

THE WAYNE Dispatch

APRIL 2014



Community Driven

Credit Union celebrates 60th anniversary

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City council approves city manager candidate

By **Jenny Johnson**

City council has voted to move forward in offering Joseph Merucci the job of city manager. Merucci, 54, is currently city manager in Lincoln Park and has 28 years experience in Garden City, Pleasant Ridge, Fowlerville and Clawson.

He was born and raised in south-east Michigan and currently resides in Clawson.

He has a Bachelor's degree in political science from University of Michigan and a Master's degree in public administration from Wayne State University.

He is no stranger to cities with financial problems. Merucci said Wayne is about one year behind Lincoln Park financially and he has the experience to help.

"I have quite a bit of experience doing something I never thought could be done," he said.

When asked about his relationship with his employees he said, "My employees see me. I visit the DPW. I am a hands on person. I have gone to school for this and have 28 years experience. They will see me at the Police Department. I am accessible to them."

Merucci said Lincoln Park has gone from 200 employees to 88. The police and fire departments and DPW are "almost totally eliminated."

He said in Wayne the first thing that has to get done is "you've got to get control of your expenditures." He would immediately start working with the finance department and come up with a model of what you need to attain.

"You need to identify all of your contracts with collective bargaining, planners, services, lawyers. All of those need to be examined to find out if they are in the best interest of the city," he said.

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Hawley asked, "Are there any positive things we can be looking at? What can you bring to the table?"

Merucci said he has had a lot of experience with DDAs in other communities. He has been involved in either forming or reinvigorating DDAs. He also thinks the Main Street desig-

"I have quite a bit of experience doing something I never thought could be done."

Joseph Merucci

nation is a "golden opportunity" for the city.

Wayne has the railroad, Michigan Avenue and good schools.

"People will move where they want to move because of what they are interested in. You need to find out what they are looking for," he said.

Merucci was involved in bringing Walmart to Fowlerville.

"I instituted a program we developed especially because we knew they were coming. We had pre meetings with staff and the Walmart site plan was approved in one meeting because I prepped my employees. We went to a training session on how to attract big box stores," he said. "We were fair and they came and provided 300 jobs and put huge money in the DDA."

Merucci asked what are the main issues in Wayne besides financial problems.

Council told him that the residents want to be able to shop in Wayne and don't want to see vacant storefronts.

Councilman Skip Monit said, "Citizens are concerned neighborhoods need to be brought back to the way they were in the past. There are a lot of foreclosures and less home ownership than we want to see."

Councilman Jim Henley said, "We have a good infrastructure of buildings. But we have low morale because of the budget. The fire and Parks and Recreation need a pair of outside eyes to look and technology infrastructure is way behind."

Wayne City Council voted to offer a contract to Joseph Merucci. They 3-year contract will give Merucci a salary of \$99,000 per year and a 6-month severance package.

If Merucci accepts the position he could begin this position in May.

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- Credit Union Board Members are volunteers.** Banks can pay their Board of Directors whom are also large investors in the institution with their own capital at risk. The dialogue at this board level is very different than the dialogue at a credit union's board meetings where the credit union's Board of Director's #1 priority is its member-owners. Our interests are directly aligned with those of our members; we have no silent partners to insist we focus on quarterly earnings or return on equity.
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- The initial reaction of the consumer is, "I don't trust you, Bank."** When speaking of a credit union, the reaction is the complete opposite. We are a trusted financial institution.
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- Most Credit Unions have a "common bond".** WWFCU is community based, which means our heritage helped form the communities we serve. We are as much a part of our communities as our members are a part of us. As a community based credit union we continually work for the sustainability of our communities.
- Credit Unions were originally established during harsh economic times in the early 1900's.** The working class people didn't qualify to borrow from banks. If they were lucky enough to borrow it was from the local loan sharks. Credit Unions formed so people could pool their savings together in the credit union so others could borrow at reasonable rates.
- In this biggest financial crisis since the Great Depression, credit unions have stepped in where other financial institutions have stepped out.** Credit Unions loaned over \$308 billion between 2007 and 2012 as banks decreased and called in lines of credit.
- America needs credit unions now more than ever.** It's time for America to see credit unions are the model of how financial institutions should be built.



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The staff of the Wayne-Westland Federal Credit Union is proud to celebrate their 60th anniversary with their loyal members. Photo by John Rhaesa

Wayne Westland Federal Credit Union celebrates 60 years

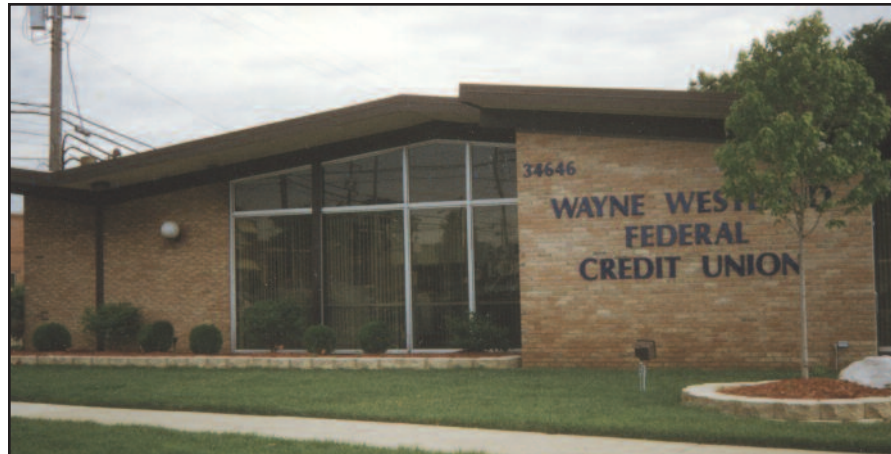
By Jenny Johnson

The Wayne-Westland Federal Credit Union, your community Credit Union, celebrated their 60th anniversary on April 4. Their employees are proud of the work they do, the people they help and the service they offer to the entire community.

The credit union started as the Kaiser-Frazer Employees Federal Credit Union. When the plant lost its government contracts at Willow Run after World War II, the Board of Directors of the Kaiser-Frazer FCU petitioned for a new charter. . . a community credit union charter. The Board realized that a credit union where people help other people in the community was still a great idea. The community charter was granted in 1954.

