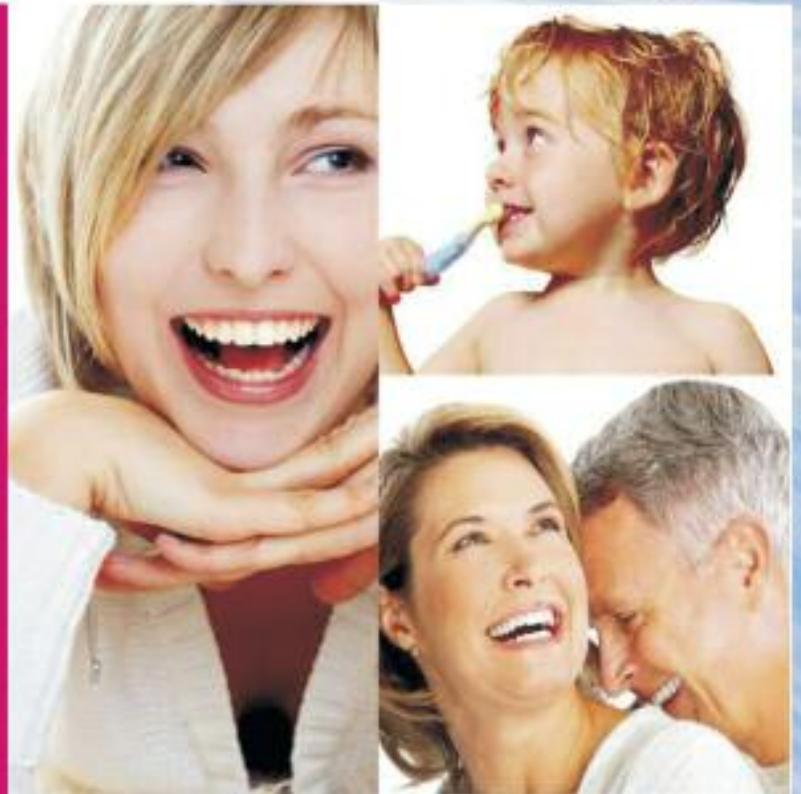
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# Graduates provide mentorship to current students

By Carolyn Marnon

The library was full of activity on a recent Tuesday morning as about 25 former Champions of Wayne students came back to their alma mater to discuss what their college experience has been like with students who are currently trying to navigate the next phase in their educational careers.

These former students included a Gates Scholar, a Georgetown attendee, one who said “The lowest grade I got was an A-”, one that was juggling sports and academics, one that was the first in her family to go to college, a bioengineering student at Stanford, one studying ancient languages and culture studies, one raising money for the children of St. Jude’s in her Honors Program, one learning Arabic, one who had been in foster care, a few former Upward Bound students, a male cheerleader and a first generation college student who was receiving a full-ride scholarship. They were all there to answer questions and share what they had learned so far.

After an introductory period where the former students introduced themselves, what year they graduated, where they were attending (or had attended) and what they had studied, they broke into smaller groups for more personal discussions.

Renaldo Powell graduated in 2009. He had been a Champion of Wayne and a member of Upward Bound. He said Upward Bound really helped him prepare for college and what it would be like. It gave him the opportunity to visit all the Michigan colleges, some in Toledo and even William and Mary College. Renaldo attended Central Michigan and pursued a business degree. His interest was in entrepreneurship and he tried starting three different businesses while he was there to get real world experience. Central Michigan has new venture programs that give up to \$30,000 to students to start a business. Renaldo entered every year. One year he won \$1000 to incorporate a business; that particular business was a website he created that would connect aspiring entrepreneurs with those who had the resources to help them. Of the three businesses he started while at



Twenty-five former Champions of Wayne students came back to their alma mater to discuss what their college experience has been like with students who are currently trying to navigate the next phase in their educational careers.

