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February 12, 1998

Woods council to ponder new park pass policies

By Jim Stickford
Staff Writer

Grosse Pointe Woods officials take great pride in the quality of the city's Lake Front Park. It's popular and offers a lot of activities for residents during the hot summer months.

But that's the problem. Given the fact that there is a limit to the number of people who can use the park at any

one time, the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council alone with the city's recreation commission, has been considering ways to alleviate the problem of overcrowding during weekends and holidays. Part of the solution is to limit the number of guest passes issued.

"We want to have a consistent and fair policy for the issuing of guest passes," said

Woods Director of Public Service Thomas Whiteher. "Nothing's been done so far, but the recreation commission has been reviewing the problem and has made some recommendations to the city council, which will review ordinances affecting four different park pass situations."

The first recommendation, said Whiteher, is to limit the

issuing of park passes to the people who actually live in a home. Current policy allows both the homeowner, often an out-of-town resident, and the renter who actually lives in the house to receive park passes.

The thinking was that renters are residents, but homeowners have rights because they are taxpayers, Whiteher said. Upon review,

the recreation commission realized that part of a renter's rent goes toward paying the property taxes.

The second recommendation concerns residents whose property crosses city borders, said Whiteher. There are a number of home lots that are in, say, Grosse Pointe Woods and

See PASSES, page 2A

LOOK FOR THE CURE INSIDE YOUR HOME THIS WEEK.

WEEK AHEAD

Thursday, Feb. 12

The Grosse Pointe War Memorial Veterans' Club meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Alger House, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Guest speaker will be Col. John Bass, of the U. S. Marine Corps, who will address "The Readiness of the Marine Corps." Admission is free and spouses are welcome.

Saturday, Feb. 14

Celebrate Valentine's Day in the Village shopping district. There will be ice sculptures on each corner and "Wandering Hearts" greeting shoppers and handing out special treats to children from noon to 4 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 16

President's Day. Most municipal offices, courts and banks will be closed.

Tuesday, Feb. 17

The Grosse Pointe Shores Village Council meets at 7 p.m. in the municipal offices at 795 Lakeshore.

The City of Grosse Pointe Council meets at 7:30 p.m. in the municipal offices at 17145 Maumee.

Attorney Geoffrey Fieger will be the guest speaker at the Grosse Pointe Democratic Club's meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, in the City of Grosse Pointe. Fieger hopes to receive the Democratic nomination and challenge John Engler in the November gubernatorial race. The meeting is open to the public and refreshments will be provided.

Wednesday, Feb. 18

Monsignor Leonard Blair, pastor of St. Paul Catholic Church, will provide an overview of the "Principles of Ecumenism," at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Paul school building, 170 Grosse Pointe Blvd. Registration fee is \$5. Call (313) 885-7022 for more information.

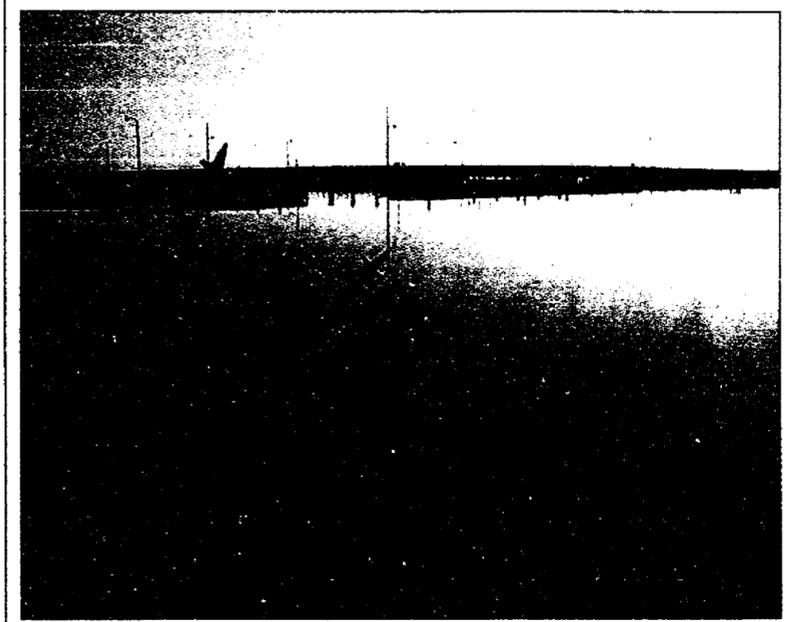


Photo by Rosh Siliars

Winter blues

Will winter never end? While we've enjoyed moderate weather this year, it's still some 47 days until launch day and the City of Grosse Pointe marina will once again be filled with sailboats and other watercraft. Can't wait!

