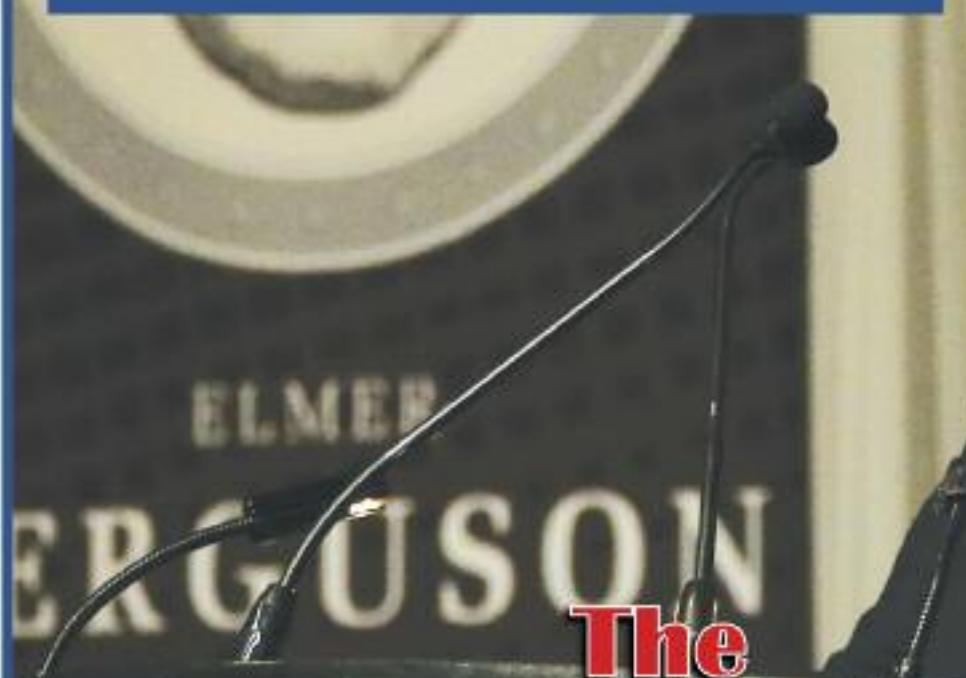


THE WAYNE
Dispatch
DECEMBER 2014



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Wayne Native
KEVIN ALLEN

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Hockey Hall of Fame

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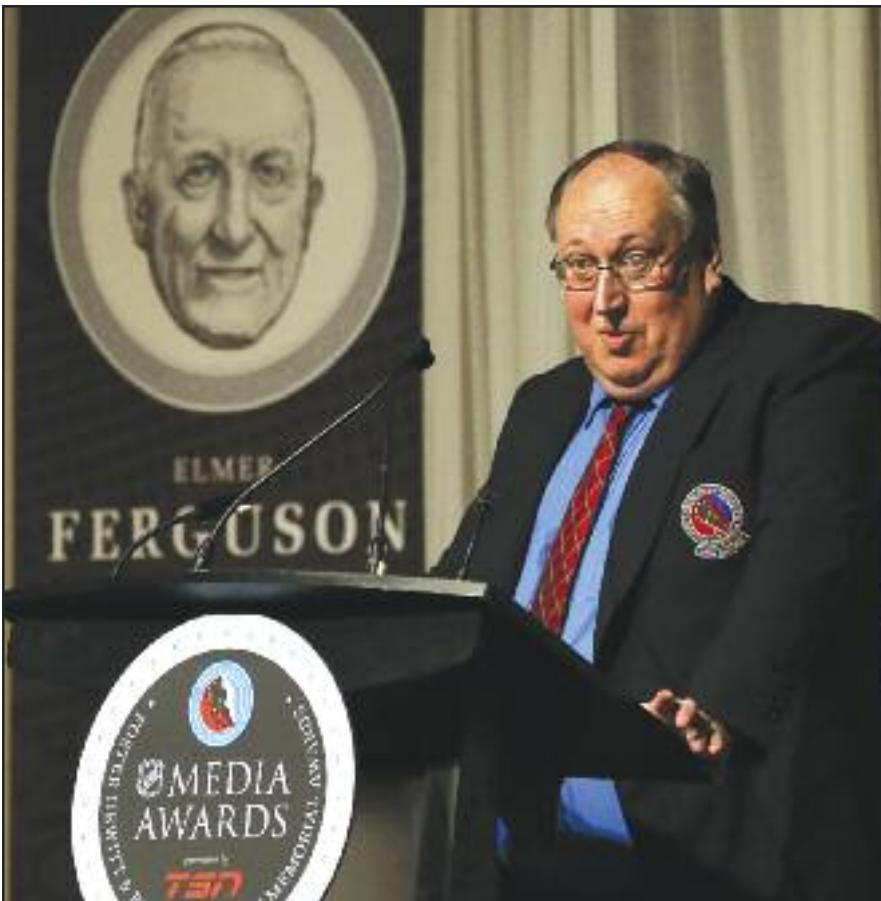
Wayne native honored in Hockey Hall of Fame