CM, Renaldo’s success story became Powell’s Pedicabs. He operated a bike taxi service around campus where he would pick up students from bars or parties and get them home safely. He made the whole experience fun for his customers by lighting up the pedicab and having music playing. He engaged with his customers throughout the ride. The best part of his business venture was that he worked whenever he wanted to.

Collin Hudson graduated in 2015 and is now a sophomore at Michigan State. He is studying neuroscience with a focus on cognition. He enjoys learning about brain activity and how humans think. He’s the first generation in his family to attend college. While he was at WMHS, he was part of Champions of Wayne, Upward Bound, on the tennis team and wrestled. As a Champion who already received good grades, he had to set extra goals for himself such as studying more and writing about his vari-

ous experiences. He is currently trying to obtain a research opportunity in neuroscience and belongs to the tennis club. He says tennis helps him to relieve the stress he experiences on campus. Collin likes crunching numbers, so he is planning to get a minor in statistics.

Kelsie Wysonog graduated in 2016 and headed off to Stanford. She was asked how she focuses on college when she is so far away from her family and friends. “You make friends fast,” she answered. “You just make friends.” She also stays connected with her family by calling her parents and siblings often and Facetiming (a phone application that allows callers to see each other on their phones while they chat). Kelsie was asked if she would attend Stanford for grad school when the time came. She wasn’t sure that she would. From what she has heard and experienced, the undergraduate program at Stanford is great, but she hasn’t heard much that is positive

about the graduate program. “I don’t want to be a doctor. I just want to play with DNA,” she says. She loves Stanford because people there believe in her dreams. They all have realistic dreams and then they have their crazy dreams. Kelsie’s realistic dream is to work with and research extinct animals. Her crazy dream is a real world Jurassic Park. Besides studying, Kelsie takes a Stanford tap class 3 times a week and does research with a graduate student. She says she was rejected from Student Senate. Maybe the dinosaurs need her more!

Carmen Mata attends Georgetown University in Washington DC. She was asked if it was hard for her to move so far from home. She replied that she had already done programs while in high school at Green Bay and Princeton, so she was prepared for the move. The most difficult part of moving was determining what she was going to need to bring. She had to know what the weather patterns were in DC so she could plan what clothing she’d need. She had to figure out what she had space for in her dorm room. Figuring out what to bring was not easy. She was asked if it was hard to make friends. Since she had done a summer program at Georgetown, she already had a small base of friends and she was able to make new friends. She did give two great pieces of advice: “You’re in a bubble. But the people are generally decent,” and “You can’t rely on your parents. You have to do it for you.”

Soon it was time to break for lunch. Teacher Kevin English told the students assembled to “Embrace this opportunity” to eat lunch and talk to each other.

This gave me the opportunity to speak to a few students directly rather than just listening in on their conversations.

Dimitrus Renfro will be graduating on May 6, 2017 from Michigan State University. While Dimitrus was growing up, his mom was always a working mom. His dad has been to prison nine times. In high school, he had a friend who was shorter than him (Dimitrus is tall) who challenged him to a wrestling

See **Champions**, page 13

# Kosowski domestic violence legislation signed into law

Earlier this year, State Representative and Democratic Whip Robert Kosowski (D-Westland) saw his legislation be signed into law by Governor Snyder.

House Bill 4478 would add companion animals to personal protection orders. "Often, in domestic violence situations, the perpetrator of the abuse will use a family pet as a way to control their human victims," Kosowski said. "In essence, my legislation would add a check box so that a domestic violence victim can include his or her pet while obtaining a personal protection order."

Currently, twenty-eight other states have similar provisions in place. One of these states, Minnesota, has been keeping track of how many personal protection orders have included companion animals since 2010. In 2010, the number of personal protection orders including pets was 167. In 2013, that number skyrocketed to 1067. "Statistics such as these show

that once domestic violence victims became aware they could include companion animals in personal protection orders, they overwhelmingly chose to do so," said Kosowski.

