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MAY-JUNE 2026

SUMMER 2026 | ISSUE 27



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ON THE
COVER

**Gertie relaxing
in the Mogk
family room,
designed by
Decor and More
Design Studio**

Photo by
Joseph Tiano

WHERE IN THE POINTES?



Where in the Pointes is this? On May 26, the first person to comment with the correct answer on our Facebook post will win a family pass to African Wildlife Safari Park! Participants must wait for the question to be posted by Pointe Magazine. Good luck! (Last issue: The Storybook Boutique)

To find us on Facebook, search "Grosse Pointe Magazine"



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John Minnis
Publisher

POINTE MAGAZINE



Lauren McGregor
Editor

Busy time of the year in the Pointes!

This 16th anniversary issue of *Pointe Magazine* is chock full of things to do in the Pointes. And no wonder, it is that time of year — galas, theater, home improvement and, wait for it, baseball!

Once again, *Pointe Magazine* is excited to host a book signing for Tom Gage's newest book, *Your Detroit Tigers: the Great, the Good*. It is Tom's fifth book. As contributing writer Chuck Klonke points out, Tom is a lifelong Grosse Pointer who was the Tigers' beat writer for The Detroit News for 37 years. He was recognized with the distinguished career award from the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2015.

Over the years, Terry and I have become good friends with Tom and Lisa. Two years ago we were fortunate to be able to host a signing of his last book, *The Enchanted Season*, with Lance Parrish. It was well attended! We are pleased the Grosse Pointe Historical Society has once again allowed us to host the event at its new facility on Kercheval. It will be held Thursday, June 25, at 6:30 p.m. You are all invited!

Tom's newest book is co-authored by another great Detroit Tigers catcher, Alex Avila. We were thrilled to meet him (and Tom and Lisa) at a book signing at Joker Marchant Stadium during Spring Training.

As Chuck explains, Tom uses his lifelong fascination with baseball stats — along with Chuck's exhaustive baseball library — to come up with an algorithm to measure greatness. The list includes 400 players — 258 hitters and 142 pitchers. The book also includes 200 profiles of Detroit Tigers made possible with the help of Alex Avila.

Which Tigers were truly "great" and who were merely "good"? You'll have to buy Tom's book to find out! Hope to see you at the book signing. If you already have a copy, bring it by for Tom and Alex to sign. Books will also be available for purchase for \$30.

Of course, there is much, much more in this issue of *Pointe Magazine*, which editor Lauren McGregor covers so well.

As always, be sure to patronize our many loyal advertisers, businesses and institutions, without whom this magazine would not be possible and living in the Pointes not so unique. There is no place like it! 

John

In this issue, we celebrate our exemplary schools — from Serafina Maras's perfect 100 score in violin to Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public and Education and the use of Cook Schoolhouse to Jamie Ding's champion run on *Jeopardy* to Our Lady Star of the Sea's 70th anniversary celebrations.

When I spoke with Jamie, he said something striking about his Grosse Pointe education — "I always felt like if I wanted to do something, I could. That's really powerful."

To give children the space to dream and explore, then to educate and prepare them for the world is no small feat. Time and again, I interview Grosse Pointe alums and hear a common theme — that here, anything and everything felt possible.

We will feature schools again in September, our back-to-school issue, and already my editorial budget is bursting with ideas we couldn't fit in this issue.

Also in this issue, we explore three outstanding design companies, each of them distinct and each of them inspiring my spring-cleaning mind to make our home exactly what we want it to be.

It's fascinating to interview interior designers and builders. They all described a similar sensation — the ability to walk into a room and one, feel the quality of its bones, and two, envision the possibilities.

I hope you get inspiration from my chats with Paige Loperfido at Decor and More, Elizabeth Rogensues at Maple & Mill and Elizabeth and Justin Pattyn at The Pattyn Group.

Another topic we featured heavily in this issue, in honor of Memorial Day and the 250th anniversary of America, is veterans. Read about Memorial Week, the Red, White & Blue gala and more in *Live Inspired* starting on page 43.

We feature Navy veteran Sal Martinez as the May-June Pointe Person. His sense of service and drive to help others is deeply moving. Elsewhere, Alex Szwarc writes about a riveting conversation with Medal of Honor recipient Donald Ballard, whose heroism includes pulling a grenade into his chest.

If you haven't, consider attending the Memorial Day ceremony at The War Memorial or in Grosse Pointe Woods. Sal said there is nothing like watching the sun rise over the water at The War Memorial and the deep gratitude it evokes. He reminds readers that The War Memorial is a place for all.

Wishing everyone a meaningful Memorial Day and a happy summer vacation! 

Lauren



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MEET SAL



What is your favorite thing about living in Grosse Pointe?

It is a great place to raise my children, with terrific schools and a close-knit, walkable community.

What are your favorite traits about yourself?

My ability to genuinely connect with others and my ability to sense when someone needs help.

What is something most people don't know about you?

I am the 11th child in my family and a first generation American.

What is one thing at the top of your bucket list?

Visit Antarctica. Then I will have been to all seven continents.

Why did you join the Navy?

I didn't want to be a burden to my parents. I wanted to go fly. I wanted to show my family my gratitude, that 'because of you, I was able to do it.' We were 11 kids in a three-bedroom house, the house my dad built. I was taught to work hard, be ethical, roll up my sleeves.

What is something you took from your time in service?

In the military, you have every background, ethnicity, religion. It is a melting pot. That was very eye-opening at 17, 18 years old. We can all come together to accomplish a shared goal — to protect freedom.

Name	Salvador Martinez
City	Grosse Pointe Park
Age	43
Occupation	Director of Veteran Initiatives, Columbia Southern University

SAL'S FAVORITES

- Season**
Spring, when things start flourishing
- Book**
The 48 Laws of Power by Robert Greene
and The Bible
- Restaurant**
Flyleaf and Cellar 313
- Musical Artist**
Jelly Roll
- Movie**
Rocky IV, the *Rocky* series
- Spot in Grosse Pointe**
The city parks and the Park movie theaters

ABOUT SAL

Born and raised in Del Rio, Texas, Sal joined the Navy at 17 years old. He served for 25 years, rising to the highest rank of Master Chief Petty Officer. While in service, he met his wife, Alaina, who is now an ER nurse in the civilian sector. She, too, is a Master Chief — a rank that comprises just the top 1% of the Navy.

"We are each other's mentors and push each other to be better."

For two years, Sal has been on The War Memorial Board of Directors. He wants others to know that The War Memorial is a welcoming place for all.

"It's free. Walk on the grass and through the garden, look at *Les Brave II* and the water, enjoy the historical house and relax here. There is nowhere like it in Grosse Pointe," he says.

In his free time, Sal enjoys spending time with his wife, Alaina, and children, Serenity, 23, Xavier, 8, and Luciana, 5.

"I hope to lead by example, to always be improving, to instill hard work in my children," he says. "I hope they have the courage to do the right thing, to speak up when something is not okay, and to be of service even when it is as small as picking up a piece of trash."

Though he enjoys slowing down with his family, he still serves the veteran community. "When I retired from the Navy, I told myself if I found a role that could impact veterans or kids, I want to do it."

In his current role, he helps veterans to transition from military to civilian life. "I help them enroll in school, offer different avenues for them, guidance and structure on day-to-day life. People need help. I tell them, don't suffer in silence. If I can help one person not commit suicide, I would be so happy."



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THE HELM WILSON DAY CENTER



By Lauren McGregor

The grand opening of The Helm Wilson Day Center, a new Adult Day Program designed to support older adults living with cognitive decline and dementia, is slated for Friday, May 1. A ribbon cutting with Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce will take place at 10 a.m., followed by an open house from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Community members are invited to tour the center, meet staff and learn more about the program and upcoming enrollment opportunities.

“Our location in The Village offers a special atmosphere for participants as well as the opportunity for caregivers to shop, go to the pharmacy, get a haircut — or just go home and relax,” says The Helm at the Boll Life Center Executive Director Krista Siddall. “I hope that people will walk by and see all the activity and all the joy our participants are having.”

A spring opening is an enormous achievement considering construction on the property at 648 St. Clair began at the end of this January. “Ed Russell and Russell Development Company have been so good to us,” says Siddall.

The Wilson Day Center will offer a safe, welcoming environment where participants can engage in enrichment activities, wellness programming and social connection during the day, with a staff to visitor ratio of 1:3 and a maximum of 20 participants per day.

“This is a non-medical, social model of care,” explains Siddall. “We want participants to feel comfortable here with the staff. Based on research, we are encouraging a minimum of two visits per week to establish that level of comfort.”

Indoors, visitors can expect an arts and crafts room, space for exercise and extensive programming. There will also be an outdoor seating area with container gardening.

“I love the location with the large windows and natural light,” says Siddall. “I hope participants get to see everyone go by, maybe even friends they haven’t seen in a while, and it makes them feel like they are part of the community and not isolated.”

For the ease of the caregiver and participant, the back alley will have a designated drop-off area. “We will also have two designated parking spots in the lot, so you can come in, have a cup of coffee and talk with our staff,” says Siddall. “Our lead staff are certified dementia practitioners.”

Half of the center will house caregiver resources, from a caregiver library to space for support groups. “We have partnered with Henry Ford Health and Rush University Medical Center to implement the Caring for Caregivers program,” says Siddall. “The Day Center is not only for the participant, but the caregiver as well.”

Hours will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with full-day drop-off at 10 a.m. and pick-up at 4 p.m. Lunch and a snack are included.

Because of funding from the Senior Services Millage, The Helm is able to charge just \$79 per day for full-day care for residents of millage communities. “Without the

millage, this is truly a \$200 per person per day cost,” says Siddall.

“The Helm Wilson Day Center is the first program of its kind serving the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods and was made possible through strong community support, including the passage of the millage and the continued generosity of local donors. This has been a collaborative effort between The Helm and Henry Ford Health and the name pays homage to Ralph and Mary Wilson’s legacy of supporting older adults in the community.”

The Adult Day Program is expected to begin with a limited pilot group of participants starting May 13, with additional details on enrollment to be shared in the coming weeks. For more information on enrollment, call (313) 882-9600. [helmlife.org](https://www.helmlife.org)

FORE THE HELM

Fore The Helm, an annual scramble style golf outing to raise money for The Helm’s programming and resources, will take place Monday, June 22 at Lochmoor Club.

Foursomes and hole sponsorships are still available. Along with a scramble style tournament, the event includes a putting contest, 50/50 raffle, hors d’oeuvres and boxed lunch.

“Lochmoor has been a great supporter and offers a beautiful place to host,” says Siddall. “We are also grateful to Henry Ford Health for becoming our lead sponsor.”

For non-golfers who still want to get in on the fun, After Glow tickets are available for \$60 per person and include beverage tickets and food.

For more information, visit [helmlife.org](https://www.helmlife.org).

ANNUAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Helm at the Boll Life Center | 2025 in Review



Our mission is to inspire and enable residents of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods to enjoy the gift of longevity, living healthy and meaningful lives as they age.

A place to call and connect • a place to learn & grow • a place to go • a place to make a difference

62,098 The number of times the community relied on The Helm in 2025.

3,183 people

Older adults served

Unique individuals served through programs and services

33,000 meals

Meals delivered/served

Nutrition + social connection check in

4,204 hours

Programs for the community

Health and wellness, languages, card games, trips, events and more

1,903 calls & home visits

Care-navigation touches

Guidance, reassurance, next steps and resources

1,984

Medical equipment loans

No-cost safety and mobility support

9,000 hours

Volunteer hours

Neighbors helping neighbors
A VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY OF \$312,216

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

What your support made possible

In 2025, The Helm helped older adults stay independent, safe and connected – so they can continue living in the homes and community they love.

Highlights

- Nutrition that sustains health and reduces isolation (meals + warm human connection).
- Health, wellness, and lifelong learning strengthens body, mind and purpose. Increasing health outcomes and client satisfaction.
- Information, assistance and benefits guidance that turns confusion into clear next steps.
- Equipment and home-support resources that prevent falls and keep everyday life safer.



"The exercising and stretches we do in chair yoga helps me be active . . . The Helm has given me my independence."

- Ray M. after two years of exercise to alleviate foot drop and neuropathy.

DETROIT TIGERS: THE GOOD, THE GREAT AND TOM GAGE

By Chuck Klonke

He thought crossed Tom Gage's mind when Miguel Cabrera retired from the Detroit Tigers after the 2023 baseball season.

"A lot of people were wondering where he would rank. Was he the greatest Tiger hitter ever?" says Gage, a lifelong Grosse Pointe who was the Tigers' beat writer for The Detroit News for 37 years and received the distinguished career award from the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2015. "I rejected that notion because of (Ty) Cobb and (Al) Kaline and others.

"I didn't deny that he was a great hitter, but I didn't know where to rank him and I didn't know how to rank him."

Gage has been fascinated with baseball statistics since he kept his own stats while playing the Cadeco-Ellis table top baseball game as a youngster. He set out on finding a way to rank the best players in the history of the Tigers since they became a charter member of the American League in 1901.

The result is Gage's fifth book — *Your Detroit Tigers: the Great, the Good*.

"I eventually came up with an algorithm of metrics of 14 different categories that

bases, and there were a lot of high-average hitters who didn't hit for power so I dropped the two worst categories for each hitter," Gage says. "I came up with what I think is a real thorough ranking system."

The list includes 400 players — 258 hitters and 142 pitchers.

There are some surprises on the list. Hall of Fame catcher Mickey Cochrane isn't as high as many folks would think because he had only two full seasons as a Tiger before suffering a career-ending injury.

"Another surprise on the plus side because he had so many productive years on bad teams was Bobby Higginson," Gage says. "He ended up higher than I thought. That means he was undervalued because he played on such bad teams."