By all accounts Kevin Allen has scored an infinite number of hat tricks in his career and he's done it without ever taking the ice. Allen is an esteemed writer whose beat covering the National Hockey League (NHL) for USA Today has culminated into an admirable and awe inspiring career by his journalism peers covering sports, and every hockey fan that ever dreamed of being in the presence of the great Wayne Gretzky. Allen's first-hand accounts of heart-stopping overtime wins, face pounding fights and the sting an athlete feels long after a black eye has faded, has earned him the 2014 Elmer Ferguson Memorial Award for excellence in hockey journalism at the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Allen, a Wayne native, has been covering sports since he was a journalism student at Eastern Michigan University (EMU) where he wrote for the Eastern Echo. Born in 1956 at Nankin Hospital, he attended school at St. Mary's Catholic School through the ninth grade and describes himself as an "average" student until he met Sister Pat Hogan his eighth grade year. "She saw potential in me that others didn't. I wasn't sure what I could accomplish in life. I wasn't all that confident. She convinced me that I was capable of achieving much more than I thought I could," remembers Allen. "She was the first to tell me that I had a flair for writing. I read and wrote more than most kids my age."

Outside of the classroom Allen did all the things a local kid growing up in Wayne may recall doing – playing little league baseball (on the same fields, at the same time Wayne native and former professional baseball player Pat Sheridan was "tearing up" the league.) He played pick up hockey behind the original recreation building on Wayne Road, delivered Wayne Eagle and Detroit News newspapers and worked at Jack's Sporting Goods formerly the home of Cunningham Drugs.

Allen's roots in the Wayne and Westland area run deep. His uncle, Thomas H. Brown, was Westland's first mayor serving from 1966-69 and his cousin Veronica and Larry Stockwell, own the infamous Chum's Do-Nut Shop on Glenwood, a staple in the community for more than 40



Kevin Allen 2014 Elmer Ferguson Memorial Award for excellence in hockey journalism speaks at the Hockey Hall of Fame. Photo by Dave Sandford/Hockey Hall of Fame

"I never felt poor because all of my friends were middle class. I guess that I'm proof that it does take a village to raise a child. I ended up with middle class values."

Kevin Allen

years.

A 1974 graduate of Wayne Memorial High School, he started writing part-time for the Ypsilanti Press then the Livingston County Press while he was enrolled at EMU where he earned a degree in Political Science and a minor in Journalism. "I wanted to be a writer for as long as I can remember. I grew up reading Joe Falls and decided early that if I wrote about sports I would be combining my two favorite passions," said Allen.

In 1979 Allen took a job writing for the Casa Grande Dispatch in Casa Grande, Arizona. He worked there just over a year before moving back to Michigan. "In Arizona, I was a half-time political writer and half-time sports writer. One weekend I re-

member covering eight-man high school football on the Maricopa Indiana reservation on Friday night, Ted Kennedy's speech on water rights on Saturday morning, Arizona State football Saturday afternoon, Phoenix Suns basketball Saturday night and just to cap a perfect weekend I wrote a story on the local cotton growing industry on Sunday afternoon," said Allen.

The Port Huron Times Herald hired Allen in 1982 as a reporter and assigned him part-time coverage of the Detroit sports scene which included the Detroit Red Wings. "In those days, the Red Wings held their training camp in Port Huron, which meant I was there in 1983 for Steve Yzerman's first day as a Detroit player," said Allen.

While Allen is being lauded for his 30-year career as a hockey journalist, it was his coverage of the 1984 Detroit Tigers World Series Championship that garnered the attention of USA Today, while he worked within the chain for Gannett. He soon found himself on interim assignment for them writing about baseball. Four months later he returned to the Detroit Free Press but that didn't last long before Gannett called him back to the big leagues and offered him a full time position at USA Today in 1986.

"A week after I began my USA Today career as a general assignment sportswriter, the late, great Rod Beaton said the words to our sports editor that changed my life. 'Hey Henry. Kevin is from Michigan, which means he speaks hockey fluently. Why don't you let him cover the NHL until you hire someone?' Later, Henry came by and said, 'Do you want to cover the NHL on a temporary basis?' I said yes, and 29 seasons later I'm still covering the NHL on a temporary basis."

And by covering Allen really means amassing an understanding and expertise of the game like no other. He's befriended some of the greatest legends to ever lace up a pair of skates, witnessed notorious moments that have been told again and again throughout hockey rinks, living rooms and bars across the world and chronicled the brutality and beauty that plays out each and every season with as much reliability as a Zamboni clearing the ice before every game.

For that reason Allen earned the NHL's Lester Patrick Award for outstanding service to hockey in the United States in 2013 and he's the only writer to make Hockey News' Top 100 list of most influential people in the sport, each year, since the list made its debut. His latest accolade in the media and sports community has been both rewarding and humbling for the man who recalls being a "poor kid growing up" on "food stamps" and "welfare."