"This legislation is more than just including a check box on a form," Kosowski said. "Right now, domestic violence victims are not leaving their dangerous situations because their abuser is using the family pet as a pawn. Ensuring victims are aware they can include their companion animals in a personal protection order not only can save the animal from further abuse, it can save the human victims, both adults and children, from being controlled and forced back into violent situations. I am extremely happy that the Governor saw the importance of this legislation, and acted quickly to sign it into law. I'm proud that Michigan will now join several other states in furthering protections for both human victims of domestic violence, and their companion animals as well."



Governor Snyder signs State Representative Robert Kosowski domestic violence bill.

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**Museum,** Continued from page 8

look back and realize how many things have changed. Nothing stays the same. This is true of our museum at this time in history. Several years ago a group of leaders from our City applied to the State for acceptance into their "Main Street" program which supports communities in revitalizing their downtown areas. We were selected to participate. When looking for housing for this program and its manager, it was decided to use the museum and its office. This would make it possible to have our museum open to the public more hours per week. Main Street director Lindsey Wooten Dotson was instrumental in suggesting we look for professional help with our museum. She contacted Eastern Michigan University where a Historical Preservation Curriculum was offered and asked about locating a grad student who might be interested in working in our museum. Last April Tyler Moll began work and in a few short months has made some amazing changes.

Tyler is a 25 year old graduate from EMU with a Masters Degree in Historic Preservation. He brings a great deal of knowledge, expertise and enthusiasm to Wayne's museum. He is from Ohio, where his family still lives, but resides in Ypsilanti. He grew up spending time on his grandparents property which contains a number of historic buildings built in the mid to late 1800's. He has helped his family research and work on these buildings while working on his degree. Along with a number of dedicated volunteers from the Historical Society, Tyler has made some exciting changes to our museum. He started working in the office archives, organizing and sorting documents and books. He learned a great deal of Wayne's history as he worked at rehousing material in new acid free folders and boxes purchased for him by the Historical Society. Everything in the office (180 feet of shelving and 13 file cabinets) got new labels and a good cleaning. He and his volunteers sorted through tens of thousands of pieces of paper to achieve this task. In September he began going through the museum displays, cleaning, sorting and researching objects. This involved finding the objects accession number and matching that to the paper work that was filled out when



Residents line up to vote at the old Fire Department seen in Life magazine in 1952.



The Wayne Historical Museum.

the object was donated. Upon checking the original paperwork, he could read where the object came from, who donated it and if it was related in any way to Wayne. If an object has no connection to Wayne it is put in

storage until its fate is decided. Using this method, the display was cleared of clutter and simplified. Next, the museum was organized into chronological order going clockwise outside the rooms. It begins

with the early settlement of Wayne and goes through farming, early industries, later businesses and events and brings us to the 60's and 70's. It will take more time and effort to bring the displays to the present.

The new arrangement of artifacts brought the need for new signage to tell what the objects are and why they are important. Tyler designed a new logo and informational card that has been placed on or near most objects telling of their history. This required quite a bit of research but gives a professional appearance to the displays. Space was left for display boards which will be professionally designed and printed. A new program called "Adopt a Display" is now running where a family or business can adopt a display board and have their name or logo printed on it. The cost ranges from \$45 to \$160.

Another addition to the museum is the new welcome desk and gift shop at the main entrance. Display cases were cleaned and painted and now house an expanded selection of Wayne photos and local history books.

Tyler has cleaned and organized the basement and is now tackling the second floor which has always been used for storage of objects not on display. This will be a big undertaking for him and his volunteers but he likes the challenge and sees a little progress already as they clean, sort and research.

Tyler enjoys his work in our museum and has opted to renew his internship so that he can see the completion of what he started here. He has also taken on the job of the Wayne Historical Society Facebook page and writes weekly historical blurbs and uploads pictures from our archives. We are very fortunate to have Tyler working in our museum and bringing it up to date. WHAT'S OLD IS NEW AGAIN!!! If you have visited the museum in the past, you have to come back and have a look at all of the changes!!!! If you have never visited the museum, please make a New Years resolution to come visit and learn more about the history of your community. You will be glad you did!!!! The museum is open Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or by appointment. Call 734-722-0113. If you would like to volunteer, give them a call.