Gage has ranked players by position. He discovered that third base was the one position lacking a great player. George Kell made the Hall of Fame as a third baseman, and while he had some outstanding seasons here, he played more games for other teams than he did for the Tigers.

Gage attended his first Tigers game in 1956 and he has followed the team closely since then. He says he heard of about 350 of the 400 players ranked in the book. It was some of the players from the early 1900s that he hadn't recognized.

"The true joy of this book was the discovery of players who still need to be appreciated because of what they did in their careers," Gage says. "I don't think because they played in the 1920s they should be deprived of that appreciation. The Tigers have had many greats and many goods."

Former Tiger All-Star catcher Alex Avila contributed to the book.

"Alex turned out to be a great partner," Gage says. "He provided commentary for



50 players — not only guys he played with but guys he heard of and Tiger greats.

It was wonderful working with him."

While statistics are part of the book, it's not an overload

of numbers.

"It's mostly a book of profiles," Gage says. "Nearly 200."

It was a challenging undertaking.

"I really loved doing this but it was a great responsibility to be accurate with my own stats," Gage says. "When I found out I made a mistake in the compilations it just drove me crazy. I did make mistakes and I had to do things over and over again."

"Tarik Skubal climbed a lot of spots in 2025. That was a difficult task to keep up with that."

Although he didn't let personal preferences influence the rankings, Gage was pleased with some of the findings.

"I'm sure Skeeter Barnes didn't expect to be on the list, but I'm very happy for Skeeter because he took such pride in being a major league player," Gage says.

Gage doesn't expect everyone to agree with the rankings. Some current fans might take issue with Cabrera's position, for instance.

"This answered questions I've had for most of my life," Gage says. "Where did the greats of the Tigers really rank? I think I've come up with a very comprehensive system. Tigers fans are very knowledgeable and passionate. I wanted to promote conversation and discussion. People love going back and forth — 'this guy's too high,' or 'this guy's too low,' or 'I disagree with that.' It'll be a great discussion book." 📖

Top, Hall of Fame baseball writer and author Tom Gage, right, of Grosse Pointe, and former Tigers catcher Alex Avila, who co-authored the book, *Your Detroit Tigers: the Great, the Good*.

Photo by John Minnis

BOOK SIGNING SCHEDULED!

Tom Gage and Alex Avila will be on hand to sign copies of *Your Detroit Tigers: the Great, the Good*, from 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, June, 25, at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. The public is invited. Books will be available for purchase for \$30.

ranked from the traditional statistics to some of the modern ones like WAR (Wins Above Replacement) and defensive WAR," he says. "They're based on productivity and longevity."

Gage used the MLB rankings to assign each category a number of points. Then he calculated the number of points accumulated by each player and eliminated his two worst categories.

"Power hitters didn't have a lot of stolen



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LEGACY ON THE LAKE

Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce's annual fundraiser Legacy on the Lake will take place at The War Memorial on Thursday, June 11. This year's honoree is the Van Elslander family.

"The Van Elslander family's love for the Grosse Pointe community is reflected in decades of generosity, presence and partnership," says GPCC President Jenny Boettcher. "The family has been a longstanding supporter of healthcare initiatives that directly benefit Grosse Pointe residents, helping ensure that world-class care is accessible close to home. Through the A.A. Van Elslander Foundation and the Van Elslander Family Foundation, they have contributed to programs that serve children, families and seniors throughout the Pointes."

The evening will include a gourmet dinner, open bar, valet parking and live entertainment.

"We look forward to having guests dance the night away!" says Membership Director Abigail Barroso. "After dinner and the awards presentation, the entertainment will go into the evening with classic cover hits by a band that is a favorite of the Van Elslander family. While we don't want to give too much away, we know the dance floor will be packed!"

Early bird tickets are \$250 and available until May 15. After May 15, tickets will be \$300 and are available until May 26. Sponsorships are also available until May 26.

Funds raised from Legacy on the Lake provide essential support for scholarships, small business grants and community programs. They also sustain the Chamber's year-round work to strengthen local businesses, invest in students and enhance the quality of life across the five Pointes.

Tickets and sponsorships are available at grossepointechamber.org or by calling (313) 881-4722. [P](#)

CAPUCHIN SOUPER SUMMER CELEBRATION

Ahee Jewelers announces the return of its annual fundraiser, Capuchin Souper Summer Celebration, on Saturday, June 13 at 7:30 p.m.

The iconic summer event will again take place at Comerica Park with free entry and valet. This year's theme is "Season of Sparkle."

"We want to raise awareness for the Capuchins and their mission," says Ahee Jewelers Vice President Stefan Ahee.

Guests can expect music, dancing and fireworks, with drinks and food available for purchase. Your Generation in Concert returns as live entertainment.

While free entry to a private party at Comerica Park seems too good to be true, "We cover the expense of the party to thank donors and the Capuchins for what they do," says Ahee.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each and are "the biggest way to support the fundraiser." They may be purchased at or prior to the event. Attendance at Comerica Park is not required to win.

"The grand prize is a diamond bar necklace made in-house," says Ahee. Other prizes include pieces by David Yurman, Shinola and others. The raffle winner will be announced immediately after the fireworks show.

For more information, visit ahee.com. [P](#)





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KALEIDOSCOPE ON CLOVERLY

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Turning a kaleidoscope reveals an endless variety of patterns. It's an apt metaphor for the Grosse Pointes. The 2026 annual Grosse Pointe Historical Society Gala fundraiser, "Kaleidoscope on Cloverly," will be held on Friday, June 19, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the home of Brittany and Gregg Russell in Grosse Pointe Farms.

The house boasts a fascinating history, stunning interiors and breathtaking yard. Proceeds from the event benefit the general operations of the Society, which protects historic artifacts, shares Grosse

Pointe area history on its campus and web site, and brings history to life for current and future generations through research, programs, lectures, exhibits and activities.

General admission tickets are \$225, and may be purchased at gphistorical.org or by calling the Society office at (313) 884-7010. Sponsorship opportunities are featured on the website.

"Kaleidoscope on Cloverly" guests will be part of a memorable evening in the tradition of grand Grosse Pointe events. Valet parking and a peek inside the home are part of the arrival experience. The party includes open bars, hors d'oeuvres, a strolling supper and entertainment.

Sponsors will be welcomed at a pre-Gala preview reception in the home, with special house access, cocktails, special hors d'oeuvres and entertainment.

Guests will also get the rare opportunity to preview an exhibit on architect Robert O. Derrick, designer of the house. Music for the evening will be provided by Dearing Concert Duo, a popular classical guitar and flute team.

Visit gphistorical.org for more information. [Facebook icon](https://www.facebook.com/gphistorical.org)



Top photo courtesy of Brittany and Gregg Russell; left photo courtesy of George Young



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Grosse Pointe Garden Tour

By Anne Erickson



The 34th annual Grosse Pointe Garden Tour is set for Friday and Saturday, June 19 and 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and this year, it's all about "We the People...Garden."

The nod to the country's 250th is also a chance to explore six private gardens and parish gardens, letting your mind wander as freely as your feet.

Ginny Brown and Kathy Brown co-chair the event. According to Ginny, a garden committee member, Regina Gersch, is responsible for the timely theme.

"My favorite thing is that we get to look at all of these wonderful gardens," she says. "As you drive around, you say, 'I wonder what's in their backyard.' This is our once-a-year chance to find out."

Each garden has its own personality. At The War Memorial, the Trial and Veteran Gardens are decked out in red, white and blue, a quiet salute planted in every flower bed and stone path.

The one church included on the tour is St. Clare of Montefalco. "Kathy and I were amazed by the different gardens, pond and gazebo in their garden area," Ginny says. "We had no idea all of this was there."

During the tour, docents and a master gardener will be stationed at each home to share helpful tips and answer questions. The Seed Library will be passing out seed packets for the fifth year in a row. Artists will be painting plein air in the gardens throughout the tour, adding a little extra magic. And a scavenger hunt will take place across all sites.

Visitors are also welcome to shop gardening gifts at the Garden Shoppe and participate in a raffle.

Tickets are available online at gpgardencenter.org, or can be picked up at The War Memorial and various businesses around Grosse Pointe. 

First place raffle prize is a painting by Robert Fionda titled "Eastside Hollyhocks"

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Keep it going to keep going

By Ken Welch

His last bunch of months have been pretty unpredictable in our world. The more chaotic things get, the less control we feel we have. Gas prices skyrocketing is an example of the many things that have happened as result of decisions made that we simply have to live with and hope for the best.

These events make daily life that much more challenging. It's easy to see why some people might become depressed and fall out of the mood when it comes to working out. Stress has a way of draining your energy so that the time you intended to work out becomes an overwhelming burden to avoid. You're not up to it.

Something to keep in mind: In an out-of-control world the one thing you do have control over is your health. Your schedule may jerk you around a bit and obligations can mount, but there's still room for you to find ways to work out, eat right and get the sleep you need. No one can dictate to you how to take care of yourself. Options are endless. You get to decide the best ways to keep yourself in shape.

There's a real satisfaction in the gains you can make with your workouts at a time when everything else in life feels so heavy. It would seem like a no-brainer but It's surprising how many people don't realize this simple, self-preserving, concept.

No matter what happens in our future world and as it trickles down into your life, I can guarantee, if you keep yourself in good condition, you'll cope much better than if you didn't.

Ken Welch is owner and trainer at Pointe Fitness on Harper south of Allard. Online: pointefitness.com.



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Carry health care docs while traveling

By Jon B. Gandelot

Many travelers focus on packing essentials, arranging transportation and ensuring their passports are up to date. One important consideration often overlooked is whether to travel with estate planning health care documents, such as advance directives, medical power of attorney, and HIPAA authorizations.



These documents are legal forms that outline your preferences for medical treatment in case you become unable to communicate or make decisions yourself. They designate a trusted individual to act on your behalf. Carrying these documents while traveling is advisable, especially for those with chronic health conditions, elderly travelers or anyone embarking on extended or international trips.

In an emergency, access to your health care directives ensures medical personnel and loved ones respect your wishes regarding procedures, resuscitation or end-of-life care. Without these documents, there may be confusion or delays in receiving the care you prefer, potentially leading to unwanted interventions.

Travelers should keep copies of their health care documents in an easily accessible location, such as their carry-on luggage. Many of our clients choose to participate in the DocuBank program that provides online storage of these documents. Participants receive a card giving instructions for immediate retrieval of their documents. It is smart to inform travel companions about their existence and location.

Jon B. Gandelot, Great Lakes Planning Group, PLC, Punch & Judy Building, 21 Kercheval, Suite 320, Grosse Pointe Farms.

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Importance of being a trustee

By Lina Bowman

Being named a trustee is both an honor and a significant responsibility. It reflects a high level of trust and confidence in one's judgment, integrity and ability to act in the best interests of others. However, this role also comes with complex duties, time commitments and potential legal liabilities that should not be underestimated.

Trustees are held to a fiduciary standard, meaning they must act with care, loyalty and impartiality. This includes making prudent investment decisions, ensuring accurate accounting of trust assets and treating all beneficiaries fairly. Failure to meet these obligations can result in serious consequences, such as legal disputes, financial penalties or breaches of trust. Common risks include improper administration, conflicts of interest, miscalculation of distributions and failure to communicate effectively with beneficiaries.

In addition to fiduciary oversight, trustees are responsible for a wide range of administrative tasks. These include managing and investing trust assets, maintaining detailed records, collecting income, distributing funds appropriately, paying expenses and handling tax filings. Trustees must also provide regular reports to beneficiaries and defend the trust if it is challenged.

Given the complexity of these responsibilities, many individuals find value in working with experienced professionals. Partnering with a trusted advisor or corporate trustee can help ensure that all duties are carried out properly, reducing risk and providing peace of mind.

Ultimately, serving as a trustee is a meaningful role — but one that requires diligence, organization and a strong understanding of both legal and financial responsibilities.

Lina Bowman is a financial adviser in Grosse Pointe. She can be reached at (313) 343-0800 or Lina@BowmanAsset.com. Views are those of Lina Bowman and may differ from those of Raymond James. Information is believed reliable but not guaranteed. It is for informational purposes only and not a recommendation.



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Treat your home like it were your rental

By Anna Bartolotta

Completing projects in your own home is a unique experience. Not because the work is harder, but because the motivation is ... different.

When it's a rental property, everything gets done immediately. When it's your own house, suddenly that same issue becomes something you can "live with for now," which quietly turns into six months.



There's something about owning your own home that makes minor problems feel optional. A loose handle? Still works. A squeaky door? Adds personality. Meanwhile, if that same issue existed in your rental property, it would be fixed within the week. Hopefully.

The first step is accepting that your home deserves the same level of attention you give everything else. In Grosse Pointe, where homes are well maintained and details matter, it doesn't take much for small issues to stand out. You may not notice it right away, but eventually you will — and so will everyone else.

Discipline is the real difference. Rental properties come with urgency; your own home does not. The house will not complain. It will simply wait, quietly accumulating small issues until they become slightly larger ones.

It also helps to lower expectations. Not every project needs to look perfect. A completed task that functions properly is far better than a flawless plan that never gets started.

In the end, the challenge isn't the work itself — it's getting started. Once you do, progress happens quickly. The hardest part is deciding that your own house is worth the same effort you'd give anyone else's.

Anna Bartolotta is owner of Grosse Pointe Apartments and Property Management. This area's original dedicated, full service, full time rental agency staffed with licensed agents.

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Peh ruh ni kee uh

By Dr. Saima A. Khan

Paronychia (pronounced peh-ruh-ni-kee-uh) is the medical term for the redness and painful inflammation of the skin around a nail. It is a common bacterial infection from germs that enter through tears in the cuticle or nail fold.

There are many causes, including aggressive manicuring, nail biting, thumb-sucking, hang nail picking and ingrown nails. Usually only one nail is affected but multiple fingers may be involved in people who work with their hands immersed in water, such as dishwashers or bartenders, or those on certain medications.

