



THE WAYNE Dispatch

APRIL 2019

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the Year
LT JASON REEVES

3300

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Receives Top Honor

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Happy Easter

Please join us at Hill Crest Bible Church for our Easter Celebrations.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
Friday, April 19th @ 6:00 p.m.

FAMILY EASTER EVENT
Saturday, April 20th
12 Noon - 2:00 p.m.
GAMES, CRAFTS, CANDY & FOOD!

EASTER AT HILL CREST
Sunday, April 21st
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Downtown Wayne Clean Up

Saturday, April 27th
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Register at: downtownwayne.org or 734-629-6822

Main Street to host downtown clean-up

Wayne Main Street, in conjunction with its community partners, will be hosting the 4th Annual Spring Clean-Up Day in downtown Wayne on Saturday, April 27, from 9:00 a.m.-Noon.

Community members of all ages are invited to give a couple hours of their time into making downtown Wayne even better.

Last year's event was an overwhelming success, with more than 200 volunteers participating in the Clean-Up Day.

Volunteers can sign up to participate by visiting downtownwayne.org and clicking on the registration link or registering on the day of the event at 9:00 a.m. at the 29th District Court parking lot located at 34808 Sims Street. All pre-registered volunteers will receive a complimentary

event t-shirt. Snacks will also be served at registration. Volunteers are encouraged to wear older clothing and bring gloves.

This event will take place on Arbor Day weekend and will help promote a cleaner downtown Wayne. Carol Bevard, Chair of Wayne Main Street's Clean-Up Committee comments "Cleaning up Wayne is essential in terms of enhancing our city's amazing downtown. It is also important that we work together to create a better downtown Wayne". The event is being organized by a number of community-based groups including Healthy Wayne, Friends of the Rouge, the Wayne Chamber of Commerce, Wayne Department of Public Works, The Wayne Historical Society, Wayne Main Street, and the Wayne Rotary Club.

MAY 11, 2019



★ ★ ★ ★

WAYNE MAIN STREET

CREATING A RIPPLE EFFECT

DOWNTOWN WAYNE Cookie Stroll

Mother's Day Weekend

Saturday, May 11, 2019 @ 11:00 AM

Tickets \$15 each
or 4 for \$40



Wayne Main Street will be hosting a "Cookie Stroll" and hanging basket sale Mother's Day Weekend. Registration will take place in Derby's Alley located on Michigan Avenue in downtown Wayne. Please join us on Saturday, May 11th at 11:00 a.m.

Tickets available @ downtownwayne.org or call 734.629.6822








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NEWS BRIEFS

High school art show

Visit the Wayne Historical Museum, 1 Towne Square, in April and May for a student art show showcasing Wayne Memorial, John Glenn and Tinkham Educational Center. There are drawings, paintings, ceramics, jewelry and more. The opening reception will be April 17, 6:00-8:00 p.m. where anyone can come and enjoy the art and have refreshments. The museum will be open Wednesdays and Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

History of Wayne parks

Join Eric Cleereman at the Wayne Historical Museum as he presents a program on Wayne's city parks as part of the Wayne Historical Society's monthly meeting on Thursday, April 11, at 7:00 p.m. Eric will speak about the history of various parks in Wayne.

Casino bus trip planned

The Wayneland Eagle Riders invite you to join them for a Greektown Casino bus trip fundraiser on Saturday, April 13. The cost is \$40 per person and includes round-trip motorcoach transportation to Detroit, 5 hours of gaming at Greektown Casino and each person will get back \$15 in gaming and \$5 in food from the casino. Bus departs at 4:15 p.m. from the Eagles Club in Wayne and will return you to the Eagles Club at 10:45 p.m. Full payment is due at sign-up; registration deadline is March 28. For reservations, contact Tammy Fick, (734) 636-6914 or email pilepig62@yahoo.com.

Peter Cottontail workshop

Bring your kids to this new and fun free event at the Knights of Columbus Notre Dame Lounge, 3144 S. Wayne Rd. on Saturday, April 13, from 10:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. There will be free kids crafts open to kids of all ages. You will be able to purchase a hot dog or taco with a pop for \$3. Come see what this new event is all about!

