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**WAYNE**  
**Dispatch**  
SEPTEMBER 2014

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# Warrior of Wayne

Resident competes in  
Highland Games

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# Warrior of Wayne

By Jenny Johnson

How far can you throw a 16-pound stone how about an 18-foot long log? John Tracy will compete at the World Master Championship in Scotland this month as part of the Scottish Highland Games. This will be the first time the Wayne resident will compete in the annual International Championship held each year in, Scotland, Canada and the United States.

The Highland games are made up of throwing events that have been

popular in Scotland since the 1600s when Scottish people would practice for war. It is similar to historic track and field events. A lot of the rules are similar to track and field rules.

Over 200 people will compete in the World Masters. There will be 18 in his division.

Tracy has been competing the Heavy Events of the games for the past 14 years. The interest first began when Tracy saw a coworker at the Ford Wayne Assembly Plant where he works. He had on a t-shirt



Nature provided the 16 lb. stone John uses for the stone throw.



John Tracy in the caber toss. He is throwing an 18 ft. 80 lb. log for accuracy.

with the Highland Games on it.

Tracy asked, "What is that all about? He asked if I wanted to throw. I've been hooked ever since. It's addicting."

This is not a mainstream sport so Tracy had to do some research on the rules and techniques.

"I watched a lot of YouTube videos," he said.

Training consists of throwing twice a week at a local field. He also hits the gym and focuses on dead lifts and squats to prepare to throw the large stones, weights and cabers or trees.

The season ends in October. He

"Softball was fun it was okay but this is my passion,"

**John Tracy**

participates in about 10 competitions during the season.

"This whole year is dedicated to throwing," he said. He is coming off an injury from playing football with his grandson.

Tracy has always been active and enjoyed team sports. But the typical work out does not include swinging

See **WARRIOR**, page 6

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Friends needed

The annual Friends: People Helping People will take place Sept. 13 at a yet to be selected home in Wayne. Since 1998 the program has helped a homeowner who doesn't have the ability to keep up with the outside maintenance of their home. The Friends' volunteers will help with lawn clean up and painting the house.

Volunteers are needed from 8:30 a.m. until about 1 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. The program is also looking for donations.

"This is a great project and something that shows that we care, in the City of Wayne, for our neighbors," said Councilman Albert Damitio and chairman of the Friends Project. "We get out and a lot of people have been grateful over the years to get the assistance and the help."

The program is entirely funded through donations, and volunteers complete the work.

If you would like to volunteer or make a donation, please call the Community Development Department at 734-722-2002.

### Live Theater

The First Congregational Church of Wayne, 2 Towne Square St., Wayne, will present Happy Birthday Dear Grandpa at 7 p.m. on Sept. 20. Tickets are \$12 and there will be free refreshments during intermission.

"Happy Birthday Dear Grandpa" is a hilarious two-act play about a cantankerous grandfather, ill-tempered and paranoid, who is determined to think that his grandkids, three young adults, are trying to kill him for their inheritance (\$642 and a postcard collection).

Tickets will be available at the church office and must be purchased in advance. For more information, call the First Congregational Church at 734-729-7550.

### Red October Run

The 24th Annual Red October Run sponsored by Oakwood Healthcare System will be Oct. 4. Events include a 10K Run, 5K Run, 5K Walk and a 1 Mile Jr. October. The run is an all ages event designed to encourage family fitness. Events will start at Oakwood Wayne on Annapolis just



City officials and the staff at Mark Chevrolet celebrate the completion of the renovations with a ribbon cutting celebration.

west of Venoy and proceed through the neighborhood streets.

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 meal 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](http://www.oakwood.org/reductoberrun). Race day registration and pre-registered packet pick up will be from 8-9:40 a.m. on Oct. 4 on the Oakwood Annapolis Hospital front lawn.

### World Hoop Day

Hoop away at World Hoop Day from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Oct. 4 in Goudy Park. Admission is \$5.

World Hoop Day is a day of performances and classes for those who are interested in hula hooping. A portion of the proceeds will go to Wayne Main Street.

### Fall Festival

St. Johns Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Rd., Westland, is having a Fall Festival from 10 a.m. – 11 p.m. on October 4. There will be a beer tent, car show, three bands, food,

children's activities, crafters and much more. For more information call, St. Johns at 742-721-5023 between 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

### Cemetery Tour

The Wayne Historical Society is inviting everyone who loves local history to come to their First Cemetery Walk from 1-3 p.m. on Oct. 5 at the Old Wayne Cemetery on westbound Michigan Avenue next to the Phoenix State Wayne Theater.

Reservations are not required. Just drop in. This should be a great afternoon for all ages to enjoy meeting a few of the people who came and lived in this area almost 200 years ago.

The Cemetery Walk will include people in period clothing telling history stories.

The Old Wayne Cemetery has been closed to new burials since 1918. The first burial took place in 1834.

After the tour there will be cider and donuts. No tickets required but donations will be accepted. For more information, please call Ann at 313-605-0821.

### Rouge-a-Palooza

For the second year Rouge-a-Palooza will be back in Goudy Park

on Oct. 11. The one-day festival will feature a canoe race, rubber duck and paper boat race all along the Rouge River.

There will also be educational displays from the Friends of the Rouge and the Wayne County Department of Environment.

The goal of Rouge-a-Palooza is to focus on the Rouge River as a viable entertainment feature. For a complete list of events and activities, visit Rouge-a-Palooza's Facebook page.

### Turn the Town Teal

For the third year light poles, trees and mailboxes in Wayne will be adorned with teal ribbons during the month of September.