Keep an eye on any redness near the nail. These infections can progress rapidly and suddenly the area under

the nail becomes more red, swollen and tender. There may even be an abscess with drainage of pus.

Early treatment is the easiest: soak the affected nail in warm water for 10-15 minutes several times a day, dry thoroughly and apply an over-the-counter antibiotic cream. If there is an abscess, it must be drained. Sometimes the abscess drains on its own, helped by the warm soaks; other times it needs to be drained by a doctor.

If the infection does not get better after a few days, or if at anytime it gets worse despite treatment, oral antibiotics may be needed. People with diabetes need to pay extra close attention because bacterial infections can progress further and faster than normal. The infection can spread into the deep tissues of the finger pad and the bone, and rarely, even require amputation.

Dr. Saima A. Khan, MD, MPH grew up in Grosse Pointe Farms and lives in the Woods with her husband and three daughters. She practices internal medicine in Warren, 28351 Schoenherr, (586) 393-6500.





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Hidden risks of 'I'm fine'

By Terri Murphy

I'm fine."

It's one of the most common — and often misleading — phrases families hear from aging loved ones. For many older adults, these words come from a place of pride, independence and a desire not to be a burden. But beneath them can be unmet needs that quietly increase risk.

Small changes are often the first signs: skipped meals, unopened mail, increased forgetfulness or a home that isn't as tidy as it once was. A minor fall, a missed medication or subtle confusion can easily be brushed off. Yet these moments can signal the beginning of a larger decline.

The challenge for families is knowing



when "fine" is no longer safe.

Aging in place successfully doesn't mean doing everything alone — it means having the right support at the right time. Early conversations, approached with empathy rather than urgency, can open the door to solutions that preserve both safety and dignity.

Simple steps — like a weekly check-in, help with errands or a few hours of in-home support — can make a meaningful difference. When support is introduced early, it often feels less intrusive and more empowering.

Listening beyond the words "I'm fine" may be one of the most important things we do for those we love. Because sometimes, "fine" is just another way of saying, "I don't want to worry you."

Terri Murphy is a Certified Senior Advisor, The Owner/President of Hope Senior Home Care, and the Board Chair and President of Certified Senior Solutions, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Terri can be reached at (313) 881-3132 or visit www.hopeseniorhomecare.com and www.certified-ssi.org.

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Happy Father's Day

By Ted Everingham

son Brad was only 17. I was 44. But we decided to sail our 43-foot sailboat in the Huron Double Handed Challenge, just the two of us in a 165-nautical mile nonstop passage (about 190 statute miles) from Port Sanilac to Goderich, Ontario, and then on to Rogers City.

Brad's Mom (my wife Marcia) was convinced that we'd come to blows by the time we reached Rogers City...if we made it that far!

We started the Challenge in the sunshine off Port Sanilac. When we reached Goderich in total darkness, that tiny lighted buoy was lost in the lights ashore. In the spirit of the event (it's a challenge, not a "race"), fellow competitors became virtual "third crewmates," sharing information...in this case, radioing the location of that elusive buoy to the fleet.



Ted and son Brad

There it was at last! We turned left toward Rogers City, another 118 nautical miles up the Lake.

Brad and I stood four-hour watches... one of us at the helm, the other below trying to sleep. Sleep came hard during my first "off" watch, leaving my son...he seemed very young at the time...alone on deck for the first time, steering toward Rogers City in the

dark. I didn't sleep much during my first time below.

Four hours on, four hours off...except when we both were on deck to change sails. Our mantra at those moments was "right is better than fast." It worked.

Finally, we were on our last leg, screaming on our fastest point of sail toward the finish line off Rogers City.

Despite Marcia's fears, it had been a bonding experience. We sailed together. We laughed together. And we made it. Together.

Brad somehow seemed older than he had off Port Sanilac. I wonder if I seemed to him just a bit younger.

Happy Father's Day!

Ted Everingham is past commodore of Detroit Yacht Club and Bayview Yacht Club and is a director emeritus of Youth Nautical Education Foundation.

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It's the time to enjoy these toys, but make sure you have the proper coverage. An accident could lead to property damage and a lawsuit. Many times, people are surprised to find they have limited or no coverage under their auto and homeowner's insurance policies for these items.

Liability from backyard toys such as a trampoline or pool may be covered by your homeowner's insurance, however, most homeowner's policies provide only limited coverage. An umbrella policy will give you the coverage you need.

Jet skis/personal watercraft – These items are fast and fun, however, there may no liability coverage under your homeowner's policy. A personal watercraft policy and umbrella policy can be tailored to your needs.

Boats – You may have some limited liability coverage for damage to your boat from your home. The best way to be properly covered is to buy a specific policy for your power boat or sailboat with an Agreed Amount Endorsement.

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By Lauren McGregor

Everything Paige Loperfido designs begins with a vision — and a push.

“Usually, when I walk into a space, I have an immediate vision. Often, it is just outside of the client’s comfort zone, and I say, ‘Just wait. It’s all going to make sense,’” says the owner of Decor and More Design Studio in Grosse Pointe.

“I get a lot from a house tour, talking, seeing what the homeowner is drawn to and has been collecting. Then it’s about giving them a little push. We accommodate different tastes and lifestyles. You hire us to think of things you wouldn’t on your own.”

Sometimes the shock of the design board takes digesting. More often than not, clients go with the first design. For our two featured homeowners, the push was well worth the dramatic transformation.

When Grosse Pointe Shores resident

Erika Combs decided to renovate the Lake Shore home she’d grown up in, Paige Loperfido and her studio, Decor and More, were first to mind.

“My parents purchased the house in the early 1980s, and about 10 years ago, when they were ready to downsize, we were fortunate to move our own family into it,” says Combs.

The first room she wanted to address was the dining room. “It was always a formal space, one we used only a few times a year. Over time, it gradually became a catch-all for clutter. I envisioned transforming it into a more functional, inviting space for reading, games and puzzles and casual entertaining.”

Loperfido drew on the waterfront views in choosing paint for what she calls “an entertaining space, a moody cocktail lounge.”

The lounge’s starting point was Combs’s vintage Chinese rug. “The rug was originally in the living room, but it was too small for that space,” says Loperfido. “They had never considered using it in the dining room, but it fit perfectly.”

The room incorporates the family’s art

“We accommodate different tastes and lifestyles. You hire us to think of things you wouldn’t on your own.”

collection, Decor and More’s vintage finds and pieces that evoke travel. A mix of old and new make for a welcoming, more appealing space.

“Too much of one style doesn’t feel as intentional. When you have a mixture of old and new, it is more timeless,” says Loperfido. “This design might not be for everyone, but it is for her. It fits the client’s personality. And that is always our goal.”

The kitchen was fully reimaged through realistic 3D renderings, a service the firm offers to help clients visualize the space to move forward with confidence.

Above, the Decor and More team: Jessica Brooks, Paige Loperfido, Taylor Paquette and Jackie Stephanoff



Lake Shore house cocktail lounge



Dated cabinetry, countertops and a corner stove were swapped for modern cabinetry, a quartz backsplash, new range, custom designed shelving unit anchored to the ceiling and a bespoke bar.

"I love wallpaper. I love doing it in unexpected, small spaces. In this kitchen, it makes the bar what it is," says Loperfido. "The gallery rail on the shelf is traditional and a wonderful contrast against funky wallpaper."

"I love the color palette and the abundance of storage in the kitchen," says Combs. "I'd like to thank Jason Burcz of A and B Builders. The Decor and More team was responsive, professional and instrumental in bringing my ideas to life."

A few miles away on Yorkshire, Loperfido got to work on a lived-in family home. Owner Betsy Mogk says, "We moved here in 2004 and raised three children in this house. It was tired."

She enlisted the expertise of Decor and More to renovate her family room and two bedrooms that once belonged to her sons and daughter.

"I looked into Paige's work after seeing Decor and More in *Grosse Pointe Magazine*, and then her sign at a house. I was drawn to her vision," says Mogk. "We wanted to keep the coziness and warmth of the room but bring it up to date decor-wise."

For inspiration, Loperfido used a painting that was already hanging in the family room.

"She was great about incorporating what we wanted to keep, like the wallpaper," says Mogk. "It feels fresh, light and updated now. We sit there every night."

Loperfido loosely retained a masculine aesthetic in the sons' room and a feminine feel in the daughter's room.

"In the boys' room, we kept the original bed and the American flag motif," says Loperfido.

In a few square feet, her design sense is on full display with the use of grass cloth, wool, velvet, embroidery and linen. "When I'm pulling samples, I want different materials, an intentional, layered effect," says Loperfido.

When Mogk's daughter visited from Chicago, she was floored by the transformation in her old room.

"She wanted to replicate it for her apartment," Mogk laughs. "That's a testament to Decor and More's design sense and Paige's ability to work with patterns and colors."

Mogk also praised Loperfido's professionalism.

"It was super smooth sailing. The team picks everything up without missing a beat," says Mogk. "They notice little things here and there during installation that I wouldn't have even noticed. Nothing slipped through the cracks."

Loperfido's tireless attention to detail and proper processes





are a couple of the traits she brought with her from a career in federal law enforcement.

Her father, a retired Detroit fireman, inspired her early career path.

"I wanted to join the Detroit Police Department. I would volunteer for ride-alongs. My family wasn't crazy about the idea, so I ended up as a federal agent."

Of the 30-something people in her graduating class, Loperfido was the only woman.

In federal work, Loperfido met her husband. After seven years as an agent, Loperfido moved back to Michigan with the intention of raising her family in Grosse Pointe. "I had become a mom and it was hard with our two schedules. We wanted to be near family."

While working as an agent, Loperfido began dabbling in design. Though a transition from law enforcement to design might seem surprising, for Loperfido, it was natural.

"I have always been good at art. My mom, aunt and sister refinish furniture," says Loperfido. "My dad is also an extreme DIY-er."

After moving to Grosse Pointe, her participation in the Junior League of Detroit Designers' Show House was



her first big success and exposure in the area.

Up until two years ago, Decor and More consisted of Loperfido working alone from her home. When she moved the business into the Fisher Road building, growth naturally followed.

"Jessica (Brooks) came to work for me. She was a client. The first thing I said when I entered her home was 'why am I here?'" Loperfido laughs. "She said interior design was her passion and she just wanted help with a bedroom."

Decor and More has grown exponentially since. "A major reason is the team. I wouldn't be able to keep up on my own," says Loperfido. "Jessica, who is

now Director of Design and Operations, put into action a lot of processes that had been my goal for years."

Brooks recruited Jackie Stephanoff as Director of Public Relations. Taylor Paquette rounds out the team as Lead 2D/3D Artist.

"Working with a closeknit group of women is the dream," says Loperfido. "We have that now."

Still, she foresees more growth in her team and the studio space. "I'd love to open a boutique style showroom with some retail. And to oversee expanded teams, with roles like senior designers and project managers."

For now, she leads and designs with intention and vision.

To learn more, follow on Instagram and visit decorandmoredesigns.com. 





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319 Fisher Road, Grosse Pointe, MI



On the Beaten Path

DaEdoardo By Nicole Dula

Nicole grew up in Holland, Mich., and moved to Grosse Pointe in 2022 with her husband Marc, a Grosse Pointe North graduate, and their two young daughters. She's a former food blogger who believes in the power of community through food.

I'm sitting on my couch and can't stop smiling about the warm hug that was dinner at DaEdoardo. How many cloves of garlic did I ingest? To quote the movie *Mean Girls*, "the limit does not exist." If you appreciate a wonderful Italian meal, you know just what I'm talking about.

It was our first time at DaEdoardo, an early dinner at a pretty table, surrounded by gorgeous wooden walls and crisp white table cloths. Our server, Mackenzie, has worked there seven years and we were in excellent hands.

I could see from our table near the bar, a glimpse of the patio and inquired about opening day. The kind owner, Annie, stopped by to share, "As soon as there's a streak of good weather after Mother's Day, I'll have it ready." She has it power washed, sprayed regularly for bugs and tends to the fresh flowers. She admits, "I'm a bit OCD about the patio," but that evening, I saw how that attention-to-detail extends to the whole restaurant experience.

For appetizers, I ordered their famous calamari and Mackenzie suggested getting both sauces on the side, the arrabbiata and marinara. I also ordered escargot, a rare find. While we waited, a basket of warm bread arrived, which was extremely

satisfying with a swipe of fresh butter that melted upon contact.

The escargot was garlicky perfection, but it was absolutely love-at-first-bite for the calamari with arrabbiata sauce. It has no business being this good! The creamy, pale orange sauce is topped with pepperoncini rings and roasted red peppers. The mix of creamy, tangy and a touch of heat pairs perfectly with the fried calamari. It's a generous portion, too, that can easily be split on date night with a cold drink.

The kids chose the Lombardia pizza, with sausage, mushroom and green olives that they happily devoured, especially enamored with the fresh mushrooms.

For entrees, I ordered Lasagne Verde Alla Bolognese, all made from scratch, and the Hanger steak with zip sauce plus a caesar salad. My husband loved the lasagna, a favorite dish of his, and this one was special. My steak knife easily sliced through the perfectly-cooked steak. I haven't had zip sauce in a while and I've missed it dearly!

