

FALL 2020 | WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1967 | [THESOUTHEND.WAYNE.EDU](http://thesouthend.wayne.edu) | DETROIT | FREE

BACK TO SCHOOL

THE SOUTH END

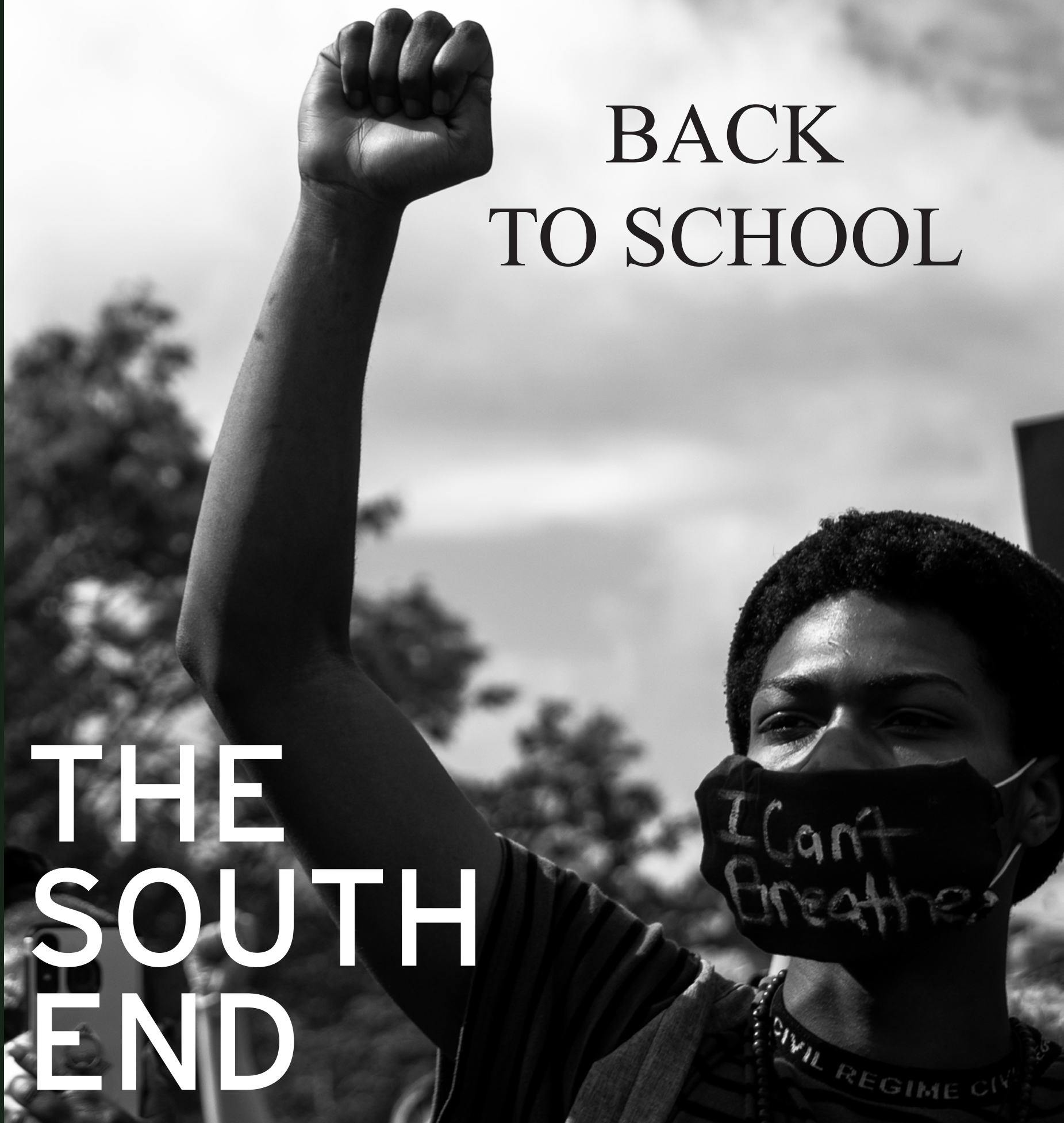


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Letters to the Editor

The South End welcomes letters to the editors regarding all inquiries and concerns from the Wayne State community. Please limit letters to 500 words. All submissions are subject to editing and may be published.

Corrections

The South End corrects all factual errors published online and in print.

Online Policy

The South End publishes articles online and in print. Visit our website at thesouthend.wayne.edu. While we support the right to free speech and expression, there are guidelines for morally and socially acceptable content. Comments and feedback deemed offensive are subject to editing or removal.

Publication

The South End is a daily online publication created by Wayne State students. The South End publishes special print editions at the beginning and end of the academic year. Copies of the print edition will be available free of charge at various locations throughout campus. The Student Newspaper Publication Board, established by the Wayne State University Board of Governors, acts as the publisher of The South End. The board establishes and ensures compliance with publication, editorial and news reporting guidelines. Business operations are handled through the Dean of Students Office. All complaints, comments and suggestions concerning the student newspaper should be directed to thesouthend.wsu@gmail.com.

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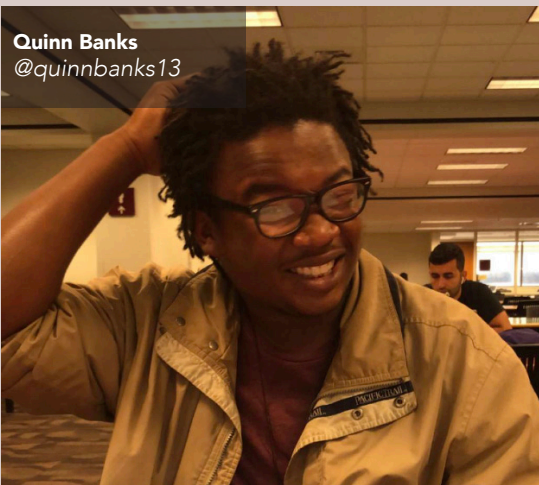
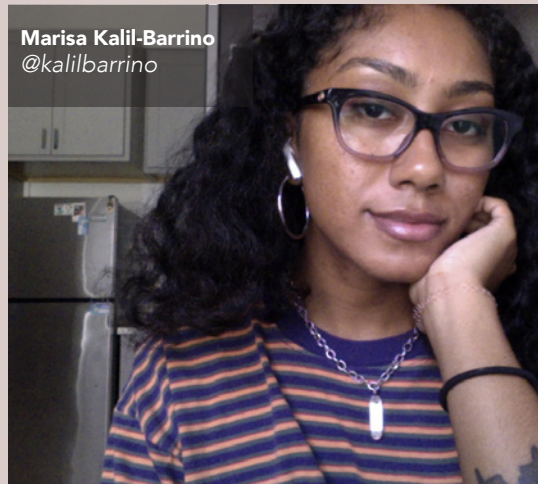
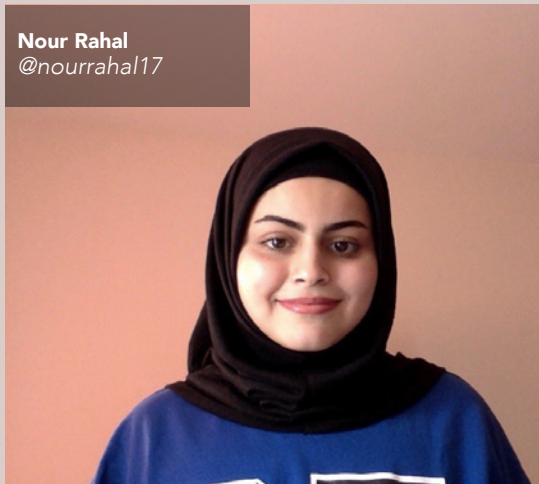
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Letter from the Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor

Dear Warriors,

For over seven months, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on Detroit and communities across the United States. With record levels of unemployment, small businesses are struggling to stay afloat and a nationwide eviction crisis is looming. Long standing health disparities in the U.S. have led to a disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people of color, including Black communities in Detroit.

For over 100 consecutive days, protesters in Detroit, and across the U.S., have marched against police brutality and systemic racism. Following the May 25 police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, the Black Lives Matter movement gained renewed momentum as people took to the streets worldwide to demand justice for the many victims of police brutality.

In our 2020 Back to School Edition, we focus on how college life has changed and steps WSU is taking to keep students, faculty and staff safe amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. We also feature organizations and individuals involved in the BLM movement, calling for an end to systemic racism in the criminal justice system and society.

For the first time, we bring The South End's Back to School Edition to our readers in a digital format. As a majority of classes at WSU have moved online, our publication has done the same —conducting meetings over Zoom and trading in-person interviews with phone calls. While the COVID-19 pandemic presents challenges, TSE's core mission remains the same. Throughout the school year we will work to keep our readers informed and provide a platform to members of the community.

We encourage everyone to continue following public health guidelines in order to protect the health and safety of our communities. While we are unable to meet in-person at the moment, there are other ways to connect with TSE. As journalists, we strive to help our readers stay informed on what's happening and better understand changes at WSU. To help us continue to serve the community, we'd like to hear from you. Please reach out to us through our email and social media, and let us know how our coverage might be able to help you throughout the semester.

Sincerely,

Jack Filbrandt and Jenna Prestininzi
Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor



Warrior Life is the Wayne State student life wellness program. We are here to make sure you have the best Wayne State experience.

We know that COVID-19 has presented many of us, among other things, emotional and physical challenges.

On the site you will find links to important resources to help you with any emotional and physical wellness needs, as well as links to the Warrior Safe is Warrior Strong COVID-19 resources and information.

WARRIORLIFE AND WELLNESS **WARRIORLIFE.WAYNE.EDU**

Letter from President Wilson



Photo by Jonathan Deschaine

Welcome to Wayne State University!

While this semester will certainly be unique, there are several things about Wayne State that have not changed. Whether you are a new or returning student, you are our top priority, and we want you to have a great experience. The university has people and services ready to help from the moment you start classes until well after graduation. Your success matters to us, so please do not hesitate to ask if you need assistance.

During the pandemic, safety has been our number one priority. To review our plan for this semester and remain up to date on all developments, visit our coronavirus webpage. Unlike most other universities, we have also posted metrics that will guide decision making on additional actions to mitigate the spread of the virus, including closing campus.

This semester may be different, but it can be enjoyable and successful with everyone's cooperation. We all play a role in keeping our campus safe, and your role is critical. Please remember that your commitment to health and safety precautions applies both on and off campus. In your off-campus activities, please continue to practice safe, responsible behavior and avoid situations, such as parties, that are likely to promote spread of the virus.

By coming to Wayne State, you've made an outstanding choice. Although many of your classes may be taught in a different format, you are still learning from the same excellent professors, and our expectations remain high. With more than 500 recognized student organizations – even virtually – Wayne State remains a superb place to make new friends and pursue your interests. I encourage you to work hard on your studies and to Get Involved.

I look forward to connecting with you virtually, whether through my online town halls or my Instagram, or even walking on campus — although we will remember to maintain social distance and wear a mask.

We are so pleased that you have joined our community. I hope you have a rewarding year. And remember: Warrior Safe is Warrior Strong.

Sincerely,

M. Roy Wilson
President

NEWS



“What facial recognition is supposed to be is just a tool in a box but, if there are issues with identification for people of color, then I agree - It is something that has to be looked at.”

Read more on pg. 12

Photo by Quinn Banks

WSUPD establishes de-escalation training center

by *Malak Silmi and Jack Filbrandt*

In the United States, the type and amount of training police officers receive varies from department to department, but the recently developed National De-Escalation Training Center is taking steps to change that.

In May, after being in development for several years, Wayne State University Police Department established itself as the national and regional headquarters for the NDTC.

WSU Chief of Police Anthony Holt sent two officers to Texas in January for the training, he said. In March, the officers met in Detroit to start training the rest of WSUPD, but then the COVID-19 pandemic paused the entire program.

The training includes 16 hours of class work, consisting of hands on and simulated training scenarios, according to WSUPD's website. All WSUPD officers completed the de-escalation training in August. Recertification courses will be given to the officers on a "semiannual basis."