Schools begin budget process

By Shirley A. McShane
Staff Writer

It's February. For those who dislike winter, Groundhog Day promises the return of spring in six weeks. For the romantic, there is Valentine's Day. For the Grosse Pointe Public School System, this month marks the beginning of the annual budget-setting process.

The laborious, multi-step, community-wide process opens with an informative meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18 in the Wicking Library at Grosse Pointe South High School.

The meeting launches the process by informing the teachers, administrators and volunteers in the various Program Advisory Committees (PAC) on how they will go about recommending budgets for the 14 school buildings, departments and programs. The public is welcome to attend.

The process, which is called site-based budgeting, begins with the superintendent and top administrators forecasting enrollment projections, financial resources, state-reimbursements for each pupil, state categorical funding (for mandatory programs) and major projects.

The financial and enrollment

forecasts are subject to board approval. The accepted financial data will then be coupled with the philosophical information and the Program Advisory Committee booklet will then be published and distributed on Feb. 18.

Once that "concrete preliminary" information is provided to the PACs, they begin setting the budget with those numbers. While circumstances may change during the course of the process, the building principal — not the committee — will respond and make any adjustments.

PACs aren't supposed to focus on the numbers, but rather on the priorities and principles of the school district, as set forth in its mission statement and strategic plan, said Superintendent Suzanne Klein.

"It is helpful to the committee when making decisions that they can relate them back to these principles as well as the district's mission statement and school improvement plan," said Joan Dindoff, board secretary.

An issue that came up last fall — elementary class sizes — will be addressed specifically in the form of an additional

governing principle added to the PACs guidelines, Klein said.

"It's not a brand-new issue this year," she said. "It's always an issue to balance resources against quality, student needs against class size."

The range of class sizes will be narrower this year, she said. Since classes are made based on estimates in the early part of the year, and new families inevitably enroll students in late August and early September, adjustments are necessary.

Over the course of the next few months committees will review allocation of budget funds and plan for immediate and long-term needs.

Once budgets are set, the PACs present their information to the administration and school board. The public is welcome to attend.

The recommendations are then reviewed by the superintendent and presented to the school board for approval before the end of the fiscal year in June.

Different to the process this year was the inclusion of administrators from the ele-

Time drawing near for decision on driver ed

But all avenues lead to students paying for instruction

By Shirley A. McShane
Staff Writer

There appears to be no easy answer to the question of what Grosse Pointe should do with its driver education program.

The school board has been considering three options for several months and has listened as Paula Jarvis, community education director, spells out the advantages and drawbacks of each.

Due to reductions in state funding and a variety of other problems, providing driver education to students has become increasingly difficult for school districts, Jarvis told the board in January. Under the new driver education law, schools will have to select one of three options by April 1.

Options are to continue the program and charge tuition, drop the program or to contract with a private driving school.

Wanting to make sure the public had a chance to speak before the board took action, Jack Ryan, school board treasurer, suggested a request for public input be placed in school newspapers, school newsletters and in the most recent mailing of the community education bulletin.

That request resulted in a less-than-overwhelming response to the board's query, Jarvis said. She received 16 responses: 10 asking the district to continue the program, five suggesting the program be eliminated and one respondent in favor of the district subcontracting.

The board again discussed the merits of each option and postponed a decision until March, hoping to give the public one last chance to speak.

Under option one, discontinuing the program, the only cost to the school system will be to

maintain records of eligible students and authorize reimbursements (the state reimburses the school district for a small percentage of the costs incurred).

Under option two, to continue the program and charge tuition, the school system could charge approximately \$205 for each family. Costs to run the program would be about \$8,450 (based on an estimated 130 students and a state reimbursement of \$65 a student.)

Under option three, contracting with a private driving school, information varies on costs, depending on who the district consults.

Things to consider when making a decision on whether to keep the program — which according to Jarvis is only being used by one-third of the eligible pool of Pointe teens each year — include the cost to the district, the cost to families, and is Grosse Pointe offering a program that is not available elsewhere?