Free Easter bunny pictures

Come get your picture taken with the Easter Bunny for FREE on Saturday, April 13, at REMAX Cornerstone, 8311 N. Wayne Rd, Westland from Noon-3:00 p.m. Feel free to bring your camera, but there will also be a photographer on site to take a FREE professional picture which will be emailed to you. REMAX Cornerstone will be accepting donations for The Children's Miracle Network. All donations stay local to provide scholarships for kids to attend the RE/MAX communication preschool at Beaumont Royal Oak.

Wayne museum ghost hunt

A fundraiser for the Wayne Historical Society will be held on Saturday, April 13, from 8:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. Guests will get to select a one-hour window to explore with Great Lakes Ghost Hunters of Michigan. Tickets are \$20 and must be purchased through Eventbrite. Participants must be 18 and older. You are welcome to bring your own equipment to investigate the building and work

with ghost hunters on site. Please be careful of the artifacts and know that if you appear to be under the influence of anything, you will be asked to leave the event.

Evening of wine and swag

Spend an evening with friends creating memories along with the creation of a spring swag. You can enjoy wine and cheese as you craft your evening away on Saturday, April 13, at the Wine and Swag Spring Crafting Event being held at the Knights of Columbus Notre Dame Lounge, 3144 S. Wayne Rd from 6:00-10:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and include crafting supplies, wine bar, and cheese and crackers. Take the swag you create home with you. Tickets are available at www.notredamelounge.Eventbrite.com

Painting the Pavilions

The Parks and Trails Committee has scheduled a Painting the Pavilions event to paint the remaining pavilions that were not painted last year due to the onset of winter. On Sunday, April 14, from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (weather permitting), volunteers will start painting at DeMario Park, move on to Rotary II and finish at Civitan. Civitan was painted last season, but it needs a slight touch-up. Please consider helping the committee finish the project and beautify a few Wayne parks in the process.

Park Clean Ups are also scheduled as follows:

Soroptomist Park:

May 4; 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Washington Trail:

May 18; 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Avondale Park:

June 1; 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Waltz Quadrplex:

June 22; 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Forest Park:

July 13; 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Lost car companies of Detroit

The Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Rd, will be hosting the program "Lost Car Companies of Detroit" on Tuesday, April 16, at 7:00 p.m. Among the more than two hundred auto companies that tried their luck in the Motor City, just three remain: Ford, General Motors, and Chrysler. Many of those lost to history still have colorful stories worth telling. For instance, J.J. Cole forgot to put brakes in his new auto, so on the first test run, he had to drive it in circles until it ran out of gas! Join author Alan Naldrett as he explores tales of automakers who ultimately failed but who helped shape today's auto industry and designs.

Marshmallow drop

HYPE welcomes you to enjoy the annual Marshmallow Drop on Friday, April 19, at Attwood Park, 33601 Annapolis St, on the Anderson Ballfield. The drops last about five minutes. The first drop at 10:00 a.m. will be for toddlers through age 4 and also children with disabilities. The second drop will be at 10:15 a.m. for children ages 5-7. The final drop at 10:30 a.m. will be for children ages 8-10.

Bunny brunch

All are invited to have brunch with the Easter Bunny, do some arts and crafts and enjoy the atmosphere of the annual Bunny Brunch at HYPE, 4635 Howe Rd, on Friday,

See Briefs, page 6

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THE WAYNE Dispatch

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



Lt. Jason Reeves 2018 Wayne Firefighter of the Year

By Carolyn Marnon

“Lt. Reeves started with the fire EMS department in July 2006 and throughout his career, Jason has become a great asset to the department. Jason has spent countless hours on his own time attending lectures, classes and seminars increasing his knowledge of the fire service,” said Fire Chief Michael Stradtner at the 2018 Firefighter Awards Luncheon held April 2.

“In November 2017 Jason was promoted to the rank of lieutenant where he demonstrates great leadership on a daily basis. Jason goes above and beyond his duties for the City of Wayne Fire/EMS Department and its residents. Is not uncommon for Jason to be at the station for several hours after getting off duty working on self-assigned department projects or tasks.”

“Lt. Reeves has proven to be a vital part of the City of Wayne Fire/EMS department and through his continued dedication to improve not only his own knowledge but those that serve with him for the continued success and advancement of the City of Wayne. His actions greatly contribute to the accomplishments and uphold the finest tradition of the Wayne Fire/EMS department.”

The Firefighter of the Year award is given annually to one member of the Fire/EMS Department who has exemplified outstanding service throughout the year.

