



Wayne Historical Society Newsletter

Summer 2023



Michigan Ave

Have you ever wondered about the history of Michigan Avenue? You probably drive it almost every day, or may even cruise on it during the US12 car cruise in July. But what is Michigan Avenue/US12? US-12 is a 2,500 mile highway that runs from Aberdeen, Washington to Detroit, Michigan. US-12 has 210 miles in the State of Michigan, and is known simply as Michigan Avenue here. The road partly follows what was the Sauk Trail, which was a Native American Trail that ran through Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. Some parts of this trail are even thought to go back to early game trails that could be thousands of years old. Construction of an official road started in 1827 and it was at first called the “Chicago Road” because it connected Detroit to Chicago. The road was also a stage coach route and many cabins, villages and inns were built along it, including Wayne, which started out as a stagecoach stop. In 1898 the interurban streetcars from Detroit followed Michigan Avenue from Detroit all the way to Jackson and beyond. In the 1950s parts of US-12 were turned into bypasses and Interstate Highways. Starting in 1962, Michigan Ave was re-routed in the City of Wayne during Urban Renewal. The two sides of Michigan Avenue were split apart, with westbound traffic following the original route, and Eastbound taking over Norris Street. Michigan Avenue is still a very important road and highway in Michigan, so this summer take a cruise down this historic route and let the wind blow through your hair. Remember to come downtown July 8 for the car cruise from 10am-6pm. Where there will be hundreds of cars driving around and showing off.



Wayne Historical Society

Upcoming Events

Summer 2023

- All events are at the Historical Museum, unless otherwise noted
- Events are free and open to the public
- Light refreshments are provided

Historical Museum

1 Town Square
Wayne, Michigan 48184
(Corner of Main and Biddle)

Historical Society

P.O. Box 486
Wayne, Michigan 48184
Business Meetings:
First Wed. of Month 6pm

Museum Hours

Wednesdays 10-6
Thursdays 10-6

Board of Trustees

Evan Hall
Al Damitio
John Mills
Kathy Koveleski
Tyler Moll
Angela Acosta
Julia Ottolini

Support the Historical Society

-Make us a part of your legacy planning

- **June 28 - Paint a Wine bottle or Glass workshop**
-6:30pm. - Join us for a fun make and take craft night where you will paint a design of your own choosing on a wine bottle, then choose lights, rope or other décor to accent. \$20
- **July 8 - US12 Cruise Kids Zone**
-10-4pm. - Come downtown for the US12 Car Cruise, there will be hundreds of cars, food trucks, entertainment and much more. The museum is hosting a kids fun zone with games, crafts and fun.
- **July 13 - "The Watchdog" by Steve Drummond**
-7pm. - Come hear a lecture by NPR reporter Steve Drummond about his new book, The Watchdog, which exposes the story of how Harry Truman stopped government corruption during WW2.
- **August 10 - Walking Tour of Michigan Avenue**
-7pm. - Join us for a guided walking tour with Tyler up and down Michigan Avenue talking about businesses and buildings that used to line the downtown. Please wear comfy shoes.
- **More Events to follow!**
- **Stay tuned for future events!**

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