Furthermore, trustees said, the district should balance what it provides its students with what it asks the taxpayers to support.

"When driver education programs were introduced in the school system, there weren't computers in every classroom," Ryan said. "We are now asking the taxpayers to support both. Maybe it's time we asked parents to foot the bill for driver education."

Jarvis said if the board decides to get out of the driver education business this year, it could still start a program again in the future. But Tim Howlett, board president, said it isn't easy to start up a program when it has been canceled.

Trustees seemed to have differing ideas on what was the best option and hoped the public would offer some further input before they act in March.

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Lil' gardeners

Loraine and Olivia Carlson will help find animal tracks in the next hands-on gardening class for children 3 and older which will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. Classes are held on the third Saturday of the month, January through November.

Children will learn how to find and identify different kinds of animal tracks. They'll also make a "foot-print" project, hear a story and sample some trail mix.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$1 and advance registration is required. Call (313) 881-7511.



POINTER OF INTEREST

Philip Fox

Home: City of Grosse Pointe

Age: 60

Family: Single

Occupation: Box office manager of the Wayne State University theaters

Quote: "Art is like religion. In the same way that you should be allowed your religion, you should be allowed your art."

See story, page 4A



Philip Fox

50 years ago this week



TB X-ray drive

George Elworthy, chairman of the neighborhood committees for all of the Grosse Pointes, gives final instructions to area chairmen for the City of Grosse Pointe on the tuberculosis X-ray campaign as they leave the City municipal building. The city's campaign is under the direction of city clerk Norbert Neff. Shown are, from left, Mrs. Russell E. Smith, Mr. Elworthy, Mrs. John L. Kenover, Mrs. Ranking Weisgerber and Mrs. Robert B. King.

Abraham keynotes fundraiser

Jumps at chance to address Hunt Club

U.S. Sen. Spencer Abraham will keynote a Republican fundraiser at the Grosse Pointe Hunt Club on Tuesday, Feb. 17 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 a person or \$45 a couple.

Abraham was described by one Washington newspaper as

the Senate's "most influential freshman." He successfully sponsored bills to prevent lowering penalties for dealing crack cocaine and to make it harder for prisoners to file frivolous lawsuits.

Abraham recently sponsored a bill to keep Congress from imposing unfunded mandates on small businesses.

The event will benefit the Eastside Republican Club, the

Women's Republican Club of Grosse Pointe, and the Macomb County Republican Women's Club.

Hot hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be available.

The Hunt Club is located at 655 Cook Road in Grosse Pointe Woods.

For more information, call John Stempfle of the Eastside Republican Club at (313) 888-0781.

yesterday's headlines

50 years ago this week

The Grosse Pointe board of education approves the plan for a memorial library at Kercheval and Fisher. The library will be built with the free will gifts of the people of Grosse Pointe, and augmented by the money the school district will receive at a later date from the sale of the Murray Sales homestead, which was given to the district. The initial building costs will be no less than \$500,000.

Indignant car owners are fed up with the ongoing property damage inflicted by a gang of malicious kids who are stripping and destroying external apparatus on autos. A woman living on Neff, who owns a Crossley, said the vandals overturned it so many times she sold it.

A beginning was made toward assuring safe swimming in the Park village pool regardless of the condition of the lake water. Manager Lane has put on order a pump and chlorine feeder at a cost of \$8,000.

City and Farms police were called to Fisher across from Grosse Pointe High School to disperse a crowd of 300 to 400 students milling in front of a business. There had been a close basketball game earlier between Grosse Pointe and Highland Park. When the

game ended, the audience carried its pent-up enthusiasm into the open. A free-for-all ensued, resulting in one young man losing several teeth and a few more being detained by police for a few hours.

25 years ago this week

NBD opens a new building in the Village to house a regional banking headquarters.

The Park has sandbags available for residents who live along the shoreline, who are in a battle against possible overflow of lake water. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers predicts the lake will rise another six inches by June 15, an all-time high.

A millage election date has been set for March 29. The school board has until March 5 to determine the amount and duration of the millage. The district's two previous millages expire on June 30.

10 years ago this week

Former Michigan Governor G. Mennen "Soapy" Williams died on Feb. 2 of a cerebral hemorrhage. In keeping with his final wishes, he was laid in state at his Grosse Pointe Farms home, which was open to the public.