Lt. Reeves is a 2nd generation firefighter in the City of Wayne. His father is retired Captain Duane Reeves. Jason says he is following in his father’s footsteps by committing to provide the best Fire/EMS services possible to the Wayne community. Receiving this honor is the icing on the cake.

Other awards given were:

Rescue Runs Achievements: One award for every 1500 rescue runs responded to.

Over 1500: Adrian Garduno and Shaun Pek

Over 3000: Jeremie Schneider and Andy Stager

Over 4500: Bill Thomas, Troy Marlewitz, Rob Caccia and Carl Peters

Over 6000: Cullen McKee, Jeremie Tima, Dave Wylie and Jason



Lt. Jason Reeves, Firefighter of the Year award.

Reeves

Safe Driving: awarded for exhibiting safe driving habits. Must not have any incidents involving any apparatus within 10 years. Once awarded, cannot be revoked due to future incident.

Jeremie Schneider, Andy Stager, Bill Thomas, Dave Wylie, Rob Caccia, Troy Marlewitz, Jason Reeves, Jeremie Tima and Cullen McKee

Education/Achievement Award: Higher education. Associate degree: plain ribbon. Bachelor’s degree: oak leaf cluster

Associates Degree: Shaun Pek
FO2: Cullen McKee

FO3: Jeremie Schneider, Dave Wylie and Jason Reeves

Special Teams: Members who have become a member in good standing with any specialty team (i.e. HAZ-MAT, USAR) for no less than 3

years

HazMat (Hazardous Materials): Andy Stager and Bill Thomas

USAR (Urban Search and Rescue): Dave Wylie and Jason Reeves

Training Officer: Awarded to members who hold certification of EMS I/C or Fire Training Officer. Member must hold the position for a least (1) year.

Andy Stager, EMS I/C
Bill Thomas, Firefighter

Unit Citation: Awarded to members of units who had outstanding performance of a difficult task involving a fire/rescue response/incident. Contributions being made as a higher degree of professional excellence. Other outstanding actions of a nature which brings unusual credit to the department and its members.
Shaun Pek, Assisting Krogol
Jason Reeves, Inkster Fire

Cullen McKee, Inkster Fire

Life Saving Awards: Intended for all members directly responsible for the saving of human life. Eligible to receive this award if the actions led to the prolonging of life to the extent that the patient was released to medical staff, even if the patient expires at a later time.

Jason Reeves, Cullen McKee and Tavis Brehmer

Honorable Mentions:
Andy Stager, Staff and Command
Joseph Krogol, Badge
Cullen McKee, FFOTY Honorable Mention

Mayor Pro Tem Tom Porter says he had the honor of attending the awards luncheon. “What a great group of firefighters we have in our city,” he concluded.

NEWS BRIEFS

BRIEFS, Continued from page 4

April 19. Doors open at 10:45 a.m. Brunch will be served at 11:00 a.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$6 for kids ages 3-11, and free for children ages 2 and under.

Avengers: Endgame for night owls

On Thursday, April 25, the State Wayne Theatre will be keeping the doors open all night long and playing Avengers: Endgame for 30 continuous hours. The theatre wants everyone to have a chance to experience the epic conclusion of a saga 10+ years in the making. They will also be teaming up with the "League of Enchantment", a highly professional Cos-Play group whose members are actively involved in community outreach and work with a variety of local charities. Keeping up with the tradition, Phoenix Theatres will be donating \$1 from every Avengers:

Endgame Popcorn Tin sold to the Make-a-Wish Foundation of Michigan. Tickets on sale now.

Blackout Poetry

April is National Poetry Month so why not try creating some Blackout Poetry? The idea is simple—you start with a page from a newspaper or old book and black out words until you are left with a poem. It's a simple idea that can unleash a lot of creativity! Teens and adults are welcome to this fun activity at the Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Rd. on Thursday, April 25, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wayne high school spring play

The Wayne Memorial Theatrical Guild will present "Sister Act" April 25-27 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stockmeyer Auditorium, Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth St. Tickets are \$12, reserved seating. Ad-

vanced tickets are available online at www.showtix4u.com. The box office will open 30 minutes before each show.

Create your own journal for kids

Children 8 and up are invited to create and customize their own journals at the Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Rd. on Saturday, April 27, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Create the perfect place to keep your writing, poetry, and thoughts! All supplies will be provided.