Now, Wayne Westland Federal Credit Union serves the financial needs of over 10,700 members/owners. Its asset size is over \$76 million.

"A business doesn't stick around for 60 years without the right purpose. Since the credit union's philosophy has always been 'people



The credit union used to be located in Wayne on the corner of Sims and Second Street. Today it is on Wayne Road in Westland.

helping people' that makes it the right purpose," said Thelma Dasho, CEO, Wayne Westland Federal Credit Union. "It really takes the right people to run the business. When you have employees that understand and live your purpose you have success."

Employees at WWFCU agree with Dasho.

"The community spirit that drives WWFCU is probably one of our best features. It's easy to feel at home

when you walk through the lobby doors. The employees are happy and you know they are there to help," said Joleen, senior lending specialist.

"I think we are more than just a credit union to the community and the members are more than just account numbers to us. We actually care what they are going through. From the loan department to the collection department, their stories mat-

ter to us," said Jennifer, account adjustment specialist.

They help each other too.

"I went through a very expensive divorce in 2012. WWFCU helped me reduce my payment on the joint loan that I was assuming. They gave me peace of mind and a more manageable payment that I could afford," said Alicia, cash supervisor.

"We have a great foundation. You need a great foundation to build anything. We have been through some pretty rough times and have not faltered. We are strong, we are solid and we are here for the community. The NCUA may consider us a small credit union. Wayne County may consider Wayne and Westland small cities but we have a BIG heart. We have big plans and we have a big commitment to our communities," said Ruth, human resource manager.

WWFCU has been a very stable and supportive member of the Wayne and Westland community for decades.

See **WWFCU**, page 6

NEWS BRIEFS

New name for Oakwood Annapolis

In an effort to reflect the One Oakwood brand Oakwood Hospital is changing the name of its four hospitals including the one in Wayne.

Oakwood Annapolis Hospital is now Oakwood Hospital-Wayne. Oakwood Hospital & Medical Center is now Oakwood Hospital-Dearborn, Oakwood Heritage Hospital is Oakwood Hospital-Taylor and Oakwood Southshore Medical Center is Oakwood Hospital-Southshore.

"Oakwood is well known for providing uniquely personalized patient care at all of our facilities," said Brian M. Connolly, president and CEO, Oakwood Hospital. "When someone steps into any Oakwood hospital, clinic or facility, they can be assured of receiving the same great experience no matter where they go. The new hospital names confirm that commitment to system-wide quality and service."

Oakwood merges with Beaumont and Botsford

Oakwood Healthcare has signed a letter of intent with Beaumont Health System and Botsford Health Care and begun exclusive negotiations about combining their operations into a new health care system.

The boards of the three not-for-profit organizations have approved a letter of intent calling for formation of a new, \$3.8 billion health system that would combine assets, liabilities and operations under unified executive and board leadership.

The new system would integrate their combined eight hospitals and 153 other patient care sites into a comprehensive and collaborative health care network focused on advancing quality of care and access to care for people throughout the region.

"This is really all about improving patient care for men, women and children in our respective communities," said Brian Connolly, president and CEO, Oakwood Healthcare. "If we join forces, we can and we will use quality data and standardized best-practice treatment protocols across the continuum of care for improved health and greater value for the families we serve."

The goals of the combined organization include improving the value of health care; the health, well-being and outcomes of patient populations; providing better operational efficiency by lowering and spreading costs over a larger system and through group purchasing of supplies and equipment.

The new organization will be governed by a single board with representation from the three organizations.

Main Street Building Basics Workshop

The Main Street program is hosting a "Building Basics" Workshop from 6-9 p.m. on April 17 at the Wayne Fire Station, 3300 S. Wayne Rd., Wayne. Michigan Main Street Design Specialist Kelly Larson will lead the workshop and talk about the importance of historic preservation as it affects the downtown area. This workshop is open to all Historical Society, Beautification Committee, Planning Commission, Zoning Board and DDA members and anyone who cares about the future of downtown Wayne.

This workshop is a prerequisite for utilizing many of the benefits available within the Main Street program, including sign and façade grants, and won't be offered again until 2015. Seating is limited. Light refreshments will be served. For questions or to RSVP contact Cindy Schofield at waynerippleeffect@gmail.com by April 10.

Red October Run

The annual Red October Run sponsored by Oakwood Hospital will be Oct. 4. Events include a 10K Run, 5K Run, 5K Walk and a 1 Mile Jr. October.

These are certified 10K and 5K run courses and medals will be awarded to all run and walk finishers. Registered participants will receive a shirt and a post-race "Octoberfeast" including hot dogs, cider, doughnuts, fruit, bagels and more.

There will also be kids art activities, health and wellness displays, prizes and drawings. Register for the race at www.oakwood.org/reductoberrun.

Relay for Life

The Wayne-Westland Relay for Life will be June 7-8 at Attwood Park. They are currently looking for teams to join this 24-hour effort. This is the 13th year of Relay in the Wayne-Westland area. They are still looking for teams and volunteers to help FINISH THE FIGHT!

For more information, visit their website at relayforlife.org/westlandmi or their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RFLWestland-Wayne.

Food Bank

New Dimensions Food Bank at Abundant Life Church of God is now distributing food every Tuesday from 2-3:30 p.m. The Food Bank is located at 2100 Hannan Road in Canton.

Join Rotary

The Wayne Rotary Club is looking for new members who are looking to be involved in the community. They meet at 12:05 p.m. on Tuesdays at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe Road, Wayne. They have lunch, network and have guest speakers. For more information, visit their website at www.waynerotary.org.

WMHS Class of 1974 reunion

The Wayne Memorial High School Class of 1974 will celebrate their 40th reunion on Aug. 23 at the Avenue Downtown Wayne. Tickets are \$25 each. Casual dress. Members of the Class of 1973 and 1975 are invited too. For more information, contact wmhs74reunion@yahoo.com or 734-397-8196.

Millage proposed for Aug. 5 ballot

In a 4-2 vote Wayne City Council approved directing the city attorney to develop ballot language for a possible millage for the Aug. 5 Primary Election.