Simulations are run playing out different scenarios, like traffic stops, Holt said.

"Officers are being trained to actually look at the personality type and then we train (them) with a different subset, if a person has this personality, we try this technique," he said.

The amount of training WSUPD officers receive is a highlight of the department, Holt said. You must have a bachelor's degree in order to become a WSUPD officer.

"We don't have officers who are here for 25 and 30 years," Holt said. "They want to get a lot of training then they want to go on to other departments, federal agencies, administrative roles and sometimes out of law enforcement."

DISC Esoterica, the training administered at the NDTC, is based on the DISC assessment personality model, which is commonly used around the world, Bradford-Grant Director Patrick Guarnieri said. NDTC's training is the first major advancement of the DISC model since it was created in 1928.

"Say we get a call that this person shoplifted at Rite Aid, and you see him walking down the street," Holt said. "It's how you approach him, how you stop him. Maybe he didn't take anything, you just had the information. It's how you look at his personality, how he responds, and then how you adjust your approach to him."

While it is also a for profit company, the nonprofit training center at WSU exists to provide de-escalation training to law enforcement, first responders and people in the public sector, Guarnieri said.

As owner of the de-escalation training, Bradford-Grant gave a license to the NDTC to teach the training, Guarnieri said. A regional training center was established in Kansas and they are working to create more regional training centers across the country.

"By having the national network of regional training centers, we're able to spread to those centers in different states. Standardized

programs training, that's the key to this," Guarnieri said.

The NDTC will also conduct research through a think tank within the training center, Guarnieri said. As calls for police reform are happening across the country, they are hoping to work with communities to understand changes they would like to see made and how to improve the de-escalation training.

Founded in 2018, Michigan Liberation is a state-wide organization that focuses on electoral and issue campaigns around the criminal justice system, Campaign Director Nicholas Buckingham said. When the organization formed, they started a five-week canvassing project, knocking on about 40,000 doors across Wayne, Oakland and Kalamazoo counties.

"When we get out here in some of these communities and knock on doors and it's about politics, oh man, we've been met with guns, we've been met with dogs and all types of things," Buckingham said. "But this one issue, this one topic, has really opened up a lot of resonance, a lot of voters to what's happening in the criminal justice system."

With regional training centers administering the program in different communities, Guarnieri said the training may change from location to location.

Communities in Kalamazoo are demanding police undergo de-escalation training, said Majyck Dee, Director of Promise Advocating for Children & Community Transformation which is a part of Michigan Liberation. This is not a new conversation in Kalamazoo communities.

"There is an urgent need, you know, to have that type of (de-escalation) training in Kalamazoo," Dee said. "There are some things currently that the city does. Some would say that they consider that de-escalation methods as far as their duties, but that's not enough. We need to have, you know, language specific things that are outlined."

While Michigan Liberation would like to see the police replaced with other community-based forms of public safety, Buckingham said in order to reach that point significant changes must be made now.

"One of the things that has been controversial is defunding the police and that language about that and what that looks like, you know, what we really want is for the community to be that that first conduit of, you know, talks," Dee said.

A conversation around police de-escalation training needs to be had between police and grassroots organizations, Buckingham said.

"And let's do this side by side, right, let's do this side by side, you supply me with the resources and the tools I need to keep my community safe and then that way we can scale back the amount of police presence in some of these communities," he said.

Student Senate project groups to focus on social Justice

by *Alanna Williams*

Every year, Wayne State Student Senate launches project groups that address goals and initiatives to make WSU more inclusive for all students.

There are currently seven groups that address specific areas of concern, four of which are permanent from year to year.

“The great thing about these project groups is that we have the ability to be flexible with them, so we can create or dismantle them based on student needs,” said Marcella Eid, vice president of Senate.

With Black Lives Matter protests happening across the country, Senate has decided to make the main theme of these groups social justice and aims to promote this on campus.

The Student Services group is working to have a social justice introduction class developed and also make sure students are aware of classes offered, Senate president Riya Chhabra said.

“They can use those as like a possible way to fill up their prereqs, like maybe the (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Inquiry) or something like that,” she said.

Student Services is also working to make more resources available to students throughout their time at WSU, including more Learning Communities and mental health services, according to Senate’s website.

Each of these project groups works with and for students, to not only make their needs known but also solve any issues that may arise. WSU students are encouraged to participate in all groups.

Black Student Success is focusing on leveling the playing field for the success of all students at WSU, including tackling the fact that Black students at WSU have the lowest graduation rate.

According to WSU, the 2019 six-year graduation rate for Asian students was 63%, white students 53%, Latino students 39% and Black students 24%.

The project has changed a lot since it was started, said Jasmine Coles, Senate member and Black Student Success chair. They initially wanted to do focus groups to understand the needs of students.

“And once we sort of hit the ground running we sort of figured out that as Black students ourselves, we could sort of use our own experience at Wayne State to launch some programs that we thought would be good and include Black students in the mix to make sure that we could create programs we could see ourselves wanting to be involved,” Coles said.

The Black Student Success group has already been quite busy, partnering with WSU graduate student Isabella Warmbrunn on a recently approved resolution to call for WSU to observe both Juneteenth and Indigenous Peoples Day.

Two months before Juneteenth, Warmbrunn started a petition asking WSU to recognize the holiday, she said.

“I’ve been working to get more recognition activities and just like cultural events and things to focus on the importance of Juneteenth, that historical significance of Juneteenth,” she said.

Groups like these are necessary to make sure all students are represented at WSU, said Kamali Clora, Senate member and co-chair of the Black Student Success group.

Graduate Student Issues will target areas in which WSU can provide more support to graduate students: expanding affordable on-campus housing, more university financial support, additional support to international graduate students and making sure graduate students are represented on Senate.

Public Health will focus on ways to maintain a safe environment on campus, especially as students continue their education through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Senate is working to build community connections with Detroit through the Community Affairs group. This includes helping connect students to public transit throughout the city.

The Government Affairs group represents students’ needs by working with government on the local, state and national level. By doing so, they will lobby for policy changes and also team with other student governments to address student centered issues.

Financial Needs will work to develop programs to help make college more affordable for students.

The project group plans to help improve the financial aid process, look at financial barriers that impact student success at WSU and seek external funding to support initiatives.

Jasmine Lawson, a WSU sophomore, is excited to hear that steps are being taken to address student financial challenges.

“Most individuals don’t go to college because of the cost, they just can’t afford it,” Lawson said. “Strategies and ideas to help those students would be a very positive benefit to those in need.”

The project groups are important because they address specific areas that impact WSU’s student body, Clora said.

“All of these initiatives are important because the university is one entity and it can’t do it all by itself,” he said. “Because looking at a university and how diverse it is, and how many different variables there are, and how many different perspectives—you need initiatives and project groups like this to be able to focus and hone in on specific and targeted communities.”

More information on Student Senate’s project groups and how to get involved can be found at <https://studentsenate.wayne.edu/> initiatives.

Campus Vote Fellows guide students through the voting process

by Jack Filbrandt

Wayne State Campus Vote Project Fellows are working to inform students on more ways they can participate in the election process.

With election day being a university holiday, students might be found on Nov. 3 at the on-campus polling location, located at the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights.

A large part of their initiative this year is providing students with information on how to vote during a pandemic, CVP Fellow Kamali Clora said. To keep voters safe, cleaning is routinely being done at polling locations and signs help provide more information.

Students should be prepared and understand what steps need to be taken in order to vote, Clora said.

“You want to look at, you know, am I registered to vote? Where’s my polling location where I’m registered at? Also, if you have other necessary identification when you’re going to the polling location,” Clora said.

Michigan residents can register to vote online through Oct. 19 and in person at your county clerk’s office up to election day, according to the Michigan Secretary of State’s office.

“I also recommend students, if they are fearful or if they do not feel comfortable going into the polling location themselves, to send in an absentee ballot,” CVP Fellow Sailor Mayes said.

Students who plan on voting absentee should submit their absentee ballot application as soon as possible, Clora said. Absentee ballot requests must be sent by Oct. 20 and they are to be emailed or mailed to your county clerk’s office.

“The back and forth, it kind of gets students because they don’t realize that it’s a mailing process. And so mailing, you know, it’s gonna take, you know, two, three plus days or even more, and even with COVID now, mailing has slowed down,” Clora said.

Once an absentee ballot is received, voters can also drop their ballot off at their polling location on election day or their county clerk’s office before the election, Clora said. Voters can also take advantage of early voting, which allows people to vote on specified days before the election between Sept. 21 and Nov. 2.

Along with voting, there are other ways students can participate in the election process.

The City of Detroit is hiring poll workers for the November election, according to their website.

Election training is required before you can start as a poll worker, Mayes said.

“It’s so awesome just to be able to get involved in a civic engagement opportunity and get paid for it at the same time, because there’s payment involved, you know, it’s a win win,” Clora said.

The online platform Motivate will also help students get engaged with the election process, Mayes said. The program gives students information on voting pertaining to all states.

“And you can actually win prizes just from registering other students to vote, to register yourself to vote, to understand what absentee ballots are, there’s a bunch of things that you can do with this program that we’re getting,” Mayes said.

Student organizations can compete against each other to earn prizes through Motivate, Mayes said.

“It’s a friendly competition because, you know, we’ll always be getting the benefit out of it. The benefit is that more awareness for voting and more students getting engaged with the voting process,” Clora said. “And so hopefully, if everything goes right, we’ll have a lot of participation and a lot of turnout.”

More information on voting can be found at <https://studentsenate.wayne.edu/warriorsvote>.

BLM movement calls to end hyper-surveillance of communities of color

by Nour Rahal

In recent Black Lives Matter protests, demands to ban Project Green Light and the use of facial recognition technology in law enforcement have taken a forefront.

PGL is a “public-private-community partnership” between the Detroit Police Department and local businesses, according to the City of Detroit’s website. It aims to improve neighborhood safety, promote the revitalization and growth of local businesses and strengthen DPD’s “efforts to deter, identify and solve crime.”

The Detroit Free Press reported that as of 2017, PGL is equipped with facial recognition technology that allows DPD to use still images taken from the system’s live footage to identify suspects in violent crimes.

Organizations like Detroit Will Breathe and BYP100 have been leading the fight against the hyper-surveillance of people of color.

“Facial recognition technology is just fundamentally racist,” DWB organizer Nakia Wallace said. “It is highly unreliable and misidentifies people of color at an extreme rate.”

Studies have shown gender and skin-type bias in facial recognition systems misidentifying people of color.

Three commercial facial analysis programs were analyzed

by Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University in 2018. According to the study, there was never an error rate worse than 0.8% in determining the gender of men with light skin. The error rate for determining the gender of women with darker skin was 20% using one program and 34% using the other two.

Purchasing PGL cameras ranges from \$4,000 to \$6,000, while leasing ranges from \$130 to \$180 a month, according to the City of Detroit’s website. There is also an installation cost of \$450 to \$1,000.

“I think it is very disgusting that people feel like they have to pay for extra protection,” said Ryan Fielder, Detroit representative of BYP100’s Board of Directors.

BYP100-Detroit’s Green Light Black Futures campaign is demanding the end of PGL through community surveys that ask people what they need to feel safe, Fielder said. The survey results are then used to put together training events where community members can brainstorm how to “build safety outside of the police state.”

Amore da Roma, an Italian restaurant in Detroit, partnered up with PGL back in 2017 and has used the system several times

EVERY WARRIOR HAS THE RIGHT TO LIVE AND LEARN AT WSU – FREE FROM HARASSMENT OR DISCRIMINATION

TITLE IX

Title IX is a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education. Sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking are forms of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX and by University policy.

To learn more about WSU’s Interim Title IX Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedures, please visit the Title IX website.



To learn more about support resources and reporting options, connect with the Title IX office.

313-577-9999

TITLEIX@WAYNE.EDU

TITLEIX.WAYNE.EDU

OPTIONS FOR REPORTING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Students may report sexual misconduct to law enforcement, to the university, to both, or to neither. All Warriors are encouraged to make the reporting decision that’s right for them.