\$100,000 grant received

The State of Michigan Department of Treasury awarded a Financially Distressed Cities, Villages and Townships (FDCVT) grant up to \$100,000 toward reimbursement of expenditures required to implement the Wayne Police Department Energy Upgrades to Reduce Overall Energy Spend. The heating and cooling system at the police department is in

need of replacement. This will save the City hundreds of thousands of dollars long-term with a significant reduction in energy costs, according to a post on the city administration Facebook page. The Wayne Police Department was built in 2003.

Fairy garden workshop

Join the Wayne Historical Society at the Wayne Historical Museum, 1 Towne Square, for a workshop where you will build your own succulent fairy garden. The workshop on Saturday, April 20, at 1:00-3:00 p.m. will include a container, dirt, stone, decor and plants, everything you need to build your own little scene. You may bring your own decor if you wish, especially if you want a specific theme. Check out craft stores for ideas. This event was enthusiastically received last year. Light refreshments will be served. Children welcome with an adult. Bring a friend and do it together. Tickets are \$30, all supplies provided.

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IN METRO DETROIT

- 1 in 10 children are sexually abused before the age of 18.
- 87,811 children are currently in families being investigated for child abuse.
- 15,000 children are in the foster care system.

Pinwheels for Prevention is a campaign designed to create awareness for the prevention of child abuse and neglect in Metro Detroit.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention month, therefore your Metro Detroit Chevy Dealers have teamed up with child abuse prevention agencies across Metro Detroit to help raise awareness about this alarming issue.

The pinwheel is the national symbol for child abuse prevention and represents a carefree childhood. We encourage our customers to stop in and and take a pinwheel and postcard from our display in effort to take a stand against child abuse. "It only takes one person to impact the safety of a child."



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10:30 A.M. DROP 3: Ages 8-10

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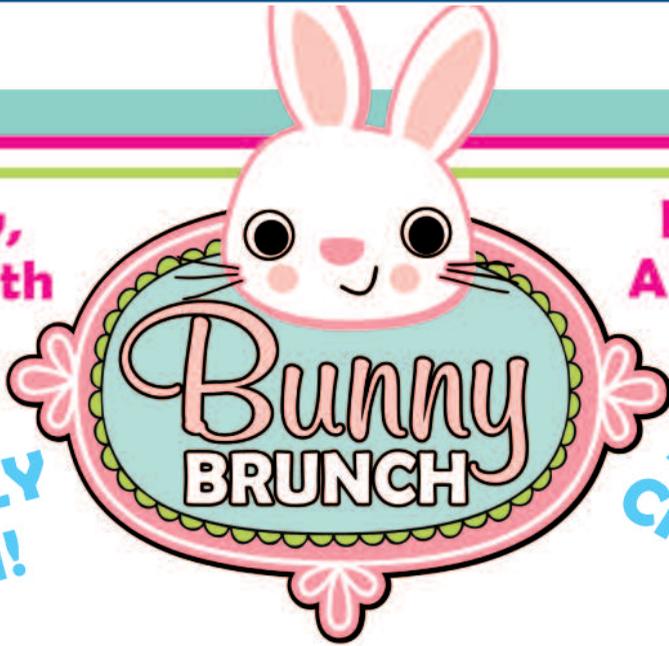
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April 19th



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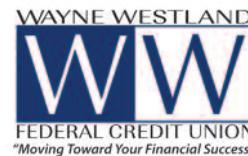
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The Wayne Stars The History of Wayne's Town Baseball Team

By Tyler Moll

The game of baseball was invented in New York in 1839, and quickly became America's favorite sport. The earliest account of baseball in Wayne comes from a dairy entry by Albert Coleburn, dated August 10, 1866. Mr. Coleburn mentions that the Detroit Ball Club was here in town to play Wayne. A week later he notes that the Wayne team beat the Dexter team. These early teams were just a loose band of 9 or 10 men who would get together to have a little fun. In the early 1880s the Wayne team, consisting of six Stellwagen brothers played and beat a Detroit based team. That Detroit team would later become the Tigers. In 1889 the Wayne team played and beat the Detroit Athletic Club. Other towns had their own teams as well, including Dearborn, Wyandotte, Plymouth, New Boston, Belleville and Willow. It appears that the Wayne team got serious in 1894, paying



Wayne team of 1907.