**Champions,** Continued from page 10

match and if he could beat Dimitrus, Dimitrus would join the wrestling team. Dimitrus already played football and had figured if he went to college, he would go to some small college in the south to play. As it turned out, Dimitrus lost the match with his friend and joined the wrestling team. He did well at wrestling. It turned out if he wanted to go to college, he would have to enroll in online classes while in high school so he could increase his GPA. He wrestled at MSU; however, he is not wrestling this year as he prepares for graduation. He is studying Criminal Justice as it relates to juvenile delinquents.

Marcel Trinity says when he attended WMHS, the school was con-

sidered an underdog. Nothing was expected of the students but the bare minimum. He graduated in 2012 and went on to the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He is currently working on a double major in accounting and finance. "You know what you're capable of-your self-worth. Don't let anyone tell you you can't." He used the Champions of Wayne program to meet his goals while using the positive reinforcement of the \$200 financial incentive as a tool to help him succeed. He currently works for Frito-Lay. He says Frito-Lay is a \$96 billion business. His curiosity and analytical mind are always thinking "Where does all that money go?" In the future, he wants to be someone who knows all those little details that make up the big picture.

# New Deputy Chief named

Effective January 9, 2017 Captain Fred Gilstorff will be Wayne Fire Department's new Deputy Chief.

According to Michael Stradtner, Wayne-Westland Fire Chief, Fred began his career 22 years ago in June, 1994 with the Wayne Fire Department. Fred is an instructor for the Rapid Intervention Team and Fire Fighter Safety. He has spent many hours planning safe and educated training for the four automatic aid communities involved. Fred has assisted in coordinating secure simulations of emergency situations that fire fighters may face in their careers. His input was engaged in the MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) and

our Auto Aid policies. Safety and training are a large part of Fred's goals. He manages a shift of fire fighters prepared to respond to any emergency. Fred has also secured much needed equipment through grant writing and fundraising.

During his career, Fred has exhibited the professionalism and enthusiasm that all fire fighters strive to achieve.

Fred's desire to excel and further his knowledge is observed daily in his eagerness to share his progressive thoughts. While engaged in emergency situations, Fred displays considerable courage, knowledge, strength and determination.



Wayne-Westland Fire Chief Michael Stradtner and Mayor Susan Rowe introduce new Deputy Chief Fred Gilstorff at the January 3rd City Council meeting.

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**Wheatley, James W** Age 87  
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them with happy memories and stories to share.  
 Visitation Sunday, December 18th, 2-6 pm and Monday, December 19th, 10 am until the time of service at 11 am at Harry J. Will Funeral Home 34567 Michigan Ave. in Wayne. James will be laid to rest at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West in Westland. In lieu of flowers, contributions appreciated to Gideon International Wayne Southwest Camp P.O. Box 74565 Romulus, MI 48174.



## Ford bringing back the Ranger and Bronco to Wayne

Ford is bringing back the Ranger midsize pickup truck to its North American vehicle lineup in 2019 and Bronco midsize SUV to its global vehicle portfolio in 2020. Both vehicles will be manufactured at Ford's Michigan Assembly Plant in Wayne, Michigan. "We've heard our customers loud and clear. They want a new generation of vehicles that are incredibly capable yet fun to drive," said Joe Hinrichs, Ford's president of The Americas. "Ranger is for truck buyers who want an affordable, functional, rugged and maneuverable pickup that's Built Ford Tough. Bronco will be a no-compromise midsize 4x4 utility for thrill seekers who want to venture way beyond the city." Pictured above are the new logos for the Ranger, Bronco and rendering of the 2020 Bronco.