Then I gave my nine-year-old a taste and

soon half my steak and caesar salad was gone. I asked her what her favorite thing was at DaEdoardo and without hesitation she said, "EVERYTHING." Couldn't have said it better myself. [P](#)

DaEdoardo
19767 Mack Avenue
Grosse Pointe Woods



Above, Hanger steak and caesar salad; right, from top, calamari with arrabbiata and marinara sauces; Lombardia pizza; escargot

Photos by Nicole Dula



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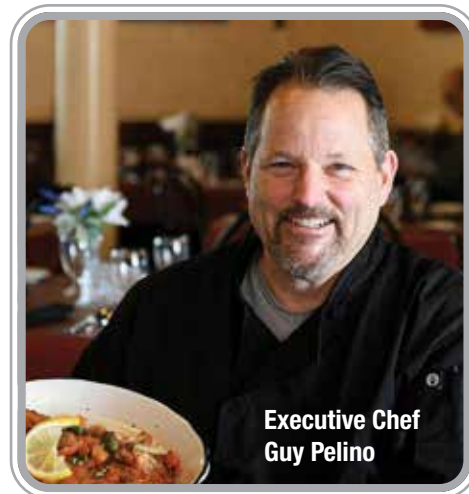
We are Detroit's oldest eatery that delivers nostalgia via old-school décor & traditional Italian fare with mind-blowing specialty cocktails. The Roma Café building was built by the Marazza Family in 1888. It served the vendors and farmers of Eastern Market and officially became Roma Café in 1890.

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Web: WWW.BLUFINSUSHI.COM



Bogart's Food and Spirits — Serving the community for 20 years!

17441 Mack Avenue, Detroit • (313) 885-3995

Bogart's Food and Spirits was established in 2005 and was started by Gary Van Biervliet. Gary's son, Jason, quickly began helping his dad out in the kitchen. Before he knew it, Jason realized that the kitchen of any restaurant is the main vein in the business. He later quit his second job to focus more on the dining experience. Seeing the passion that his son had to change and redevelop the business, Gary made an offer to his son to inquire about buying the restaurant from him. Jason accepted and saved up for a few years, working harder to make a down payment. After finishing culinary school at the Art Institute of Troy, and three years of hard work and savings, Jason's vision of serving up delicious, real, honest food came true. Since the switch, Bogart's has exemplified the eatery experience by mixing Detroit's Eastern Market resources with in-house freshness and skill. From the infamous Bogart's Burger, to the raved about Bread Knots, Bogart's has become a hot spot right at Detroit's Grosse Pointe border. Jason changed the name to Bogart's Food and Spirits after expanding the menu to feature a larger variety of craft beer, wine and liquor. He is set on making the next 10 years even better and making Bogart's a great staple for anyone looking to watch the game, grab a beer with a friend, enjoy a delicious pizza, or for anything in-between. We look forward to serving you soon! 

Hours: Tue-Sat 3-11pm; Sun 4-9pm

Web: bogartzfoodandspirits.com



Champs Rotisserie & Seafood

20515 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods (3 blks. S. of Vernier) • (313) 886-7755

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Hours: Sun-Thu 3-9pm; Fri-Sat 3-10pm
Web: www.ChampsRotisserie.com



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18666 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Farms • (313) 881-5675

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Hours: Tue-Sat Noon-10pm
Web: www.littletonyslounge.com



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115 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms • (313) 924-5459 or (313) 821-4389

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Carryout and curbside pickup available.

Hours: Daily Mon-Fri 11am-midnight; Sat 9am-midnight; Sun 9am-10pm

Brunch: Sat & Sun 9am-2pm

Web: www.luxebarandgrill.com



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Web: www.nothingbundtcakes.com



The Pepperoni Bar and Grille

22411 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores • (586) 774-3998

As its name implies, Pepperoni Grille is a cheerful spot set in a welcome, casual atmosphere. The eatery features a small bar and dining room on one side of the central open kitchen, and a second dining room on the other side. It offers notable pizza along with a number of popular dishes from Calamari and Chicken Picatta to Filet Mignon and New York Strip Steaks. The staff is friendly and courteous. The full bar offers wine, liquor and beer. **Tuesday is half-off pizza all day**, dine in or carry out. **Come see our remodel and have dinner! We are so excited! Make TONIGHT date night!** (Reservations recommended.) 

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*Subject to change.

Hours: Sun-Mon-Closed; Tue-Thu 4-9pm; Fri-Sat 4-10pm

Web: www.pepperonigrillescs.com



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17051 Kercheval Ave., Grosse Pointe — The Village • (313) 332-5236

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Web: sidecarsliderbar.com



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Monday - \$6 Margaritas
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Lunch Specials \$11.95

Hours: Mon-Sat 11am–Close; Sun Noon–Close;

Kitchen closes at 10 p.m.

Web: tellysplace.com



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Reservations recommended.

Hours: Lunch: Tue-Sat 11am–3pm; Dinner: Thu-Sat 4–8pm; Brunch: Sun 10am–4 pm

(Closed Mondays)

Web: www.fordhouse.org



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Hours: Closed Mondays. Tue-Sat Noon-10pm; Sun 11am-9pm

Web: www.watermarkbarandgrille.com



The Whiskey Six

646 St. Clair Ave., Grosse Pointe • (313) 939-2403

Located in The Village of Grosse Pointe, The Whiskey Six is a family friendly gastropub that serves great food alongside classic cocktails, craft beer and boasts a well provisioned wine cellar. The name and establishment pay homage to a day when Detroit was the nation's rum-running port. Under new owner Dino Ropotos, the emphasis is on not just fine whiskey, wine and craft beers, but also on a friendly, family environment with great menu items — including amazing Salads and Shareables, Burgers and Tacos, Pastas, Pizzas and unforgettable Entrees. Menu prices range from \$10-\$39. Keeping with the emphasis on families with a menu for kids as well. Clearly, there is something for everyone at The Whiskey Six, including the atmosphere!  

WHISKEY SIX IS A GREAT PLACE TO WATCH 'THE GAME'

HAPPY HOUR: 4-6PM

Hours: Closed Mondays. Tue-Sun 4-10pm

Web: www.thewhiskeysix.com



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22512 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores • (586) 777-4491

Z's Pub isn't just a place to eat and drink; it's a hub for community engagement and connection. Our mission is to provide a welcoming space where people can gather, unwind, and create lasting memories. We believe in the power of good company, great food, and excellent drinks to bring people together.

Join us and experience the unique charm of Z's Pub. Whether you're stopping by for a casual drink after work, a delicious dinner with friends, or a weekend celebration, we look forward to making your visit a memorable one.

At Z's Pub we have seven big-screen TVs for catching all the action, Keno for a bit of excitement, Golden Tee Arcade for some classic gaming, a jukebox to keep the vibes going, and an ATM for convenience. Plus, there's a designated smoking area and ample parking in the back and side.

Cheers to good times, great company, and the vibrant spirit of Z's Pub!



Hours: Mon 11am-11pm; Tue-Thur 11am-midnight; Fri-Sat 11am-2am; Sun noon-10pm

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As convention draws near, Medal of Honor recipient reflects on service

By Alex Szwarc



From Sept. 30 to Oct. 3, Detroit will host the 2026 Congressional Medal of Honor Society Convention. This marks the first time that the convention, the largest annual gathering of America’s 64 living Medal of Honor recipients, will be in Michigan. The medal is the nation’s highest military honor for valor. One such Medal of Honor recipient, Donald Ballard, shares his story with us.

The 80-year-old Ballard, of Missouri, was in Vietnam from December 1967 to October 1968 as a Navy hospital corpsman second class. His Medal of Honor action took place on May 16, 1968 — his daughter’s second birthday — in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam.

As his Medal of Honor citation states, during the afternoon hours, Company M was moving to join the remainder

of the 3d Battalion in Quang Tri province. That day, Ballard was with a squad of about five or six Marines and a radioman who was calling in helicopters.

“We had no protection, so when the helicopter came in we had to hide because it brought the enemy activities and they started shooting the helicopter,” he shares. “We quickly loaded them and got the hell out of the landing zone. We tried to catch up with our existing unit and they get into a firefight, walk into an ambush and we developed a lot of casualties.”

Treating a Marine who was shot in the leg, Ballard transported him on his shoulders to a bomb crater.

“It was a staging area so I could call in a medevac. When I took him off my shoulder I laid him on the ground and when I did, I laid him on top of a grenade that blew up, severely injuring him and one of the Marines that was already laying there,” Ballard says.

While working on two patients, a grenade hit Ballard in the helmet. Not

knowing what to do, he flung it out of the bomb crater, hollering “grenade” so others could take cover.

It was about 20 minutes later when Ballard called for some stretcher bearers, preparing to move down the hill.

“Then some enemy soldier threw another grenade on us and it landed behind me,” he says. “One of my patients that had his face blown off started hollering ‘Doc, Doc!’ I turned around and there’s a damn grenade laying there and I had to lunge for it and grab it. I was off-balance, so I couldn’t throw it. I pulled it up under my chest. It was false bravery earlier when I picked up that hand grenade and threw it out. That gave me false bravery that I could get rid of it.”

When the grenade failed to detonate, Ballard calmly arose from his dangerous position and resolutely continued his determined efforts in treating other Marine casualties.

Just less than two years to the date of his action, Ballard was presented the Medal of Honor on May 14, 1970 in the White House by President Richard Nixon. At the time of



the presentation, Ballard was 24 years old, and married with two children.

For more details on the convention, visit medalofhonordetroit.com. 

Above left, Donald Ballard, second from the right, outside of the New York Stock Exchange with fellow Medal of Honor recipients; above, Donald Ballard, second from right, with former President George W. Bush and former First Lady Laura Bush in 2022

Top photo courtesy of Congressional Medal of Honor Society; above photo courtesy of Donald Ballard

“I had to lunge for (the grenade) and grab it. I was off-balance, so I couldn’t throw it. I pulled it up under my chest.”

MEMORIAL CELEBRATIONS

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THE WAR MEMORIAL

Red White & Blue

an America 250 celebration

on Wednesday May 20, 2026
at 5:30pm

Our premier gala event, *Red, White & Blue* returns on May 20 — and this year, the occasion is extraordinary. **As we mark the nation's 250th anniversary, our gala theme, "America the Beautiful," invites us to gather and honor the great American experiment — imperfect and unfinished — and the generations who fought to see it endure.** Guests will enjoy a strolling cocktail reception with live music, a dinner inspired by flavors from sea to shining sea, and an exciting live auction. All proceeds benefit the mission of The War Memorial, ensuring we continue to honor those who served and enrich the community that carries their legacy.

Honorary Chairs

Fred & Veronica Alger

Co-Presenters

Jeffrey Smith & Lisa Vallee-Smith
and Mary & Ron Lamparter

Purchase your tickets or become a sponsor of this
year's celebration by visiting warmemorial.org/rwb



MEMORIAL CELEBRATIONS AND MORE...

OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES

Join us for The War Memorial's free annual enlistee recognition ceremony.

WHEN TUESDAY, MAY 5
TIME 6pm



VET CONNECT SEMINAR SERIES WITH LISA LARK

Coinciding with the release of *Home of the Brave: Remembering The Grosse Pointes' Fallen*, author and researcher Lisa A. Lark shares the stories behind more than 180 men from the Grosse Pointes who gave their lives in military service — a powerful evening of remembrance and local history.

WHEN THURSDAY, MAY 7
TIME 6:30pm



MEMORIAL DAY

We gather in the shadow of Les Braves II, for a time-honored Memorial Day Ceremony. The morning will include musical tributes, remarks of remembrance and honor, and a recitation of the names of Grosse Pointe residents who lost their lives in service to our country.

WHEN MONDAY, MAY 25
TIME 10am



VET-TO-VET MEETUP

Join us for coffee, camaraderie, and community for veterans.

WHEN THURSDAY, JUNE 11
TIME 8am



SELFRIDGE DAY TRIP FOR VETS

Explore the collection at Selfridge Military Air Museum — one of Michigan's most storied military installations.

WHEN TUESDAY, JULY 14
TIME 11:30am



This activity is
supported by the
Michigan Arts and
Culture Council.

For five days throughout the summer, The War Memorial's lakefront grounds will be transformed into a festival of free summertime fun.

Learn more at www.warmemorial.org/summerfest



THE WAR MEMORIAL

SUMMERFEST

AT THE WAR MEMORIAL

THE WAR MEMORIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Metro Detroit's favorite summer tradition is back — and this year, we're celebrating in a big way. In honor of America's 250th anniversary, SummerFest returns with a patriotic theme and a lineup of live music performances and outdoor movies that reflect the stories and sounds that make us uniquely American.

Spend your Wednesday nights on the lakefront lawn of the historic Alger House all Summer long! The War Memorial's culinary team will be on hand with seasonal fare and a full bar, so all you need to bring is your blanket, your chairs, and your people.

Want to elevate your evening? VIP tickets are available for reserved seating on our private balcony and include access to a private bar and a complimentary beverage. VIP ticket purchases directly support The War Memorial's commitment to free, family-friendly community programming.

Free admission. Registration required. Full schedule below.

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LIVE INSPIRED MAGAZINE
SUMMER 2026 ISSUE
EDITORS: Leah Celebi, Brett Pulte
WRITER: Alex Szwarc
ART DIRECTION & DESIGN:
Emily Ortenburger
PHOTOGRAPHY:
Inner Circle Photography,
unless otherwise noted
SPECIAL THANKS:
Grosse Pointe Magazine

LIVE INSPIRED MAGAZINE
IS A PUBLICATION OF
LIVE INSPIRED PRODUCTIONS
AT THE WAR MEMORIAL.

JULY 15 7:30pm	JULY 22 7pm	JULY 29 7:30pm	AUGUST 5 7pm	AUGUST 12 7:30pm
RHYTHM SOCIETY ORCHESTRA <i>A USO Tribute Concert</i>	THE SANDLOT (PG) <i>Classic family movie night</i>	1981 THE CONCERT <i>A Simon and Garfunkel Tribute</i>	THE SUPER MARIO GALAXY MOVIE (PG) <i>Mario's galactic adventure</i>	THORNETTA DAVIS <i>Detroit's own Queen of the Blues</i>
GROUNDS OPEN AT 6PM FOR ALL MOVIES AND CONCERTS, RAIN OR SHINE.		ALL SUMMERFEST EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE FROM EVERYWHERE! <i>Bring your lawn chair, blanket, or enjoy the festival from your boat!</i>		

BE A SPONSOR! If you are interested in sponsoring our biggest event of the summer, email our Development Department at development@warmemorial.org.