Mrs. Chaffee \$20.17 for new matching uniforms. They also built a ball-

field in front of the Michigan Central Railroad depot, today this is the site

of the Rite Aid on Michigan Avenue E. In the 1890s the team consisted of Stellwagen, Cozadd, Hawley, Zimmerman, Francisco, Curtis and Kirkwood with some alternates. These men were not young kids either, most owned businesses in town and were store owners, butchers, bankers and doctors. The team also got an official name, The Wayne Stars. The later 1890s was hard on the Stars however, a string of losses actually meant the team disbanded around the turn of the century. A few years later the team restarted again, and in 1907 built another ballfield near main and Michigan Avenue, later where West Side Jr. High/Board of Education building was. The team played well and in 1915, after winning a game in Detroit the entire town greeted the team when they returned by train. Wayne's town baseball team seems to have tapered off after this, and they dissolved sometime in the late teens or early 1920s.

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Wayne Memorial JROTC Building a leader of character

By Carolyn Marnon

Getting in shape motivated Gurnoor Singh to join the JROTC. Gurnoor, a student at Wayne Memorial High School, has now been in JROTC all four years of high school. United States Military Academy West Point has appointed Gurnoor for the Class of 2023.

JROTC came to Franklin Middle School to do a "briefing" when Gurnoor was a student there. That's how he learned about the program and the Raiders, a physical team that completes obstacle courses and competes locally and nationally.

Gurnoor has a cumulative GPA of 3.8, is enrolled in several AP classes (including AP Calculus, AP English Literature and AP Government), wants to be a computer engineer and wants to serve in the military as long as possible.

According to West Point's website, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point's mission is "to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so

that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the Nation as an officer in the United States Army."

It goes on to say, "Being accepted for admission into West Point is an exceptional honor and - in every regard - a degree earned from West Point speaks volumes about your abilities."

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Gurnoor Singh was accepted for admission to the US Military Academy West Point.

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Happy Easter!

Lenny Powell and family get things done

By Carolyn Marnon

April is National Volunteer Month. Although there are many residents throughout Wayne who give freely of their time to various organizations and activities, one resident has stood out recently.

Although Lenny Powell grew up in Westland, he did attend and graduate from Wayne Memorial High School. Since 2010, Lenny and his wife, Christi, have lived in Wayne.

Tired of the negativity that seemed to permeate the city, they decided that if there was something they didn't like, they were going to change it. They began with organizing vendor shows at HYPE Athletics Western Wayne about three years ago. They did approximately six shows, starting with 8 vendors, growing each time until they had to move the event to the basketball courts to accommodate 52 vendors. They are not currently doing the shows due to health reasons.

Last fall, Lenny set up a raffle of a corn hole set with the proceeds going toward making Thanksgiving baskets for the schools. People donated so many turkeys and other food items to use.

During this time, Lenny was contacted by a lady who lived at Wayne Tower; the activities director had just left; she was wondering if there was anything Lenny could do to help at the Towers.

That contact led to the organization of a Thanksgiving meal for the residents at Wayne Towers. 85 residents showed up to dine on the fine food that was donated by community members. Lenny says firefighters helped cook turkeys at the fire station and then brought the food over.



The Powell's, Christi (wife), Felicia (daughter) and Lenny.

He said Firefighter Jason Reeves is a caterer and helped cook items. The event was so successful, they were asked to do a Christmas dinner that was attended by about 125 residents. Lenny says Wayne Towers has 152 units. Lenny and Christi are currently collecting donations for an Easter dinner being held on April 20.

Lenny has done restaurant fundraisers for the police and fire departments. \$300 that was raised for the police department was matched twice: once by City Manager Lisa Nocerini and once by resident Vern Amos.

In 2017, there was not going to be a Marshmallow Drop in Wayne because there was no longer a sponsor to help fund it. Through Mayor John Rhaesa and Mayor Pro Tem Tom Porter, Lenny was able to get 15000

individual marshmallows donated by Fresh Choice so the event could continue.

He was instrumental in the Halloween Walk starting in 2017. He was able to find businesses and individuals willing to donate 6-10 bags of candy, or more, to give out to kids. That event drew more people than was ever expected.

Because a resident asked for it, Lenny found someone to come to Wayne and speak for an Autism Awareness Forum held last month at HYPE. Christi says she went to school for social work and was a para-pro in Wayne-Westland schools. She worked with autistic kids in the elementary schools and has friends with autistic children.