Assistant City Attorney Breeda O'Leary told council there are no additional millages the city can seek. They are tapped out at 20 mills. The city also levies the allowed three mills for garbage and refuse collections and one mill for the library.

She said the only option was Public Act 345 and that was submitted to voters in November and failed. The city is not allowed to submit the same charter language within two years.

Any additional ballot language has to be approved by the attorney general and it needs to be different language from Public Act 345 proposal.

"If we do submit language it has to be different and we have a very short timeline to submit it to the attorney general," she said. The deadline for the language is the second or third week of May.

Literacy Club Fundraiser

The Wayne Ladies' Literary Club is planning their annual fundraiser to raise money for scholarships for a Wayne Memorial and John Glenn female student. The event is at 7 p.m. on April 15 at the First Congregational Church in Wayne. Guests will enjoy visiting "Book Stations" where they will learn about authors who have written book series, participate in drawings for theme baskets, receive homemade baked goods and receive a book to take home. There will be opportunities for book discussions and to socialize during refreshments. The scholarships will be presented at the May dinner meeting of Ladies' Literary Club.

Wayne-Westland searches for new superintendent

The Wayne-Westland Board of Education has begun their search for the district's next superintendent. After 17 years current Superintendent Gregory J. Baracy will retire in June.

The 14-week process will include meetings with district staff and community members to get their opinion on a new superintendent. The job is posted and applications will be accepted through April 28.

The board of education will review the applications at 6 p.m. on May 5 and candidate interviews will be at 6 p.m. on May 13 and 15. Final interviews will be at 6 p.m. on May 19 and 20. The board should have their final decision by June 9 and the new superintendent will start on July 1.

NEWS BRIEFS

Fish Dinners

First United Methodist Church Wayne-Westland, 3 Town Square, will offer Fish dinners from 4:30-7:00 p.m. on April 11. Meals include fried or baked fish, French fries or baked potato, cole slaw, vegetable and roll. Cost is \$9 for adults and \$4 for children. Pie is \$1 and pop is \$1. Kids meals are fish or chicken nuggets.

Sts. Simon and Jude, 32500 Palmer, Westland will offer Fish Dinners from 4:30- 7 p.m. on April 11. They are \$8 for adults and include baked or fried fish and choice of baked potato, fries or macaroni and cheese and include coleslaw, roll, beverage and dessert.

Scam protection

The Senior Brigade will give a presentation on Home Repair and Equity Scams at 6:30 p.m. on April 8 at the Wayne Public Library. This is a free program but please call 734-721-7832 to reserve a spot.

Shrek the Musical

Wayne Memorial High School Drama Dept. will present Shrek the Musical at 7 p.m. on April 10-12 and 12 p.m. on April 12 at Stockmeyer Auditorium. Tickets are \$10 each. This is a great family friendly show.

Marshmallow Drop

Crosspointe Community Church will sponsor the 35th Annual Marshmallow Drop at 10 a.m. on April 18 at Attwood Park behind the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe Road.



Marshmallows will once again fall from the sky at the annual Marshmallow Drop at 10 a.m. on April 18 at Attwood Park. Photo by Jenny Johnson

This free event will have three drops: One for walking toddlers up to age 4 and children with disabilities. One for children ages 5-7 and one for ages 8-10. A helicopter will drop marshmallows from the sky and kids can turn in the marshmallows for a treat bag.

Bunny Breakfast

The Wayne-Westland Parks and Recreation Department is hosting the annual Bunny Breakfast after the Marshmallow Drop from 10:30 a.m. to noon on April 18. The all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast will also include sausage, juice and coffee. Tickets are \$5 for residents and \$6 for non-residents and are available at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe Road, Wayne. For more

information, please call 734-721-7400.

There will also be arts and crafts, face painting. Photos with the Easter Bunny will be available for purchase.

Library programs

The Wayne Public Library will host "20th Century Retailing in Downtown Detroit" with Michael Hauser at 6:30 p.m. on April 19. This is a free program but pre-registration is required.

The TAG-Teen Advisory Group is having a "90s Party" at 6 p.m. on April 23 at the Wayne Public Library. There will be a book giveaway, games, music, snacks and discussions about the summer reading program. This event is open to all teen and tweens in grades 7-12.

During the month of April the Wayne Public Library will have an Upcycle Display. It will include recycled and upcycled creations from patrons and staff. Stop by and see the unique pieces.

Trivia Night

Sts. Simon and Jude Church, 32500 Palmer, Westland will host Trivia Night at 7 p.m. on April 26. The cost is \$20 for teams up to four people and includes 10 rounds of questions, popcorn, hot dogs and chips for each team. Beverages can be purchased. To register visit www.stssimonandjude.com/trivianight.html. Cash prizes awarded for first, second, third and last place.

Farmers Market

The Wayne Farmers Market will be back for another great season from 3-7 p.m. on May 7 at Goudy Park (behind Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Rd.). Every Wednesday through October they will offer locally grown fruits, vegetables, plants and flowers. There will also be a variety of other local vendors, music and kids activities.

WMHS All Class Reunion

The Wayne Memorial Alumni Association Annual All-Class Reunion banquet will be from 5-10 p.m. on May 16 at Wayne Tree Manor, 35100 Van Born, Wayne, MI. Tickets are \$30 before May 1 or \$35 after. They will be honoring the class of 1964. For more information, please contact waynehighalumni@aol.com or Tillie VanSickle at 734-595-7806 or Sharon Scott at 734-722-4651.

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WWFCU, from page 3

“WWFCU is a very community-oriented financial institution where most financial institutions are not. WWFCU sponsors and donates for many community events, which is awesome. So many other financial institutions are very formal. They have strict procedures that their customers must abide by, such as always filling out a withdrawal slip or deposit slip. WWFCU is much friendlier. Members can walk right up to the counter and take care of their transactions without filling out any paperwork. Usually, at least one of the tellers can identify that member by name. Even if I didn't work here, I wouldn't have my account anywhere else,” said Ashley, assistant cash supervisor.

Because WWFCU is such a long-standing institution in the community their members have relied on them for many of the milestones and changes in their lives.