REPORTING EMERGENCIES

In cases of threats, imminent danger and other emergencies, contact the Wayne State Police at 313-577-2222.

CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT

For confidential assistance, contact Counseling and Psychological Services at 313-577-3398.

For after-hours crisis support call the crisis line at 313-577-9982.

since, owner Guy Pelino said. PGL is much more reliable than a regular surveillance system because it is directly connected to the police station, rarely goes out of service and has high-quality cameras.

Other businesses, like Star of Woodward —a convenience store on Woodward Avenue —are reconsidering their partnership with PGL.

“To be honest, it is just a light,” store manager Lou Safou said. “We haven’t even used it and the cost is not worth it at all.”

The Wayne State University Police Department receives calls from many businesses surrounding campus that are partnered with PGL, Chief of Police Anthony Holt said.

“We will get the description, we will take the report, we will look for the suspect... but the investigation is done by an investigator from the Detroit Police 3rd Precinct,” he said. “We might see a suspect matching that description, we might stop them, and we might make the arrest —but the write-up on the warrant and all the investigation is done by the 3rd Precinct.”

Holt said he does not see the need to incorporate facial recognition technology into the campus’ security systems.

“What facial recognition is supposed to be is just a tool in the box,” Holt said. “But, if there are issues with identification for people of color, then I agree it is something that has to be looked at.”

Robert Williams, a Black man and Michigan resident, was wrongfully arrested by Detroit police on Jan. 9 for a robbery that took place at a Shinola store in Detroit, according to a complaint lodged against DPD on June 24 by the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan. While there are likely more cases, this is the first known case of facial recognition playing a role in a false arrest.

“Mr. Williams’ false arrest disrupted his family life, resulted in his unjustified jailing, and violated of all norms of reasonable

policing and investigation,” the complaint stated.

DataWorks Plus General Manager Todd Pastorini said he thinks demanding the end of facial recognition within law enforcement is a mistake.

“One false arrest in the country is not enough to shut off a technology that has helped solve rape, murder, burglary, missing children, bank robberies and countless other crimes that would not have realized proper justice otherwise,” he said.

Michigan State Police use DataWorks Plus’ Digital PhotoManager mugshot management system with NEC and Rank One facial recognition engines, Pastorini said. Using provided images, the combination of programs can provide a list of individuals found in the mugshot system.

According to their website, DataWorks Plus integrates NEC, Rank One and Cognitec products to provide technology solutions for “law enforcement, criminal justice and government agencies.”

Pastorini said he does not believe there is a racial bias in the technology.

“You would have to ask the engine providers if they are using skin tone as a metric in their matching conditions,” he said. “The facial recognition engine never matches a person; a human is always involved in the process.”

Cities like Oakland, San Francisco and Somerville, Mass. have already banned the use of facial recognition technology in city departments, according to CNN.

The money for facial recognition programs should go into social services for communities in need, Wallace said.

“Every community in this city should be able to have some form of a social service, committee or organization that can help address the needs that people have —so that way, they don’t have to turn to crime,” she said.



Photo by Quinn Banks



Photo by Nour Rahal



Photo by Nour Rahal

WSU COVID-19 Pandemic Timeline

by *Nour Rahal and Jack Filbrandt*

A media statement was published on the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission's website discussing "viral pneumonia" cases of an unknown cause in Wuhan, China, according to the World Health Organization.	12/31/19	An Outbreak News report, published by the WHO, provided information regarding number of cases and their medical state. Information also included response measures in Wuhan and WHO's risk assessment and advice on public health.	1/5/20
Japan's government notified the WHO of a person confirmed to have the novel coronavirus, according to the WHO. Being the second confirmed case outside of China and taking into account global travel, WHO said case spread to other countries was likely.	1/16/20	The first confirmed novel coronavirus case was reported in the United States, according to the WHO.	1/21/20
The WHO names the disease caused by the novel coronavirus coronavirus disease 2019 —abbreviated COVID-19.	2/11/20	Wayne State cancels study abroad programs for the semester, in an email sent to the campus community.	2/28/20
Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announces task force to fight the spread of COVID-19 and evaluate impact on daily life, according to the State of Michigan's website. Groups include State Operations, Health and Human Services, Education and Economy/Workforce.	3/3/20	WSU President M. Roy Wilson forms a presidential committee to prepare for the possibility that COVID-19 may impact campus, according to an email sent to the WSU Community.	3/5/20
Temporary changes to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program allow international students to take online classes, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.	3/9/20	Gov. Whitmer declares a state of emergency after the first two Michigan residents test presumptive positive for COVID-19.	3/10/20
The WHO declares COVID-19 a pandemic.	3/11/20	WSU extends spring break until March 23 as classes transition online.	3/11/20
Whitmer closes all K-12 schools beginning March 16 and reopening April 6.	3/12/20	Whitmer signs an executive order to cancel all events with over 250 people.	3/13/20
U.S. declares the COVID-19 outbreak a national emergency.	3/13/20	WSU asks some employees to begin working from home to decrease the number of people on campus.	3/16/20
Whitmer signs an executive order that prohibits dine in service at restaurants and closes bars, theaters, casinos and other public spaces.	3/16/20	WSU postpones spring commencement.	3/17/20
Medical students advised to end direct patient contact during the COVID-19 pandemic.	3/17/20	Two members of the WSU community test positive for COVID-19.	3/18/20
The WSU Physician Group, in partnership with WSU Health Sciences and ACCESS, begin providing drive through COVID-19 testing to symptomatic first responders and healthcare workers.	3/21/20	Provost Keith Whitfield announces that campus will remain open, but all classes will transition to online and remote learning starting March 23.	3/23/20

WSU COVID-19 Pandemic Timeline cont...



Graphic by Guneet Ghotra

FEATURES



“We have to continue to provoke the movement, understand that the movement doesn’t die until injustice dies and just know that when we fight every time we fight, we win.”

Read more on pg. 22

Photo by Quinn Banks

Restaurants near WSU impacted by pandemic

by *Arben Gacaferi and Ursula Krause*

Since Wayne State moved classes online in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many dining locations around campus have been struggling to stay in business.

According to polling by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 58% of small business owners fear they may have to close permanently.

“I’m losing money every day I stay open,” said Noman Khan, the new owner of Epicurus, located on the intersection of Warren and Cass Avenue.

Khan purchased the restaurant three months ago after the previous owners of Epicurus closed permanently, approximately eight months ago, he said. He does not know if the pandemic played a part in the previous owners’ decision to close.

Despite the semester beginning on Sept. 1, the number of students on campus this semester has decreased, with about 46% of all classes being taught online, according to WSU.

“We’re just staying open and we hardly have any customers. It’s been very tough,” said Zera Vulaj, owner of Olympic Grill on W. Warren Avenue.

Another business near campus is Royale with Cheese, located on Cass Avenue. Manager Ali Reda said the restaurant is doing “pretty average” since reopening after the stay-at-home order.

“I’d say we’re running as well as we did before COVID,” Reda said. “Our landlord did not defer our lease payments or tried to lower it a bit for us while we were closed, so that kind of hit us pretty hard.”

Olympic Grill temporarily closed in March, Vulaj said, when Gov. Gretchen Whitmer declared a state of emergency and signed an executive order temporarily closing restaurants and other businesses.

Vulaj said she decided to reopen a month later. The restaurant’s staff now consists of three employees and has a low number of customers dining in.

Olympic Grill and Epicurus’ primary customers are a few regulars and residents who live nearby, Khan and Vulaj said.

“I spoke to some of the owners next to me and they said they are struggling too,” Khan said.

Reda said he is expecting the business to be more negatively affected during the winter season since fewer students will be on campus.

“Students are more likely to come to Royale during the winter rather than people from the Metro Detroit area because that is what we mostly get now,” he said. “During the winter, with snow outside, I don’t think people come out as often so we will probably be affected as we are expecting less Wayne State students to be coming in.”

The first month of Michigan’s stay-at-home order was the hardest, Mario Palushaj said, owner of The Potato Place located on Warren Avenue. Since then, business picked up and has not slowed down.

“I’m busier now than I was before COVID,” Palushaj said.

The hardest part about running his business during the pandemic has been employment, he said.

“I’m very understaffed. Since students are gone, my employee pool has shrunk dramatically. It’s been hard to find people willing to work,” Palushaj said.

Businesses are taking necessary safety measures to keep their customers safe, especially as students return to campus for the fall semester, Vulaj said.

“We’re sanitizing everywhere, we’re making sure employees wear masks and checking their temperatures when they come in,” Vulaj said.

Some changes were implemented to the cleaning operations at Royale with Cheese, Reda said.

“We have the staff clean the tables, rather than the customers walk around and stack up their plates. Once they’re done, they can leave everything on the table and they can head out,” he said.

A difficult part about taking precautions has been customer interaction, Palushaj said.

“We’ve had to put plexiglass barriers between our customers and employees, which makes communication a little more difficult now,” he said.

While it’s hard to say how long the pandemic will last, Vulaj said she is staying optimistic.

“I doubt it’s going to be normal again soon, but we plan to wait it out and hope for the best,” Vulaj said.

WSU students come together to build a community fridge

by Marisa Kalil-Barrino

The Detroit Community Fridge sits in Southwest Detroit near Rocky's Road Brew. Colorfully painted with images of people holding hands and the message of spreading love, the fridge rules are listed on its door: "take what you need, leave what you don't."

The idea to create a community fridge came from seeing social media posts of similar projects in cities across the United States, said Emily Eicher, a Wayne State counseling and art therapy student. She was also inspired by The Sharing Table, located on Seward Avenue in New Center, that accepts donations of food, toiletries and cleaning supplies for free distribution.

"From big cities like Los Angeles, Chicago, New York City to smaller neighborhoods and communities I hadn't even heard of, it seemed like people were really coming together to create these spaces, and for beautiful reasons," Eicher said.

The main themes behind the project are radical community love, sustainability and mutual aid geared toward fighting food insecurity, Eicher said. The project also hopes to connect community members from other cities.

"I had an unused fridge in perfect-working condition in my

garage/studio space that was already looking for a home," Eicher said. "A huge need was met from the beginning and allowed more space to focus on utilizing the most important resource, community members."

Located at 5410 W. Vernor Highway, donations can be made at any time of the day, according to the FAQ on Detroit Community Fridge's Instagram page. All items must be labeled with the date they were donated and its contents for people who may have allergies.

Also contributing to the development of the project is Alyssa Rogers, a Detroit artist and WSU biology student.

Two things inspired Rogers to contribute to the community fridge, she said.

"One was the deep connection I feel to my community of underserved Detroit," Rogers said. "Being a Black Detroit native myself, I spend much of the free energy and excess resources I have to uplift my community."

The second reason?

"Emily is one of my most treasured friends and I wanted to do an impactful project with them," Rogers said. "I am excited



Photo by Emily Eicher

to further expand and develop the space surrounding the fridge into a community space where we can come together and hold many events.”

A non-perishable food table can also be found next to the fridge, said Isabel Leader, a WSU art and fibers student also involved with the project. Leader contributed her artistic abilities to the fridge’s design.

Some of the most popular items taken from the non-perishable food table include oatmeal, pasta, rice and beans. Popular items taken from the fridge are frozen dinners, milk and yogurt. Bottled water and menstrual products are also in demand.

The community fridge will have nothing but a positive impact, Leader said. She thinks the Hispanic population in Detroit can be overlooked and placing the fridge in Southwest can help the community.

“Hopefully we will be able to connect with more people that are in need and by talking directly to individuals we can learn more about and the specific needs of the Southwest community in Detroit,” Leader said.

Detroit’s government caters to “white-washed” businesses in the city, Rogers said, while leaving the majority population of Black and people of color to suffer.

A strong supporter of direct action, mutual aid and community focused health and security, Rogers said the Detroit Community Fridge will serve as a reminder of the power communities hold.