Catherine Buchanan of Independent Carpet One is helping Turn the Town Teal by tying teal ribbons throughout Wayne and Westland in an effort to raise awareness about ovarian cancer. September is National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.



Catherine Buchanan Turning the Town Teal.

Ovarian cancer is often known as "The Silent Disease" because the symptoms are often vague and subtle. Also, there is no early detection test.

Awareness of the symptoms is the most critical factor in fighting ovarian cancer. When ovarian cancer is detected in the early stages, the survival rate is 90 to 95%.

Classic symptoms of ovarian cancer are pelvic or abdominal pain/discomfort (bloating), vague but persistent gastrointestinal upsets, frequency and/or urgency of urination, unexplained changes in bowel habits, unexplained weight gain/loss, ongoing unusual fatigue, back pain, menstrual changes, and pain during intimacy.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Register to vote

The last day to register for the Nov. 4 general election is Oct. 6. To register to vote you must be a U.S. citizen, 18 years old and a resident of Wayne. You can register to vote at the City Clerk's office at Wayne City Hall from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

### 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](http://www.waynerotary.org).

### WMHS 30th Class Reunion

WMHS Class of 1984 will have their 30th reunion from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Oct. 11 at Novi-Sheraton, 21111 Haggerty Rd, Livonia. The cost is \$60 per person or \$110 for a

couple.

This includes elegant food stations, walking appetizers and a dessert extravaganza. Check out the Facebook page "reunion 84" for more information or contact Liz-Arthur-Meyers at 206-423-3728.

### Cheer on high school sports

School is back in session and the fall sports at the high schools are in full swing. If you would like to check out a football, soccer or volleyball game or a cross-country meet, visit [schedulestar.com](http://schedulestar.com) for the full sports schedules of Wayne Memorial and John Glenn High Schools.

### Rummage Sale

The First Methodist Church Of Wayne-Westland is holding a fall rummage sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sept. 18 and 19 and from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Sept. 20.

Bag day will be on Saturday. A grocery bag is \$2 and a plastic lawn

bag \$5. Home made bake goods and refreshments will also be available for sale. The church is located at 3 Towne Square, Wayne Michigan, across from the Wayne Post Office.

For more information, call the church at 734-721-4801.

The building is handicap accessible. No admission charge.

### Family Hoedown

The Wayne-Westland Parks and Recreation Dept. is hosting a Family Hoedown from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Oct. 8 at Attwood Park Pavilion #2. There will be square dancing, hay rides, bonfires, pumpkin hunts, cider and donuts and mini horses. The cost for Wayne and Westland residents is \$6 per person or \$20 for a family of four. The cost for non-residents is \$7 per person or \$25 for a family of four. Families are encouraged to come dressed in their best western attire.

### 2014 Youth and Adult Dance, Gymnastics and Cheer Program

Registration will begin on Sept. 8 for the dance, gymnastics and cheer program at the Wayne Community Center. For prices and class times visit [www.ci.wayne.mi.us/youth\\_wellness.shtml](http://www.ci.wayne.mi.us/youth_wellness.shtml).

### WMHS Homecoming

Mark your calendars for Wayne Memorial High School Homecoming on Oct. 3. The parade will begin at Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth Street at 6 p.m. It will travel west on Ash Street, north on Wayne Road and east on Glenwood to the football stadium. The football game will begin at 7 p.m. and the Queen will be crowned at halftime.

### WM vs. JG football game

The annual showdown between Wayne Memorial and John Glenn High School, will be at 7 p.m. on Oct. 10 at John Glenn High School. The varsity football game is a great community event and will also feature performances by both high school marching bands and cheerleaders.



### Blues, Brew and BBQ

The 4th Annual Blues, Brews & BBQ will be 6-10 p.m. on Sept. 12 and 12-10 p.m. on Sept. 13 at Westland City Hall grounds, 36601 Ford Road, Westland.

Blues, Brews & BBQ is a family friendly event that allows visitors the opportunity to taste some of the food served by the area's best local restaurants while enjoying great music by several bands and sampling micro-brewed beers all made right here in Michigan.

Since its inception in 2011, Blues, Brews & BBQ uses local community organizations to staff the event. More than \$30,000 has been donated to local charities.

For more information, please visit [www.cityofwestland.com](http://www.cityofwestland.com) or on Facebook at All American Blues, Brews & BBQ.

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**WARRIOR**, from page 3

a 22-pound hammer, throwing a 16-pound stone or lifting and throwing with accuracy an 80 pound 18 foot tree log.

"Softball was fun it was okay but this is my passion," John said.

John loves not only the athleticism of the Highland games but the camaraderie with the other competitors with the family members and with the spectators.

"We are a family it is a brotherhood," he said.

The Highland Games are events that are held world wide throughout the year as a way of celebrating Scottish and Celtic culture and heritage. There are bagpipes, kilts, dancing, food and the athletic and sports competitions including the Heavy Events.

These events include stone throws, weight throws, hammer throws, caber toss, sheaf toss, and similar traditional feats of strength.

The Masters World Championship is an annual amateur competition. Tracy will compete in eight events.

There are two stone throws- Breumar Stone is a 20-26 lb. stone that



John Tracy practicing one of the weighted events that he will compete in at the Highland Games in Scotland.

is thrown from a standing position and Open Stone uses a 16-22 lb. stone and the thrower can spin to throw it. The thrower cradles the stone in the neck until it is released. This is similar to the shot put.

