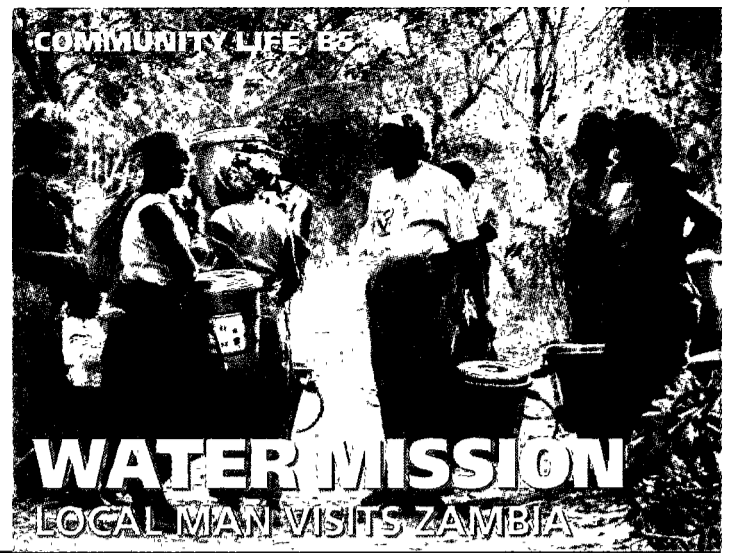


WAYNE-WESTLAND OBSERVER

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Gate Demon, Samantha Burns of Trenton, keeps watch on all those who enter the Hush Haunted House in Westland. TOM BEAUDOIN

Hush: Haunting with a SPOOKY TOUCH

Empty warehouse on Ford Road transformed into frightening site

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Demons, ghouls, a mad scientist experimenting on your brain - the stuff of nightmares are a dream come true for Cody Bailey.

The Hush Haunted House, open through Nov. 2 on Ford Road in Westland, is the brainchild of Bailey.

"I started out in 2008 and did a haunted house in the garage. I did one at a campground," said Bailey, a Garden City resident.

"This year, we had the space. I decided to do this six months ago."

The space is an unused warehouse adjoining the family business, Sparks Automotive, which relocated



Stephanie Honaker of New Boston undergoes a little surgery by the Mad Doctor, Joel Spencer of Garden City. TOM BEAUDOIN

from Garden City in April. "We had the warehouse and we were not using it,"

said Sparks Automotive owner Gary Bailey, Cody's father. "Cody has wanted to

do this for years."

'Pretty intense'

The theme for Hush is a journey through the mind of person being institutionalized in a mental facility.

"It's pretty intense but there is no profanity or nudity. We keep the gore to a minimum," said Cody Bailey. "It's more the mind of an insane person. We pulled it off well. It's a cohesive unit - it's interesting."

About 30 volunteers provide the live action element of Hush, which was developed with Helton Brothers, a Detroit-based company that makes props and scenic painting.

See HAUNTED, Page A2

Ceremony marks new City Hall building

Public invited to symbolic groundbreaking at former Circuit City store

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Work on Westland's new City Hall symbolically gets underway 11 a.m. Monday with a groundbreaking ceremony.

The public is invited to attend the ceremony in front of the former Circuit City store, 36300 Warren Road, west of Central City Parkway. The store, vacant for several years, has been purchased by the city and will be renovated to become the new City Hall.

"We are celebrating much more than renovation of a vacant building," Westland Mayor William Wild said. "We are hailing resurgence in economic and community development that is sure to follow the city's reinvestment in our Shop and Dine District and we are charting a positive course for Westland's future."

The City Hall project, along with a new fire station on Nankin Boulevard and yet undetermined improvements to Central City Parkway, will be funded through a \$16.5 million bond sale.

The bonds will be repaid by the Tax Increment Finance Authority and not result in a property tax increase.

Once the construction is completed, city offices will move from the current City Hall on Ford, built in 1966. At 64,000 square feet, the new facility will have nearly five times the space of the current building.

As a result, Wild said the new building will provide a more functional City Hall with significant space for community meeting rooms and storage space.

Due to space constraints at the current building, the city has had to utilize off-site rental storage.

Joining the current City Hall departments will be the Department of Public Service Administration, the Building and Planning Departments, the Youth Assistance Program and WLND, the city's Cable Department.

The current City Hall has had long-standing problems with basement flooding which caused mold issues and erosion creating a sinkhole that compromises the building foundation.

It also has limited meeting space and isn't handicapped accessible.

"The Warren Road City Hall will be a welcoming, accessible, functional, modern and energy-efficient public facility that will well serve the residents and businesses of Westland for years to come," Wild said.

The groundbreaking ceremony on the new City Hall property will include short presentations, followed by tours of the site. Boxed lunches will be provided.

"We welcome everyone to come out and join us for this historic celebration," Wild said.

The city expects to have construction on the new City Hall completed and city offices relocated next year.

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Wayne council candidates answer public questions

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

City finances, the two 345 pension plan ballot proposals and department mergers with Westland were among the topics Wednesday as Wayne Council candidates participated in a public forum.

Participating in forum - sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne - at the Wayne Public Library were incumbent council members James Hawley and James Henley, challengers Jamie Conn and Brenda Ozog, former councilwoman Susan Rowe and Shari Welch. Voters will fill three

four-year council seats and elect a mayor for a two-year term on Nov. 5.

Mayoral candidate Donald Flynn participated in the forum. Long-time incumbent Mayor Al Haidous wasn't able to attend, but provided a written statement to be read during the event.

The first question from audience members asked candidates about the biggest challenge facing the city. With the exception of Flynn, the candidates all talked about the city's declining revenues and the ballot proposals that would establish a 345 pension plan for police

See FORUM, Page A2

Mayoral candidate has recent indecent exposure conviction

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Convicted in 2010 of aggravated indecent exposure, Wayne mayoral candidate Donald Flynn appealed, arguing the court had no jurisdiction over him since he had severed his relationship with the State of Michigan nearly 30 years earlier.

Court records show that in his appeal, Flynn, 80, represented himself and argued that in 1986 he had declared his independence from the state and as a result, he was immune to prosecution without his consent. Flynn further argued that the state's authority was limited to regulating commerce.

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