“I was just talking with a member the other day. He was in for a loan so he could move his mom into an assisted living facility. We were talking about how long he has been a member here and how much we've been through together. He has had loans for home improvement, new and used cars, and loans for his children's college, graduations and weddings and now to help his mom,” said Tracy, compliance manager. “He brought all of his kids in to get their first auto loan with us too. We've been a big part of his life for a long time. We're friendly and convenient. Who could ask for anything more?”

Melanie, accounts adjustment specialist, said “Our group of employees is made up of people who live in the community, who have faced family and financial struggles, and are here to help you when you need it most. They have a personal understanding and always have the member's best interest in mind.”

“WWFCU has been there for the community during both good and bad times. They are a great asset and part of the backbone to the Wayne Westland communities,” said Dave, IT manager.

People matter at WWFCU.

“At the credit union, you're a person not just a number. I would never waste time or money on a bank again,” said Crystal, accounting.

“In these days of big business and



Thelma Dasho, CEO, Wayne-Westland Federal Credit Union celebrates with her staff. Photo by John Rhaesa



The first credit union was located in downtown Wayne.

corporate mergers, I think it is refreshing for people to belong to a credit union that has been a fixture in the communities of Wayne and Westland for so many years,” said Becky, accounting.

WWFCU offers more personal service than a large bank.

“If you go to a big bank, you are nothing but an account number to them. Only at a credit union like us can you feel like family when you walk in the door. That's what sets us apart from the rest,” said Sara, greeter.

“We are invested in the financial success of our members, from our youth to our seniors which is evident in the products and services we offer,” said Sheila, accounting.

It is the difference that matters.

“Before, I never realized the difference between banks and credit unions. Frankly, I didn't see the big

deal when people would correct me when I called their credit union a bank. I started noticing the difference when a big bank started treating my elderly grandma poorly by charging her absurd fees and making her stand for long periods of time with only one teller available,” said Chelsea, teller. “It was then that I de-

Now I understand why people say bank is a four letter word.”

Chelsea
WWFCU Teller

cided to switch to WWFCU. Not only do I know where my money is going but also that my money is working for me. Now I understand why people say bank is a four letter word.”

Credit Unions are self-insured on member deposits through the NCUA with the number one priority being safety and soundness for member deposits.

They were built on the philosophy of people helping people--a tradition that continues today and that captures the spirit of America.

Member confidence is extremely important at WWFCU. They appreciate the support, trust and confidence of their member-owners as WWFCU continues working toward their members' financial success.



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Tom Lynch

City approves proposal to retire three firefighters

Wayne City Council approved a proposal to eliminate three positions from the Wayne-Westland Fire Dept. by having three firefighters retire immediately. Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal Shawn Bell, Fire Captain Ken Chapman and Fire Captain Kenny Joe Hines with Bell having close to 20 years of service and Chapman and Hines having 24 years of service in Wayne.

This move will save the City of Wayne \$22,000 in the current budget and \$456,484 next year and will prevent the city from having to lay off lower seniority firefighters.

According to finance director Jim Ghedotte there are currently 20 budgeted firefighter positions plus one administrative clerk in the city's budget. There will be 17 budgeted positions after the Council action.

Interim City Manager Ramzi El-Gharib said this would not affect



Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal Shawn Bell

service to residents. The firefighters' union has accepted this plan and service and revenue will still be the same.



Fire Captain Kenny Joe Hines

There will be the same amount of firefighters on duty in the city. After the failure of Public Act 345 El-Gharib asked city departments to



Fire Captain Ken Chapman

come up with a plan to cut their budgets by 15-20%. Wayne's current fire department budget is approximately \$2.77 million.

Fire Department saves life at station

By Jenny Johnson

The calls don't usually come to them. It was Dec. 23, 2013 when Mike Carr was driving his wife to the hospital. She was having difficulty breathing and he soon realized she had stopped breathing. He quickly pulled in to Wayne-Westland Fire Station #1 on Ford Road in Westland and asked for help.

The on duty crew- Sgt. William Wright, Firefighter David Polite, Firefighter Cristobal Renya and Firefighter Allen Cauchon- were in the bay working on equipment when he came to the door. They assessed Linda Carr and determined she was in cardiac arrest. They immediately started CPR and advanced life support procedures.

"She was clinically dead when she came to the fire dept.," said Michael Stradtner, assistant chief, Wayne-Westland Fire Dept.

They got her pulse back in the bay at the fire station and then transported her to Garden City Hospital and she was later transferred to Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn.

Linda doesn't remember any of it. "I just remember waking up at Garden City Hospital," she said.

The Carrs stopped by station #1 with a gift basket of goodies to thank the firefighters for saving Linda's life.



Firefighters were able to save Linda Carr's life when her husband pulled up to Station 1 on Ford Road in Westland with Linda in full cardiac arrest. The Carrs brought a goodie basket to the firefighters who saved her as a token of their appreciation.

This is actually the second time the Westland Fire Dept. has saved Linda's life. On Aug. 25, 1997 Mike was again driving his wife to the doctor when she was experiencing difficulty breathing. She went unconscious as he pulled into station 1. The paramedics began advanced life support procedures which they had just launched six months prior in Feb. 1997.

Linda has had a couple of catheterizations, stents and now has a pacemaker. Heart conditions run in her family. But it doesn't stop her from living her life.

The Westland residents have

been married for 43 years and enjoy traveling the world. They had just come back from Ecuador right before the incident. They plan to continue to travel. But now Mike insists on a doctor's permission before leaving the country.

"Because of guys like you who keep saving my life," Linda said.

"I brought her here and they performed a miracle," Mike said.

"We called the doctor and he said to bring her to the office and she said, 'I'm not going to make it,'" Mike said.

Firefighter David Polite said, "Instead of going out to the call we had

it come to us."

They put her on mechanical CPR and had to drill into her bone to give her medicine. They also had to shock her once.

Time was of an essence and the firefighters told the Carrs that the doctor's office does not have the same equipment as they have in the ambulances.

"There is a purpose I am here," Linda said.

"What you do is an important job. Important to me and important to her," Mike said.

Each firefighter on the call will receive a Life Saving Award.