The light and heavy hammers are 16 lbs and 20 lb. round metal balls on the end of a 4 ft. pole and are

thrown for distance. The hammer is whirled around the thrower's head and thrown over the shoulder.

The weight throws are called weight for distance and are 42 lb. weights for the masters men. Tracy is in the masters division, which is the 55-59 age group. The weight is attached either by a handle or chain.

It is thrown using one hand and usually with a spinning technique.

Weight over the bar is a weight that is thrown with one hand over a horizontal bar. Each thrower gets three attempts to clear the bar. Tracy trains for this by throwing the weight over a swing set at a local elementary school.

His favorite event is weight for distance and the hardest for him is the stones. The weights, stones and hammers are all judged on distance. The day-long event starts with the stones event.

Competitions are usually held in open grass fields. Tracy arrives early sets up his canopy and supply boxes and dresses in a kilt and hose. One rule of the games is all competitors must wear a kilt.

His competition kilt has patches from the different armed services. Tracy served four years in the Coast Guard. His son is in the Army and has done three deployments in Iraq and his dad and brother served in the Navy.

He will proudly represent them all while competing in Scotland.

"I am hoping for a top 10 finish," he said.

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Wayne Police Chief Jason Wright and Deputy Chief Al Maciag meet with residents interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch program.

## Residents needed for Neighborhood Watch

The Wayne Police Department is looking for citizens to participate in the Neighborhood Watch Program. The Neighborhood Watch Program will divide the city into geographical "neighborhoods." Each neighborhood will have a Neighborhood Watch Group consisting of citizens who live in that area.

The Wayne Police Department will assist in the organization of these groups and provide a liaison between the neighborhood groups at the Police Department. The City of Wayne already has some active groups but is hoping to expand the Neighborhood Watch Program.

Sergeant Spunar of the Wayne Police Department said, "Neighborhood Watch is a great way for citizens of a neighborhood to get to know each other, discuss similar concerns and issues, and work together to make their neighborhood a better place to live. We are currently recruiting citizens to actively participate in this program and hope to have every neighborhood in the city represented."

Please contact Sergeant Spunar at the Wayne Police Department at 734-721-1414 ext. 1503 for more information on the Neighborhood Watch Program.

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# STEP making a difference

Did you know that the City of Wayne is home to one of the most impressive and progressive vocational programs in the state?

The Tried and True Thrift Store on Michigan Avenue in Downtown Wayne has been under the ownership of Services To Enhance Potential (STEP) since June of 2007. STEP provides services under the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority.

STEP offers a variety of services to individuals with disabilities including daily skills building, support coordination, volunteer opportunities, supported community employment, and job development placement. The goal of STEP is to provide a full integration into community life, no matter what one's level of ability.

The Tried & True Thrift Store, which was one of STEP's community volunteer sites prior to 2007, is now one of their premier supported employment sites.

Tried & True is operated by individuals with a variety of disabilities.

Donation pick-ups, sorting, pricing, merchandising, marketing, customer service, cashiering, and many other jobs follow a training curriculum that develops independence in the employee's completion of these tasks. It also provides an incredibly satisfying experience to the shopping public.

Store associates, as the employees are called, are paid at greater than minimum wage, which further empowers their integration into community life. When people have money they can more readily access the wonderful variety of businesses, and services that are available in our great city. With experience, knowledge and self-confidence many move beyond the need for STEP's supports and go into other independent community job placements.

The City of Wayne and their citizens have been great supporters of the Tried & True Thrift Store. Donations of gently used clothing, household items, sporting equipment and more come in on a daily basis. Customers have found great items at



Tried and True Thrift Store offers a variety of deals and bargains from clothes and household items to movies, cds and toys.

very low cost and there is a steady stream of both donations and customers.

The enterprise has been such a successful operation in so many ways, that STEP opened "Tried and True Too" in Southgate in April of 2011.

Wayne is truly a great city with so many of its citizens working to make our world a better place. Our Tried

and True Thrift Store is just one more of our many reasons to be proud!

**Editor's note:** Services To Enhance Potential is a non-profit organization providing supports and services to persons with disabilities and other mental health needs in Wayne County, Michigan. This editorial was submitted by their organization.

Thank you residents of Wayne for supporting the 2014 Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month!



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# K&S donating car to Wayne family to celebrate 30 years

By **Jenny Johnson**

Ray and Jim Kull of K&S Auto Service are always going the extra mile for their customers. This month they will celebrate their 30th anniversary and they have a special way of recognizing it. They give back to the community by donating a 2006 Ford Taurus to a local Wayne family in need.

K&S Auto Service opened in Sept. 1984 on Wayne Road near Glenwood in Westland. In 1987 they moved to their current location in Wayne at the corner of Wayne Road and Annapolis. The location used to be a Standard gas station. The gas tanks were removed in the 1990s.

Since then they have been great business partners and dedicated to providing excellent service to the Wayne community. They are also members of NAPA Auto Care Center.

"We grew up right here in the neighborhood. It is kind of cool to own the neighborhood shop," Kull said. Ray and Jim are both Wayne Memorial High School graduates and have loved cars since high school. In addition to automotive repair they spend their free time racing cars.

K&S Auto Service has a lot of second and third generation customers.



The Kull brothers have been working together for almost 30 years in Wayne. They are proud to be able to provide this Ford Taurus to a local needy family. Photos by John P. Rhaesa



"We have a good relationship with our customers and they have the

confidence in us to keep coming in and seeing us," Kull said.

## Giving Back

The Kull brothers plan to present the car to a Wayne family in the beginning of December. They are currently looking for nominations of Wayne families who have a great need for a vehicle.