"I never felt poor because all of my friends were middle class. I guess that I'm proof that it does take a village to raise a child. I ended up

See Hockey, page 15

Hometown dinner kicks off Christmas season

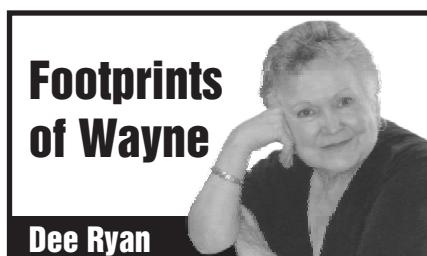
If you haven't seen some of your friends for ages---next year come to the Congregational Church's Turkey Dinner. On Thursday night, half of Wayne was there. The other half showed up for Friday night's dinner. Both nights, November 7 and 8, saw huge crowds line up for the Annual Turkey Dinner. We were happy to see some out-of-town friends---Donna and Barry McEachern and Shelby Szukitis.

Miriam Shurlow, who is Co-chairman of the kitchen, along with Brenda Armstrong, tells me she starts getting supplies in September. She bases her buying on the crowd numbers from the previous year.

This year they bought 222 turkeys (440 lbs.) She then ordered enough turkey breast to make 500 lbs. A small amount of ham was also offered so diners could have a choice.

On Friday, 140 pieces of Swiss steak were on the dinner menu, along with the turkey... In addition were 250 lbs. of potatoes and 5 bushels of Butternut Squash. The squash was donated by Jay and Brenda Armstrong. Mrs. Armstrong has been the kitchen co-chair for 25 years.

Bev Woodard and Mary Ann Ellis are in charge of the salads---for dessert there are cakes, which are donated, and pies from Bartz bakery. Carol Weyand and Judy Howton share the dining room duties. Judy's husband, Chuck, along with George Zimmerman are the pie and cake cutters. Gentlemen of the church did the serving and were assisted by Boy Scout Troop #1736.



Footprints of Wayne

Dee Ryan

Three students from William D. Ford Career Technical Center, Culinary Arts Program, worked in the kitchen for 4 days, from 2-4 hours each day.

Margaret and Ted D'Pulos were on hand to sell the lunch and dinner tickets and it's always fun to see them.

Now you'll hear about the TURKEY PARADE. Seems the Congregational Church hasn't refrigeration facilities enough for all those turkeys. So on Wednesday, the turkeys prepped, and in roasting pans, are put on carts and trundled across to the Methodist Church. Roy Klay puts them to roast in that church's oven. Then they are safely refrigerated. On Thursday, four turkeys are carted back, and on Friday another eight birds return to the Congregational kitchens, and the preparations continue for each night's dinner.

There are two candy workshops where hard candy, peanut brittle, toffee and bark are made. Miriam Shurlow is known for her delicious Divinity. She also makes Pralines, peanut squares, and fudge. All of these candies, about 500 lbs. are sold.

Mary Carney, our former City Clerk, runs a Knit and Crochet plus

Aprons Boutique that her Mom, Ann Santure started.

There's a 'Country Store' selling canned and baked goods---also a Kitchen Specialty shop that sells a variety of new utensils.

Along with the Christmas Crafts Bazaar is a 'Kid's Store' and an 'Attic Shop' that also sells used books.

If all this isn't enough---cookies and coffee are available in the church parlor.

There's also a raffle. On Friday evening, raffle winners are announced. First and second prizes are quilts, and third prize is a Visa Card for \$100.

This is the 68th year for the Turkey dinners. Ann Stacco is the General Chairwoman and is praised for her organizing talents.

The Congregational Church also packs 100 baskets for Thanksgiving and another 100 for Christmas. These will go to families in our community. And once more the Boy Scout Troop does good deeds by

gathering canned goods for the baskets.

Many thanks to Mariam Shurlow for meeting me at the church and telling me about all the work that goes into the lunches and dinners. Always nice to see Church Secretary Linda Beasley, and a special treat to meet Pastor Chris Richards, the much loved Pastor of Wayne's Congregational Church.

The Historical Society is teaming up with the Library to present: Ford-Wyoming and Wayne History book---cars candy and canoodling in the Motor City. The author, Karen Dybis, will give an overview of the area Drive-ins and gladly sign her book.

Ms. Dybis' presentation will be Wednesday, December 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the main meeting room of the Wayne Library.

Wishing you a joyous and blessed Christmas.

USE IT. DON'T LOSE IT.

Use Your FSA Health Benefits Dollars Before December 31

If you participate in a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) through your employer's "Cafeteria Plan" benefits program, time may be running out. Some plans require the money you contributed to be spent by December 31, or you risk losing it. Here is a list of vision-related services and expenses that may qualify for reimbursement:

Eye Health Examination • Contact Lenses
Eyeglasses • Computer Eyeglasses
Prescription Sunglasses
Laser Vision Correction

Note: Check with your plan administrator to determine the specific requirements of your plan. Please let our office know about your major medical or vision plan coverage when you call for an appointment. We'll help you get all the benefits you have coming to you.

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NEWS BRIEFS

New Urgent Care

City of Wayne officials and Chamber of Commerce members welcomed a new business to Wayne with a ribbon cutting. Wayne Urgent Care, located at 34815 Michigan Avenue, Suite 1. They are open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily including weekends and holidays. No appointments are necessary. All major insurance plans are accepted. They treat strains, sprains, fractures, wounds, respiratory infections, earaches, and more. They have Digital X-Rays, EKG, ultrasound, lab testing, physicals and immunizations.