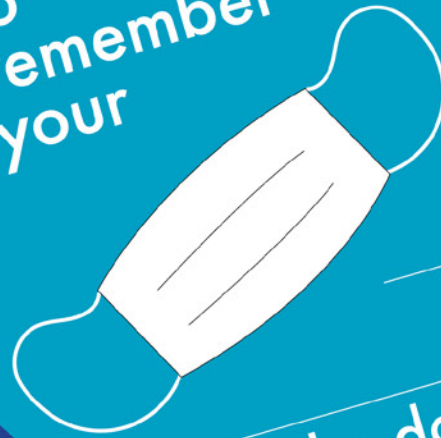
“I envision the community fridge impacting the community positively by inspiring similar citizen-directed mutual aid actions and collective healing,” Rogers said.

More information on Detroit Community Fridge can be found at <https://www.instagram.com/detroitcommunityfridge/>



Photo by Emily Eicher

4 TIPS to remember your MASK



- Hang on a hook by the door
- Keep one in your car
- Clip to a lanyard or keys that you carry often
- Have a spare in your bag

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COVID-19 procedures on campus

by Jenna Prestininzi

As the fall semester begins, Wayne State faculty, staff and students are working to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on campus and preparing for potential outbreaks.

WSU has made several changes to the typical college experience amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Part of the process of keeping people safe on campus includes Be Warrior Safe Training—created by the Public Health Subcommittee—and the Campus Daily Screener, which must be filled out each time an individual plans to be on campus. Based upon one's results, they will be either deemed safe to come onto campus, or possibly referred for COVID-19 testing.

OneCards are required for access into on-campus buildings and residents are prohibited from bringing guests into on-campus housing.

Interim Provost Laurie Lauzon Clabo chairs the Public Health Subcommittee of WSU's Restart Committee, which meets for two hours every Monday and stays in contact on a regular basis.

The subcommittee includes public health experts, epidemiologists and is charged by President M. Roy Wilson with ensuring WSU's reopening decisions are “undergirded by current science,” Clabo said.

“There was not a whole lot of science in the beginning for us to work from and our knowledge of the disease is growing exponentially day by day,” Clabo said. “So, recommendations change, our knowledge of the disease changes and a large part of the committee's efforts have been making sure that we are living in the current literature, understanding new developments as they arise.”

WSU has also instituted COVID-19 guidelines, which include the use of face coverings, social distancing, handwashing and wiping down of surfaces, Clabo said. Protective coverings have been placed on high-touch surfaces. Signs posted across campus remind individuals to follow these guidelines and volunteers are handing out free WSU face masks.

Emily Kaufman, sophomore political science major and anthropology minor, said they noticed discrepancies in how protective coverings are placed on high-touch surfaces—namely elevators and doors—in their building Anthony Wayne Drive Apartments.

“I thought the move in was really easy, I had a great (Resident Advisor) helping me, but what I noticed was that only some of the elevators in the building or only some of the doors had the sanitizer protection buttons or handles,” Kaufman said. “So I was just kind of surprised that they would only provide the protection for some of the elevators. Like I know in the north side only one of the two elevators had the safety buttons and I just thought that was a little weird, that they would only do it on like certain doors or certain buttons and not all of them.”

All residents underwent COVID-19 testing at the Campus Health Center as part of their move-in process, said Nick Board, interim associate director of student auxiliary services.

Kaufman said students who tested negative were given a sticker and able to begin the move-in process, but those who tested

positive were asked to go home and quarantine for two weeks.

“I thought the process was actually very smooth,” Kaufman said. “Once I got to campus, all I had to do was wait in line for about five minutes and got tested. I had to wait for 10 minutes, they came back negative and they gave me a sheet and then I was able to move in.”

WSU will be testing random samples of students, faculty and staff throughout the semester, Clabo said.

As a campus resident, Kaufman is required to complete the Campus Daily Screener every day, which they find beneficial as it tracks which buildings one has been in, who they've been in recent contact with and whether they've been tested for COVID-19.

WSU housing is taking steps to protect the health and safety of campus residents, Board said.

When a student tests positive for COVID-19, contact tracers from the CHC begin their process conducting scripted interviews. This then allows them to trace “significant contacts” who are contacted and asked to quarantine for the required period, Clabo said.

The time in which an individual is deemed contagious is 48 hours before symptoms or 48 hours before testing positive for asymptomatic individuals, Clabo said.

“I think that probably the biggest challenge is making sure that as we know new information, that we communicate it broadly and in a way that is digestible to a very diverse campus community,” Clabo said.

Facilities Planning and Management are contacted in order to complete a deep cleaning process in locations where the infected individual has been on campus.

The CHC will reach out to the individual daily via telehealth to monitor their status, Clabo said.

According to Board, in the case that a resident tests positive for COVID-19, they are placed in an isolated floor within one of the four dorms operating on campus this fall—Atchison Hall, AWD, Towers Residential Suites or University Tower Apartments.

Dining services will also provide the sick resident with contact-free meal delivery, Board said.

In accordance with CHC procedures, the individual will be released from quarantine three days from the end of symptoms or 10 days from diagnosis for asymptomatic individuals.

WSU introduced their plan for fall classes on July 15 as part of the Restart Committee, setting 46% as remote or online, 20% in-person, 2% hybrid and 32% individually arranged.

Fatima Bazzi, junior biochemistry major, said the switch to mainly online classes poses a challenge for her.

“Online learning is harder than in-person learning because you have less motivation, you may not know how the technology works,” Bazzi said.

Mariam Amin, sophomore political science and communications major, said she has concerns about whether the university is doing enough to listen to students' worries regarding COVID-19. Amin is taking all online courses this semester.

“I don't think they listen to students. (I would like to see

them) scheduling some sort of virtual town hall with students where they can log on, ask questions, give concerns; also involve student senate,” Amin said.

Amin said she thinks WSU should have used an online-only classes model for the fall semester for safety reasons, though online classes present difficulties to her learning.

“I’m one of those people that struggle to concentrate when I’m alone and I rely on in-person classes to give me that boost,” Amin said.

Bazzi said while COVID-19 regulations should be in place to protect everyone’s safety, some classes need to be in-person to be effective. She is taking an in-person lab.

“Personally, I really think that the hybrid system that they have so far is suitable because some classes, they just don’t make sense to be online,” Bazzi said.

Clabo presented a number of scenarios which would lead to the “depopulation” of WSU’s campus and a transition to fully online learning:

- Three or more clusters-defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as five or more cases related through contact tracing-in one week
- Three-day average of more than 15 cases per day on campus
- Detroit positivity rate of more than 15% over a seven-day period
- Limited availability of both hospital beds and intensive care unit beds in Detroit
- Within the WSU campus, if there are more than five cases a day in a specific building, lab or program

A decision to move classes all online would not necessarily be permanent, Clabo said. It depends on when the potential outbreak resolves.

Taking such aggressive action can help ensure WSU does not have significant outbreaks some colleges have recently faced, such as the University of Alabama, which had over 1,000 positive test results during the start of the semester.

“I think doing that will help us prevent the sort of out of control spread we’ve seen in some other places who have not pre-identified those metrics for action,” Clabo said.

All three students said they think WSU should move to online-only classes in the case that an outbreak occurs on campus.

WSU’s Board of Governors voted to freeze tuition for students at their June 5 meeting, a move in line with several other universities across the state. Some students, including Amin, have said the university should go even further and reduce the cost of tuition.

“Online classes in my opinion should be worth less because we’re not getting that in person (experience),” Amin said. “I think it’s ridiculous because all of my classes are online and I’m pretty much self-taught, and I think it’s ridiculous to pay full tuition on courses that are going to be taught in that manner.”

Clabo said all recommendations and actions the

subcommittee take are based upon scientific, evidence-based guidelines from public health experts, which continue to evolve as the state of the COVID-19 pandemic does.

WSU has shown effective leadership in handling the COVID-19 pandemic, Bazzi said.

“I don’t think there’s such a thing as doing enough in this sort of thing because the pandemic is very unpredictable. You could prepare all you can and then still have an outbreak by the end of the first week,” Bazzi said. “I do think Wayne State is doing better than other colleges. I do think they should continue to build on what they’ve done so far.”

Housing is doing their best to ensure a safe, welcoming environment for campus residents even in the midst of a global pandemic, Board said.

“I think it’s important for us to stress that we’re open and we’ll provide a space for any student who wants to live on campus or needs to,” Board said. “We’re working hard to develop a positive residential experience.”

It’s important that WSU continues to follow public health recommendations as they make decisions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, Amin said.

“I just hope that the university tries their best to enforce all policies and guidelines and that they aren’t too slow to react to any possible outbreak on campus,” Amin said.

Bazzi said those resistant to following public health guidelines should remember the effort to combat COVID-19 is about protecting everyone’s health, not just certain individuals.

“During this pandemic, the most important, crucial thing to consider is that it’s not just about your health. It doesn’t matter if you’ve gone to parties and you think you’re not sick, that’s not the point of following social distance guidelines,” Bazzi said.

It is important all members of the WSU community work together to protect public health, Clabo said. Those who violate COVID-19 guidelines will be held accountable.

“I think building that sort of peer culture that we do the right thing is the first step,” Clabo said. “And then the second step is for people who choose not to follow our policies, we have two things: we’ve amended the code of conduct so that students can be disciplined for not doing things like wearing their mask or completing the campus daily screener and similarly for faculty and staff we have (Human Resources).”

Keeping in mind the variety of concerns students may have regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and their education, Clabo said it’s best each individual decides what they feel comfortable with.

“It is our shared responsibility to ensure that we do our very best to protect the health of our campus,” Clabo said. “I would say that each of us have to make decisions about our own individual health and that every individual’s circumstances are unique.”

Since July 1, there has been a total of 34 confirmed and two presumptive COVID-19 cases on campus, according to the CHC.

For more information on COVID-19 testing and campus case numbers, visit <https://health.wayne.edu>

Students keep the Black Lives Matter movement alive on campus

by Abriana Walton

After students at Wayne State fully transitioned to virtual learning back in March, many student organizations on campus found ways to stay connected.

Zoom calls replaced meetings in the David Adamany Undergraduate Library, social media engagement replaced Student Center hangouts and, in an unexpected turn of events, peaceful protests in the streets of Detroit replaced lounging in Gullen Mall.

As students were figuring out how to juggle online classes amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, shocking footage of George Floyd, the Black man from Minneapolis who died after a white police officer knelt on his neck for over eight minutes, flooded the internet.

Following that, details surfaced about Breonna Taylor, the 26-year-old who was killed by Louisville Metro Police Department officers as she slept in her home, Ahmaud Arbery, the jogger who was profiled and gunned down by two civilians in a small Georgia neighborhood and many more Black victims of racist violence.

These tragic events reignited a larger discussion about the Black Lives Matter movement and the treatment of Black men and women in America—with calls to defund the police and a microscope put on the structure of police institutions.

In Detroit and cities all across the nation, protesters have peacefully gathered to march and demand justice for over 100 consecutive days.

Grace Maves, WSU environmental science senior and Office of Campus Sustainability intern, worked to organize a BLM protest starting at Eastern Market in July.

“During the first few weeks following the murder of George Floyd, I attended many of the Detroit protests organized by Detroit Will Breathe,” Maves said. “As I continued to stay active in the streets and on social media, I noticed a gradual decline in the visibility of the movement.”

Maves brought her concerns to the Office of Campus Sustainability, proposing the march, she said.

Student activism is integral to unity amongst all people regardless of their background and is important when creating change and combating injustice, The Brotherhood president Miles Davis said.

Maves hopes seeing more positive portrayals of marches and health precautions being taken will encourage WSU students to get involved with the movement.

With the world still in a global health crisis, Davis said it’s important to provide safe opportunities for all of their members to participate in the movement, even those who are at high risk.

“The Brotherhood has been taking a more virtual approach to organizing and demanding change during a pandemic,” he said. “Some of our own members are high risk and we want to make sure that we find ways to show people that they can make a change from home because not everyone is able to protest.”

Black Student Union president Jeremiah Wheeler said the organization pushed the movement forward throughout the summer by providing resources, facilitating conversation and donating funds.

“The Saturday after George Floyd was killed we had a community call and it was on Zoom and we had a decent turn out,” he said. “(It’s important to) give people a space to vocalize and to heal. It was for students and community members who wanted to say something.”