Chamber gets update on city's status

By Jenny Johnson

Elected officials and city administration attended the March Chamber of Commerce luncheon to give business owners a State of the local address.

City Mayor Al Haidous said, "This year is different than other years because of the economic situation we are in." He said you could look at it as half empty or full.

"In my opinion it is half full," he said. The top priorities a city needs to survive is to be safe, clean and have good schools.

"People will buy a house to raise a family if you have those three things. If not, people won't come," Haidous said. The staff, council and myself are working very hard to deal with the most important things first."

They are working to cut \$1 million from the current budget and about \$3.5 million from next year's budget without effecting city services, he said. Since 2008 the city has lost 44% of its taxable value and the budget that used to be \$22 million is now \$14 million.

"Can we manage the city and try to hold on to vital services with the money we have? If we work all together, yes we can. There are too many good ideas on the table," Haidous said. "Can we balance our budget? Yes we can. We might come to the community to support the elected officials and administration to make those painful decisions."

On the bright side the city has dedicated residents and civic organizations that have supported many events this year.

Mathew Mulholland, personnel director and economic development specialist said Wayne has had some big wins this year. They include the Wayne Rotary Holiday Festival of Lights parade, Champions of Wayne at Wayne Memorial High School, improvements on the Rouge River and Rouge-a-Palooza. This year's Rouge River Clean Up Day is May 17.

The Wayne Farmers Market will begin May 7 at Goudy Park and run every Wednesday through October.

But the big success in Wayne this year is Wayne Ripple Effect earning

the city a Main Street select level designation.

"Main Street success is Wayne's success. We are tied together and great partners in this," he said. "We have to walk together down the path of redevelopment."

This summer brings the Westland-Wayne Relay for Life at Attwood Park on June 7-8, Cruisin' US-12 on July 12 and the Kelly Miller Circus at Attwood Park on Aug. 9.

"There are a lot of positive community events going on thanks to community organizations and businesses who support these activities," Mulholland said.

City Planner/Clerk Matthew Miller told the crowd that Wayne has seen 98,000 sq. ft. of new building space this year and over 200,000 of renovated space.

"Things are slow but these are good valid numbers," he said. "We are working to get the tax base built back up."

One change that has made the process easier for new and current business owners is Site Plan Light. Introduced last year 21 businesses have gone through the process that shortens the time it takes for businesses to get approval for expansions or renovations.

"Buildings open in a shorter amount of time," Miller said. "We made changes for business friendly development to happen."

The community development department is also working on getting the Master Plan implemented this year. It was adopted in 2010 but there has never been an implementation plan.

"You have to have ordinances adopted to make it happen," Miller said.

A proposal was presented to city council including unified design guidelines for businesses to start to regulate how businesses look. This also ties to the goals of the Main Street program.

Community Development Director Peter McInerney said there is a plan in the works for Phoenix Theaters to purchase the State Wayne Theater.



City Planner/Clerk Matthew Miller

The Phoenix Group has been on an operating agreement with the theater but the city still owns the theater.

"Both sides want to see if it is possible to sell them the property. Stay tuned on that," he said.

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A cut above the rest

By Jenny Johnson

It was her very first haircut and she decided to do something very special. Isabella Wright, 4, of Wayne confidently climbed up into the chair at Reflections Hair Salon. Her brown curls that hung down to her waist were brushed and put into four ponytails.

Then out came the scissors and with one snip Isabella gave a generous gift.

Except for a small lock of hair that she put in a keepsake box, the preschooler donated 12" of her hair to Children with Hair Loss.

"This is her very first haircut ever," said mom, Kerri Wright.



Isabella Wright, 4, of Wayne shows off her 12" of her hair she donated to Children with Hair Loss. Photo by Jenny Johnson

With dad and little brother watching Isabella went from waist length curls to a shoulder length bob.

"I want to give my hair to people who don't have any," said Isabella.

Kerri donates her hair about once a year to Children with Hairloss, a Michigan based non-profit organization. "So she has been asking because she knows Mommy donated her hair to children," she said.

Children with Hairloss is a local non profit organization located in South Rockwood. It provides wigs for all children with medically related hair loss at no cost to the family.

Their mission is "Covering Young Heads to Heal Young Hearts."

It was created as a resource for children with hair loss from chemotherapy, radiation, rare disorders, tricotillomani, burns and alopecia.

Each child received a hair replacement at no cost, hair care kit,

hat, turban with attachable hair and styling services once a year, if needed, until age 21.

All hair comes from human donated hair. CWHL accepts donations of at least 8 inches or longer of hair in good condition.

CWHL operates entirely on revenues generated from donations, fundraisers and grants.

Their mission is to empower children to become whole again by making hair available to those who may be financially challenged and might otherwise not have a means of obtaining the hair they want and need.

Reflections Hair Studio on Wayne Rd. in Westland is one of the local salons affiliated with Children with Hairloss. If you would like to make a donation, please call them at 734-379-4400 or visit www.childrenwith-hairloss.us.

And how did Isabella like the finished product?

"Looking good," she said.



Isabella before haircut.



Isabella after haircut.



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Putting pieces together

By Jenny Johnson

Main Street has come to town and the ideas were flowing when about 100 residents, business owners and civic leaders joined officials from the Michigan Main Street community visioning session.

The Main Street officials led group discussions about what is the best part of downtown Wayne now and what should downtown Wayne look like in the future.

The best parts of downtown were Goudy Park, State Wayne Theater, local owned businesses, the library and historic buildings.

In five to ten years most of the groups agreed they would like to see new small businesses, no vacant buildings or storefronts, park benches, more people living downtown and the ability to buy all of your needs without leaving the city limits.

"This is what revitalization is all about. It involves you and we will work with you to make it happen," said Norma Ramirez de Miess of the National Main Street Center. "You own this community. You need to



Ripple Effect Vice President Pat Rice holds up the Main Street logo to the crowd of residents.

make it happen." The Main Street program strives to put the pieces of the vision together for the cities.



Ripple Effect President, Cindy Schofield, introduces some of the Main Street staff at the community visioning meeting. From left to right, Kelly Larson, Jessy Lawrence, Brittney Hoszkiw, Laura Krizov and Norma Ramirez de Miess.