The summer Concerts in the Park event at Goudy Park has had

vendors who stay during the concert selling their wares and refreshments thanks to the hard work of Lenny.

Not everything they do is organized by themselves. Lenny and Christi have also volunteered with Wayne Main Street. Last fall, they helped at a poker tournament fundraiser. "We had so much fun doing it," says Christi.

Christi is on Wayne's Parks and Trails Committee. She is in charge of Taft, Forest and Rotary II parks.

Lenny plans on donating a corn hole board to the fire department for their charity BBQ in June. "I can't say enough about the fire department," he says. Christi adds, "We have the best fire department around, honestly."

Their advice to others thinking of volunteering? "Try anything you want and get involved with others," recommends Lenny. Says Christi, "If there's something you like, it doesn't matter what it is, get out there and do it. Get involved with Wayne Main Street if you don't want to be in the public eye. Just do it. Be the change." Lenny continues, "If you see something wrong, change it. Just get involved. You don't have to go through hoops. I don't do it for credit. I do it to make a change." He speaks about how he doesn't always know who to call or what to do, but he gets on the phone and just starts. "You learn by trying things," he says.

"People need to get involved. If you see something you want to change, get involved and change it."

If you would like to speak with Lenny about an idea, you can call him at (734) 776-6519 or email him at LennyPowell0822@gmail.com. He says he will help anyway he can.



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Family man serving the City of Wayne with integrity

By Carolyn Marnon

"I'd like to thank the Mayor, members of Council and the City Manager for giving me this opportunity. I intend to reward your confidence with hard work and integrity for the rest of my life," said newly appointed Police Chief Ryan Strong as he addressed the council at his March 19 swearing-in ceremony.

"I'd like to thank my wife and children for their endless love and support, particularly over the last few weeks. My mother is also here tonight. She taught me the values of hard work and integrity I just mentioned along with the benefits of a career in public service."

"My uncle, Kevin Courtney, who drove all the way from Big Rapids to be here tonight. I've been lucky to have him in my life. Much of what I've learned about leadership in law enforcement has been from him."

"Retired Chief Mike Sumeracki is here tonight as well. He hired me in 1999. I've met few better men in my life than him."

"Thank you also to my good friend Al Maciag for his personal and professional guidance over the years. All the past leaders of this department have helped to build a highly respected law enforcement organization. I'm humbled to follow in their footsteps."

"To the men and women of the Wayne Police Department, thank you all for what you do. Our department would not be what it is without your service. I'll work hard to give you the same opportunities that I've had over my career. Serving the community is one of our top priorities in law enforcement. Please just remember to make yourselves and your families a priority as well. Thank you."

Chief Strong always wanted to be a police officer when he was growing up. Growing up in Birch Run, Michigan, Ryan was surrounded by family in public service. His mother was a city manager who taught him the value of public service. His uncle has been police chief in Big Rapids and has been Ryan's mentor. Ryan says he learned integrity and leadership in law enforcement from him. It was an honor that his uncle came all the way from Big Rapids to see him sworn in as police chief. His aunt was the first female police officer in



Chief Ryan Strong is joined by his family: mother Marcia, daughter Shannon, son Sean and his wife Julie at his swearing in as Police Chief Ceremony in March.

Saginaw at the time.

After graduating from Michigan State with a Criminal Justice degree, Ryan learned of a federal program called Police Corps that could send him to the police academy followed by a four-year commitment at an understaffed police department. After those four years, the Police Corp would then reimburse him for his college education. He took the opportunity and was assigned to the Wayne Police Department. He liked it here so much he never left.

Ryan became a police officer in 1999 and went on to get a Master degree. After about 10 years, he was promoted to Sergeant on the midnight shift. He moved up the ranks to Lieutenant where he has been in charge of patrol and the detective bureau. In December, he was promoted to Acting Police Chief when Alan Maciag, the former Wayne Police Chief and current Northville Police Chief, retired.

Becoming Police Chief was one of Ryan's goals, although he does say that there is value in all levels of police work. "The lowest level is making the biggest difference being out with the people, arresting criminals," says Ryan.

The challenge before Chief Strong is increasing staffing. He thanks the city council and the city manager for supporting his efforts. The department has two officers who graduated last spring from the police academy and currently has two attending the academy. Staffing is not a problem Wayne alone has. Every police department is facing staffing shortages,

he says, for a wide variety of reasons.