AN EVENING WITH RUTA SEPETYS JUNE 3

The War Memorial is thrilled to host Ruta Sepetys, internationally acclaimed and #1 New York Times bestselling author of historical fiction, for a special evening celebrating the launch of her latest novel, *A Fortune of Sand*. Published in more than sixty countries and forty languages, Sepetys is renowned for bringing overlooked histories to life through deeply human storytelling.

Join us for a VIP meet-and-greet experience* and author talk presentation.

WHEN WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

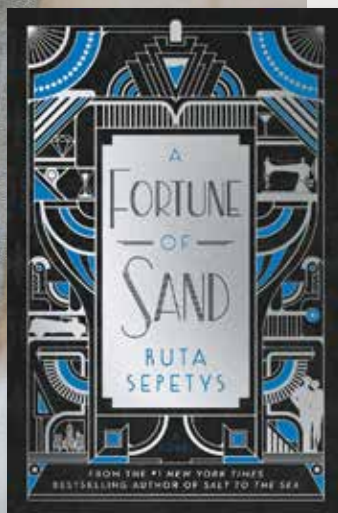
TIME VIP Meet-and-Greet 5:45pm
Main Event 7pm

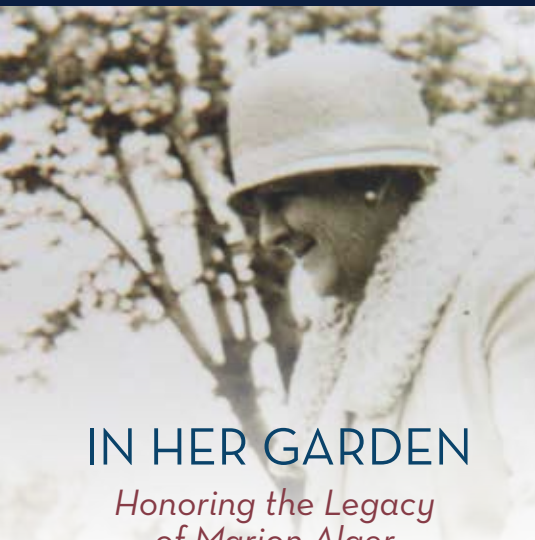
COST General Admission \$15 - \$35
First 100 ticket buyers will receive early-bird pricing of \$15.

VIP MEET-AND-GREET ADD-ON \$30

Includes early entry, a complimentary cocktail, an opportunity to meet Ruta Sepetys and have your book personalized, and premium seating for the main event.

*Meet-and-greet ticket is required to attend this VIP experience.





IN HER GARDEN

Honoring the Legacy of Marion Alger

Honor the legacy of Marion Alger — the visionary whose gift created The War Memorial we know today. Join us for a historically themed menu, a lecture from our in-house historian, and a flower arranging demonstration.

WHEN SUNDAY, MAY 17
TIME 1pm
COST General Admission \$65
Tables of Eight \$480



LOW COUNTRY SHRIMP BOIL

A taste of the south right here in Michigan

Chef Joe Paxton's Low Country Shrimp Boil comes to the shores of Lake St. Clair — shrimp, sausage, corn, and potatoes served family-style, with live entertainment, a full bar, and a not-to-be-missed dessert.

WHEN WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17
TIME 6:30PM
COST General Admission \$60



*Presented through the generosity of
Valerie and Patrick Moran.*

AN EVENING WITH DAVID SYME JUNE 2

American piano virtuoso David Syme returns to The War Memorial for an evening of popular favorites and beloved classical works. A Detroit native now based in Ireland, Syme brings a warm and wide-ranging program to our stage. A cash bar will be available.

WHEN TUESDAY, JUNE 2
TIME 7PM
COST VIP \$55 includes complimentary drink and afterglow meet-and-greet with artist.
General Admission \$20



A VITAL CONVERSATION

With Barbara McQuade

Former federal prosecutor and MSNBC legal analyst Barbara McQuade discusses her new book, *The Fix: Saving America from the Corruption of a Mob-Style Government*, followed by a book signing. Free and open to the public, in partnership with the Grosse Pointe Public Library, the League of Women Voters Grosse Pointe, and Next Chapter Books.

WHEN MONDAY, JUNE 22
TIME 6:30PM
COST FREE



PICNIC & PLAY BY THE LAKE

Presented in partnership with The Family Center

Join us on the back lawn for Picnic & Play by the Lake — a free, family-friendly morning of yard games, hands-on activities, and summer sunshine on the shores of Lake St. Clair. Bring a blanket and your favorite people.

WHEN JUNE 25, JULY 23
& AUGUST 27
TIME 10:30AM
COST FREE

The War Memorial's classes, activities, and trips are open to the public! Everyone is welcome—there are no residency requirements and membership is not necessary.*

**Residency within the Grosse Pointe Public School System district is necessary for Middle School Dances.*

CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES

ADULT ENRICHMENT

HEALTH, WELLNESS & SPORTS

BASIC BIKE MAINTENANCE (ALL AGES 12+)

Friday, 6:30–8:30pm
May 15 & 29

ADULT FENCING

Mondays, 7:40–8:25pm
June 1–June 29

SELF DEFENSE FOR MEN, WOMEN, AND TEENS

Tuesday, 6:30–8:30pm
June 2



AWAKEN YOUR SENSES: A MORNING OF YIN YOGA + SOUND BATH

Sundays, 9–10:15am
July 19
October 25
December 20

RHYTHM & RELEASE: LAKESIDE VINYASA + YIN EXPERIENCE

Sunday, 6–8pm
May 17

MUSIC & DANCE

BELLYDANCE FOR EVERYBODY

April 28–June 2
June 16–July 28

BEGINNER BELLYDANCE

Tuesdays, 6:30–7:30pm

INTERMEDIATE BELLYDANCE

Tuesdays, 7:30–8:30pm

BEGINNER BALLROOM BASICS

Tuesdays, 7–7:50pm
TANGO & CHA CHA
April 14–May 19

INTERMEDIATE BALLROOM BASICS

Tuesdays, 8–8:50pm
SWING
April 14–May 19

LINE DANCING

Wednesdays, 6–7pm
April 15–May 20

CREATIVE ARTS

LEARN TO PAINT LIKE BOB ROSS

PATRIOTIC COUNTRYSIDE BARN

Friday, 6–9pm
May 22

NEW!

HOW TO CROCHET FOR ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS

Friday 12:30–2:30pm
June 5



EXTENDED TRAVEL

*The War Memorial travels
the world!*

Visit warmemorial.org/travel
for current trips and itineraries

INTRO TO DRAWING

Mondays, 5:30–7pm
June 15–July 20

WATERCOLOR PAINTING

Mondays, 7–8:30pm
June 15–July 20

BEGINNER ACRYLIC PAINTING

Thursdays, 6–7:30pm
June 18–July 23

LAVENDER & LOVE: A MOTHER'S DAY WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

Sunday, 11:30am–1:30pm
May 3

MORE INFO

Full details and registration at www.warmemorial.org or call 313.881.7511

PLEASE REGISTER EARLY! Classes, activities, and trips must meet minimum attendance requirements: full refunds will be issued for events canceled due to low enrollment.

YOUTH ENRICHMENT

CREATIVE ARTS

NEW!

BACK TO SUMMER SEWING WORKSHOP

Saturday, 1-4pm
May 16

NEW!

MUSIC (AGES 3-5)

Fridays, 10-10:30am
May 22-June 26



GROSSE POINTE DRIVING SCHOOL

Classes run year-round! Visit warmemorial.org/drivertraining for a full list of sessions and attendance requirements.

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

FENCING SESSIONS (AGES 6-18)

June 1-June 29

BEGINNER FENCING

Mondays, 6-6:45pm

INTERMEDIATE FENCING

Mondays, 6:50-7:35pm

TUMBLEBUNNIES

GYMNASTICS

Thursdays, May 21-June 25

AGES 18mo-3 | 5:45-6:15pm

AGES 3-4 | 6:20-6:50pm

TENNIS (AGES 3-5)

Thursdays, 7:05-7:35pm

May 21-June 25

SELF DEFENSE FOR KIDS

Tuesday, 5:30-6:30pm
June 2



Presented in partnership with Special Olympics Michigan and The Family Center

YOUNG ATHLETES SHOWCASE

Join us for a joyful, family-friendly outdoor event on the lakeside lawn where children ages 2-7 of all abilities explore play, movement, and connection through inclusive games and activities designed to build confidence and friendship.

WHEN SUNDAY, JUNE 7
TIME 10AM

campvilleusa

RETURNS THIS SUMMER!

Build, play, learn, and grow in our series of camps for kids and teens.

JUNE 15-19

Mythical Creatures Art Camp
Animal Adventures Art Camp

JUNE 22-26

Karate & Parkour Camp
All Sports Camp

JULY 6-10

Creative Remix Camp
Cartoons, Movies & Video Game Art Camp
Fashion Design & Sewing Camp

JULY 13-17

Brixology Camp
Science in Motion Camp

JULY 20-24 & JULY 27-31

Kids Cooking Camp

AUGUST 3-7

Camp Invention: SPARK

AUGUST 10-14

Brave Core Self Defense & Safety
Water Warriors Zombie Response
Fashion Design & Sewing Camp
Jewelry Design Camp

AUGUST 17-21

Mixed Media Art Camp
Science of Art Camp

AUGUST 24-28

Brick and Build Camp
Creative Builders Camp



Register today at
warmemorial.org/campville

UPCOMING EVENTS

AT THE WAR MEMORIAL

Information and tickets are available online! www.warmemorial.org



MAY 5
OUR COMMUNITY
SALUTES



MAY 5
GRIEF DIALOGUES:
IN THE WAKE OF LIFE



MAY 7
VetConnect Seminar
WITH LISA LARK



MAY 12 + JUNE 9
+ JULY 14 + AUGUST 11
Silent Book Club
A SUMMER OF READING



MAY 13
PUZZLE PALOOZA



MAY 17
IN HER GARDEN:
HONORING MARION
ALGER'S LEGACY



MAY 25
MEMORIAL DAY
CEREMONY



JUNE 2
AN EVENING
WITH DAVID SYME



JUNE 3
RUTA SEPTYS
AUTHOR TALK



JUNE 11
VET-TO-VET



JUNE 17
A LOW COUNTRY
SHRIMP BOIL



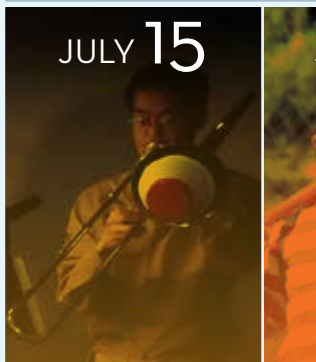
JUNE 25 + JULY 23
+ AUGUST 27
PICNIC & PLAY BY THE LAKE



JULY 14
Day Trip
SELFREDGE MILITARY
AIR MUSEUM



JULY 26
THE VINTAGE
MARKET AT
THE WAR MEMORIAL



JULY 15
SummerFest Concert
RHYTHM SOCIETY
ORCHESTRA



JULY 22
SummerFest Movie
THE SANDLOT



JULY 29
SummerFest Concert
1981 THE CONCERT



AUGUST 5
SummerFest Movie
THE SUPER MARIO
GALAXY MOVIE



AUGUST 12
SummerFest Concert
THORNETTA DAVIS



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Designing with Elizabeth Rogensues of

maple & mill

By Lauren McGregor

*M*aple & Mill designer Elizabeth Rogensues pulls back the curtain on the design process and takes us for a tour of the studio's Grosse Pointe showroom.

The Grosse Pointe South and Michigan State University graduate got her start at Birmingham Kitchen & Bath in Birmingham, Mich. "That is where I learned this is going to be my niche and what I am best at — kitchens, baths and cabinetry."

From the Merchandise Mart in Chicago to Designer Showrooms in Denver, Rogensues has embraced diverse opportunities to elevate her design expertise. The underlying thread, though, was always cabinetry.

"It's like a puzzle, the use of parts and pieces to make something that doesn't look the same every time," says Rogensues, who is approaching one year of design work with Maple & Mill.

The design studio prides itself on high

end finishes, world-class construction, creative solutions and excellent communication.

"Our process typically begins with a home visit. Then we invite clients to the showroom to explore options."

The Kercheval showroom allows for a unique design

experience. "Being in The Village is key to making our name accessible. Many clients can walk to their appointment and there's something comforting about that."

Next steps include an impeccable attention to detail. "Once I've drawn everything, we go cabinet to cabinet and it sparks conversation. 'What do

you store here? How? What do you like about it? What don't you like about it?'"

The showroom displays an impressive variety of options in cabinetry, paint colors and finishes, storage systems, countertops, backsplashes, fixtures and more.

Everything, Rogensues says, can be

personalized to the needs of the client. "Even how you typically read your spice labels, vertically or horizontally, can be accommodated. Taking into account how often you buy goods and what the usual flow of inventory is. We want to improve the function of your house and daily life."

Form should follow function, she says. Some of Rogensues's favorite options include unique inserts for spice storage, pot and pan racks that line (those often pesky) lids up and peg systems.

The most common feedback she receives is gratitude for making the renovation process easy. "This is a huge investment. Putting nerves at ease is something I do well," says Rogensues. "My goal is for clients to feel confident that once I'm there, I can take the reins."



maple & mill

At Maple & Mill, we blend creative details with timeless design in homes / spaces through our cabinetry studio, architecture-forward designs, and turnkey build services. Our tiered

design studio offerings allow clients to select materials that fit their budget, while we continue to uphold our values of product quality and timeless design. With founders rooted in the

architecture and design industries, you can expect a turnkey result regardless of when we join your renovation—anywhere from first design to finished build.