"We are looking for a deserving family and want to say as part of our 30th anniversary we are dedicated to

the Wayne community," said Ray Kull.

"I am doing this to celebrate our 30th anniversary and to do something for our community and to honor my mom and dad. They would be real proud of us," Kull said. "My brother has worked with me all 30 years. We work together, play together and race together. I told my wife I have one of the best jobs in the world because I am with my brother everyday."

If you know someone who could use a 2006 Ford Taurus please do the following:

In 100 words or less tell why a donation of a vehicle could help the family.

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or mail them to:  
K&S Auto Service, Inc.  
4614 S. Wayne Road  
Wayne, MI 48184

Submissions are due by Nov 15. The car will be given away in December. The recipient will have to be able to purchase insurance, registration and license plate.

K&S Auto Service also wants to remind you that it is not too early to get your vehicle ready for winter. The Farmers Almanac is predicting another cold and snowy winter. Make sure to get an oil change, check the anti-freeze, belts, hoses and wiper blades and tires.

**THE WAYNE Dispatch**  
A JoNa Media LLC Publication

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# Wayne sees growth in business expansion

The City of Wayne might have some challenges ahead with a \$500,000 budget deficit and the loss of some long-term and experienced employees. But there are some good things on the horizon. The Main Street program is trying to revitalize the downtown area and several businesses have either expanded or opened in Wayne.

## McDonald's

After development delays and several debates Wayne has its first McDonald's. It opened the end of June.

The 4200 sq. ft. restaurant features a double drive thru and has a seating capacity of 70. It is open 24 hours a day. The front of the building faces Wayne Road and the drive thru is on the south side of the building. There are two entrances- one on Wayne Road and one on Biddle.

The café style McDonalds also offers outdoor seating.

The owner operators are James and Marla Thrower. Mr. Thrower is a former Detroit Lion and Philadelphia Eagle and has been in the Mc-

Donald's business for over 25 years. The General Manager is Tammy Ramsey.

## Mark Chevrolet

The expansion and renovation at Mark Chevrolet on Michigan Avenue is complete. They celebrated with a ribbon cutting celebration in August. The interior and exterior of the dealership was renovated. The service area was enclosed on the west side of the building. A new vehicle plaza on the east side of the building displays vehicles. The former site of Beehive Restaurant is now used as a customer parking lot.

## Jack Demmer Ford

Jack Demmer Ford is making some changes. City council approved a rezoning so they can transform their Affordables operation on the northwest corner of Michigan Avenue and Newburgh into Quick Lane Auto Service Center. This new 9500 sq. ft. facility is a no appointment necessary maintenance and light repair operation. They will perform 14

different services including oil changes, tires, shocks, struts, brakes, exhaust, tune-up and alignments.

They service all makes and models of vehicles while the customer waits. The hours of operation will be 7 a.m.- 7 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

The Affordables location will be relocated to the used car section on Michigan Avenue east of Newburgh. The building will be renovated and Demmer will add 1800 sq. ft. to the used car building.

"We hope you continue growing," said Mayor Al Haidous.

With these two improvements Jack Demmer Ford will be investing almost \$5 million in Wayne.

## American Jetway

American Jetway Corporation, an aerosol products manufacturer in the Wayne-Westland Community is planning to make a \$15 million investment to expand their operation in Wayne on their property on Venoy while still operating their Myrtle St.

location.

For more than 50 years American Jetway has provided environmentally friendly liquid formulas in aerosol cans to small and large businesses.

The 17-acre parcel from Venoy to Hubbard Street will house manufacturing and warehouse facilities as well as offices.

There will be a 25,000 sq. ft. addition on the south side of the property. There will also be a new inside roadway to make it easier for trucks to get in and out of the location.

Because this facility borders baseball diamonds and a church the fencing will be 8 ft. tall.

In July 2010 Gordon Jones, president and CEO and Janice Germann, COO acquired property on Venoy for further expansion. This past June they also purchased the former Advanced Materials Process Corporation on Howe Rd. to further expand the business.

Today they employ 160 people and had gross sales of \$35 million for fiscal year 2012-13.



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- » Offers direct college, dual enrollment and advanced placement classes for high school students
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- » Offers world language classes at the K-4 elementary level
- » Provides K-6 talented and gifted offerings
- » In 2014 had two Gates Millennium Scholarship winners. The graduating class of 2014 earned more than \$7 million in academic, athletic and local scholarships.



For more information, please call 734-419-2000 or visit: [wwcsd.net](http://wwcsd.net)

**Wayne-Westland**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
Michele A. Harmala, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Council sets study sessions

The Wayne City Council will start having study sessions at 7 p.m. before each city council meeting on the first and third Tuesday of the month.

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Hawley said, "We can get some things accomplished and discuss issues in more detail."

During these sessions they will discuss the city's \$500,000 deficit, plans for the future of the Wayne Community Center, Wayne City Hall and the fire authority. They also have to discuss staffing changes, economic development and other issues facing the city.

Councilwoman Susan Rowe suggested having a targeted agenda for each session. Meetings will currently take place at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe Road.

### Finance director resigns

Finance Director James Ghedotte resigned from the City of Wayne last month to take a job with the City of Joliet, Illinois. Ghedotte had worked for Wayne as comptroller before serving for 18 years in Oak Park. In 2012 he returned to Wayne as Finance Director. He resigned Aug. 22 and started his new position in Joliet on Aug. 25. Councilman Albert Damitio congratulated Ghedotte on his new job. He said, "He has done quite a bit for the city since he came back."