Davis said The Brotherhood has been “active in using its platform to create a voice for the voiceless.”

“We created a linktree with various petitions and information for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Oluwatoyin Salau, other victims of police brutality and many trans women who have lost their lives to transphobia,” he said.

Next steps for BSU include making demands to WSU officials, Wheeler said.

WSU President M. Roy Wilson announced the Social Justice Action Committee on June 30, which will examine policies and procedures at the university that may affect marginalized groups. A report will be presented in November, but changes may occur sooner.

“President Wilson started doing these check-in calls and putting them on social media, I think that was good. I think the creation of the social justice committee was good, but Wayne State has room to grow and we’re the ones to call for it,” he said.

Wheeler said it’s important for people to just show up.

“We are the movement,” Wheeler said. “We have to continue to provoke the movement, understand that the movement doesn’t die until injustice dies and just know that when we fight every time we fight, we win.”



Photo by Quinn Banks



Photo by Quinn Banks

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



“It’s honestly hard staying motivated throughout this time, but I always feel some sort of release after dancing and joy for the talent I do have. It’s really about that feeling.”

Read more on pg. 26

Photo by Quinn Banks

WSU student advocates for Black Lives Matter through art

by Nora Rhein

As you drive down the roads of Pleasant Ridge, just 20 minutes north of Detroit, you'll start to see a pattern. Along the quiet side streets lies something loud: rows and rows of lawn signs with the message "Say Their Names."

This town is the home of Christina Krysiak, a local artist and Wayne State student, who within the past few months has used her talent to make a difference.

Back in June, Krysiak began selling her art to raise awareness and money for Black Lives Matter related foundations, selling stickers and lawn signs featuring her designs.

"It was way more than I expected. I'm just really thankful that I've been able to donate to all of these different foundations," she said.

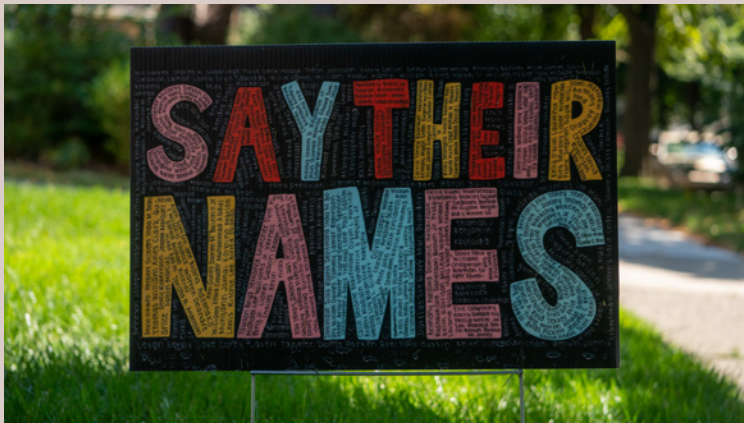


Photo by Quinn Banks

The signs and stickers read "Say Their Names" in colorful letters, filled in by the names of hundreds of Black victims of police brutality and other racist attacks.

The list goes back several decades, and includes the names of George Floyd and Ahmaud Arbery, whose deaths have been catalysts for recent protests. The goal was for the design to be impactful, Krysiak said, that the staggering list of names would fill up a large amount of space, with virtually no room to spare.

"I started seeing the list pop up of all the victims, you'd see how long the list was and it was just overwhelming," she said. "Personally writing out every single name makes you realize how many there are. It took me five hours straight just writing out names, which to me just made it that much more important to bring awareness to."

When she set up shop in June, the sophomore art student had sold 170 signs and donated more than \$6,000 to numerous foundations devoted to justice and equality. Since then, she's sold over 250 signs, and counting, raising more than \$9,000.

Krysiak also added to the original list of donation recipients, including The Detroit Justice Center, Black Table Arts and others, she said.

With protests progressing over the summer, demand for her signs has increased too. Sign pick-up events have been taking place in local parks throughout the area, with customers lining up to buy

the signs from Krysiak.

After seeing the sign on a neighbor's lawn, Kate Zenlea, a Huntington Woods resident, said she quickly searched where she could buy one.

"I think it's a beautiful piece of art, and it makes people think," Zenlea said. "It humanizes everyone that lost their lives to police violence. It makes people think maybe it could be someone they know when you see a name."

Eve Boddy, a Berkley resident, is one of the many WSU students who've sought after Krysiak's work.

"I wanted to buy Christina's designs because I believe in the cause. (This purchase) was another way for me to show my support for the movement," Boddy said.

Boddy said she is proud seeing a fellow WSU student raise awareness around the BLM movement through her skills as an artist.

"It makes me feel proud to be a Warrior among so many other talented people," Boddy said.

Krysiak is planning on creating more art to raise awareness for different issues and organizations in the future, she said.

"There's just so many other organizations and separate issues that would be great to raise money for. If people already like my art and they're willing to donate that way, then that's great," she said.

No matter what work she has planned, her intentions are clear: she doesn't want the conversation to end.

"People need to realize this isn't just a one time thing, the work isn't done. There are so many issues going on in the world right now," Krysiak said. "People often think that if you're just one person you can't make that much of a difference. It is overwhelming, but people need to not let that intimidate them from taking action, especially (young people). As cheesy as it sounds, we're the ones who need to make the changes. We're the youngest people that are able to vote and have some sort of voice."

Krysiak's signs and stickers are available for purchase through the link in her Instagram bio. The signs are also available through the "Say Their Names" Sign Pickups Facebook group.



Photo by Quinn Banks

Students stay creative during quarantine

by Marisa Kalil-Barrino

Maintaining creativity during the COVID-19 pandemic can make one feel discouraged, drained and distracted. Despite this, a few Wayne State students were able to find unique ways to keep following their passions.

Gage Percival began drumming in his sixth-grade band class, he said. Loving the sounds and textures that percussion instruments create, it soon became his passion.

“Last fall I had the privilege to drum with the Warrior marching band,” he said. “I played the largest bass drum, number six, which was kind of comical for me to carry as the smallest member of the drum line.”

Playing in the band helped improve his drumming chops and sparked his interest to buy a drum set to continue growing his talent as a musician, Percival said. The marching band also prepared him for daily drumming at Black Lives Matter protests.

He has led BLM protests in Detroit for over three months with other percussionists, he said.

“As a percussionist, I remember feeling the swaying tempo of the chants the first day or two (of protests) and thinking about how drums could really assist the sound and to help keep everyone on beat,” Percival said. “After the first weekend and our mass arrest on June 2, I felt that it was my duty to keep marching for the movement.”

Many people told Percival they appreciated the energy percussionists brought to the protests, which was enough to keep him motivated to get out and drum every day, he said.

“Drumming with the protest has connected me with many wonderful drummers and creative people, which continuously inspires me and fills me with passion,” Percival said.

Bringing his drum and musical talent to protests has made him think about drumming in new ways, Percival said.

“This movement has definitely sparked a greater interest in



Photo by Izzy Alo

drumming for me,” he said. “Not that I didn’t love it before, but it forced me to listen to the people, and lay down beats that everyone could march to and find enjoyment in. Creating that connection has been one of the most intimate and enjoyable experiences of my life.”

Izzy Alo, a fashion merchandising major and art minor, has maintained her creativity by designing clothes.

“So far, I have made five pieces throughout the pandemic which is not nearly as many as I wanted to,” Alo said. “I was in a rut through the beginning of quarantine, as I’m sure most people were.”

Despite being discouraged, Alo said her friends and family inspired her to keep working on projects. They often ask her what she’s making next and not having an answer motivates her to keep finding ideas.

“As tough as it has been, this pandemic has kind of been a blessing in disguise for me. I felt like I really needed a break from everything. Everything being school, work and everything in between,” she said.

While feeling doubtful at times, reminding herself of her passion for creating helped keep her motivated, Alo said.

“However, I remembered that I love creating more than anything, so why stop?” she said.

For her first quarantine project, Alo bleached and painted a pair of jeans.

“I used bleach to make the jeans a lighter wash,” she said. “Then I painted the flowers all over as well as a painting of a cherry blossom tree in front of a moon on the back pocket.”

The last two pieces she made have been her favorite so far, she said. She learned how to make swimwear from a YouTube tutorial, which turned out to be a more intricate process than expected.

“The best part of the bikini that I made was the top,” Alo said. “It has 10 different ways to wear it, so I wear it a lot and no one can really tell that I’ve been wearing the exact same top.”



Photo by Anna van Schaap

Her final piece was a last-minute project she finished in two hours, Alo said. She procrastinated, bought materials the same day and created a blue flowing dress for a photoshoot with her friend.

Alo plans to take it easy this semester, giving herself a needed break before she takes on more projects and starts selling her products, she said.

With dance often being a community-based activity, senior dance major Camryn Eaglin is adjusting to practicing by herself in small spaces, such as her basement.

"There are no eyes on me, no peers watching, no teachers," Eaglin said. "I've always been overly critical of my dancing and I'm proud because I've shed some of that by doing what feels good on my body."

Going back to the feeling and freedom dance gives her has kept Eaglin motivated, she said.

"Music is an art form that inspires me and is often a cause of inspiration," Eaglin said.

She appreciates being able to choose which performances to share with others.

"Of course, I frequently post myself dancing on Instagram to share with my followers, but other times I keep it private and that is an accomplishment for myself. You don't always have to perform or dance for others," she said.

Eaglin continues to dance, including in the moments where she feels uninspired, she said.

"Even when I don't feel like dancing, it gives me some peace of mind," she said. "It's honestly hard staying motivated throughout this time, but I always feel some sort of release after dancing and joy for the talent I do have. It's really about that feeling."



Photo by Tristin Cardie

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

High standards of student conduct play a major role in creating an environment of excellence, and the Student Code of Conduct serves to uphold these standards.

THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Establishes the expectations that students are accountable for their behavior;
2. Describes acceptable student conduct, both academic and non-academic;
3. Describes disciplinary policies and procedures;
4. Specifies the rights of students and other parties; and
5. Specifies prohibited conduct and sanctions to be imposed if such conduct occurs.

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COVID-19 COMPLIANCE INFORMATION

Section 4.20 of the Student Code of Conduct notes the following behavioral expectations related to COVID-19 Compliance: Failure to comply with University instruction pertaining to the containment of coronavirus or of COVID-19, including, but not limited to:

1. Completing the 'campus daily screener' each day before coming onto campus;
2. Following the direction of the Campus Health Center regarding a positive screen;
3. Wearing, at minimum, a cloth facial covering at all times when in public spaces on campus;
4. Maintaining a minimum distance of not less than six feet from others when on campus;
5. Complying with signage regarding directional hallways, elevators, common spaces, and stairwells.



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The show goes on for WSU Theatre

by *Cameron Sanders*



As the curtain opens on the 2020 fall semester, many are faced with challenging and unusual circumstances. This rings especially true for those a part of Wayne State's Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance.

The most drastic change the curriculum faces is that classes will be conducted in a mostly online format, said John Kiesling, professor and faculty technical director.

"This is a huge transition from our traditional model where we typically work in close proximity with one another in a very collaborative way," he said.

This year, the WSU Theatre and Dance Department will be running three programming series through a digital platform, Kiesling said.

The Production Series will resemble what a typical theatre production would look like, but viewed digitally rather than in the seats of the Hilberry Theatre, according to the department's website. While the performances are free, a \$10 donation is suggested to help provide a high-quality experience.

"We will also be sharing a lecture (and) dialogue series with professional artists in the industry and a studio series where faculty, staff and students share a behind the scenes look at the process of creating productions," Kiesling said.

The department's social media and their new podcast is an excellent way for students to stay connected, CJ Caldwell said, a theatre design and technology major.

With a completely new way of teaching, the department and professors have been working on ways to make sure the connection to students remains strong, Kiesling said.

"Faculty members have spent much of their summer developing methods to ensure that the collaborative nature of our art is able to be maintained even while we are not in the same room with one another," he said.

While an effort to maintain strong connections during the pandemic is being made, some students have concerns about how a

non-traditional learning style will affect them in the future.