The Grosse Pointe Farms council voted there will be no temporary street closings this

year in the city. Due to the restructuring of the Punch and Judy Building into offices and the construction of 131 Kercheval Place, residents adjacent to the Hill shopping district oppose the delay of traffic control measures and predict traffic will increase.

The Woods City Council is expected to ask a licensing board for an extension which would allow the city to continue its advanced fire support ambulance service as is, and ask voters for a 1/2 mill increase to continue that service.

5 years ago this week

The Star of the Sea Parish Council advises the closing of its all-girls Catholic high school in Grosse Pointe Woods. The recommendation now goes to Archbishop Adam Maida, who is expected to act on it within the week. The council cited low enrollment and lack of adequate funding as reasons for the school's demise.

Bill Elston, editorial writer for the Grosse Pointe News and former editorial writer for The Detroit News, tops off a 60-year career in the newspaper business with the announcement he'll be inducted this April into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame.

Passes

From page 1

Harper Woods.

It has been the city's practice to issue park passes to all such property owners. The new policy would be to issue, Whitcher said, passes only to residents who have over 50 percent of their property on the Woods side of the border. So if a property owner's lot was 20 percent in the Woods and 80 percent in Harper Woods, no more passes would be issued to that home.

The third policy question deals with limiting the number of group park passes, Whitcher said. The group pass policy was started in 1997 and the recreation commission is trying to iron out some of the problems that have arisen over it.

The number of people who could get in under a group pass would be reduced from 300 to

200. Group passes would not be issued for weekends, when the addition of 200 more people to the park could prove burdensome, Whitcher said.

The fourth proposed policy change revolves around the issuing of special visitor passes, said Whitcher. The recreation commission is recommending that households receive only three temporary passes for periods of two weeks at a time. These passes would be for up to five people.

The passes are needed because many Woods residents have relatives who visit during the summer, said Whitcher. He cited as an example, an older couple who have their children and grandchildren visit and need temporary passes.

"All these recommendations

are being made to the council because we have a very popular park," said Whitcher. "We want to accommodate residents, but we have limited space. We have to have some guidelines."

The city council will review and vote on the recreation commission's recommendations at the Feb. 23 council meeting, said Whitcher. Normally the council meets on the first and third Mondays of the month, but this year the third Monday of the month, Feb. 16, is also President's Day and city offices will be closed.

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CHECKS WELCOME

Are the merits of wind power overblown?

By Robert L. Bradley Jr.

While antipollution controls are a widely accepted short-term solution to environmental problems posed by fossil fuels, some people believe that the long-term answer is the gradual replacement of fossil fuels

with less environmentally threatening fuel sources. Maybe so, but we should look before we leap.

Thousands of high school debaters across Michigan and the nation are debating renewable energy — power generat-

ed from the nearly infinite sunshine, wind, movement of water, internal heat of the earth and the combustion of replenishable crops. The concept is popular with the public and government officials because it is thought to be an inexhaustible and environmentally benign source of power. Yet all renewable energy sources are not created equal. Some are more economically and environmentally viable than others. The list of renewable fuels that were once promising but are now being questioned on economic and environmental grounds is growing.

Hydropower has lost favor because of the damage it has done to river habitats and freshwater fish populations. Solar power, at least when relied on for central-station electricity generation, is highly uneconomical, land intensive, and at best, a fringe electric power source for the foreseeable future. Geothermal has turned out to be "depletable," with limited capacity and falling output. Biomass is often uneconomic and also generates its own air pollution.

Among most environmentalists, wind power is currently the favorite source of renewable energy and is thought to be the most likely source to replace fossil fuels for the generation of electricity in the 21st century.

But wind power poses several major dilemmas. Among them, it remains uneconomical despite heavy subsidies from ratepayers and taxpayers over the last two decades — through 1995 the Department of Energy (DOE) had spent \$900 million in wind energy subsidies. Second, wind farms are noisy, land intensive, unsightly and hazardous to birds, including endangered species.

It is erroneous to conclude that even if wind power is not competitive now, it soon will be. Wind is competing against

improving technologies and the increasing abundance of natural resources as reflected in their generally falling prices. The cost of gas-fired combined-cycle plants — the most economical electricity-generation capacity for central-station power at present — has fallen in the last decade because of improving technology and a 50 percent drop in delivered gas prices adjusted for inflation.