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.



State Representative Robert Kosowski and Former Mayor Al Haidous welcomes Nabeel Shahid at the Wayne Urgent Care ribbon cutting. Photo by John P. Rhaesa

Join Wayne Coin Club

The Wayne Coin Club is looking for new members, young or old, familiar with coin collecting or not, but interested in collecting coins, currency, tokens, or other numismatic

items. They meet at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of the month at St John's Episcopal Church, 555 S.Wayne Rd, Westland.

The Wayne Club sponsors a yearly coin show, members will appraise your collection and there is a coin auction at every meeting, along with raffle prizes, door prizes and a lot of fun and camaraderie. Young coin collectors receive a collectible coin for every meeting they attend. So bring your family and join the Wayne Coin Club. For more information, visit www.waynecoinklub.org.

Veterans Project

St. John Lutheran School and Church, 2602 S. Wayne Rd., Westland, is looking for donations of canned food, boxed food and blankets for our Veterans. They will be collecting items at St. Johns School in Westland on Wayne Rd. and Glenwood or at Elite Realty in Livonia 31077 Schoolcraft. All donations will be delivered to the homeless and inpatient veterans at the VA Hospital

in Ann Arbor. They also send care packages to active troops overseas.

For more information on the project, call 734-721-5377.

Hospice of Michigan to Host Support Program

Hospice of Michigan will host a grief support program from 10-11:30 a.m. on Dec. 15 at the Canton Senior Center, 4600 Summit Parkway, Canton.

It will feature a presentation from Ron Gries, author of "Through Death to Life." Gries' book is a collection of poetry and prose he wrote during his wife's five-year battle with cancer, which eventually took her life. During his presentation, Gries will reflect on his experience and discuss dying, living, grief, healing and hope. The program is free and open to the community. Advance registration is required. For more information or to register, please contact Margaret Martin at 734.769.5821 or mmartin@hom.org.

Hospice of Michigan is the original – and largest – hospice in the state. The non-profit cares for more than 1,700 patients each day, raising more than \$4 million each year to cover the cost of care for the uninsured and underinsured. HOM offers a broad range of services to enhance the quality of life at the end of life, including At Home Support™, our advanced illness management program, community-based palliative care and pediatric care programs. HOM provides grief support and counseling, caregiver education and support, and education programs for physicians and healthcare professionals through its research, training and education arm, the Hospice of Michigan Institute. For more information, call 888.247.5701 or visit www.hom.org.

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Happy Holidays from Wayne Main Street

New Office Location

Last month, Wayne Main Street relocated their office to the Wayne Activity and Banquet Center Building located at 35000 Sims Street. The move was necessary as the organization continues to grow. Now boasting two graduate student interns from Eastern Michigan University along with a need for more storage space, this location has plenty of room and brings life back to a once under-utilized building. Wayne Main Street has an open door policy for anyone interested in becoming more involved in their efforts to revitalize Downtown Wayne. Feel free to stop by and visit during open office hours: Monday – Friday 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM or call (734) 629-6822 to schedule an appointment.

Holiday Window Display Contest

Wayne Main Street would like to announce the 1st Annual Holiday Window Display Contest. Working with businesses located in the Main Street district, this effort to light up Downtown Wayne for the holidays encourages stores to decorate their windows to promote downtown.

This year's theme is "An Old-Fashioned Christmas."

Wayne Main Street will have a team of volunteer judges walking the downtown area on the night of the Rotary Holiday Parade of Lights: Friday, December 5. Judges will select the "Judge's Choice" award winner

Downtown Wayne Main Street
Lindsey Wooten

and the winner will be announced and receive a plaque after the parade at the State Wayne Theater.

After the Rotary Holiday Parade, Wayne Main Street will prepare a Facebook campaign displaying all entries enabling the public to view and vote on their favorite Window Display. The winning entry will be awarded the "People's Choice" prize and given a special plaque. To participate in the voting campaign, "Like" Wayne Main Street on Facebook by visiting www.facebook.com/WayneMainStreet.

Small Business Saturday Recap

On November 29th Wayne Main Street hosted a successful retail shopping event in Downtown Wayne in conjunction with the national Small Business Saturday campaign. The day started at Nick's Coney Island where shoppers picked up their free Shop Small tote bag and shopping Passport. After breakfast, shoppers were encouraged to visit all 8 participating retail businesses to obtain a "stamp" for their passports. If shoppers got all 8 stamps plus spent money at 3 of the stores they were



Wayne Main Street Office window is decorated for the 1st Annual Holiday Window Display Contest.

entered to win a door prize that consisted of items and gift cards donated by each of the participating businesses. Over 50 shoppers came out for the event and spent over \$3,000 dollars on holiday gifts. Wayne Main Street would like to thank all who participated in the event and congratulate the winner of the door prize drawing – Theodora Brooks!