### City re-hires consulting group

Wayne City Council has re-entered into an agreement with Winchester Consulting Group to provide marketing services.

Winchester Consulting Group will bill the city \$100 per hour for the following tasks:

Organization and facilitation of a Financial Visioning session III

Organization and facilitation of specific committees including but not limited to Millage Task Force; Housing and Neighborhood Task Force; Community and Business Task Force; and Public Safety Task Force

Facilitation of a 345 millage request. WCG will assist in the consulting and communications to support the passage of a 345 millage on the May 2015 ballot.

### Council will appoint next mayor

Mayor Al Haidous won the primary election for Wayne County commissioner and if he is successful in the general election in November he will have to resign his position of mayor. According to the opinion from the City Attorney Paul Bohn, The City council will appoint a current city member to fill in as mayor until Nov. 2015. The council will also appoint a new member to the city council to hold office until the Monday following the Nov. 2015. Election.

### Distinguished Young Woman

The Distinguished Young Women of Wayne-Westland is looking for Wayne-Westland female high school seniors who want to earn college scholarships.

The program used to be known as America's Junior Miss and is a program that includes fitness, talent, academic and poise portions.

The orientation meeting will be a 7 p.m. on Sept. 22 at 37955 Glenwood, Wayne. The Distinguished Young Women of Wayne-Westland program will take place at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 7. Practices will be 5-8 p.m. Sundays, beginning Sept. 28.

For more information, contact high school counselors at either John Glenn or Wayne Memorial High School.

### Fire Department receives grants for thermal imaging cameras

The Wayne-Westland Fire Association (WWFA) has received a \$56,250 Assistance to Firefighters Grant from FEMA to purchase five thermal imaging cameras.

Each of the front-line WWFA fire trucks will be equipped with one of these cameras, which will boost public safety and be a critical asset for the WWFA in protecting and serving the community.

The cameras use infrared technology to help firefighters locate victims, pinpoint fire, and recognize structural dangers.

# Favorite sites of old

Growing up in Wayne during the nineteen forties, fifties and sixties was an adventure. Life was slower then and everything revolved around our little community. Children played at the parks in the neighborhoods all day and came home when it started getting dark and it was dinner time. The parks and recreation provided activities, games and entertainment that kept us all busy. And of course the big draw was the playground equipment that provided lots of fun. The world was a safe place then or so it seemed to my siblings and neighborhood friends. One of our favorite pastimes was walking to town on a Saturday morning to visit all the stores and shops. Wayne had everything families in our community might want or need. Groceries stores, shoe shops, clothing stores, restaurants, drugstores, hardware, jewelry and music stores, record shops, bakeries, theaters, bowling alleys, hobby shops and many others lined the streets of Wayne. What a wonderful way to spend a Saturday, peering in windows, walking through shops and spending the

## Memory Lane

Darlene Hawley



coins that we had saved to buy something special.

One of our favorite stops was the S. S. Kresge 5 and 10 cent store on the north side of Michigan Ave. at Wayne Rd. (Today the building houses a thrift shop and Kick's Tae Kwan Do business.) I remember spending lots of time wandering the aisles of Kresge's looking at all the things you could buy. In the back of the building you could look at the birds in the cages and the turtles and fish in the tanks. One aisle was filled with counters full of candy you could buy by the ounce or pound. There were all kinds of clothing for infants, children and adults. Some aisles had material and sewing supplies and others had yarn and threads for knitting and crocheting.



Kresge was a staple to residents of Wayne and the surrounding communities. Wayne residents enjoyed walking downtown and stopping by for a treat at the soda counter.

Photo courtesy of The Wayne Historical Museum

There were lots of toys displayed in the toy section and books and magazines for children and adults. The cosmetic counter was intriguing with its makeup and perfume. I remember saving my money for a small heart shaped bottle that held Blue Waltz perfume. (I'm sure you could smell me a mile away when I wore it). The west wall housed our favorite place in the store. A soda fountain with stools lined up offering the perfect spot to have a soda. You could also get sandwiches or hamburgers. Also, there were booths beside the fountain where you could sit and have your lunch.

At the front of the store there was a quick lunch counter without seats where you stood and had a hot dog and a drink. Business people around town could get a fast lunch there.

In 1955 the store was enlarged in the back to add a partial second floor for offices and restrooms and to build back doors to open onto the parking lot on the Sims Street side. Kresge's closed around 1985 and

opened for a few years as McCoy's.

The history of this store is interesting. Sebastian Spring Kresge was born in Pennsylvania in 1867. He died in 1966 at the age of 99. He was an entrepreneur and built the first Kresge store in Memphis, Tennessee in 1897. Two years later he opened one in Detroit, Michigan. In 1912 he incorporated the S.S. Kresge Corporation with 85 stores. Eventually, Kresge's became Kmart. The very first Kmart was built in Garden City, Michigan and opened in 1962. In 1977 the Kresge Corporation changed its name to the Kmart Corporation.

Mr. Kresge was worth millions by 1924 and continued to build his empire with his stores and land holdings. (In today's world he would have been worth billions.) He started the Kresge Foundation and donated a great deal of money to organizations specifying they "promote the well-being of mankind". Many buildings, auditoriums, libraries and institutes across the country have been named after Mr. Kresge.

## 2014 Diamond of Community winner

By Jenny Johnson

Congratulations to Wayne Dispatch columnist Darlene Hawley. The Commission on Aging and Wayne Senior Services Office has named her the 2014 Diamond of Community.

Since 1995 the DOC has recognized a Wayne resident, 70 years of age or older, who is still actively volunteering in the community. Darlene has devoted many years to helping make Wayne "A Great Place to Live."