The energy-efficiency factors of gas turbines have increased from just above 40 percent in the early 1980s to nearly 60 percent today. Opening the national electricity grid likely will equalize rates across state boundaries and reduce the nation's 8-cent-per-kilowatt-hour average residential rate, further reducing the competitiveness of wind power.

Wind power has proven itself to be a perpetual "infant industry," with its competitive viability always somewhere off on the horizon. Proponents have always argued for continued subsidies on the rationale that commercialization is within sight. In 1985 congressional hearings, for example, an executive of the American Wind Energy Association testified that "the goal for this industry...is the lowest-cost source of electricity, along with hydro, available to a utility by 1990."

Meanwhile, the universal rationale for the massive public commitment to wind power is that it is environmentally benign. But wind power has at least one major environmental problem — the killing of bird populations — that has begun to cause serious concern among mainstream environmentalists.

Wind blades have killed thousands of birds in the United States and abroad in the last decade, including endangered species. The Sierra Club and the National Audubon Society have criticized wind power's effects on

birds, but many of their fellow environmentalists have ignored the problem in their devotion to wind power. The "avian mortality" problem has been widely reported in the wind-power literature (a California Sierra Club official labeled wind towers "the Cuisinarts of the air"). An important article in SF Weekly, a San Francisco newspaper, was written not by a free-market critic but by an author sympathetic to the environmental agenda. It was particularly telling.

The article concerns the world's largest wind-power farm, the 625 MW Altamont Pass project: "It now appears that windmills are annually killing thousands of birds worldwide, including...red tailed hawks, American kestrels, turkey vultures, assorted owls and federally

protected species like Aquila chrysaetos, the golden eagle. It turns out that the Bay Area...is the windmill bird-death capital of America." The 7,000 turbines of Altamont Pass are also responsible for disturbing noise and "visual blight."

Michigan can learn from the wind-power experience, especially with electricity expenses in Michigan already above the national average.

Renewable energy sources are worth exploring, but as the experience so far with wind power shows, their merits can be easily overblown.

Robert L. Bradley Jr. is president of the Institute for Energy Research in Houston and an adjunct scholar for both the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C., and the Mackinac Center for Public Policy in Midland.

Uninvited company

They don't walk softly and carry big sticks. They kinda sneak into our back yards and by the time we hear the buzzing of their saws or the cracking of limbs falling to the ground it is often too late. Who are these creatures???

When confronted they sometimes attempt to appease us by saying they are merely doing moderate trimming to facilitate our lives and safety. Sure, it isn't their carefully tended trees that are being butchered. Last month when I discovered men in our yard, I flew outside to inform them that we had just had all of our trees trimmed and were in good shape and compliance as far as we could ascertain. The men assured me that they were doing minimal maintenance and, if there was any unnecessary damage, it was probably the fault of another company.

I recall my first foray into heated discussion with the butchers who cut a mighty swath in our yard a few years ago. I had been confined to my bed with a virus and from a new vantage point looked out the window to our back yard to discover that almost all of our majestic pines had been topped. In appearance, it wasn't unlike the trees in the parks after the recent tornado. Obviously, someone with little regard to nature's beauty had taken out some personal rage with a power saw in our yard. Not only was the beauty of the trees impaired, the shade provided from those trees was greatly affected.

Now, before you jump all over me, I will be among the first to acknowledge that a certain amount of trimming is not only necessary but healthy for our trees. My concern is largely the manner in which this trimming is being done. Not only does it appear extreme, but the manner in which innocent homeowners are treated is, in my opinion, inexcusable.

A friend related the story to me of an encounter one of his employees had with trimmers she discovered in her yard. A surly man told her that he had no responsibility to discuss the matter of her trees with her, he was simply doing the job he had been ordered to do and that her opinion was of no importance.

I have news for this gentleman. Trees do matter to a great many of us. When we purchase our homes, the landscape is very close to the top of the list in priorities. You don't have to go very far in this town to witness the loving care displayed in planting and maintenance of our yards and gardens. I don't want to start a war with companies who feel they are doing their jobs; however, I'm asking, isn't there some way in which we can be involved or consulted when our gates are entered by strangers with threatening implements in their hands?