“You feel it just standing there, when a space is well designed with quality products. You know it is intentional, it is solid.”

They can just enjoy the fun parts. I’ll take on the decision fatigue.”

Clients can rest assured that a Maple & Mill project is completed to the highest standard and quality.

“You can’t understate the importance of quality. If you are going to invest any money at all, make sure it will last and function well until you want to change it,” says Rogensues. “When you walk into a space, you get an immediate feeling that is difficult to describe. You feel it just standing there, when a space is well

designed with quality products. You know it is intentional, it is solid.”

The Maple & Mill showroom, at 17139 Kercheval Ave., is open to the public Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays by appointment.

“Stop in. It’s a great way to start the conversation.” 

All photos are from the Maple & Mill showroom, where cabinetry, countertops, fixtures and more are on display

Photos courtesy of Maple & Mill





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THE PATTYN GROUP

BUILD | DESIGN | REMODEL

By Lauren McGregor

The Pattyn Group origin story resembles something out of a storybook.

“We grew up on the same block on Moran in Grosse Pointe Farms,” says Elizabeth Pattyn, who owns The Pattyn Group with husband Justin. “Justin was the heart throb of the elementary school,” she laughs.

Not only were the two neighbors, but their fathers also worked together in the very industry the couple would go into.

“My dad was a builder. His dad was a painter and then a builder,” says Elizabeth. “They actually worked together.”

During law school, “Justin showed up at my court when I was clerking for a judge.” The rest is history.

After the couple got married in 2014, they decided to flip a house together. Working together went better than they could have hoped for.

“We took on more, got busier and busier,” says Justin, who has been working in construction since high school. After becoming parents to Lincoln, now 7, Elizabeth left law and joined Justin full time in construction.

The first thing they ask clients during their free consultation is, “how do you live in this?” says Elizabeth. “I can’t tell you how many kitchens we have designed around dogs.”

Kids, of course, are another huge factor in many of their projects. “Everyone wants a mudroom to accommodate the kids, the mud, the activities. We get creative with incorporating that.”

The couple describe their work as boutique and add that one of them is on-site at all times. “I run the crew, even with subcontractors,” says Justin. “Elizabeth or I am there all the time.”

Though ‘boutique’ typically implies a large price tag, the couple are regularly told that their costs are lower than competitors.

“We are passionate about keeping the overhead low so we can keep costs low,” says Justin. “We have always gotten projects by word of mouth. Our business is personal and based solely on reputation.”

“We put so much into every project. We are very personally invested,” says Elizabeth, who admits that many clients end up feeling more like friends.

The Pattyn Group’s style is best described as transitional — traditional with modern finishes. They tend to avoid trends.



"We have always gotten projects by word of mouth. Our business is personal and based solely on reputation."

The Pattyn Group's meticulous attention to detail is obvious in the tilework pictured below, the railing ironwork and the creative storage solutions seen throughout.

Photos by Kat Stevenson Photography

"As a rule of thumb, anything attached to the wall should be timeless," says Elizabeth.

Their dream is to continue renovating properties with character. "I love to see people buying these beautiful old Grosse Pointe houses and bringing them back to life," she says.

The Pattyns are always finding the heart in a project. Mike and Julie Schwerin's home on Moran, pictured here, was no different.

"Julie grew up here, but moved away. She and Mike raised their kids outside of New York City," says Elizabeth. "After her mom passed and her dad could no longer live in the house, she and Mike decided to move into the family home."

The project was enormous and included the removal of the garage, the addition of a new garage and mudroom and total renovations of the interior and exterior.

"After being in the business for 25 years, you come up with a list of people you can

call," says Justin. They still use many of the subcontractors their parents used.

"Justin is a perfectionist. He is obsessed with things being done exactly how they should be so there is never an issue," says Elizabeth. "From the use of a structural engineer to 3D renderings, we are meticulous in our work."

In fact, The Pattyn Group tries to keep just one project at a time. "Because we are so deeply involved and very niche, we have scaled slowly, deliberately and very well," says Justin.

The second-generation builders feel the weight of a generation on their shoulders. "We watched the hard work of our parents and want to somehow do it even better," says Justin. "We are always trying to master our

craft and get better at what we do."

"Give us a call," says Elizabeth. "We'd love to chat about your needs."

To learn more, visit ThePattynGroup.com, call (313) 469-2408 and follow on Instagram and Facebook. [!\[\]\(70a583839f99fdb4e26b9f2b205a0da3_img.jpg\)](#)





“We want people to feel connected to this space.”

By Lauren McGregor

When Molly Valade opened the doors to Pearl nearly two years ago, she had a distinct vision.

“But we could not get the brands. You have to have established partnerships,” says Pearl Manager Gigi Badalamenti. “We are finally at that point. And it has been so well received.”

“Pearl is poised to really shine because of the vision of Molly and Gigi,” says Cheryl DiMauro, who is approaching her one-year anniversary as buyer for Pearl.

“We are passionate about finding brands that resonate with clients, that are not widely distributed and have a little buzz about them,” says

Badalamenti.

“Kulson is an exciting one. No one else is representing them. Its founder, Lisa Kulson, was the creative director at Theory and is a Cranbrook grad,” says DiMauro, whose impressive history in luxury retail includes roles at Saks Fifth Avenue and Neiman Marcus.

DiMauro’s relationships in the business have proven key in carrying hard-to-get brands. With her expertise, Pearl is carrying 16 new brands.

“I have seen how Grosse Pointe has changed and evolved. There are a lot of kids moving back. They want this sort of shopping experience in their community,” says DiMauro. “We are seeing more mothers and daughters stop in, the 30- and 40-somethings who have returned.”

Amidst its evolution, Pearl has become a destination boutique, with an increasing number of visitors from the west side.

“We offer true ‘high-low’ dressing — investment pieces, but also \$80 shirts,”

Left, Altuzarra, Sigg Top and Linnie Skirt, relaxed sleeveless silhouette and tonal floral embroidery, made in Italy; Left, Hunting Season, small soft clutch in ‘Nappa’, handcrafted in Spain

“We are passionate about finding brands that resonate with clients, that are not widely distributed and have a little buzz about them.”

says DiMauro. “We want to empower women. To make them feel good about how they present to the world.”

Pearl stylists love to wardrobe customers. “We want to help. There is also zero pressure,” says Badalamenti.

The Pearl atmosphere is about creating a space where “we know our customers,” says Badalamenti. “We will get a dress in and say, ‘oh, this is perfect for this person.’”

Above, Jacquemus Sunglasses, sunglasses in innovative shapes and colors; Above right, Hunting Season, origami handbag; Right, Apiece Apart, Salome Halter Maxi Dress, 100% linen, adjustable tie and straps

This spring/summer, DiMauro is noticing “a lot of citron green, tobacco, chocolate, pale blue, wine.” She is also seeing more scarves as accessories, worn in a number of interesting ways.

Some current favorite brands include Frank & Eileen, Laura Manoogian, Altuzarra, Weekend by Max Mara and Comme Si. “We now have Hunting Season, Dear Frances, Mansur Gavriel and to name a few,” she adds.

“A collection that has gotten a lot of attention is Santa Maria Novella,”



says DiMauro. “It has an enormous following. The historic boutique in Florence, Italy, has produced these scents for hundreds of years.”

In fact, Santa Maria Novella dates back to 1221, to a Dominican friar convent producing herbal remedies and scents. Its perfumes were made available to nobility in the 1500s and to the public in 1612. At Pearl, the Florentine line includes perfumes, candles, potpourri and more.

There are countless stories behind the collections at Pearl.

“We are storytellers,” says DiMauro. “We want people to feel connected to this space.”

Come, be part of Pearl’s story. 

Coming up:

To celebrate Mother’s Day, receive a gift with every purchase.

June 4: Lisa Kulson of Kulson and Barbara May of B. May Bags visit in-store

Pearl, 74 Kercheval Ave.

Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday, Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
shoppearl.com



BALANCED HABITS MAKE A LASTING CHANGE THIS JUNE

By Lauren McGregor



Balanced Habits KickStart

\$249 for 28 days of nutrition coaching

\$399 for 28 days of nutrition coaching and unlimited Fusion classes



Renee Wiswell;
right, Renee Wiswell and
Lauren McGregor



Prior to the Balanced Habits KickStart program, my weight was slowly increasing. I ate mostly carbs and my protein intake was the occasional seafood. When I signed up for Balanced Habits KickStart, I had no idea how quickly that would change, or how satisfying and motivational the program would be.

“Our goal with the 28-Day KickStart is to simplify nutrition and make it sustainable,” says Fusion co-owner PJ Vlahantones. “When you combine that with consistent training through our Fusion system, it creates a powerful, well-rounded approach that helps people see real results quickly.”

The program starts with an intake survey. Balanced Habits founder and registered dietitian Carolyn Feters then tailors a diet and fitness plan to your goals. The plans foster a sustainable lifestyle. The average participant loses 1.5 to 2 pounds per week.

“There is a coach assigned to you. At Fusion, it is either Coach Chantell or me,” says Coach Renee Wiswell. “They become your accountability partner.”

Wiswell, a lifelong athlete who is certified in women’s fitness, began coaching at Fusion Integrated Training 11 years ago. When I signed up for Balanced Habits, I got the opportunity to work one-on-one with her.

My personalized plan challenged me, a work-from-home grazer, to eat every three hours and to include a fat, carbohydrate *and* protein at every meal. It also added one strength training and one cardio workout to my weekly routine.

As part of the plan, I journaled every meal. The practice opened my eyes to how often I had been eating imbalanced meals — when I wasn’t even hungry.

Over the course of 28 days, I was not perfect. I drank wine on weekends. I ate pizza. But it wasn’t all or nothing. I stuck to the plan the majority of the time. And I dropped six pounds that first month — about 1.5 pounds per week.

Wiswell says, “At the end of Balanced Habits, ask yourself, ‘What did I succeed in the most during the challenge?’ Carry that habit forward.”

For me, that has been an end to my all-day snacking. My body adjusted quickly to breaks between meals. The increase in strength training also led to measurable growth. When I started working out at Fusion, I reached for the five-pound weights. Today, I grab the 12.5- or 15-pound dumbbells.

Because the change has been so transformative, I opted into the ‘accountability’ add-on, which offers continued support. I’m down another three pounds, putting me over half way to my goal weight, something I couldn’t have fathomed in 2025.

The law of motion is often invoked in fitness conversation: an object in motion stays in motion. That is how I feel after starting Balanced Habits. I keep moving toward a stronger and healthier self.

“I love to motivate people and keep them going,” says Wiswell, a full-time reading coach, mother of two and fitness coach since 1994. “Focus on the small positives — those wins are what actually create lasting change.”

The next Balanced Habit group kicks off in June! To learn more, scan the QR code. If you are ready for a transformative month, DM “KickStart” to @Fusion_Integrated_Training on Instagram or call (313) 469-0687. Your July self will thank you! 



Photos by Kimberly Rensburg Photography

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TEA & TOUR

& PAINT OUT

AT FORD HOUSE

Photos courtesy of Ford House

By Lauren McGregor

*P*aint Out, the one-of-a-kind, full-day plein air painting event that sprawls across all 87 acres of Ford House, is set for Saturday, June 6.

“Participants paint from 8 a.m. into the afternoon, then they frame the work they would like judged,” says Director of Education Jason Drake. “The paintings will be on display at our Fresh Paint Party, where artists are also able to sell their showcased work.”

Paint Out tickets cover full access to Ford House grounds for the day, a ticket to the Fresh Paint Party and one complimentary drink ticket. Water and snacks will be available on-site, but Ford House recommends bringing extra water and food. Supplies are not provided, so be sure to bring everything you need, including a ready-to-hang frame for work you plan to submit. The framing process takes place between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

“It’s wonderful to see artists throughout the grounds,” says Director of Communications Tommy Karr. “From the main house to the formal gardens to the pool and lagoon.”

Paint Out includes a juried competition open to registered participants. Cash prizes at the Fresh Paint Party are \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second and \$250 for third.

This year’s juror, Rachel Reynolds Z, works from her studio on Detroit’s east side and is a professor at Oakland

University and Flint Institute of Arts. She earned her BFA from the College for Creative Studies in Detroit and her MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts.

Fresh Paint Party, which starts at 6 p.m. on June 6, is an opportunity to celebrate the artists and view the artwork created during Paint Out. Tickets include small bites and a cash bar.

The following week, another signature Ford House event, Eleanor’s Tea and Tour will take place on Sunday, June 14.

“In honor of Eleanor’s 130th birthday, we are bringing pieces of the collection that have never been on display before,” says Public Events Specialist Andrea Ozanich.

“Our Director of Material Culture, Lisa Worley, is working hard to prepare tea-related pieces, as well as pieces that illustrate Eleanor’s love of art.”

During the tea, guests can enjoy the beautiful live music of Florella Strings, a violin and cello duo.

Tickets, which are sold by tables of two, three, four and six, sell quickly. Seatings take place at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Staff is passionate about celebrating Eleanor in unique ways. “We are stewards who want to keep her good work going,” says Ozanich.

For more information and tickets, visit gpt.org. 



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MEET SERAFINA



Name	Serafina Maras
Age	16
City	Grosse Pointe Woods
School	Grosse Pointe North
Parents	Christopher & Karen Maras

SERAFINA'S FAVORITES

Subject

Economics/Government

Musical Artist

Chris Stapleton

Outdoor Activity

Skiing

Vacation

Azores, Portugal

ABOUT SERAFINA

If you could have three wishes granted, what would they be?