"I have a general idea of who I am as an actor, but I need to hone my skills even more and get ready to go into the outside world," said Steph Bedore, a WSU theatre major. "I mean yes, we're going to learn it, but without being in person it's going to be harder to actually hone the skills."

Caldwell has similar concerns, she said.

"Learning computer systems through the internet is not easy for me. I prefer having someone over my shoulder explaining computer systems to me," Caldwell said.

While the situation is not ideal, Bedore said incoming students can still find value in their classes.

"It's going to suck, it sucks for everyone during this time but you will get through it. As long as you are able to do your classes and get something out of it, I think no matter what the conditions are you'll be able to do it," Bedore said.

Kiesling said he is excited about the prospect of students discovering more about their artistic selves in the upcoming semester, as it provides a unique opportunity to pause and explore.

"Students will have opportunities to explore their art in ways they may have never considered previously," he said. "That exploration will likely, and likely should, inform the rest of your lives in the process of making art."

While Kiesling is excited about the school year, he's even more excited to see the theatre department perform in front of a live audience once again, he said.

"I look forward to opening a play with an audience in their seats at some point in the future. I will likely shed a tear when the first line is spoken from the stage again. In the meantime, theatre and art persevere through this pandemic," Kiesling said.

More information about the upcoming series can be found on the department's website at <https://www.theatreanddanceatwayne.com>.

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Old-timers remember Brewster

BREWSTER, from Page 1C

Timers for the first time last week and will interview them over the next month. Their term papers could eventually be part of a book of Brewster memories.

"They want other people to know about the lives of people who've lived here, worked here and are part of Detroit's history," says Todd Burton, the WSU English and African Studies professor who spent two years designing the course with the old-timers.

Tellers of tales

In a cramped lounge at WSU last week, one by one the old-timers stood, a face on wobbly legs, and began to tell their stories.

"We came from nothing from nowhere. We all came here during the time that Ford advertised \$3 a day pay for work in his plant," says John (Cocky) Glover, 83, a retired Detroit public schools teacher who played on the Brewster team that took on the Gladiators in 1924-25.

He describes the wave of blacks who migrated to the Motor City from Alabama, Kentucky and other states.

When settled in the area known as Black Bottom, named for its rich dark soil. Everybody knew everybody else, and most had a family nickname to make their style, reputation or appearance. If children got in trouble in the street, they could expect a whipping from a neighbor — then maybe another one when they got home.

Back then, a dollar dividend in the stock community was a seven times before it was spent elsewhere. That's because there were so many Black businesses — and because entrepreneurs like Oscar Law often kept money from reinvesting white areas.

Black Bottom was home to other groups too: Italian, Jewish, Hungarian, Polish, Mexican and Irish immigrants at least their numbers. And when the Brewster Center teams returned out into other neighborhoods to play basketball or another sport, fights usually erupted afterward. Who started them depended on who won or lost.

"When the last out was made, we had to run — FAST!" Glover recalls.

"The schools were integrated, but everything else was segregated. That's the one thread that goes through our whole lifetime.... We didn't care so much about it. It was just living. It was building, and it made a difference," Glover says, telling a story of taking a date to the movies where non-black high school classmates worked in the ticket booth and told him stations they had to sit in the balcony.

"You're with your girlfriend, and that's embarrassing — but we didn't care too much about it."

The economy made the times hard too. Many people were unemployed and bread lines were common.

"In 1933 — I would never, never want to wish that time on anyone," says Gail Pettway. "It was a real crucial time because there were so many men that were unemployed. My husband was no exception. When you

Today, Pettway, 74, a former dean at Wayne County Community College, teaches math and drafting at both Wayne and Henry Ford Community College.

The lure of sport

At the Brewster recreation center, young men found role models and diversions from the harder parts of life. Sports was the major lure.

Former Mayor Coleman Young is a Brewster alum, and he has vivid memories of those days. While Young has been invited to speak to the oral history class, it's uncertain if he'll be able to. But he writes about his early days in Brewster's boxing ring in his new book, "Hard Stuff: The Autobiography of Coleman Young."

"On one memorable occasion, I landed a good blow to the chin of an opponent who was very highly regarded," Young writes. "There were usually just a few, and when I scored on this big fellow, they started cheering and cheering. With that, I went into him. When was not prudent. The moment I hit the canvas, it was apparent that I didn't have a career in sports for me."

Walter Smith was 15 in 1921 when he first went to Brewster, learning the ropes in boxing from coach Alvin Duke Ellis. From 3:30 in the afternoon to sometimes as late as 11:30 p.m., Smith was at Brewster, watching basketball games sometimes, but mostly training. Joe Louis — or Joe Barrow, as he was known back then — sparred with Smith, Kenneth Offitt and others at Brewster long before he turned professional.

When it got to his years at Brewster, says Smith, who travels the world today training professional boxers, "I probably would never have been able to make it with boxing."

Offitt, 81, became a professional boxer and manager before going to work in the auto plants.

He remembers Louis working out on a boxing bag. "He'd take on a bag and knock the bag out. That was his punch — the left hand," Offitt says, jabbing the air in a quick motion to mimic the prizefighter. "An hour of a time, he'd be punching that bag. There would be a big deal at it afterward; then nobody else could use it."

Back then, Offitt, Smith and others were among hundreds of black youngsters who called Brewster their "home away from home." Coaches and athletic directors were part-time parents and mentors. People like the late Leon (Doc) Wheeler, who became Detroit's first black recreation worker in 1919, and Joe Hughes taught them discipline, self-respect, ambition, morals, charity and sportsmanship.

"Those men always had time for

you. If you had a problem, they would listen. They were kind to you." Offitt recalls. And of Wheeler, Brewster's director, Offitt says, "He was known as Mr. Wheeler. No one dared call him anything else but Mr. Wheeler because everyone respected him so as a man — and a friend."

Under Wheeler's direction, Brewster went from a playing field in the early 1900s to a two-story brick recreation center with a gym, auditorium, pool and offices by 1924.

The long road down

Black Bottom — and Brewster — started their decline around 1939, when highway officials mapped a path for I-75 that went through the center of Hastings Street. Black Bottom's main boulevard. Businesses and homes were moved and families were forced to move to other parts of the city under what black-bitterly called federal "crack removal." It was never the same again.

The Brewster alumni, led by the late Thomas Briscoe and John Serpore,

William Hines and Glover, formed the Old Timers group in 1968 to give something back to their old community. The gym was renamed the Wheeler Center in 1978, after its longtime director. And about a year ago, city officials renamed it the Brewster-Wheeler Recreation Center.

In recent years, countless families have used Brewster to hide from the cold in the winter months, when the city opened a warming center there. Swimming, karate, gymnastics, basketball and boxing programs operate there, too, though many Old Timers agree it's not what it used to be.

The old-timers still visit, though to talk about the old days and reminisce more for today's generation of Brewster youngsters.

Over the years, the Old Timers have raised nearly \$100,000 for college scholarships and sponsored picnics, fund-raisers and outings for youngsters and senior citizens.

They have about 93 members and meet once a month at their clubhouse on Van Dyke and Genoa to reminisce and plan events and charities.

"Being a member of this organization, it means a lot to them. Mosty part of them are retired. This is like a social gathering for them," said Allen Hughes, a deputy chief in the Detroit Police Department. At 55, he's one of the younger members of the group. "Look," Hughes graduated from the University of Detroit and played for the Harlem Globetrotters from 1958 to 1961, before joining the police department.

Hughes says, "They'll talk about what they did 50 years ago as if it was yesterday, and they will argue about what they did and who was the best, and it's very interesting to listen to them. You'd think it happened last week, but they're talking about 30 years ago, 40 years ago."

The Brewster Old Timers' Free-Style Fight Night was held at 7 p.m. on April 2 at the Detroit Light Opera Arena, 400 E. 8th Ave. from Detroit, Mich. Tickets at the time were \$10. Tickets at the time were \$20. For reservations, call 571-4444 or 571-4444.



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"He was known as Mr. Wheeler. No one dared call him anything other than Mr. Wheeler because everyone respected him so, as a man and a friend. Those men always had time for you."

Student-Athletes Give Mixed Thoughts on Cancellation

by Irving Mejia-Hilario

On Aug. 12, the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference suspended all sports competition until the beginning of 2021.

Prior to the cancellation of sports at Wayne State, teams were looking forward to returning to competition as soon as possible. While things would not be normal, student-athletes held a semblance of hope that fall sports may still be a possibility.

"We actually had come back and set up a plan to come back in July," Jake AmRhein said, a redshirt senior quarterback for WSU football. "We got COVID testing, our physicals done and we were working out for a few weeks until August, and that's when the GLIAC came out with their decision to postpone the season."

Zac Truman, a junior co-captain of the men's cross country team, was training in Colorado with a few teammates when he got the news.

"We kinda expected it after everything else was being canceled, so we were somewhat prepared for it mentally," Truman said. "We still tried to make the most out of our training then and as of right now, though."

The women's volleyball team keeps a rigorous schedule that revolves around academics and training, senior Julia Malewicz said. While this at times can be overwhelming as a volleyball player, she said she misses having a structure. She is worried that the sudden shift in her day-to-day routine will be felt both on the court and in the classroom, she said.

"We were so used to everything being laid out and knowing what to expect, and with COVID it's exactly the opposite and you never know what to expect," she said. "You could have a schedule one day and the next day it changes. It's taught me a lot about how to have a structure."

Now, communication is more important than anything and Malewicz said she tries to keep up with her teammates as much as she can.

Truman hasn't seen all of his teammates since the end of January.

"That's something I miss a lot is seeing my teammates on a regular basis and training together," he said.

He has found a need to step up in different places than before, Truman said.

"We're definitely emphasizing things more than others in terms of communication between the entire team," Truman said. "There were some people we would see a lot, like training people and everything, but they're not as vocal as some people, so we have to make sure everyone still feels involved even though we were not going to see each other until the time we move in."

The football team had a lot to look forward to going into spring break, AmRhein said. They were coming off their best season since 2012 with an 8-3 record.

"We left for spring break, excited to come back after a week to start spring practices like normal, and we kind of got stuck in the middle of everything," AmRhein said. "It's been a struggle for leadership and trying to get people engaged virtually."

All the effort the team underwent now seems so far away, AmRhein said.

"It's hard when you're not around people to keep them engaged, especially the younger guys who kind of feed off that upperclassmen energy," he said. "But we were definitely heading in the right direction."

Johanna Strueder, a freshman on the women's cross country team, visited WSU back in December, she said. Currently living at home in Indiana, this is not what she thought her start to college would look like, but she's making the most of her situation.

The competition suspensions might give her team an advantage, she said.

"We started off earlier, so it gave us more time to prepare. It gave us almost a whole season for preparation for what we're going to be doing now through college," Strueder said.

Truman is confident GLIAC and WSU will make the right decision for athletes, he said. He is keeping an optimistic view and believes WSU cross country will be a top 25 team when competition restarts.

"Two of our top seven (runners) were going to graduate, and because of this, they get another year to compete for us," Truman said. "And I feel like all of us have had the same mentality, to hammer things down and get to training this fall, in any way that we can."

Whatever plan falls in place for his team, AmRhein said everything will work out in the end.

"Obviously, we can't do anything until the end of the semester. Coaches don't have many answers because they've never been through any of this, but I have no doubt that they'll put in a good process for us to make things work out," he said.

While GLIAC is proposing moving volleyball to the spring season, Malewicz said she is trying not to put too much stock into what the future may look like.

"I'm definitely not trying to put any expectations into what I think a season will look like or what it will look like in the spring," she said. "It's a little disappointing, but I just gotta not think about it too much, or else I'm going to set myself up for more disappointment. It's been hard."

Leon “Toy” Wheeler: a forgotten Warrior remembered

by Irving Mejia-Hilario

On the intersection of Chrysler Drive and Wilkins Street there sits a lonely abandoned building. Graffiti blankets the walls and roof, wooden panels cover what used to be windows and overhead flies a torn flag of the United States.



race, color, or creed. I realize that much prejudice exists in Detroit, but a building of this kind will wipe it out,” Nagle said in his dedication speech.