Interns

Wayne Main Street had two interns from Eastern Michigan University's Historic Preservation Master's program this semester and will be sad to see them go! Ashleigh Czapek and Sophia Kloc have been tremendous assets to the Main Street effort during their time spent in Wayne. Both students worked effortlessly to assist the Executive Director with daily administrative tasks including

social media management, database entry, press release writing, and more. Last month, Ashleigh Czapek wrote an article showcasing the beautiful State Wayne Theater and submitted it to be published in the newsletter of the Detroit Area Art Deco Society. Once the newsletter becomes available, it will be shared on the Wayne Main Street website (www.downtownwayne.org). Sophia Kloc has been working tirelessly doing research on the Wayne Post Office building and received approval from the Wayne Main Street Board of Directors to apply for a Michigan Historic Marker to be placed in front of the building to raise awareness of its historic significance. The entire community sends a sincere "thank you" to these young ladies for all of the hard work they did over the past four months and wish them well on their professional journeys!

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Tom Lynch

Haidous passes gavel to Hawley

By Jenny Johnson

Mayor Al Haidous presided over his last city council meeting on Nov. 18. He officially resigned to move on to his new job as Wayne County Commissioner for District 11.

In his resignation letter Haidous wrote, "It has been an honor and privilege to serve this fine city and its citizens. It has been an amazing journey and I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it."

A reception was held for Haidous before the meeting. He was presented with resolutions from the Wayne-Westland Fire Authority, State Representative Robert Kosowski and received a standing ovation from the crowd of residents, family and former city officials.

He told the crowd, "After the election in 1993 I started by thanking the citizens of Wayne for the trust they have given me. It is how I am going to end my political career by thanking citizens for the citizens have been the main energy and power."

Haidous wished luck to the city

council, city manager and staff.

"The infrastructure of city is strong but the economy is tough," he said. "This is not goodbye but I will see you later. I am still going to serve this great community. With great honor I will pass the gavel to the mayor pro tem and wish him the best of luck."

In a 6-0 vote James Hawley was elected the new mayor.

Councilman Skip Monit made the motion.

"The upcoming months are going to be very crucial to City of Wayne and we will need council to be unified to do what needs to be done to make sure we continue on the right track," Monit said.

"Thank you I appreciate that and really appreciate the support of city council. We are going to move the city forward and continue with progress of the city," Hawley said. "We are up to the task and we are going to get the job done."

In a 4-2 vote Skip Monit was elected the new Mayor Pro Tem.

The council now has 30 days to



Mayor James Hawley

Wayne, MI 48184.

To be considered for the council position, candidates must be registered voters and not in arrears to the City (taxes, water, fines, etc...).

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Kick Back...Relax...Recline!!!

By Jenny Johnson

Ready for a great family movie weekend? State Wayne Phoenix Theatre is ready to wow you with an enhanced movie going experience.

They have completed renovations that include all new carpet, theater lighting, bigger screens in two theaters and luxury electric reclining seats with cup holders and arm rests that can be raised for love seat seating.

"It is like watching a movie in your living room," said Cory Jacobson, owner, Phoenix Theatres.

The concession stand has added Starbucks coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Digital monitors have been installed for menu boards and there are digital signs in the box office and above each theater displaying the movies currently playing.

In just over 24 hours they replaced the old theater seats with black electric reclining seats complete with a footrest.

While these seats offer extra comfort for all movie goers., they are especially nice for those with leg and back problems or those in wheelchairs.

The theater will now have reclining seats in all four of its theaters- 306 double seats and 15 singles. The 75" aisles can fit a wheelchair and make these new chairs completely handicapped accessible.

These power reclining leather seats, make Phoenix Theatres one of the first movie theatre chains in the country to have 100% reclining seats. Phoenix Theatre's Monroe location had the seats installed in October and their Laurel Park location will



John Scanlan, Cory Jacobson, Tearis Reid and Joe Cork kick back and relax after installing the new luxury electric reclining seats. Photo by John P. Rhaesa

get them in time for Christmas.

"Sales are unbelievable in Monroe," Jacobson said. They had 12,000 more visitors this October than last October, before they got the luxury seating.

"These seats are something people are driving distances to experience," he said.

Santa will come all the way from the North Pole to check out the new additions at State Wayne Theatre. He will make an appearance in the Dec. 5 Wayne Rotary Christmas Parade. Then he will meet with all of the good little boys and girls of Wayne in Theater IV. State Wayne will offer a free family friendly movie after the parade and Santa visits.

State Wayne is also planning fundraisers to help Wayne-Westland

Community Schools. John Glenn High School Week is Dec. 15-18. Proceeds from ticket sales will go toward charities supported by the students of John Glenn and Champions of Wayne day is Dec. 20. Proceeds from movie sales that day will be donated to the Champions of Wayne Program at Wayne Memorial High School.

Jacobson and his staff look forward to welcoming the community to come and enjoy the new improvements at the same prices.

"It is a very comfortable movie going experience at no additional cost," he said. "There isn't a bad seat in the house."

It is like the difference between flying first class and coach," he said. But customers are getting first class

seating for an affordable price.

The classic element of the theater with the improved sound, screens, 3D capability and luxury seating offers a fantastic movie going experience.