His top goals include staffing, a wellness program and equipment. The staffing problem can't be solved overnight, he says. He would like an officer in the high school building positive relationships with the students. He wants physical and mental wellness activities for his officers. He also wants the officers to have the equipment they need to do the job.

The department recently received a grant allowing in-car video and body cams, which the department should have within the next month. A new police car is in service, and a \$100,000 grant was received for heating/cooling in the police building.

His most memorable career moment was getting sworn in as police chief and seeing his mom, wife, children, uncle, the men of the police department and the police chief who hired him into the Wayne Police Department in the audience.

What has been the biggest change from Lieutenant to Chief? "More administrative," he says. He has to make sure the officers have what they need to do their jobs—equipment, training, staff and resources properly allocated.

"I'm so proud of you. I told all my friends," Ryan says his 11-year old daughter told him. He's been married for 16 years and says he wouldn't have made it this far without his wife. She knows he's worked hard and been very supportive of him.

Above all else, integrity is the number one thing a police chief needs, notes Ryan. "Nothing else

matters if you don't have integrity. You have no business being in this profession if you can't be honest in words and actions." A chief also needs to work hard to be taken seriously. As the face of the department, the police chief also needs good communication skills. Ryan says he has to communicate with the people he works for—the mayor, council, city manager, the staff under him and the community. He expects his officers to have these traits as well. "Set a good example in all things."

"I'm excited about this next chapter in my career. The City of Wayne has been very good to me the last twenty years. I plan to work very hard. If you're going to pay me, I'm going to work hard for you. I take integrity very seriously."

Things you might not know about Ryan Strong:

Hunting is an important part of his life, especially deer hunting. He has been going hunting with the same group for about 30 years.

He enjoys hiking. Hiking the Appalachian Trail is on his bucket list. He did some great hikes with his brother and sister-in-law in Bend, Oregon where they live.

He's a big dog lover. He has a golden retriever named Zeke that he takes for an 8-10 mile walk every weekend. He says his daughter wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up.

He's a huge Johnny Cash fan. He has a Johnny Cash calendar hanging in his office. When Johnny died, he went to New York for an auction of Johnny Cash items and bought two gold records.

His favorite dates with his wife involve live music. They lean toward Americana music, like Rosanne Cash. He's a college professor. He's taught criminal justice courses at the Detroit satellite campus of Ferris State for the last ten years. He also teaches online courses at Baker College. Since he's not out arresting bad guys anymore, he enjoys mentoring young people. He likes seeing how their careers develop. Several Police Service Aides (PSA) at the department are former students.

He loves to bake bread, especially sourdough. He says the dough is always fermenting in the fridge. He leaves the sweeter baking to his wife.

Athletic Director receives award

By Carolyn Marnon

In recognition of his outstanding service to the administration of interscholastic athletics, benefitting students, schools and community, Wayne Memorial High School Athletic Director Greg Ambrose, CAA was recently presented with an award for 2018-2019 MIAAA (Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association) Regional Athletic Director of the Year.

Greg came to Wayne Memorial High School in 2006 as the new Athletic Director. Prior to that, he had been teaching and coaching in Farmington, been an event manager for Farmington High School and a building athletic coordinator.

At WMHS, Greg is responsible for the day to day logistics of 23 sports programs during the school year. That includes transportation, student eligibility, and weather watching. In the spring for example, if the temperature outside is 37 degrees or below, outdoor events are cancelled. There is no ceiling, he says for how high the temperature can get. Greg says they do watch the heat index,

however, in August when football practice is happening.

A colleague nominated him for the MIAAA award. "It's humbling. I work with a lot of talented people. A lot of people doing a lot of good things," he says of the honor.

The biggest challenge he has faced as AD was initially coming into the job and not knowing the Wayne community. He had to figure things out, determine what the priorities were and reconcile his basic philosophies with what was actually happening. "If it's not broken, don't fix it," he says.

A recent challenge has been the turnover in coaches, finding good quality coaches, and getting coaches to stay. He gave the example of girls basketball coach Jarvis Mitchell who came to him four years ago. Jarvis asked Greg to give him time and they would turn the girls basketball program around. The team was struggling back then, and it was hard to find kids to even be on the team. Jarvis declared they were going to develop a culture and a family. For the last two years, the girl's team has

made it to the Final Four in the Michigan state tournament. Kids are getting opportunities to play at the next level. Jarvis also works with the kids on his own time, and now the girls basketball program is a prominent one.