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# Tinkham students succeeding despite move

By Carolyn Marnon

Amid cuts by the Wayne Westland Community School District to adult education last summer, Tinkham Educational Center moved from where they were located on Venoy Rd. to a wing of Wayne Memorial High School. Since the move, Tinkham's alternative high school has been able to increase enrollment from 60 students to about 180. Two teachers were added to help keep the class sizes small at approximately 20 students.

The 18-week semesters like the regular high schools have been reduced to 9-week quarters. During those 9 weeks, students at Tinkham take four classes that are 1 ½ hours long each.

Kim Doman, Director of Tinkham Educational Center, has found the school now has a higher success rate for the students. During the 2nd semester last spring under the old system, 29% of the Tinkham high school students passed zero classes. Zero! Nada! Nada! Says Kim, "We had students that last year passed zero classes and this year passed all four classes."

Students come to Tinkham because they are referred by either John Glenn or Wayne Memorial. Often, it is because they are in jeopardy of not graduating on time. Attendance issues would account for most of that. Students were having difficulties at school, weren't getting the help they needed, and eventually would just give up on going to school. If it is found that a student is not attending while at Tinkham, educators reach out to the students to find out how they can help. Whereas there had been a cap of age 20 on being able to work toward a high school diploma, the new system allows a student up to age 22 to get a diploma. A student must be age 16 to attend Tinkham. It had been discovered that most behavioral issues were coming from 14 and 15 year old students who weren't mature enough to handle the alternative setting.

Students at Tinkham are not given a special curriculum to graduate. They must adhere to the Michigan Merit Curriculum, the same as the regular high schools. What helps these students is that because of the smaller class size, there is more one-

on-one time with the teachers. Teachers are better able to tell when a student is struggling with the material. Classes start at 9:15 a.m.; school is out at 4:05 p.m.

Tinkham has a youth mentorship program. Students who are participating in this program spend ½ the day attending classes at Tinkham and the other ½ of the day at Greenfield Village where they do a work/study program. To participate in the mentorship program, students have to interview with the director. Currently, four students are in the program.

Adult education classes were eliminated at Tinkham. The only general classes available now are GED preparation and English as a Second Language, both taught out of John Glenn.

Tinkham has open enrollment which means you can begin attending at any time. However, most students start with the beginning of the quarter. They practice a blended learning technique. Half of a student's time is spent learning online while the other half of learning is through their books. Tinkham has the most up-to-date technology in

the district. They have smart panel flat screen TVs, google chromebook carts (which are carts with laptops) and a computer lab with chrome stations. Homework is more embedded into the classroom setting, so a student, if they use their time wisely in class, would have minimal outside homework.

There can still be drama with the students like what is found at the regular high schools. However, that is reduced by not having the 14 and 15 year old students.

A student council group was started recently. The school is also looking into getting into an alternative athletic league.

Seventeen year-old Trontay Byrd is finding success at Tinkham. He was introduced as an honor roll student, but he was quick to add "and student council!" He had come to Mrs. Doman's office to drop off a paper showing that he had completed his U.S. History class for the 2nd quarter period. The 1st quarter had recently ended on November 4.

Trontay enjoys his English class. He likes to make music. English has shown him the different ways he can manipulate words. "English is just

talking," he says. He has found that he has no trouble bringing up his grades in this environment. That particular day, the first meeting of the Community Café/Spirit Week awards had been held. Trontay received recognition for his efforts. The school has helped him become more focused and disciplined. He went to the college and career fair that was held several weeks prior and was impressed with Specs Howard School of Media Arts in Southfield. He would like to major in graphic design and minor in filming. What motivates him to keep moving forward with his education is seeing the happiness on teacher's faces. "This school helps you find your identity," said Trontay. "If anyone puts in effort, you're going to see results."

"I'm seeing a lot of good change in kids," especially in their maturity, says Kim. After the first quarter, ten students made the honor roll with 3.0 or higher GPA. Eight students took more than the required four classes. 53 students passed all four of their classes. Eight students had excellent attendance, and eight students were able to graduate.



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