There are less than 100 theaters nationwide with luxury reclining seating. There are more than 40,000 theaters nation wide.

But even with all of the changes and additions, the dragon in Stage IV will stay the same.

Phoenix Theatres State-Wayne Theatre is located at 35310 Michigan Ave. Wayne. Ticket prices are \$7 for adults and \$4 for children 11 and under and seniors 60 and over. Matinee prices (before 6 p.m.) are \$4.50 for adults and \$4 for children and seniors.

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For events and showtimes visit www.phoenixmovies.net

Make a difference this holiday season

Tis the season to celebrate, rejoice and give. Many of us spend the holiday season visiting with family and friends and enjoying delicious food and celebrations. There are some very special people and organizations that also make sure the less fortunate members of the community have food, clothes and necessities they need during the holiday season. They could use your help.

No Child Without a Christmas

The Wayne Goodfellows has been committed to the children of Wayne for decades. They raise money all year long to be able to provide children and seniors with holiday help. Their annual Christmas party raises money to provide Christmas presents for children.

They are having their annual fundraising party on Dec. 5 at the Wayne Community Center. For more information on how to apply for help, visit www.waynegoodfellows.org.

Salvation Army needs help

The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army is looking for volunteers this holiday season. In addition to bell ringers they have a lot of other volunteer opportunities.

They need help in their office answering phones, greeting clients and taking applications for Christmas assistance. No special skills are necessary. Volunteers just need patience and a good listening ear. If you are interested, please contact Phil Hull in our office for more information at 734-722-3660.

The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army is located at 2300 S. Venoy Road Westland.

They also need help with greeting people at the Angel Tree in the center court at Westland Shopping Center. Two-hour shifts from 11am-7pm are available Monday-Saturday until December 13.

To help with the Red Kettle Campaign, please visit <http://www.ringbell.org>.

They also have an Adopt A Family program where a company, group, or family can be matched with a family that they "adopt" and buy gifts for.

Please contact Gladys Beach for additional details at 734-722-3660 ext. 107.

Volunteers are also needed to help with Christmas distribution of gifts and food to several hundred families. Set up is Friday December 13 from 8am-12pm.

Distribution takes place December 16-19 from 8am-12pm and 1-5pm.

To sign up for any other volunteer opportunities, visit bit.ly/wwsavolunteers or call 734-722-3660 ext. 101.

Food Pantry

The John C. Bolde Depot is located at the corner of Sims and Second in Wayne and is part of St. Mary Outreach Center. They have a food pantry and a clothing bank and are always looking for generous donations. They accept gently used clothes for their clothes closet, new personal hygiene items, canned food and monetary donations. The food is distributed to local families in need. If you would like to help, you can contact them at outreach@stmary

wayne.org or 734-326-2234.

Clothing closet

Crosspointe Community Church, 36125 Glenwood, has a clothing distribution ministry that is open to the public from 7-8 p.m. on Wednesdays. They have clothes from newborn to adult.

Food baskets

The First Congregational Church of Wayne packs food baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas for needy families. They donate them to families in the Wayne-Westland School District. This year they packed 100 baskets for Thanksgiving and will do 100 more for Christmas. If you would like to make a donation or help pack baskets, please contact the church at 734-729-7550.

Toys for Tots

Anytime Fitness of Westland is holding a Toy Drive for the Methodist

Children Home Society. They are asking for donations of new, unwrapped toys for infant and toddlers, diapers, children's winter apparel and gift cards for Visa, Target, Walmart, Meijer and any food chain. Donations can be dropped off from 1-7 p.m. Monday-Friday at Anytime Fitness, 761 S. Wayne Road, Westland.

Warming Center

Full Gospel Temple has a warming center that is open from 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. January through March. They offer a hot meal, shower, clothing and food pantry. Their soup kitchen is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. People interested in helping can send donations to the Lighthouse Home Missions, 34033 Palmer Rd., Westland MI 48186 or call 734-326-3333.

If you know of other organizations that are helping the needy in the Wayne community this holiday season, please post the information on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/thewaynedispatch.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Lighted Christmas Parade

The Wayne Rotary Christmas Parade will be a lighted parade again this year. It will be at 6 p.m. on Dec. 5. Line up will be on Second Street and Sims. The parade will end at the State Wayne Theatre with a visit from Santa.

Stuff a Bus

The Wayne Westland Community School District Transportation Department and the Wayne-Westland Fire Department will sponsor Stuff a Bus from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Dec. 6 in the Kmart parking lot on the corner of Wayne Road and Cherry Hill. Help them stuff a bus full of toys, clothes and personal hygiene products. All items will assist the Wayne and Westland Goodfellows help needy families.

Christmas Concert

The First Congregational Church of Wayne will present a Christmas concert at 4 p.m. on Dec. 7. The or-



James Blanks tells Santa what he wants for Christmas at the Wayne Historical Museum. Photo by John Rhaesa

ganists of the First Congregational Church of Wayne, First United Methodist Church of Wayne and St. Mary's Catholic Church of Wayne will perform holiday music. All are welcome to attend and be a part of this joyous program. The church is located at 2 Towne Square, Wayne, MI.