1. Universal well-being and strong health, as these are the foundations upon which we build our lives
2. A world defined by greater peace, free from constant conflict and violence
3. A society that develops a deeper understanding of the importance of consistent respect for one another, as well as for each other's beliefs and perspectives, even when they differ from one's own

What are your favorite traits in yourself?

I am proud of my ability to forge my own path and approach all aspects of my life with independence and originality.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?

Switzerland to see the Swiss Alps and ski

What extracurricular has meant the most to you and why?

Orchestra has had a great impact on my life. It has fostered a disciplined and resilient work ethic within me, and has proven time and time again that I am capable of more than I believe. It also has connected me with many peers and mentors who have helped me to become a more well-rounded person.

Serafina, who lives in Grosse Pointe Woods with her parents, Christopher and Karen Maras, and her sister, Quinn, 14, was recently celebrated for her perfect 100, an incredibly rare feat, on her Proficiency II violin solo. She was also nominated as an Outstanding Soloist and was recognized as a member of the MSBOA All-State Orchestra on viola.

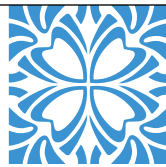
"When I was told I had earned a perfect score on my violin solo, I felt an overwhelming sense of disbelief. I had not felt particularly confident in my performance when I left the room," says Serafina. "That initial shock quickly shifted into a wave of pride and relief. Earning a perfect score was something I had been striving toward since my freshman year. Seeing that goal materialize from a dream to reality was an incredibly gratifying and affirming moment in my musical journey."

In her free time, Serafina enjoys spending time with friends, playing and listening to music and running.



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GROSSE POINTE FOUNDATION FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION GRANTS IN ACTION

By Kristy Sharrow

Nearly 600 seniors will graduate from Grosse Pointe Public Schools this year. Each of them received support through at least one grant from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education (GPFPE) over the course of their academic career.

For some, that included a university tour. For others, it goes back to an elementary reading program. Or it may have fallen within any of the grants in between, such as those funding therapy dogs, instruments, enrichment programs, classroom technology, field trips, adaptive playground equipment and more.

Every awarded grant aims at enhancing education within the district.

"We're an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) with a very simple purpose, which is to support our students and our educators," says Cynthia Sohn, GPFPE President.

Sohn and the rest of the GPFPE team, including former educators and community members from across the Pointes, run the foundation as volunteers. More than one thousand Grosse Pointers have donated to date.

"Our donor support goes directly to programs and opportunities for kids," Sohn says. "We've been around for nearly 20 years and have been raising funds and awarding grants to teachers and administrators to the

amount of almost \$5 million now."

When an educator identifies a resource that would enhance learning but lacks the funds to implement it, they can submit a grant application to GPFPE. The foundation then presents selected grants to the Grosse Pointe Board of Education twice a year.

This April, with a grant from GPFPE, Sarah Neely, Maire Elementary School teacher, brought history to life for second graders across the district at the Cook Schoolhouse in Grosse Pointe Woods.

GPFPE was able to fund supplies, like slates, chalk, McGuffey readers and classic recess games, for "Slates & Scholars: Reawakening a One-Room Schoolhouse."

With Izzy Donnelly and Barb Davis serving as 'schoolmarms,' students stepped back in time to the 1890s to discover what school was like for early Grosse Pointe learners.

This May, the foundation will make more educators' ideas a reality when it presents \$77,000 in new grants to the board.

As for June, Cynthia says GPFPE will be celebrating the success of every single graduate. "We've been there all along, from our Barnes preschool program all the way up to graduation, and we're just thrilled to be able to support these programs with the generosity of the community."

Learn more at GPFPE.org. 

Left, "Slates and Scholars" at the Cook Schoolhouse with Izzy Donnelly as the schoolmarm

Photos courtesy of GPFPE





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JAMIE DING

GROSSE POINTE NORTH GRADUATE
BECOMES JEOPARDY CHAMPION

By Lauren McGregor

*H*ometown pride has swelled in recent weeks for the Ferry, Parcels and Grosse Pointe North alum, Jamie Ding, who as of press time is the fifth-place all-time *Jeopardy* winner.

Many aspects of his schooling readied him for *Jeopardy*, says Jamie, including the National Geographic Bee, Academic Quiz Bowl, Student Council and the Radio Astronomy Team.

"With the Radio Astronomy Team, I can remember working on a radio telescope on North's roof," says the Class of 2009 graduate. "The school gave us a lot of room to explore our interests."

When asked how he retains so much information, Jamie admits, "I tend to remember things really well," but he rushes, "I have a bad memory of faces."

In fact, he likens his experience on



He says his foundation in Grosse Pointe Public Schools, "was great. I always felt like if I wanted to do something,

I could. That's really powerful. It's not something you appreciate until afterward."

"We're very proud of him. My parents and I were able to see most of his games in person," says Jamie's sister, Jessie Ding. "It was very nerve wracking."

Jamie says the road to reaching the *Jeopardy* stage was a long one. "I auditioned in person in Chicago for the Teen Tournament in 2008." Unfortunately, he wasn't cast. Still, he took the *Jeopardy* test nearly every year since.

"I got the call to be on the show in early January of this year," he says. His first episode was filmed on Feb. 10.

"The contestants, the crew and fans have been wonderful," says Jamie. "People have been reaching out, including my former teachers. It means a lot that we're all enjoying this together."

When he graduated from Grosse Pointe North with a 4.3 grade point average and was accepted to Princeton University,

he says, "I thought I should be a doctor, so I studied molecular biology. I probably should have been a history major."

After college, he spent three years in Detroit working with Get Covered America. In 2016, he returned to New

Jersey and worked with AmeriCorps VISTA in Jersey City.

Today, he works in state government as he pursues a law degree at Seton Hall University. "I hope to use my knowledge of the law to advance policy goals. In particular, getting more and better housing built."

Jamie returns to Grosse Pointe regularly to visit his parents who still live in Grosse Pointe Shores. His father, Dr. Yuchuan Ding, is a Wayne State University professor of neurosurgery and his mother, Ning Yan, is a recently retired math teacher.

"Jamie's always been a source of inspiration. I did a lot of things in middle and high school because he did them," says Jessie. "He's always been a guide and very supportive of my pursuits."

"But I will say, he followed me to law school," she adds with a laugh. "I went to law school first."

Since 2016, the siblings have shared an Instagram account, @attorneygeneraltso, where they review General Tso dishes. "We were at a Chinese buffet and one of us said we should compare chicken," says Jessie. "He came up with the name 'Attorney General Tsos,' which is funny because we're both going to be lawyers."

She adds, "Now people are sending us restaurant suggestions from across the country."

As Jamie's wins continue to air, and he surpasses \$700,000 in winnings, Jessie says, "We are very happy for him. It's surreal for even me so I can only imagine how he's feeling." ☎

Left, Ning Yan, Dr. Yuchuan Ding, Jessie Ding and Jamie Ding

Top photos courtesy of Sony Pictures Television



Jeopardy to a trip down memory lane. "It feels like getting in touch with my past experiences. I will remember 'Mr. Mulso brought this up about government'. Or 'I played this piece in orchestra in high school'. Or 'I was in this play'."



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Cinderella opens at Schaap Center

By Lauren McGregor

“We have high expectations and an amazing, magical show to kick off Grosse Pointe Theatre’s inaugural performance at Schaap Center.”



C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts. What better production for Grosse Pointe Theatre to begin its next chapter with than one of the most beloved fairy tales of all time?

Grosse Pointe Theatre will present *Rodgers & Hammerstein’s Cinderella*, the Broadway adaptation of the enchanting musical, Thursdays through Sundays, June 5-21, with evening performances at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

“We have high expectations and an

amazing, magical show to kick off Grosse Pointe Theatre’s inaugural performance at Schaap Center,” says Director and Co-Choreographer Tim Higgins.

“It’s an honor and it’s humbling,” he says of being the first director at Schaap Center.

“Though the first television broadcast was released in 1957, my roots with this story go back to 1965 when I sat in front of the TV to watch it,” says Higgins. “But it didn’t appear on Broadway until 2013.”

Though it’s a relatively new show, *Cinderella* retains the original music we’ve come to love, with

classics like “In My Own Little Corner,” “Impossible/It’s Possible” and “Ten Minutes Ago.”

“But it has some exciting twists to it,” says Higgins. “This version takes a traditional story and gives it modern sensibilities. Although Cinderella has a subservient way of life, she has courage and speaks her mind to the prince about the injustices in his kingdom.”

One of the newer themes in this version is that Cinderella is a messenger of

Britta Peele-Spitzer as Cinderella and Alex Quinlan as Prince Topher

Top photo by Moni Valentini, courtesy of Grosse Pointe Theatre; above photo by Jason Keen, courtesy of Schaap Center

kindness.

"In the production, there is a medieval game called 'Ridicule' where someone says something cruel about another and everyone laughs," says Higgins. "Cinderella tells them 'Ridicule' is not being practiced in the courts anymore. And that 'Kindness' is what people are doing."

Cinderella boasts an "outstanding cast" led by Britta Peele-Spitzer and Alex Quinlan. Higgins says he is looking forward to the "beautiful costumes and music," as well as the new capabilities that come along with performing at Schaap Center. "All the tech components are very important and will showcase our commitment to high quality theater productions."

Few members know that commitment as well as Higgins, who has been a member of Grosse Pointe Theatre for 40 years and served as Director of Strategic Planning. Recently, he was elected to Board President, with his term set to begin in July.

"It means a lot to take the reins as we move into this new era at Schaap Center," says Higgins. "Humbly, I believe we have earned the opportunity to perform in a state-of-the-art performing arts center. We are so grateful to Paul and his late wife Carol Schaap for their steadfast commitment to making this beautiful center a reality."

To experience an iconic story of love, hope and kindness at the newly opened Schaap Center, get your tickets today at www.gpt.org/cinderella or by calling (313) 881-4004. 

COLOR A COMMUNITY OF KINDNESS

To widen the impact of *Cinderella*'s theme of kindness, Grosse Pointe Theatre in partnership with Posterity Gallery and Main Street Grosse Pointe invite neighbors of all ages to "Color a Community of Kindness" on Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Together, participants will create a large-scale mural that will be displayed in The Village. Each participant will reserve a time slot to color a 6x8 piece that becomes part of the final mural. You'll also have the chance to create Kindness Cards that will be shared with children in the Make-A-Wish Michigan program. Families are encouraged to sign up together to make it a shared moment of creativity.

The special art project was inspired by the courage, hope and kindness of Cinderella, who demonstrates that everyone has the power to make a difference by being kind.

All participants who sign up to create one of the 150 mural tiles will also be entered into a drawing for a Family Four-Pack of tickets to Grosse Pointe Theatre's production of *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*. Participants are encouraged to dress as one of their favorite Cinderella characters to add to this magical experience.

Scan the QR code to view and
sign up for a time slot:



Star of the Sea kicks off 70th anniversary *and celebrates its flourishing arts*

By Lauren McGregor

Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic School is kicking off a year of 70th anniversary celebrations with a production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* on June 19 and 20 at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium.

“The school and parish are coming together to celebrate our legacy and community,” says Director of Communications and Marketing Annie Schunior. “It’s the first production we have done of this scale.”

In recent years, Star has invested heavily in growing its enrichment programs.

“We want students to recognize their God-given talents through these new programs,” says Principal Danielle Trudel. “Star Lights is an example — as are our stellar sports and STREAM programs. But it’s the arts that are evolving the fastest.”

In fact, musical drama is an elective offered during school hours. “It’s two quarters, graded,” says Music and Drama Teacher Jennifer Koester. “It has been integrated into our curriculum.”

The Youth Chorale, founded by Koester, boasts the participation of 58% of third through fifth graders. There is also a more advanced Schola available

for sixth through eighth graders.

As a testament to the value of the arts at Star, an impressive 72% of middle school students were involved in the school’s recent production of *Annie Jr.*

“For *Annie Jr.*, we were excited to welcome so many visitors from outside our Star community,” says Producer Rose Farley.

“They were so impressed by the quality of what they saw. We are building on that momentum.”

From music to theater to fine arts, the creative scene at Star is exploding. It’s no surprise art teacher Jennifer Flanagan was awarded the Excellence in Teaching award from the archdiocese.

“At Star, we have a community looking at unique ways to enrich students’ lives,” says Schunior. “It is palpable.”

Star Lights, an after-school enrichment program, has offered 56 classes over its four-year history with 650 student opportunities. “Between 200 and 300 students per year are involved,” says Farley, the founder of Star Lights.

The programs include life skills, art and play. Some favorites have been cooking, fine arts, gymnastics, golf and, of course,

musical theater.

For *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, “we have a cross section of people of all ages, from both the school and parish. For example, there are three narrators. One will be a former student, one is the parent of current students and the third is a preschool aide at Star,” says Farley, who also teases a couple of surprise guests.

Reserved tickets for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* will be available in the school office.

This fall, “We will have a lot of community events to celebrate the 70th anniversary,” says Trudel. “We’re smack dab in the middle of the neighborhood, we feel like one big family. We want to share that.”

Some upcoming celebrations include Fall Fest, Trivia Night, a golf outing and the annual auction. “We are also adding a couple of extra events like Homecoming Weekend,” says Schunior. The year of celebrations will end with a family picnic.

As Danielle Trudel completes her first year as principal, she reflects, “It is wonderful to celebrate one year as principal and my tenth year at Star. We have been evolving since day one, and are focused on educating the whole student, academically, emotionally and spiritually.”

To learn more, visit olsos.org and follow on Instagram and Facebook. 