— Offering from the loft



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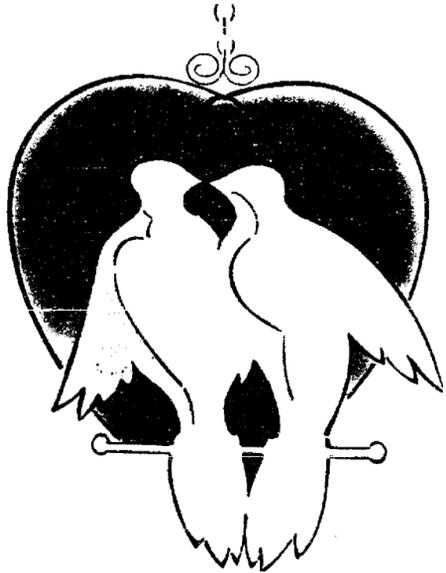
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AMERICAN EXPRESS VISA

Pair of Pierce teachers preparing for cross-country adventure

By Shirley A. McShane
Staff Writer

What do school teachers do on their summer break?

If you ask Bill Thompson and Jennifer Valko, they'll tell you they're preparing for a cross-country bike trip to raise money for the American Lung Association.

Thompson, a science teacher, and Valko, a math teacher at Pierce Middle School in Grosse Pointe Park, will participate in the GTE Big Ride Across America June 15 through Aug. 1.

The journey starts in Seattle, Wash., and the pair, along with more than 1,000 other cyclists, will travel through Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Maryland, concluding the trip in Washington, D.C.

The ride is fully supported, Valko said, which means the riders are not given a map and expected to find their own way across the nation.

They will ride more or less as a group, from morning to dusk each day, taking breaks

along their routes. Supplies and gear will be carried along the route in trucks and dispensed to the participants, along with breakfast and dinner. Riders can take the trip seriously and race or pedal the day away, she said, or they can use it as a way to see the country and meet people, which is what Thompson and Valko plan to do.

They will camp on fairgrounds, in school yards, at

camping sites for all but two nights of the 85-day event.



Pierce Middle School teachers Bill Thompson and Jennifer Valko are already cross-training for an upcoming cross-country bicycle trek to raise money for the American Lung Association.

University of Montana and the University of Wisconsin have offered their dorms to the riders when they pass through their towns, Thompson said.

"One of the nicest aspects of this is that the people who live along our route are excited and supportive (of our endeavor)," he said. "They cheer you on, kids set up lemonade stands."

As long as the riders keep track of their daily mileage, what they do along the route is up to them. Participants will average between 80 and 85 miles a day. There will be five challenging days when riders will pedal more than 100 miles.

"We've made the mental commitment to do this, that we can do this," she said. "It's all so overwhelming to think about sometimes. We ask ourselves: What did we get ourselves into?"

Both have been cross training at a local health club, riding stationary bikes, swimming and running.

When the weather outside gets warmer, they'll hit the pavement and practice cycling.

Both Thompson and Valko are avid fitness enthusiasts. Valko, who is from Cleveland, has been cycling since she was 17 and has participated in a number of cycling events.

She and Thompson recently participated in a triathlon. Both were looking for a new challenge.

"We have the triathlon bug and the competitive bug and this seemed like the ultimate," said Thompson, who is a 1988 graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School and boys' and girls' swimming coach at South.

"I do two to three weekend trips each summer," Valko said, pointing out that most of the rides is always to raise money for charity. "This summer I participated in the MS 150 for Multiple Sclerosis. Afterward we went to a farm where we presented the money to the recipients. It made me realize it was going to a good cause. We actually saw where it was going and that made me decide to do it again."

Valko and Thompson plan to raise a minimum of \$5,000 to enter the event.

They are in the process of formulating ways in which to raise the funds and hope to involve their seventh- and eighth-grade students in this, as well as sharing with them their experiences when they return to school next fall.

To find out more about the GTE Big Ride Across America or to make a donation to the American Lung Association, call Pierce Middle School at (313) 343-2094. Pledge forms are available at the school, at 15430 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park.

G.P. Library offers learning 'opera'tunities

A lot of words in Italian mean "work." To name a few we have "lavoro," "compito," "impiego" and "opera."

No kidding — opera. Nonetheless, Italians, and not just the elite, tend to love opera. From their ranks rise popular stars such as Enrico Caruso and Luciano Pavarotti, who have become worldwide phenomena. Their voices are loved even by those who've never been to the opera.