"By giving to the community you gain your community back," Ramirez de Miess said.

The crowd was broken into four groups and discussed promotions, economic restructuring, design and organization.

"Our city used to be a great downtown and Main Street is trying to bring that back," said Mayor Al Haidous. "We need to work all together to ensure success."

Joe Birkstrom from MSHDA told the crowd, "Congratulations. You

have finished training for a marathon. You have joined a new fraternity today."

Wayne Ripple Effect member Pat Rice said, "Tonight it is official. We are a select level."

Wayne was presented an official Main Street sign to be displayed and let everyone know it is now a Main Street community.

"This is the future of Wayne," said Cindy Schofield, Wayne Ripple Effect President. "We can make it the downtown we all want to see."



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Dining out in Wayne in the 40's and 50's

Growing up in Wayne in the 1940's and 50's, our family of seven (later to grow to nine) very seldom ate out. Money was tight with a large family and just getting everyone dressed up and ready to go to a restaurant was challenging. But, it was always a real treat when we did go out for dinner in Wayne. There was no shortage of restaurants in Wayne in those days and fast food restaurants had not appeared on the scene as yet. Downtown Wayne serviced all of the needs of the people of our community and the surrounding area. There were clothing, shoe, music, variety, drug, hardware, grocery and jewelry stores as well as beauty shops, barber shops, car dealerships, garages and many business and utility offices. Wayne also had many restaurants which served the people who worked downtown as well as those who shopped downtown. These restaurants were filled with local people having breakfast, lunch and dinner at their favorite spot during the week and on weekends. I have many fond memories of walking to downtown Wayne with my sisters and friends in the summer or on Saturday mornings to go to the library, shop at the 5 & 10 Cent Variety store and have lunch at the soda fountain in Kresges or Cunningham's on the north east corner of Michigan Ave. and Wayne Rd.

In 1824 when George M. Johnson bought property in a vast wilderness and built a tavern on the Old Sauk Trail which meandered from Detroit to Chicago, our community had its beginnings. Johnson's Tavern might be considered the first "restaurant" in our community. It

Memory Lane

Darlene Hawley



serviced travelers on foot, horseback stage coach and wagon. Since that time, many eating establishments have been built in our area and have thrived, changed owners, changed names, rebuilt, moved locations and always served the growing community. Long time residents of Wayne will remember many of these eateries mentioned in this article and many will recall others that may not be mentioned. All have provided people of our community with sustenance and a place to socialize.

In 1929 The Central Restaurant sat on Michigan Ave. It was probably named after the railroad which ran through Wayne. Passengers disembarking from the trains could get a meal at The Central. In 1939, some may remember The Club Restaurant, The Cottage, The Village Coffee Shop and The Wayne Café, which were all located along Michigan Ave in downtown Wayne. The Wayne Café was in the Wilson Building which later became Kresges. In 1947 Mr. R. Reynolds bought a restaurant run by the senior Leright family and opened Chappie's Coffee Shop. It was built on Michigan Ave. (where Stuart's Dress Shop was built a few years later) and was across the street from Mulholland's and Brownie's Taxi Stand. Chappie's was a family restaurant which employed the



Town House Restaurant was a favorite place for Wayne residents to get a great meal. Photo courtesy of The Wayne Historical Museum

whole Reynolds family including grandma, aunts and uncles.

Fessler's was a long time restaurant at 35103 Michigan Ave at Washington St. It later became the Cameo and then the Golden Boy. The Golden Boy moved to Elizabeth Street (where The Avenue sits today) when Chuck Muer bought the property and built a new building to house his restaurant Chuck Muer's at Michigan and Wayne Rd. Chuck Muer closed his restaurant and sold the building which became Rex' Restaurant. (Last year Rex's owner closed and sold to McDonald's who removed the building and will build a new McDonalds on the site.)

In 1946 there was a Dolly's Lunch at Wayne Rd. and Van Born. The Pit Barbecue at 32746 Michigan Ave. and the Hamburger House at

35826. Others restaurants along Michigan Avenue were The Hearthstone Inn at 35604 and Papa Harry's at 35002. The Barrick's Restaurant was at 2920 Washington and was formerly called the Princess Cafe. Avery's Restaurant was located at 35714 Main Street. Chum's Fine Food could be found on the south side of Michigan Ave. east of Second Street and was a favorite of locals for many years. The owner, Mr. Stockwell, eventually moved to Glenwood across the street from Wayne Memorial where his son, Larry Stockwell, took over and runs a popular doughnut shop to this day. The Chat and Chew Grill was located on Michigan Avenue across from Old Wayne High (which later became West Side Jun-

See **Memory Lane**, page 13



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A picture's worth a thousand words

If you remember Master Photo, then you'll remember Bob Pugh. He owned the photo shop, with his brother Andy for 27 years. Bob is now part of the great sales staff at Jack Demmer Ford. He met Mr. Demmer when he was in high school and worked at the Wayne Music Center. Bob graduated from Wayne High in 1974. Oh yes---does it surprise you to know---he was the school photographer? Except for 2 jobs, all his work history has involved some form of photography. He's lived in Wayne all his life, growing up on Chestnut St.. Bob and his wife Julie, have been married for 28 years. They have four children--- Dave, Tim, Laura and Mark.

Recently they took a spectacular trip to Wyoming. They stayed in Jackson, which is in the area known as Jackson Hole. They toured Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, and he encourages everyone to do the same, especially in winter, when it's so beautiful.

The family is very involved with their church---Trinity Presbyterian in Plymouth. Bob and son, David, have gone on missions for the church---to New Orleans and in 2006 to the Central Africa Republic. The Evangelical Church of Africa has a compound there, which Trinity Presbyterian supports. The compound was built for 300, but now, because of violence and other causes, it has grown to 1800 people.

Tim Pugh has been Bat Boy for the Tigers for 7 years. His brother Mark is also a Tiger Bat Boy. He's been with the Tigers for 5 years.

It was really good seeing Bob Pugh---I must confess I feel a twinge of nostalgia every time I pass the old Master Photo shop on Newburgh---

Footprints of Wayne

Dee Ryan



we had many family pictures developed there.