She is an active member of the First Congregational Church where she teaches church school, directs plays and holds other leadership roles.

She is a member of the Wayne Historical Commission and implemented the "History in a Box" program where she visits second grade classrooms in Wayne in costume to acquaint students with the value of their history and the history of Wayne.

She is President of the Wayne Garden Club and has been a member of the Literary Club since 1963.

Darlene will be honored with a monetary gift and a beautifully engraved plaque at a dinner on Sept. 16th at the Wayne Community Center. The dinner is open to the public. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased at the Wayne Community Center. After, she will be honored at the Wayne City Council meeting.

For the past nine years John and Anna Petrou of Wayne Dairy Queen have generously sponsored this program.



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# Meet new Wayne-Westland Superintendent

By Jenny Johnson

The first day of school was exciting not only for students and teachers in the Wayne-Westland Community School District but also for the new Superintendent Michele Harmala.

Harmala began her tenure her in Wayne-Westland on July 1. Since then she has been getting to know the people, programs and services offered in Wayne-Westland. She was previously in the Farmington Public School District.

"It is important for me, coming from outside of the community, to understand the values, beliefs, interests, successes and challenges from the perspectives of our Board of Education members and as many staff members and community members as possible," she said.

She has spent the summer getting to know the staff and community. She has also been talking to parents from each of the schools "to ensure I have a parent's perspective of the district and our schools," she said.

Harmala said, "I have also been investigating the programs and services we offer and asking questions that assist me in understanding both why the programs/services exist and what we are achieving as a result of each. It is important to get to know people and programs prior to thinking about any changes--unnecessary change can be problematic, yet necessary change can be helpful."

## Ideas for Wayne-Westland

Harmala said she is impressed with the comprehensive offerings in the district.

"Wayne Westland Community Schools should be proud of the array of programs and services they offer to their students and community. This district has created tremendous programs and services on the lowest

**"Wayne Westland Community Schools should be proud of the array of programs and services they offer to their students and community.**

**This district has created tremendous programs and services on the lowest funding offered by our state. This is certainly a point of pride for the community, District and all of the personnel."**

**New Superintendent Michele Harmala**

funding offered by our state. This is certainly a point of pride for the community, District and all of the personnel," she said.

She praised the programs available for preschool age children through senior citizens and the different opportunities for students who need additional assistance to classrooms for Talented and Gifted students.

We offer challenging courses such as Advanced Placement Courses, Direct College, and Dual Enrollment. Our William D. Ford Career-Technical Center offers 19 distinct programs. We provide special education services for students who live in surrounding communities through the Center Program model that operates in Wayne County," she said. The staff in WWCS are dedicated and committed to the success of our students and the District."

Her plan is to make sure even more people know about the successes in Wayne-Westland.

"To improve the District, we need to ensure everyone in our community and in the surrounding communities know what we do and how their children can benefit from being a part of the WWCS," she said. "We need to continue to problem-solve and work together when challenges arise, such as financial challenges or legislative challenges."

## Instruction is also a top priority

"We must ensure all of our students are college and career ready when they leave WWCS--for our newest students, our preschool and kindergarten age students, that means preparing them for a world that we can't even imagine," she said. "This means making sure they have all of the basic skills they need and making sure they see themselves as lifelong learners and are resourceful enough to learn throughout their

lives. While we have a lot of work to do, we have a lot in place."

## Wealth of Knowledge

Harmala has taught at the preschool, elementary, middle school, high school, and undergraduate and post graduate college courses. Her first degree was in teaching, special education and mathematics. She also earned a Master's Degree in Secondary Special Education, an Education Specialist degree in Administration, and Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Education Leadership and Policy Studies.

She has worked at both the local school district and intermediate or county school district level throughout her career.

"My formal education and experiences are a big part of what prepared me to take on the role of Superintendent, but there were some informal things that shaped my career as well," she said. "I've always enjoyed working with people. I am one of the oldest children in a family of 14 siblings. We played school together all the time. I remember one Christmas we received 2 large chalkboards as "family" gifts. We set those chalkboards up in our basement and the teacher in me started emerging at an early age."

She has also tutored children for as many years as she has been in education.

"This has helped me to "remember" my teaching roots as I have taken on administrative roles that move me further away from the day-to-day work with children," she said.

Harmala is married with two grown sons. Her eldest son and his wife are expecting the first grandchild this month. Her youngest is a college student.

"My husband and I enjoy spending time with each other and our children. We enjoy relaxing at our cottage up north, being out of doors, and playing and watching ice hockey--we have played together throughout the years. This year, we are planning to play on the same team. I also play hockey on an all women's team and I enjoy that camaraderie as well," she said. "I swim and run for my health and because of my love of food! I love to read and have quite a collec-



Dr. Michele Harmala has been on the job since July 1. She is looking forward to meeting the students, staff and families in Wayne-Westland.

tion in my "to read" pile. I am satisfied easily with some of life's simplest pleasures."

## Why Wayne-Westland?

Harmala said she is happy to be a part of the Wayne-Westland Community School District.

"First, I love public education and in many ways, as long as I am supporting, serving and contributing to our public education system, I am satisfied. I have always worked in large districts. Large districts have unique strengths and unique challenges compared to smaller districts. I enjoy systems work and working with people to build on their strengths and to facilitate change and improvement where it is needed," she said. "WWCS has many strengths, yet it has challenges. My experiences were aligned to the existing size, structures, and challenges and the Board of Education thought I was a good match for the District and its current needs. The match between the Superintendent and the Board is very important and it was an honor to be asked to serve here. It is my pleasure to do so."