Between the time it opened in 1929 until the early 1960s, it was a sight to behold amongst community members and the general public. Crowds would gather to watch sporting events and participate in parties.

In its prime, the center was home to programs like swimming, boxing, billiards, woodcraft, glee club, tap dancing, ukulele, track, tennis, drama, dancing and more. According to a 1994 Detroit Free Press article, at its peak the center hosted 81 different clubs.

Wheeler himself was a part of this culture, helping cultivate a lively atmosphere within the community.

His sports career began even further back. Born in Danville, Indiana in 1898, Wheeler moved to Detroit and attended the Detroit Junior College—which later merged with other colleges to form WSU—to showcase his outstanding athletic abilities in basketball, track and football.

In 1918, Wheeler received his big break as a student-athlete when he became a quarterback

Formerly managed by Wayne State alum and WSU Athletics Hall of Famer Leon “Toy” Wheeler, the Brewster-Wheeler Recreation Center, now 109 years old, stands as the last remaining artifact from the original Brewster-Douglass Housing Projects.

Mayor John C. Nagle proudly attended the dedication ceremony and spoke of the center’s potential.

“I dedicate this building for the people of the city of Detroit, regardless of

REC: Brewster Wheeler center on demolition list

FROM PAGE 1A

mid-2017.

The city-owned rec center is structurally intact but in disrepair and awaiting the wrecking ball.

“It just kills me. It takes away another piece of history from this city of ours,” said Dr. Stuart Kirschenbaum, founder and president of the Michigan Boxing Hall of Fame and a former state boxing commissioner. “It’s almost sacrilegious to see that nothing was done to at least save something — a stairway, an entrance-way.”

He compared its potential demise to that of the original Kronk Gym at 5555 McGraw in Detroit, a city recreation hall that produced a long line of boxing greats, including Tim Lincecum and Mike Tyson. It closed in 2006 amid Detroit’s financial woes.

“We’ve seen most of these rec centers go into disrepair where they’ve had to be torn down,” Kirschenbaum said. “That sort of put the nail in the coffin for boxing in Detroit.”

As recently as a year ago, then-Mayor Dave Bing said the Brewster center would be spared as the city considered possibilities for eventually reopening it as a community amenity for youths and seniors.

The red brick building containing a gymnasium, pool, auditorium and other space, and lots of history.

But Duggan’s spokesman said Monday that the site was added to the demolition list. “So it is slated to come down this fall unless someone presents a workable redevelopment plan,” Roach wrote in an e-mail.

He said people from several city departments who inspected the property reached a consensus for demolition.

Empty and peeling
The two-story Brewster center closed in the early 2000s. Today it is covered with graffiti inside and out and missing most of its windows and doors.

A video tour posted online reveals a deserted and trash

BREWSTER-DOUGLASS’ PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

■ The nation’s first federally funded housing project for black people, Detroit’s Brewster-Douglass projects opened for its first residents in the mid-1930s, after a dedication by Eleanor Roosevelt.

■ The east side property has been vacant since 2008, following a drawn-out exodus of tenants. After that, it became an attraction for various sorts of urban explorers.

■ The area has been an active demolition site for months. Although somewhat behind schedule, the demolition is clearly in its final stages.

■ The Brewster-Wheeler Recreation Center opened in 1929 and was overseen by the city’s first black recreation department worker, Leon (Toy) Wheeler.

stream gymnasium and natatorium with walls that are peeling paint and even stained with blood.

The most popular sports at Brewster center were boxing and basketball, and for years a group of aged athletes known as the Brewster Old Timers Club held fund-raisers to support the center’s youth activities.

Newspaper articles describe how the center’s heyday was 1929-39, before the Chrysler Freeway broke through the surrounding neighborhood.

Few — if any — of those club members are still around.

The name “Wheeler” was added to the Brewster center’s title in the 1970s to honor Leon (Toy) Wheeler, the city’s first black recreation worker and the center’s longtime director. Under his direction, the area went from a playing field to an actual rec hall.

Boxing legend Joe Louis trained at the center, as did a host of other distinguished boxers and trainers like Delmar Williams, Eddie Futch, Kenneth Offitt, Dave Clark and Sam Hughes.



Offitt, a former pro boxer, recalled in a 1994 interview how Louis would work out at the rec center.

“An hour at a time, he’d be punching that bag. There would be a big dent in it afterward, then nobody else could use it,” he said.

The center had its own basketball league and the Harlem Globetrotters made regular visits.

Early stars

By Brewster basketball stars such as Gus Finney, Harry Rusan, Wilbert King and Bob Shocost. Had helped bring national attention to Detroit basketball after joining the Globetrotters.

In more recent years, Detroit native and ex-NBA star Chris Webber coached a new basketball floor.

Former Detroit Mayor Coleman Young described his amateur debut in the Brewster center ring in his 1991 book “Hard Stuff: The Autobiography of Mayor Coleman Young.”

“I landed a good blow to the chin of an opponent who was very highly regarded,” Young wrote. “There were usually girls around, and when I scored on this big fellow, they started chattering and giggling. With that I went into him. Which was not prudent. The moment I hit the canvas, it was apparent that I didn’t have a career in store for me.”

Contact: J.C. Meindl, 313-222-5531 or cmeindl@freepress.com. Follow him on Twitter @JCMeindl.

for the college’s inaugural football team.

The team was mainly made up of the school’s Student Army Training Corps members. Despite the uphill battle the team faced, they persevered behind their athletic director and coach, David L. Holmes.

Doubts arose from many in the media about how far Holmes could lead a ragtag group of players, even though they were led by successful players like Wheeler and their star player, fullback Wayne Brenkert.

The DJC ran away with a shutout 41-0

victory in their first game over Assumption College, but after the first game, concerns were growing about the team’s future due to the 1918 influenza pandemic.

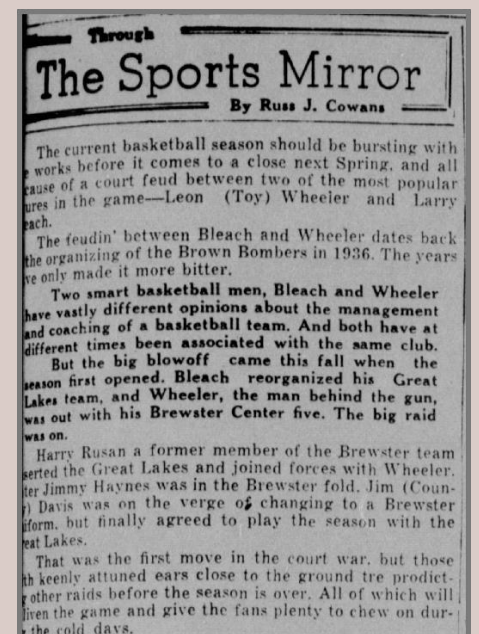
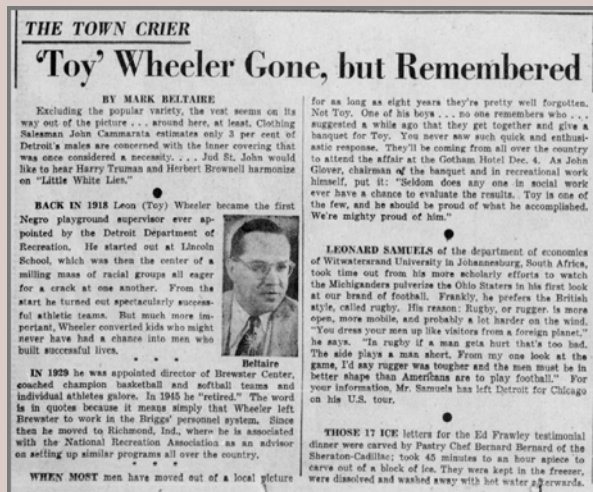
Their next matchup against the Ypsilinati Normals was not formally declared until Nov. 1, 1918—three days before they intended to play.

Wheeler, Brenkert and other teammates stood behind Holmes’ decision to play during the pandemic. The Detroit Free Press even went so far as to say in 1918 that Holmes had been preparing for competition no matter what.

“Coach Holmes’ boys have been idle through the workings of the influenza epidemic and he welcomes competition for his gridders,” the Detroit Free Press said.

Similar to many sporting events happening today, outsiders would not be allowed into Goldberg Field, according to the Detroit Free Press. Both teams cited growing concerns about the pandemic as their rationale for the decision.

Unfortunately, the precautions did not prevent the team from



falling victim to the influenza virus. Brenkert succumbed to the flu before the Nov. 4, 1918 game, but still reported ready to play. He went on to score the team's only two touchdowns.

Ultimately, the Detroit team pulled off another upset and beat the Normals 18-0.

Following their 2-0 start, football and sporting affairs at the college came to a sudden stop. The DJC's next contest against the Western State Hilltoppers was canceled due to concerns over the pandemic.

According to the Detroit Free Press—over two weeks after their matchup against the Normals—Wheeler, Holmes and the team were pushed aside as the college began focusing on the more pressing issues surrounding the influenza pandemic.

“During the past several weeks, football happenings at Junior College have been much in the background...” the Detroit Free Press said.

Considering the football team was still new and its potential being determined, for a while the college was unsure if football would even come back.

However, their initial victory over Assumption College was enough for Holmes to convince the university that they should continue the season. Holmes managed to rile the team behind the respect they had for him, as he often did, and his players showed interest in continuing to play.

Wheeler found his stride in the second half of the season. In their Nov. 23, 1918 shutout rematch against Assumption College, he became the de facto quarterback for the game and was cited in the Detroit Free Press as “the only man who remembered how to run interference” that day.

In the Thanksgiving Day season finale on Nov. 28, 1918, Wheeler became the first Black man to start as quarterback for the DJC. He and his team routed the University of Detroit Tigers 6-0 to finish the year undefeated.

This concluded Wheeler's collegiate career. While his time at DJC was short, he can be remembered for the impact he left, by opening the door for other Black student-athletes.

Even though there was much excitement within the student body about where Holmes would take the DJC, Detroit as a city continued to look the same. Segregation, racism and the pandemic continued to plague the country.

For the next ten years, Wheeler lived a quiet life, breaking yet another barrier in 1919 as he worked for the City of Detroit as the first Black recreation worker. He was still looking for a chance to participate in a more prominent role. He finally earned this opportunity in 1929 when he was appointed manager of the Central Community Center.

For a long time, Wheeler and his partners at the building helped see the mayor's vision through. With his collegiate sports experience, Wheeler used it to bring people within his community together and help build them up.

Wheeler's community center also played a crucial role in the growth of the expanding neighborhood. Given that there were

Detroit Park Unit Renames Center For Leon Wheeler

The name of Leon C. (Top) Wheeler, executive director of the Townsend Center here for more than 17 years, will be immortalized Sunday in recognition ceremonies at Detroit, Mich.

The Brewster Recreation Center in Detroit, where Mr. Wheeler was the first Community House supervisor, serving from 1929 to 1945, will change its name to the Leon C. Wheeler Recreation Center.

Brewster Old Timers, Inc., a club organized many years ago in the interest of sports and recreation for members of the black race, is honoring the life and work of Mr. Wheeler, in cooperation with the Department of Parks and Recreation of the city of Detroit.

Mr. Wheeler's widow will be present at the renaming ceremonies and unveiling of portraits at the center. He died in May 1968 at his home in Inkster, Mich.

Retired In 1965

The former Townsend Center director retired here in May 1965 on the advice of his doctor because of declining health. He played an important part in the development of the center and was instrumental in organizing the citywide Human Relations Council.

He was a leader in eliminating segregation in amateur baseball, YWCA swimming sessions, movie theaters and eating places. He took an active part in opening job opportunities for people of his race with skills and college training. He was much in demand as a speaker and active with groups working to help youth and combat juvenile delinquents.

A member of the City Planning Committee, he also was chairman of the citywide recreation committee and vice chairman of the council of social agencies, member of the county TB Association board of directors, of the governor's committee on youth and of the Friends Service Job Opportunity Committee.