If you have any questions, please call 734-729-7550.

Holiday Concerts

The instrumental music students at Wayne Memorial High School will host a festive holiday concert at 7 p.m. on Dec. 11 at Stockmeyer Audi-

torium. This show is free and open to the public.

The Choir will perform their Holiday Concert at 7 p.m. on Dec. 17 also at Stockmeyer Auditorium.

Holiday Night

Wayne Memorial High School will host a Holiday Night from 6-7:30 p.m. on Dec. 12 at Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth Street. This is a free event open to all Wayne-Westland families and staff with young children. Enjoy dinner, decorate cookies, write a letter to Santa, make crafts and see Lego displays.

Lunch with Santa

The Wayne-Westland Parks and Recreation Department will host Lunch with Santa from 10:45 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Dec. 13 at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe Road, Wayne. The cost is \$5.00/residents & \$6.00/non-residents and includes pizza, bread sticks, salad, crafts & Santa!



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NEWS BRIEFS

Calling all Youth

The Wayne Masonic Lodge will host an Informational Day at 10 a.m. on Jan. 10 for Michigan DeMolay, a youth movement for men ages 12-21. There will be a meet and greet, video and board games. For more information, call Ray Lemons at 734-552-3125 or email Raymond.Lemons@gmail.com. The Wayne Lodge is located at 37137 Palmer Road, Westland.

Demmer Automotive Vehicle to Veteran

Jack Demmer Automotive Group and Progressive Insurance donated a vehicle to Army veteran Amy O'Neil on Veteran's Day. Amy served in Iraq in 2003 focusing in the laundry and hygiene division of the Army. She currently works at the Veteran's hospital in Ann Arbor and doesn't have her own means of transportation to get to work.

With parts donated from their vendors, the staff at Jack Demmer Collision Centers repaired and refurbished a 2005 Escape to gift O'Neil. O'Neil was one of 100 veterans across the country who received a special vehicle on Veteran's Day through Progressive's "Recycled Rides" project.

TEARS Brings Monument to Wayne

It will be a place to heal and remember. Wayne will soon be home to a TEARS monument. TEARS provides financial and emotional sup-



Deputy Clerk Jennifer Wagner swears in Al Maciag as Police Chief for the City of Wayne.

port to parents who lost children under the age of 1.

Wayne resident Buddy Shuh, president of the Michigan Chapter of the TEARS Foundation brought this great news to the last city council meeting. Shuh shared that his daughter, Isabella, was born in 2005 and lived for 5 ½ months.

"To compound the grief we didn't have money for the funeral," he said. "That is common. Most people are saving for cribs and not caskets. We

always vowed we wanted to be on the other side one day."

Five years later Shuh appeared on the NBC show The Biggest Loser and the founder of TEARS saw his story and contacted him. The Michigan Chapter of TEARS was launched and is now able to help Michigan families in need of support.

"With infant loss, often, and in miscarriage parents don't have a place to go," Shuh said. One in four women experience this loss- 500 in

Wayne County alone.

The granite monument will be the fourth one in the country.

"People will be flying in from across the country for the event. It will be an incredible thing for our city when coming down eastbound Michigan," he said.

Shuh worked with Harry J. Will Funeral Home and the monument will be placed on their eastern most property. It will be dedicated on Oct. 10, 2015. October is Infant Awareness Month.

Councilman John Rhaesa said, "Thank you for everything you do. Your family is an inspiration to the city."

Main Street Benches

There will soon be a place to sit when visiting Downtown Wayne. Wayne Main Street acquired eight benches to be placed along west-bound Michigan Avenue in the downtown area.

Benches will be placed in line with tree plantings as a way for residents and businesses to interact and to encourage the walkability of the downtown. They will not be placed near establishments that serve alcohol or bus stops.

Wayne Main Street is asking citizens, businesses, and other interested individuals to sponsor a bench for \$500. The armrest, legs and braces are cast iron and the wood bench is teak.

Benches will be installed this spring.

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Hospital Earns 'Top Performer' Recognition

Oakwood Hospital-Wayne has been recognized as a 2013 Top Performer on Key Quality Measures® by The Joint Commission, the leading accreditor of health care organizations in the United States.

They were recognized for attaining and sustaining excellence in accountability measure performance for heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia and surgical care.

Oakwood Hospital-Wayne is in the top 37% of accredited U.S. hospitals to achieve the 2013 Top Performer distinction.

"We have made it a top priority to address patient safety and quality health care to the community by improving upon our evidence-based care processes," said Eric Widner, Division President, Oakwood Hospital-Wayne. "We are honored to be recognized as a Joint Commission Top Performer and thank our entire hospital staff for their teamwork, dedication and commitment to meeting these high standards every day."

The Top Performer program recognizes hospitals for improving performance on evidence-based interventions that increase the chances of healthy outcomes for patients with certain conditions.

"Delivering the right treatment in the right way at the right time is a cornerstone of high-quality health care. I commend the efforts of Oakwood Hospital-Wayne for their excellent performance on the use of evidence-based interventions," said Mark R. Chassin, M.D., FACP, M.P.P., M.P.H., president and CEO, The Joint Commission.