The boys basketball coach, Coach Young, holds his kids accountable for their grades, behavior and actions both on and off the court. In the last two years, the boy's team has won District, but they've been beat in the Regionals.

Wayne-Westland is not a pay-to-play district, says Greg. Uniforms and equipment are all provided to the teams. Finances, however, do not allow for new sports like hockey or lacrosse.

He is proud of how long he has been Athletic Director at WMHS because he was not hired from within. He has established himself here on his own without knowing someone. Some kids still reach out to him once in awhile. "Somehow, somewhere, you made a connection with them."

Greg received the award at the

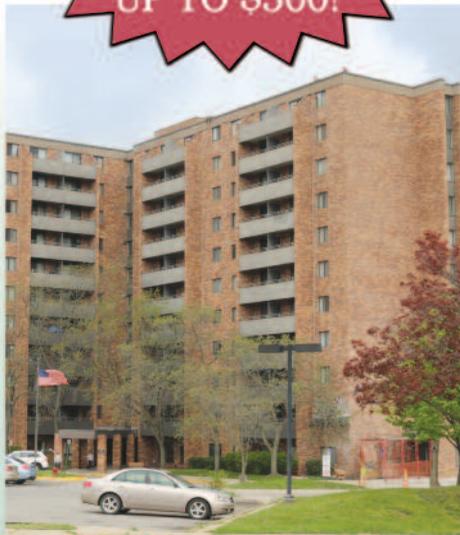


Wayne Memorial High School Athletic Director Greg Ambrose receives the Regional Athletic Director of the Year award. He's pictured here with his wife, Bonnie, and his daughter, Caroline.

state conference for athletic directors held in Traverse City. "I was happy to be able to share that with my wife and daughter," he said. "I'm not doing this without their support. I've always had great support at Wayne Memorial. You don't get it on your own (the award). I have coaches that make me look good. I have assistants that make me look good. There's a lot behind the scenes that gets done. I've worked with a lot of great people in the league."



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New Wayne City Clerk likes challenges

By Carolyn Marnon

She grew up in Wayne on Gloria Street. She's a 1981 graduate of Wayne Memorial High School. She's now Wayne's new City Clerk. Meet Tina Stanke who began a new chapter in her life by starting work as the new City Clerk for Wayne on March 18.

Tina has experience in the field. She was the Deputy City Clerk in Westland under Westland's former City Clerk Eileen DeHart. Eileen served Wayne briefly as Acting City Clerk when former City Clerk Matthew Miller took a position in Garden City. Tina says she saw the Wayne City Clerk position advertised, spoke with Eileen, "and here I am!"

The biggest difference Tina has seen between working in Wayne vs. Westland is that in Westland, the City Clerk is an elected position. In Wayne, the City Clerk is appointed. Also, Westland has a Mayor governing the City while Wayne has a City Manager. Other than that, the cities are very similar in the clerk's office.

Her main tasks are to support



Wayne's new City Clerk, Tina Stanke.

the City Council, oversee the council agenda and minutes, keep city records, work with licensing and vital records and oversee elections. City Clerk is a full-time position. "The staff is great here," she says.

If she has any questions, she says the minutes of past council meetings

are always there to look back on. The staff in the clerk's office, Cathy and Angie, are real supportive and knowledgeable.

Tina currently commutes to the job from her home in the Irish Hills. She is in the process of relocating back to the Wayne area to be closer

to her 6-year old granddaughter. Making the move with her will be her husband (a retired Westland firefighter) and her three cats-Luna, Stella and Sunny-whom she took under her wing when she found them abandoned.

Tina has crocheted for years. She enjoys reading mystery and suspense novels (James Patterson is a favorite) and autobiographies of the "vintage rat pack" as she calls them-Dean Martin, Lucille Ball, Marilyn Monroe, The Beatles. She also likes to garden when it is the proper season, do crafts and drink coffee.

Tina says she's been getting really familiar with everything in the clerk's office. She's still getting to know staff and the city council. "There's just so much!" she says.

When asked if she has faced any challenges yet on the job, she replies "Not yet, but I like a challenge. I'm sure it's coming.

It's like coming home," to work here, she adds. "I'm from here. I spent a lot of time here. I take this position seriously."

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