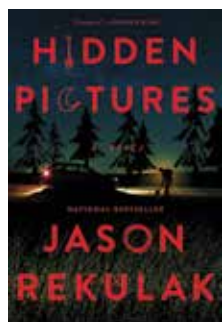


Book Buzz



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By Michelle Orzel
Youth Services Librarian, Ewald Branch

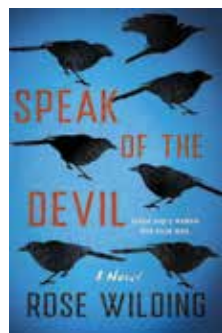


Hidden Pictures: A Novel

By Jason Rekulak

Rekulak takes his time telling this story, with detail and conviction. A fascinating look inside the journey of a five-year-old

and his babysitter, strange pictures being drawn and some unbelievable surprise twists and turns along the way. Becoming enamored with the characters is easy, following their stories is captivating and reaching the end took far less time than I anticipated. With each illustration, you'll find yourself itching for the next, searching for any new clues to this slightly disturbing mystery.



Speak of the Devil

By Rose Wilding

From the author's note at the start stating she is "always, under the skin, under the polite smile, absolutely

furious" to the resources at the back of the book, I was completely hooked. A dark and powerful tale of toxic masculinity ending with a dead man and seven potential suspects in the women who surrounded him over the years. With characters as complex as our own inner selves, a story with more layers than an onion, and twists you won't see coming, fully immersing yourself in this book is inevitable. The story is told from the third person perspectives of the women involved and forces readers to confront the uncomfortable realities of our society.



Under the Whispering Door

By TJ Klune

Grabbed on a whim because I liked the cover, held in my heart forevermore. A story that grabs you by the heart

and soul and locks you in. You fall in love with the characters, laugh out loud as you read, and if you're anything like me...tears *will* fall. Following the end of his life, Wallace is taken to a peculiar little tea shop where he realizes that even though his life is over, there is

so much more for him to learn. Klune touches on some serious subjects with such grace that the entire book is heartwarming and precious. Fantasy, empathy, a bit of queer love and a whole lot of hope bring this novel all together for a quick and easy read.



I Will Kill Your Imaginary Friend for \$200

By Robert Brockway

I had no idea what to expect when I grabbed this book. Would it be a horror, thriller, humorous? Turns

out it's a fabulous mix of all of those with a bit of whimsy and warmth as well. You follow the lives of Maksim Ivanov, an unemployable man with a secret, and Kay, an only child with depression and anxiety. Kay develops an imaginary friend based on a YouTube show and as their lives intertwine, the reader is forced to confront a society where childhood coping mechanisms turn into adult trauma. Loneliness is marketed and a kid's imagination can be a place to escape to or run from. You'll be asking yourself 'what did I just read?' 

DYC Commodore's Ball Jan. 31 @ Detroit Yacht Club

Photos by Christine M.J. Hathaway



Lady Lynn and Commodore Michael Thomas



Scott Brickner and David Koch Fanfare Trumpeteers



Robin and Bill Heller



Capt. Jeff and Dawn Haeseker



Bernadette and Lawson Letzring and Toni Gibson



Barbara and Gary Dawes

***187th Annual Oarsmen's Ball** Feb. 7 @ Jam Handy, Detroit

Photos by Christine M.J. Hathaway

*Detroit Boat Club/Friends of Detroit Rowing



Ed and Fran Benz and 1968 Olympic Gold Medalist Bill Maher



Julie Brennan, Kris Turnbull, Dixon Kirkland, Holly Kargula and Tom Turnbull



Eric Dilworth and Mike Gentile



Elora Adams, Brooklyn Titus, Olivia Lapico and Lisa Lapico



Ethan Hundley, Peter Stephens, Frank Swanson and Eddie Heger



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pets

Send your hi-res Pointe Pets pictures and a brief description to Lauren@grossepointemagazine.com.



In Memory of Calvin

For close to 13 years, Calvin Francis Klein Pfaendtner-Jackson was a beloved family member. He loved traveling (especially somewhere warm), bamboozling his dad for more food, ear rubs and fiercely protecting his humans from wildlife in his backyard and at the park, mailmen and Amazon deliveries. He was the greatest gift from Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption, and we will miss him every day.

- The Jackson Family



Peter

Peter, an 11-year-old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, is deaf, and spends most of his time snuggling with his family. He also loves to chase squirrels that he will never catch, and his favorite toy is a three-foot caterpillar.



Luke

Luke, a 4-year-old Black Labrador, is playful, loyal and energetic. He loves to play ball, swim and go on walks! He loves other dogs and is obsessed with treats! When you're sad, Luke is always there!



Murphy & Arthur

Murphy, a 5-year-old Aussie mix) and Arthur, a 4-year-old Newfypoo, are the newest transplants to Grosse Pointe. Murphy is a dedicated TV enthusiast, while Arthur prefers the great outdoors. Frequently mistaken for a small bear, Arthur is actually a gentle giant whose primary job is bodyguarding his little sister Murph and his brand-new human baby brother, Luca (who he assumes is a very loud, fragile puppy).

Itching, scratching — it's fleas, oh my!

By Dr. Stephanie Dexter

Shockingly, there are over 2,500 species of fleas worldwide. Thankfully, we only worry about a few affecting our pets.

Fleas are species-specific, meaning they have a preferred host. However, that doesn't stop these pests from affecting other animals or humans. The most common flea on dogs and cats is the cat flea (*Ctenocephalides felis*). Despite the



name, this flea can infest over 50 types of mammals and birds, especially wildlife like raccoons. Less common than the cat flea, the dog flea (*Ctenocephalides canis*) also targets both dogs and cats.

Fleas are not only responsible for itchy pets and dermatitis; fleas spread parasites like tapeworms and worse! The Black Plague caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis* was spread to people from fleas on rodents.

The flea life cycle is three weeks long with four stages. Adult fleas live on animals. One female flea lays about 40 eggs daily which fall off into the environment. The remaining three stages then take place in the environment.

How do we make fleas flee? Treat all pets and their environment. If your pet has fleas, talk to your veterinarian about the best treatment. Please remember that depending on the product, one treatment may not be enough to interrupt the life cycle and solve the problem. The house and outdoors also need treatment. Wash all bedding and vacuum frequently. Pet safe indoor pesticide treatment may be necessary. Remove leaf/brush piles from your yard and consider spray treatment of shaded areas, like under decks, or anywhere that pets frequent.

Dr. Stephanie Dexter is a 2011 graduate of the University of Illinois. She joined Harper Woods Veterinary Hospital in 2019.

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SUMMER 2026 | ISSUE 27

SCHOOL POINTES

Good news from the Grosse Pointe Public School System



THANK YOU SUPERINTENDENT TUTTLE

As Dr. Andrea Tuttle retires, The Grosse Pointe Public School System wishes to recognize her for maintaining the educational excellence our community expects. We thank her for her outstanding service and take this opportunity to reflect on the advancements made by our team under her leadership.

Dr. Tuttle is perhaps best known for her work stabilizing finances. In her short time here, the district passed the Operating Millage as required by the State for full funding. This pays for critical budget items like staffing and curricular materials. We also passed a Sinking Fund. This increase in taxes funds critical infrastructure updates (see page two for Summer 2026 projects). Last fall, GPPSS passed a zero increase bond, again focused on maintaining safe and modern learning environments inside our beautiful, historic buildings. Dr. Tuttle did all this while maintaining a balanced budget and without laying off team members in negotiating a two year contract for all groups. That last contract had a 92% approval rate for teachers. This was while searching for the right Chief Financial Officer, which meant Dr. Tuttle often filled both roles. Upon hiring Andrea Agrusa as CFO, the final piece in rebuilding Central Office was put in place.

With Central Office fully staffed, our team brought to the board updated curricula for elementary English and mathematics and middle school social studies (see page two). We have made impressive advancements in safety and security, utilizing training and technology like live camera access. We have started universal free preschool options and SAT prep courses. We expanded Magnet (gifted) programming, and added Career & Technical Education tracks and Advanced Placement offerings, while maintaining rigor. The Board also passed an online school and brought together dozens of stakeholders to draft a Strategic Plan.

Dr. Tuttle is now hard at work, sharing her expertise with Dr. Roy Bishop, Jr., our next Superintendent. The timing of her announcement and the opportunity for them to work together means the district will have an optimal transition and can keep its focus on student learning.

We all hope to leave places better than when we arrived, and Dr. Tuttle has done that here while respecting tradition – a delicate balance. With gratitude and respect, help us wish her well in her next adventures, as we promise to “Keep Moving Forward.”



Preschool Enrollment

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CURRICULUM UPDATES

In addition to our regular curriculum review cycle, GPPSS has instituted Data Days. By grade, staff are reviewing test scores, resources and interventions. In the last edition we shared the success of our new **English Language Arts** curriculum (31% drop in students needing Tier 3 support)! This time we are proud to share the Board of Education has approved two new curricula:

Preschool through 5th Grade Mathematics

- After a two-year review process, in March our curriculum council and board of education approved the Illustrative Mathematics Curriculum. Our vision for elementary math is that students will:
 - persevere through challenges to develop strong number sense, critical thinking and problem-solving skills
 - utilize multiple approaches to problem solve which will foster rich discussions that encourage the explanation of thinking and reasoning
 - develop a solid foundation in math vocabulary and concepts that will prepare them for success beyond the classroom.

Middle School Social Studies for 5th-8th Grades

- Teachers, parents, and students participated in a multi-year review and pilot process. Together, they aligned standards, researched and piloted materials, and reviewed current textbook materials for relevance and usability. Feedback emphasized the need for updated content, digital integration, and materials that support student engagement, diverse perspectives, and multi-disciplinary thinking. The Board approved TCI Textbook materials including:
 - Consumable books for all 5th-grade students
 - Classroom sets of physical textbooks (the committee wanted actual books)
 - Digital textbook licenses for all students in grades 5-8
 - Digital Teacher textbook licenses and online professional development

ENROLL FOR FALL

Enroll online at gpschools.org/enrollment. You can also schedule a personal tour.

Key Calendar Items:

- 6/1 - North Graduation
- 6/3 - South Graduation
- 6/11 - Last Day of School

CONSTRUCTION

For the latest bond and sinking fund updates, visit About Us at gpschools.org. Summer projects include: parking lots at Barnes, North, South; ADA step replacement at Kerby, Monteith, Brownell, Parcels; sidewalks throughout GPPSS, South's athletic field turf (the track will be closed during construction); North B-Building Roof Replacement; mulch on all playgrounds; Chillers at North and South; South's roofline railing; and fire alarm, roof and fencing work at North.

THANK YOU

Residents 60+ and GPPSS retirees may obtain a Gold Card for free/reduced price admission to home games, concerts and plays by calling 313-432-3003 or emailing info@gpschools.org. Attending events is also a great way to see your bond and sinking fund dollars at work. For event times, locations and ticket information, visit gpschools.org and click the Calendar icon on the right side. There is a separate performing arts calendar for concerts and theatre events. For athletics, from gpschools.org, click your school, then Athletics.



WEGP will host its 10th annual Grosse Pointe Pride celebration on Saturday, June 20, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants are encouraged to bring friends, neighbors, as well as leashed and friendly pups along for this family-friendly event.

Meet at the parking lot across from the Grosse Pointe Central Library and at 10 a.m., march to the main event location on the corner of Cadieux and Waterloo at Maire Elementary.

Festivities will include family-friendly drag performances, activities for children, guest speakers and so much more! Bring your signs, your joy, your pride and your commitment to full equality.



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MIGEN: SUPPORT FOR LGBTQ+ ELDERS

By Lauren McGregor

Grosse Pointe Park resident Angela Gabridge feels like she has been a journeyman of nonprofit work. From development assistant to development director with organizations like The Helm and ACLU of Michigan, Gabridge absorbed knowledge that she would use in her current position as executive director of the Michigan LGBTQ+ Elders Network (MiGen).

MiGen is Michigan's only community-based organization dedicated to LGBTQ+ adults aged 45+ and those who love and care for them.

"My passion is social justice work," she says. "MiGen is a marriage of all the things I've learned."

Through direct programs and services, MiGen offers support in areas like housing, healthcare, food and benefits. "We also offer training to organizations serving aging adults to help make aging spaces more inclusive.

"We have a sizable LGBTQ population in the Pointes and I don't know of any programs or services for LGBTQ elders in the community."

She shares some quick facts to add context to the issues MiGen addresses: "LGBTQ+ elders are two times as likely to live alone and four times as likely

not to have children." MiGen wants to make sure none of them have to face the challenges of aging alone.

"They have often had issues navigating financial structures, especially following discrimination," says Gabridge. "We begin supporting individuals as young as 45 because they are far more likely to experience age-related decline at an earlier age due to the stressors caused by lifelong discrimination."

In conjunction with senior centers,

Alzheimer's Association and other local organizations, MiGen offers extensive in-person, multi-generational and virtual programming. Virtual programming is especially important because many LGBTQ+ elders "are still closeted or very quiet about their orientation," adds Gabridge.

Though resources have shrunk in

recent months, MiGen continues to grow with the support of grants. "We are also beginning to look at infrastructure to generate income through social enterprise models related to caregiving and other aging supports."

MiGen also welcomes new volunteers and is currently recruiting board members.

The organization's signature event, Rainbow Resilience: An Ageless Fashion Affair, is a fashion show featuring LGBTQ+ older adults from the southeast Michigan community as runway models.

"We start planning the next fashion show during Pride Month," says Gabridge. "Those interested in designing, modeling or attending are welcome to get in touch about the March 7, 2027 event, which takes place at Detroit Yacht Club."

To aging LGBTQ+ neighbors, Gabridge says, "Don't shy away from seeking access, support, public health benefits and socializing."

MiGen has two locations — Affirmations at 290 W. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale and Corktown Health at 1726 Howard St., Detroit.

To learn more, visit migenconnect.org. 

Top, Rainbow Resilience: An Ageless Fashion Affair 2026; left, Angela Gabridge, Mocha Pronto and Chief of Staff, Jon Fitzgerald

Photos by John F. Martin Photography



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