"We understand what matters most to patients at Oakwood Hospital-Wayne is the quality and safety of the care they receive. That is why we have made it a top priority to improve positive patient outcomes through evidence-based care processes," said Widner.

Questions about voter approved Proposal 1

By Jenny Johnson

On Nov. 3 voters in the City of Wayne approved Proposal 1, which will divide the city into six districts and have council members elected from those districts. Candidates will be required to live in the district they represent and residents of that district will only vote for a council member from their district.

The mayor is the only position that will be elected citywide.

This will be effective in the primary and general election in 2015 for Districts 1, 2 and 3 and in 2017 for districts 4, 5 and 6.

But before voters choose council via districts the current council needs to create the six districts by re-drawing precinct boundaries. According to State Election Law each new precinct will not contain more than 3,000 residents and be contiguous and as close to permanent boundaries as possible.

A memo from City Clerk Matthew Miller included what needs to be done before the city can implement district voting:



The precinct boundaries need to be redrawn and reduced from seven to six. The City Code of Ordinance and City Charter needs to be amended.

New precinct maps and literature for the election-day process need to be created and all registered voters need to be sent a new Voters Identification Card.

Voting by districts also raise the

following questions that will need to be addressed before the 2015 voting cycle.

How will the election of city council candidates be done- at large or by district?

How many candidates running will necessitate a primary?

What happens if no one from a district runs for city council?

How will city council fill a va-

cancy? If a candidate who lives in the open district cannot be found how will council make a determination to fill that position?

There was much discussion by residents and council.

Councilman Albert Damitio said, "Proposal 1 passed by the citizens in Wayne and council needs to implement this charter amendment."

Ron Roberts, who put the proposal on the ballot, said, "I don't think there is any way for this to be implemented without further charter amendments. As long as you follow the spirit of the law and work with us this should be easy."

Resident Christopher Sanders said, "The days of citizens sitting back and being called CAVE (Citizens Against Virtually Everyone) people are done."

At the December 2nd meeting the City Council voted 6-0 to establish a citizen committee to put together ideas on how to make Proposal 1 work and to have the city attorney draft a resolution on how to implement ward voting.



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Hockey, from page 3

with middle class values," said Allen.

Allen's traveled far and wide from his beginnings in Wayne. Covering hockey has taken him to the Arctic Circle on a boat with Jordin Tootoo, relaxing in Mario Lemieux's backyard, to cities covering games from the Swiss Alps to the Big House in Ann Arbor and reporting to the world the "night in Pittsburgh when Jaromir Jagr skated through half of Chicago's team to score a tying goal in the 1992 Stanley Cup Final," to Philadelphia "when Patrick Kane celebrated the Cup-clinching goal that nobody saw," and he was "in Lillehammer, Norway when Peter Forsberg scored the goal that put his face on a postage stamp."

Allen has authored more than 20 books, mostly about hockey. Three of his most recent included an updated version of Darren McCarty's book "My Last Fight;" the as-told-to book with former Detroit Red Wing Chris Chelios titled "Made in America;" and "100 Things to Know about the Red Wings Before You Die," co-authored by Windsor Star Columnist



Bob Duff.

"I have covered nine Olympic Games, World Series, Super Bowls, NCAA Final Fours and NASCAR

races," said Allen. "I've done one-on-one interviews with Michael Jordan, Wayne Gretzky and former Vice President Al Gore."

With a resume of achievements any sports journalist would covet and a treasure-trove of stories every hockey fan is envious of, Allen says his greatest accomplishment is his marriage to wife, his three children and his new role as a grandfather.

In his acceptance speech at the Hockey Hall of Fame ceremony, Allen said:

"But the truth is my best work has nothing to do with hockey. My best work came with the young people sitting at my table. I have three children and a daughter-in-law who is like another daughter. All of them have advanced degrees in saving the world. Two are teachers, one is in public health and one is an occupational therapist specializing in early intervention. I'm proud of what I've done in my life, but I'm more proud of what they have accomplished. I've spent my life in the fun and games department, while they devote their lives to helping those around them. Most of credit for who my children

have become should go to my wife. I've known her now almost 44 years. Every story I ever wrote should have had her name next to mine in a double byline because she has been a partner in everything good I've done in my life."

If you've ever read any of Allen's stories over the past three decades it's not hard to see why he's earned the trust of owners, managers, coaches, hockey players and sports fans alike. His expertise and passion for a beat that virtually fell into his lap has been the game winning formula for a career that will undoubtedly bear witness to an untold number of great articles for years to come.

"Every story I ever wrote should have had her name next to mine in a double byline because she has been a partner in everything good I've done in my life."

Kevin Allen

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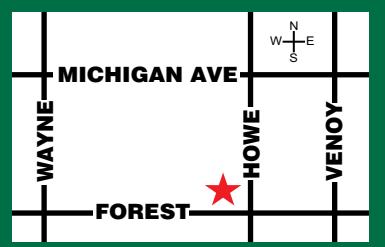
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