After retiring here, he returned to Detroit where he had spent so many years in the field of recreation and athletics. He started to work for the Department of Recreation there while still a student at Old Detroit College, now Wayne State University. He majored in physical

education and was the first three-letter man ever named by the college. In 1918, he became the first Negro playground supervisor ever appointed in Detroit.

A native of Plainfield, Ind., he lived in Danville a short time and then moved with his family to Indianapolis. He and Mrs. Wheeler were both graduated from Butler University.

Worked Where Needed

During his lifetime he turned down a number of jobs which offered substantial salaries. He said he preferred working where he felt he was needed, in helping the average boy get interested in athletics and in working toward a profession.

While a director at Brewster Center, he was credited with developing several fine athletes, in one of whom became an Olympic champion and others professionals, including Joe Louis, Sugar Ray Robinson, Cincy Satch, Jesse Owens and Delfort Hubbard.

The resolution adopted by the Brewster Old Timers, approved and accepted by the Department of Parks and Recreation, City Planning Commission and the Common Council of Detroit, says:

“He was the affectionate idol of thousands of citizens in the community; he had devoted a lifetime of service to social, recreational, cultural activities in the development of youth in the community, unparalleled in its history, and his services, as Community House supervisor of the Brewster Recreation Center brought national recognition to the community and left an indelible mark on the lives of countless young men and women.”

At the time of the new moon, an observer on that satellite would see a full earth glowing about 46 times brighter than the full moon seen from earth.

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so many programs available to children from diverse backgrounds, several people got their start there.

Joe Louis famously took the 50 cents his mother gave to him to enroll in violin lessons and spent it at the recreation center, where he took boxing lessons. Louis spent hours sparring in the center's basement, honing his craft, before eventually graduating from the center as he earned more money from other promotions.

As many like Louis have said, had it not been for Wheeler and his center, they perhaps could have never found the escape they found necessary to create a better life for themselves.

Marshall Gilkie III, a current resident of the Brewster Homes and dorm monitor for WSU, said the center gave him a sense of hope.

“To me, it was an escape, a place of encouragement, and a place of hope. It was a large extended family,” Gilkie said. “Our Teen Club gave the kids in the projects something to look forward to and our annual trips always reminded us that there was more to life than just the projects. It inspired a lot of us to want more and strive for a better life.”

According to many attendees of the center, Wheeler carried respect wherever he went in the building. One such former attendee is Kennett Offett, a friend and sparring partner of Louis.

“He was known as Mr. Wheeler. No one dared call him

anything other than Mr. Wheeler because everyone respected him so, as a man and a friend. Those men always had time for you. If you had a problem, they would listen. They were kind to you,” Offett told the Detroit Free Press in 1994.



Photo by Marshal Gilkie III

Through the respect he gained in his time there, Wheeler founded a basketball team—Detroit AA—that would play at the center and regularly challenge for basketball championships taking place in the Midwest. Like the college teams he was on before, they were winners.

Through what the Detroit Tribune in 1943 described as a “take it on the chin” mentality, Wheeler for 15 years coached his team to win 25 of the 28 championships they competed in and finished second in the other three. Numerous awards were presented to his players and himself.

Wheeler's coaching skills were so impressive he attracted the Harlem Globetrotters' attention. After hosting a friendly game with them on Thanksgiving Day in 1932, the Globetrotters brought him on as their new head coach.

With Wheeler coaching, the Globetrotters went on to win the 1940 Pro Basketball Title in Chicago. En route to winning the championship, the Globetrotters conquered some of the Midwest's best opponents. The Detroit Tribune reported in 1940 that Wheeler was the “dominating factor” in the championship game.

As Wheeler's reputation continued to grow, the Detroit Tribune heralded him as “without a doubt, one of the greatest basketball mentors ever to place five men on the hardwoods.”

In 1943 the Detroit Tribune wrote that Wheeler's relationships with the people around him—including players and

staff—were genuinely special.

“This relationship of understanding, good fellowship, and sportsmanship rested not upon the premise of color or race alone. But its influence extends beyond these over-emphasized borders of racial differences,” the Detroit Tribune wrote.

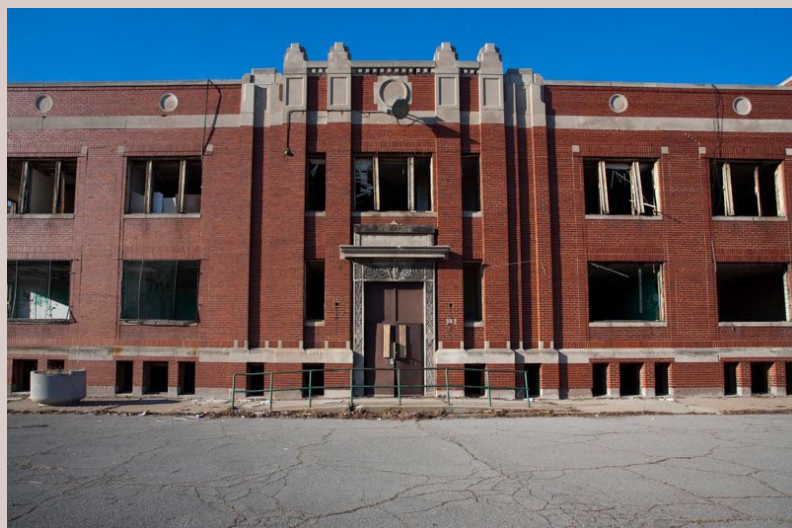


Photo by Marshal Gilkie III

At the age of 45, Wheeler decided it was time to call it quits after 25 years. In May 1943, he sent the recreation commission a request to retire.

He later moved to Richmond, Virginia where he began working again. There, he joined the National Recreation Association as an advisor, setting up similar programs all across the United States.

A relaxation of housing standards at the federal level in the 1960s, such as the Fair Housing Act of 1968, left the neighboring Brewster homes' in decline. The construction of I-75 also wiped out most of the Black cultural centers along Hastings Street and displaced many residents in Paradise Valley and Black Bottom.

Heather Ann Thompson, a historian and professor from Detroit, said in the 1960s the city fell victim to the war on crime and drugs.

“The Johnson Administration had incentivized counting crime in such a way with its new war on crime measures, to incentivize showing that you had an uptick in crime,” she said. “And so the irony of ironies is that we begin this intensive policing that will really lead to the (1967) rebellion and we begin these really corrosive practices in cities like in Detroit.”

Wheeler died on May 22, 1968. In 1969, the Brewster Center was renamed the Brewster-Wheeler Recreation Center to honor him.

Drell Lewis lived in the Brewster Projects in 1993.

“[It represents] The Brewster community, Brewster pride, and family. It saved a lot of people's lives, it's nothing you didn't learn there,” he said.

In 1976, a historical marker for the center was registered. By 1978, it was erected, but according to Brewster historians, the historical marker has been stolen twice now.

By 1991, the original Brewster Homes were torn down and replaced with 250 townhouses. Brewster-Douglass residents protested the city leveling houses while they remained stuck in the projects' squalor. The protests lasted from 1988 until the demolition was completed in 1991.

When old-timers of the Brewster Projects returned to Wheeler's center in 1994, many were left with the same impression that rings true with the Brewster community's current generation.

“We came from nothing, from nowhere. We all came here during the time when Ford advertised \$5 a payday for work in his plant,” John Glover, 83, said to the Detroit Free Press in 1994.

Over time the center became less of a focus and upkeep began to fall behind. Eventually, it had to rely on donations of equipment and money from alumni to stay open.

Chris Webber donated a new basketball court in the mid-1990s and Mike Tyson visited the building in 2000 to prepare for his fight against Andrew Golota. Wanting to feel the presence of his childhood hero, Tyson practiced in the very same basement as Louis.

The celebrity help was not enough to save the building. Though the Brewster-Wheeler Center continued to offer programs, the city's budget cuts led to reduced hours in 2005.

By 2007, word had spread that the building was set to close and in response many people ended up moving out. However, the center did not even make it to see the light of 2007.

On Aug. 25, 2006, the building closed its doors for the final time, and less than three years later, the original projects that remained were left vacant.

According to Detroit Urbex, a website dedicated to documenting the past, present and future of the City of Detroit, looters and metal thieves looked at the building as a prime opportunity to make a quick buck.

According to the Lansing State Journal, in 2014 plans were made to demolish the building. The plans were quickly met with protesters who demanded the final piece of the original Brewster Projects be left alone.

In April 2015, Mayor Mike Duggan announced that investors, namely Dan Gilbert, would take over the site and invest at least \$36 million in it. The building was saved, yet it stands as vacant as it did ten years ago. Plans have yet to come to fruition as they have faced both cost and parking issues.

Donyetta Hill, the organizer behind the movement that initially saved Brewster-Wheeler, has fond memories of the building. “Brewster-Wheeler was always filled with love and positive



Photo by Marshal Gilkie III

energy. The center brought hope to many, it made you feel like someone special. Like when everyone knows your name, it was comfort, it was family, it was peace,” she said.

As a child, Hill was homeless and found refuge in the center after being raped in the Brewster Projects at 15. There she felt comfortable and protected.

“Brewster Wheeler saved my life,” she said.

In its prime, the center served the local Black community, providing an escape from life's harsh realities in a segregated city. Hill still sees a future in the building and believes there is hope to restore it to its former glory, she said.

“In 10 to 20 years, I see this building still standing there. It will bring a lot of communities and kids together in a place where they can learn, have mentors, have someone there to listen to them,

Photo by Marshal Gilkie III

Joe Louis' old gym to be razed

Detroit building will need big plan to save it

By JC Reindl
Garrett Michiger

DETROIT — A storied Detroit recreation center where Joe Louis trained and a host of basketball and boxing legends sharpened their skills will be demolished within a few months unless someone comes up with a workable plan to save the deserted building, the city told the Detroit Free Press.

The Brewster Wheeler Recreation Center dates to 1929 and is adjacent to the Brewster-Douglass public housing projects that are in the final days of demolition now. Detroit officials are beginning to make plans for what will happen next at the sites.

Facility in disrepair

The city soon will issue a request for proposals for redevelopment ideas in adjacent Brush Park, a historic but underpopulated district in Midtown, according to John Roach, a spokesman for Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan.

A similar request was made early in the year, but officials decided to give developers a chance to update their designs in light of new developments, particularly the Hiltch family's plan to erect most of Detroit's new \$650 million arena and entertainment dis-



Demolition continued last week at the Brewster-Douglass Housing Projects in Detroit. DETROIT FREE PRESS

strict by mid-2017.

The city-owned rec center is structurally in-

Graffiti everywhere But Duggan's spokesman said Monday the site was added to the demolition list.

of history from this city of ours," said Dr. Stuart Kirsch-

Joe Louis baum, founder and president of the Michigan Boxing Hall of Fame and a former state boxing commissioner.

“It’s almost sacrilegious to see that nothing was done to at least save something — a stairway, an entranceway.”

As recently as a year ago, then-Mayor Dave

Newspaper articles describe how the center’s heyday was 1929-59, before the Chrysler Freeway broke through the surrounding neighborhood.

The name "Wheeler" was added to the Brewster center's title in the 1970s to honor Leon (Tony) Wheeler, the city's first black recreation worker and the center's longtime director. Under his direction, the area went from a playing field to an actual

BREWSTER-DOUGLASS' PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

» The nation's first federally funded housing project for black people, Detroit's Brewster-Douglass projects opened for its first residents in the mid-1930s, after a dedication by Eleanor Roosevelt.

- » The eastside property has been vacant since 2008, following a drawn-out exodus of tenants. After that, it became an attraction for various sorts of urban explorers.
- » The area has been an active demolition site for months.

Although somewhat behind schedule, the demolition is clearly in its final stages.

- The Brewster Wheeler Recreation Center opened in 1929 and was overseen by the city's first black recreation department worker, Leon (Toyz) Wheeler.

rec hall.

Boxing legend Joe Louis trained at the center, as did a host of other distinguished boxers and trainers such as Delmar Williams, Eddie Eutch,

Notables paid visits

JC Reinold is a reporter for the Detroit Free Press.

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