She is looking forward to visiting each of the schools and meeting as many parents and students as she can. "In a large district, I know it will be impossible to get to everything and I ask your patience as I make my way to the various and numerous events and activities," she said.

# Oakwood Wayne honors employee with scholarship

## Remembering Alissa - Five years later

By Jenny Johnson

It was not your typical lunch invitation. Rayma Hogan, a 37-year employee at Oakwood Hospital Wayne was invited to lunch in July by former Oakwood CEO Cathy Cronin and Jay Bonnell, controller, Oakwood Hospital, Wayne.

She was presented with a certificate that notified her that an Oakwood scholarship would be awarded annually in her name.

The certificate said, "The Oakwood Wayne Scholarship endowment in honor of Rayma Hogan is funded by Jay Bonnell in gratitude, to honor Rayma Hogan's dedication to the patients and staff at Oakwood Hospital Wayne.

Earnings from the fund will be used to provide an annual scholarship, ensuring a culture of quality and innovation as well as the highest quality and the safest patient care at Oakwood Healthcare, Inc. for generations."

One Oakwood Wayne employee will be awarded the scholarship each year to help further their education.

"Oakwood does offer several scholarships and now one is in my name. I have always dreamed of doing something like this," she said.

Hogan is the administrative assistant for the director of patient care at Oakwood Wayne and was presented with this honor because she has always demonstrated excellent service. The first scholarship will be presented next spring.

"I am proud of that. I have had some amazing things happen to me this year," she said.

### Providing Inspiration

This year has also brought some personal accomplishments for Hogan. She has begun a venture in motivational speaking and is writing an inspirational book.

The book is in honor of her granddaughter, Alissa Jennings, who passed away from a brain tumor five years ago this month. The title of book is "Loyalty- Alissa's Spirit" and is dedicated to "my loyalty to my granddaughter and my promise to

help Alissa's mission of helping children and animals."

"It tells Alissa's stories and how she helped others along the way," Rayma said.

In her book, the first chapter is about faith and personal relationships with God. The whole book is based around loyalty with chapters on family, friends and social media.

"We may all believe different but we can all do simple things to make the world a better place," she said. Alissa taught her that lesson. Even as sick as she was, she continued to make a difference.

Even though she was not in school once she got sick, she still wanted to save box tops to help Hoover Elementary raise money.

"She would say, 'Grandma these are very important and we have to save them. I still save them and give them to Hoover once a year,' she said. "We can learn from all of our children to make the world a better place."

"I believe Alissa was an angel on Earth. She wanted to be a nurse. She was spending the night at my house and a neighbor had a bloody foot from weed whacking with bare feet," she said. The neighbor came to Rayma's door.

"Alissa said 'Get out of my way grandma because I am going to be a nurse,'" she said.

In honor of the fifth anniversary of Alissa's death Rayma wants to help spread Alissa's message of hope.

"Her spirit stays alive and is not forgotten. Her hopes and dreams will come through fruition through her friends and family," she said. The family did Relay for Life for two years and a fundraiser for Pediatric Brain Cancer research.

Each year on Sept. 19 the family and friends gather at Hoover Elementary School. They gather around the tree planted in her honor to release balloons, lanterns or light candles.

"Alissa was such a big part of the community," Rayma said. In addition to numerous fundraisers, Alissa got the chance to attend the Jonas'



Rayma Hogan shares a picture of her granddaughter Alissa Jennings. Photo by John P. Rhaesa

Brothers Concert and have a surprise party at school with a Miss America contestant, all provided by caring members of the Wayne community.

"It is still hard," Rayma said. The family- her mom, dad and sister, Brooke, just continues to try to get on with their daily life each and every day."

Alissa would have been a freshman at Wayne Memorial High School this year.

### Alissa's impact

Alissa was born on Feb. 25, 2000. She was a fourth grader at Hoover Elementary School when she was diagnosed on Sept. 22, 2008 with Atypical Teratoid Rhabdoid Tumor (AR/TR). This is a highly malignant and aggressive brain tumor that grows at a rapid rate and is found primarily in children.

Her symptoms began with a headache, vomiting and sensitivity to light.

At the time Alissa's mom, Nicole Jennings, said, "I took Alissa to the hospital in sunglasses and with a blanket covering her head to block the light. It came out of nowhere."

Alissa went through chemotherapy, radiation and a 12-hour brain surgery to fight the tumor.

"She had surgery but they couldn't get all of it out and the part that was left was treated with radiation and chemo. By Christmas time it shrunk but after the first of the

year it came back with a vengeance," Rayma said. "They kept trying to treat it and it was horrible for her little body. It was a nightmare to watch her struggle and fight."

Through it all she never complained.

She died on Sept. 19, 2009. In her short life she loved, laughed and took care of others.

Just three weeks before she died she attended the Wayne Wheelfest. There was a Chicken Dinner fundraiser for her and she wanted to make an appearance. She spent the afternoon swinging on the swings and riding on the carnival rides just like any other kid.

But she also helped a kid who got sick on a ride. She got him a washcloth and sat with him until his parents came, Rayma said. Just like the caring and compassionate person she was.

"I never had confidence in myself but Alissa was my biggest fan. For a little girl she helped make me and others better people," she said.

The last time Alissa stayed the night at her grandparent's house was June 29.

"I marked it on my calendar and haven't changed it since then," Rayma said. By coincidence or divine intervention Rayma booked her first speaking engagement on June 29 a few years later. The proceeds from the event went to teen pregnancy.