And what, you may ask, happened to Bob Pugh's brother, Andy? He's now the Pastor of Wayne's Cross Pointe Community Church.

Although the crowd was small---six inches of snow and a fierce wind on March 12, kept many members of Wayne's 100 Club at home, but the lunch was delicious and the speaker was well received.

Cheryl, who describes herself as 'passionate' on the subject, gave a spirited and informative talk about the Arc of Northwest Wayne County and its goals.

The Arc advocates for the rights and full participation of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Arc can be reached at (734) 729-9100.

I tell everyone Wayne 100 Club is the easiest club to belong to. You never have to attend meetings or sign up for 'duties'. You send in \$100.00 and attend an excellent luncheon. That's it! The monies help those in our community who need emergency help.

Grant Chairman Dave Carpenter listed some of the grants: children's eyeglasses; a child's meds; a child with cancer and 3 months to live; plus those needing emergency help with utilities. The Wayne 100 Club



Bob and Julie Pugh with Sarah Monroe at Yellowstone National Park.

also helps St. Mary Outreach Center and Ed McMurray's "Friends Helping Friends."

If you would like to join---you can get an application at the 29th District Courthouse on Sims.

Wayne's Historical Society will present "The History of Wayne Wire

Cloth." They bill the program as a retrospective of an Iconic Wayne Industry. Wire Cloth is another name for iron mesh. Wayne Wire Cloth started in 1919. It made car filters. The plant was located behind the present Arby's.

The program will be at the Historical Museum---April 10th at 7:30.

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Memory Lane, from page 11

ior High and then the Administration Building for the Wayne Westland Schools. Today The Korean Village sits on the site). On the south side of town, Temple's Dining Room was located on the east side of Wayne Road at Harroun Street and provided patrons with fine dining. It later became The Prince and the Pauper. The Tip Top Grill was on the south side of Michigan Ave. across the street from the State Wayne Theater. The Wayne Dairy provided our community with milk and milk products plus an ice cream parlor serving sodas, sundaes and other treats. It was located on the south side of Main Street, west of Newberry.

Ed's Lunch was located at 3924 Wayne Rd. between Norris and Brush. Besides serving food it was a pool hall and was a front runner in selling pizza before all the pizza shops opened. Ed's Lunch was also the site of many professional billiards competitions in days gone by. Long ago the Chocolate House sat at 35203 Michigan Ave. and later became Flo's Grill and then Sheila's Grill before closing. Frenchy's Coney Island was on Wayne Rd. across from Jake's which was originally Weberline's. Lee's Hamburgers and Catering on Main St. was run by Jim Leright and was located across from the old Roosevelt school between



Brownies Restaurant on Michigan Avenue was also a popular place to eat. Photo courtesy of The Wayne Historical Museum

Sophia and Clark streets. The white, cinder block building still stands today across from the Westchester Towers. Mr. Leright also had a restaurant on the west side of Wayne Rd. south of Chestnut. It later became Howard's Hoagies. Another eatery was the Northside Restaurant located on Wayne Rd. in the southern section of the building housing Northside Hardware. The Ledge-rock Restaurant was located in the building where the US 12 is today. It later became the Cameo. This block of buildings originally housed other stores including the Wayne Hobby Shop. The Alamo was located on the north side of Michigan Avenue east of Venoy and the Town House was located near it. Claude Howard (a city

councilman) purchased it and built Howard's Town House on the south side of Michigan Ave. which is now the Red Apple.

Sambo's Restaurant opened in a new building on the north side of Michigan Ave. west of the train viaduct and west of the Wayne Bowling Alley. Sambo's and the property it sat on were bought out by the Ford Motor Company. When the Metro Mall was built it housed the Wayne Cafe, later to become a Coney Island which is still operating today as Nick's Coney Island.

As a teen, my friends and I all congregated at drive-in's being built to service a more mobile society. In the 50's, the A&W Root Beer Drive-In on the east side of Wayne Road

just north of Glenwood and Daly's Drive-In on the west side of Wayne Rd. north of Palmer were very popular spots.

Today we have a number of restaurants and a large variety of fast food restaurants in Wayne from subs to pizza, Chinese to Mexican and hamburgers to health food. Many serve breakfast items, lunch and dinner. We are on the go and we want fast service. Many of our bars and lounges serve food today and chain restaurants are popular where the menus and surroundings are carbon copies of those in other towns or cities and from state to state. Today's restaurants cater to our need to be on top of every event going on in the world, be it news or sports, by providing TV sets on every wall and sometimes even in the bathrooms! It's nice to remember going to a local restaurant where you recognized your neighbors and were waited on by people you knew. The food was homemade and even though it was not fast you enjoyed the time to visit and slow the pace of your day. I know I have only touched upon some of the local restaurants of the past but hope I have given you something to stir your memory. Where do you remember "dining out"?

(Thanks to Wayne Historical Museum Manager Richard Story for material for this article.)

POLICE BRIEFS

Larceny/Fraud

A wallet was stolen from the Wayne Community Center on Feb. 13. A credit card from the wallet was used at a local store. Wayne police officers responded to the store and received information on the suspect. A photograph of the suspect was later received from the store surveillance video. Based on the Wayne Police investigation, which included interviews and photo comparisons, the suspect was identified as Gregory Pokorny, 44, from Westland.

Pokorny was charged with Identity Theft, Illegal Use of Financial Transaction Device, and Stealing/Retaining Financial Transaction Device.

All of the charges are felonies. Pokorny was arraigned in the 29th District Court and his bond was set

at \$50,000/10%. Pokorny remained in custody pending the next scheduled court date.

Assault with Intent to Murder

Wayne Police Officers were dispatched to a residence on Franklin Street for a well being check of a female subject on March 3. Upon the officers' arrival, a female subject ran from the house and told police a male subject with a handgun assaulted her. The male subject exited the residence and was taken into custody by Wayne Police Officers. The male subject was identified as Scott Lane, Age 41, of Wayne.

A large gun safe was removed from the residence. A search warrant was executed on the safe and the handgun used during this inci-

dent was recovered. Lane was charged with Assault with Intent to Murder, Assault with Intent to do Great Bodily Harm, Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, and Felony Firearms.