"Alissa would have been proud," she said.

# Get ready for Scarecrows

The Downtown Wayne Scarecrow show will return this year. The event is presented by Wayne Main Street (formerly known as Wayne Ripple Effect).

## How it Works:

For \$20, each group or individual will design and build a scarecrow using a pre-made frame and lots of imagination. Be creative! Your scarecrow can reflect your mission, your organization, your business, or your family's imagination and artistic talents.

Last year's participants who would like to re-enter their scarecrow or reuse their frame are welcome to do so. Repurposing last year's frame is encouraged and will result in a reduced entry fee of \$15. This will ensure a reserved lamp-post, a newly created placard, and entry into the Best in Show Contest. Returning Scarecrow creators will still need to complete a 2014 entry form.

Each scarecrow will wear a placard stating the organization or family



name while on display on Michigan Avenue westbound and Wayne Road between Glenwood and Michigan Avenue. Scarecrows will be removed and disposed of by volunteers. Please remove your scarecrow yourself by 9 a.m. on November 1st if you wish to keep it.

## Contest & Reception:

Wayne Main Street will host a Contest and Reception at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 15th in Goudy Park. Please help us welcome the Scarecrows to our community by picking up a ballot at the park and then taking a self-paced walking tour through our downtown. After you've viewed all of the entries, rejoin us at our Downtown Reception to cast your vote for



Let the creative juices flow and build a scarecrow that delights, terrifies or amazes the crowds. Photos by John P. Rhaesa

"Best in Show" while enjoying a toasty bonfire, with complimentary marshmallows, cider, & donuts.

The winning Scarecrow will be featured on next year's registration form and its creators will be awarded a trophy and bragging rights!

**Important Dates:**  
**Sign-Up Deadline:**  
**September 24th**

**Drop-Off Time:**  
**September 27th 8:00 - 10:00 AM**  
**at State Wayne Theater**

**Pick-Up Time if you wish to keep your scarecrow after event:**  
**November 1st before 9:00 AM**

## Benefits:

### Highlight Downtown

Events such as the Downtown Wayne Scarecrow Show help to highlight Downtown Wayne as an exciting, and fun place to visit, live, work, and play. This event brings the community together and contributes to the revitalization of downtown. If also provides an opportunity to get outside and engage in a family friendly activity.

### Team Building

Your employees/volunteers/students/family will have fun working together to create their unique scarecrow! Your children will enjoy engaging in a family project and will recall the experience for years to come.



### Foot Traffic

Downtown businesses will have the potential to get hundreds of extra visitors walking and riding downtown during the month of October.

### Frame Pick-Up:

You may pick up your pre-made frame from the Wayne Farmer's Market Main Street tent from 3-7 p.m. each Wednesday until September 27.

If you are unable to pick up your scarecrow frame on the dates noted above, please contact us at the number below to make alternate arrangements.

For more information, call (734) 629-6822 or visit [www.downtownwayne.org](http://www.downtownwayne.org).

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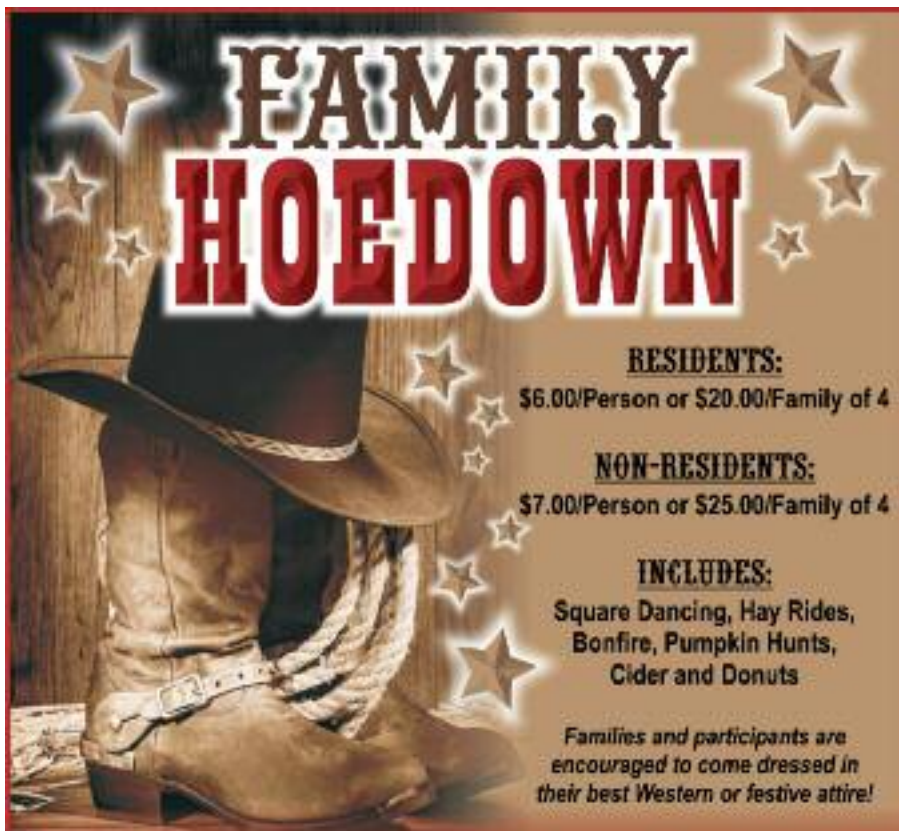
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Fee: \$20 per student

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September 22, 2014

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