All charges are felonies and the Assault with Intent to Murder has a penalty of up to life in prison.

Lane was arraigned in the 29th District Court and his bond was set at \$250,000 Cash. Lane remains in custody pending the next scheduled court date.

Damage to Property

Wayne Police Officers were dispatched to Leo's Jewelry on Michigan Avenue for an alarm call on March 9.

While no entry was made to the building, officers observed damage

to a large window and a security roll up gate. Store employees arrived and the officers viewed surveillance video of the incident.

The video showed two subjects damaging the window and gate and provided a description of the subjects. Both subjects, identified as Brandon Osendorf, Age 39, of New London, Wisconsin, and David Schwendeman, Age 23, of Weyauwega, Wisconsin, were located at a nearby business. Wayne Police Officers arrested both subjects. Osendorf and Schwendeman were charged with Malicious Destruction of Building, a felony. Both subjects were arraigned in the 29th District Court and bond was set at \$50,000/10%. Both subjects remain in custody pending the next scheduled court date.

Be The Pebble

Recently I was at a meeting that the Wayne Ripple Effect was leading. What an incredible group of people! They are volunteering and serving to make Wayne a better place to live, shop, and relax in! One phrase that they said stuck out to me. It was: "Be the pebble." The message was clear...be the person that begins a series of waves to do good in the community.

How do I begin, you may ask? The way I approach this problem is two-fold: identify an area you see that is lacking and that you care about, and then try to make it better. I have noticed some people cleaning up the graffiti around Wayne recently. This is exactly the sort of thing I'm talking about!

One "pebble" that I'm trying to be covers the entire State of Michigan. I am the president of the Michigan chapter of the TEARS Foundation. What this organization does is raise money to help families that lose an infant (ages 20 weeks gestation up to one year old) to pay for caskets and grave markers when they don't have the resources for those items.

The reason I care so much about this cause is because my wife and I found ourselves in that situation in 2006. The funeral expenses were going to be \$1,500 for our daughter and we didn't have it. Family and friends took up a collection for us



There's More to the Story

Buddy Shuh

and two days later we had the money we needed. Now we are trying to help others in that same place.

Our big annual fundraiser is in September and is called the Rock and Walk. Anyone who wants to can form a team and walk for the cause. Some people like me form a team and walk in memory of their child who passed away. (The "rock" stands for rocking chairs in the middle of the track because some people rock in memory of their child).

We will have a kickoff meeting for this fundraiser on Thursday, May 1st, from 6-8 pm at the Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh in Westland. The meeting is free, but there will be the opportunity to join a team, form your own team, or become a corporate sponsor. You are invited! If you know someone who might connect with this event, please spread the word!

TEARS is my cause. Now it's your turn.

Be the pebble. Because there's always more to the story....

Library reduces hours

Beginning April 1 The Wayne Public Library will once again reduce its hours. They will be open 31 hours per week. The new hours will be:

12-8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday

12-5 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday

The library will be closed on Sunday and Monday.

They will also cut out their budget for new adult and children's books, CDs, and DVDs.

In addition, Library Director Paulette Medvecky will retire as a full-time employee on June 30. In a letter posted on their website the Library Board said, "We hope to bring her back part-time as a co-director to work with a new part-time person

who would be the other co-director. These co-directors will receive an hourly wage and no benefits."

Long-time library employee Ginny Cesarz will also leave on May 31 and will not be replaced.

The reason for these changes is the loss of tax revenue due to the reduced income the library receives from one mill. It has decreased as property values have dropped the past few years. The library does not get any money from the city's general fund or DDA, according to the library board.

The library staff continues to apply for grants, get some support from the Friends of the Library and receive a small income from meeting room rentals.

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Future of Wayne Community Center

By Jenny Johnson

In a 4-2 vote Wayne City Council decided to close the REC and ice arena at the Wayne Community Center. The ice arena will close effective May 5 and the Patrick J. Norton Recreation and Exercise Club will close effective June 30.

Other closings include the WABC building on Sims and Wayne Road effective July 31 and the Senior Dept. at the Wayne Community Center effective June 30. There will also be limited outdoor recreation opportunities and two part time employees will be laid off.

This was one of four proposals presented to council to help cut the more than \$1 million from the current general fund budget. The deficit is expected to be around \$3 million for 2014-15.

The banquet rooms, Aquatic Area and Youth Assistance program will remain open at the Wayne Community Center and the following programs will remain in place-SilverSneaker, summer daycamp, adult softball, Marshmallow Drop/Bunny Breakfast, Cup of

Christmas Tea, Santa Breakfast, tennis, ballfield rentals, Adopt-A-Park, skate/bike park, pavilion rentals and Meals on Wheels.

Parks and Recreation Director Nathan Adams said some of the exercise equipment from the REC will be relocated to the viewing area of the aquatic area. By combining all of the exercise equipment to one location there will be less cleaning and only one check in point for members.

"There would be four treadmills and not seven. I think there would be some shock value at first," said Adams.

This plan will close about 58% of the community center.

No decisions have been made about the following programs- dance, gymnastics, youth theater, Kids Zone, Young Champions Cheer, Young Champions Self-Defense, therapeutic recreation, Lil' Dragons, Redford Karate, Jazzercise, Isshiryu Karate, slow flow yoga, Hatha Yoga, belly dancing, Tai Chi, Hustle fitness, Zumba, Daddy-Daughter Dance, Mother-Son Night and Winterfest.

"There are some private entities



More than 1,000 people visit the Wayne Community Center each week for exercise, swimming, ice skating, community gatherings and classes. Photo by Natalie Rhaesa

interested in the ice arena and community center" Adams said. HYPE Athletics made a presentation at the April 1 council meeting. They submitted a Letter of Intent to the council to review and evaluate all available operations for taking over the management and operations of the Wayne Community Center.

They will present the comprehensive plan to the city council at their

May 6 meeting.

Mayor Al Haidous said, "We shouldn't give up on the community center. See if we can keep it open at no cost to the general fund."

"We owe it to ourselves to try and save the community center," Haidous said. "As you know we are facing serious deficit. I hope working together we can go forward without doing permanent damage."



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