In America, even though we have lionized opera stars, we tend to view opera as effete, boring, overlong: A taste reserved for people who wear pince-nez and speak in words of four syllables, preferably Latin.

Despite the fact that the best-known operas were written as entertainment for the masses, the American popular belief is that opera is overlong and boring. So are a lot of movies, with some running more than two hours.

Parents: Need a night out?

Parents, especially working couples, long for a night out without the children. The Grosse Pointe Academy and Blue Streak Summer Camps Inc. are offering an alternative to grandma's house and hiring a babysitter.

Beginning this Saturday, Feb. 14, and continuing each Saturday, with the exception of May 9, with advance notice and for a fee, parents can drop off their children from 6 p.m. to midnight at the Grosse Pointe Academy, 171 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Children between the ages of 4 and 12 are welcome. The price is \$30 an evening for the first child; \$20 for the second child and \$15 for the third; and \$10 for the fourth. Pizza and soft drinks are provided in the price. Other snacks and beverages will be available for purchase.

To register, call (313) 239-4580 between Monday and Saturday (by noon) to preregister for that week or, register on site. Enrollment is limited to 75 children so it is possible that registration will be closed by the time parents arrive on Saturday night.

School News?
Call (313) 882-0294

Music tends to heighten any emotion. Opera can create overwhelming emotion. But the best ones are in a language the man-on-the-street doesn't know, which is why you might be bored.

This is why people who attend opera may read a synopsis or check out a libretto (the opera's full text, line by line) at the library. The Grosse Pointe Public Library has full librettos.

The easiest way to enjoy any stage production is not to read

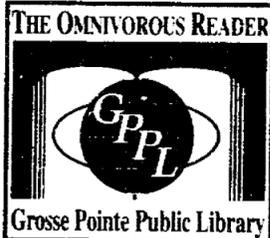
about it, but to attend. It was not written to be a "good read" but to be experienced. The music is the most important thing. Listen to cassettes and CDs of good ones.

If you must have a book, we have a few. The novice who doesn't mind being called names might check out David Pogue and Scott Speck's "Opera for Dummies."

Someone who wants to maintain more dignity should enjoy "Opera 101: A Complete Guide to Learning and Loving Opera," by Fred Plotkin.

Visit the Grosse Pointe Central Library at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 5 to hear Karen DiChiera, director of community programs for the Michigan Opera Theater, who will review the 1998 spring season.

You also might want to see some of the tapes of this season's shows. In our performing arts collection we have Mozart's "Don Giovanni," Puccini's "Madama Butterfly," Verdi's "Aida" and Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess." For more information to reserve an item at the library, call (313) 343-2074.



Learn more about the Henry Ford Academy for students entering the ninth grade.

The Henry Ford Academy of Manufacturing Arts & Sciences, an innovative four-year public high school that emphasizes the application of math, science and humanities, is sponsoring community forums. These forums will provide applications and information about this unique educational opportunity for Wayne County students entering ninth grade this fall.

February 11 Wednesday	Focus: HOPE CAT Center 1400 Oakman Detroit 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.	February 16 Monday	Grosse Pointe West Middle Reception Room 33 Lake Shore Drive Grosse Pointe Farms 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
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For more information, please call (313) 982-6100 ext. 2912.
<http://www.hfacademy.org>

The Henry Ford Academy is a partnership between Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village, Ford Motor Company, and is chartered by Wayne County, RESA.

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1998 BOARD OF REVIEW SESSIONS

The Assessment Roll for the Township of Grosse Pointe, Wayne County and the Township of Lake, Macomb County, Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan, for the year 1998 has been compiled. The tentative equalization rates for residential and commercial property is 50.00 and the estimated residential multiplier for 1998 is 1.00, and estimated commercial multiplier is 1.00. An increase in the average of 1.1072% will be reflected on assessments unless construction has been done to a home which would affect its value (assessment). The taxable increase for 1998 is 1.027 and will be applied to the 1997 taxable amount. The exception to this, is if there was a transfer of ownership, then the taxable and assessed amount are the same. The Board of Review will hear official petitions on the following dates:

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 1998
and
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 1998

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
and
1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The Board will meet in the Grosse Pointe Shores Municipal Building (first floor), 795 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores. All property owners wishing to appeal their assessments and wishing to file official petitions will be seen **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**. Appointments may be made by calling 884-0234. Petitions by mail must be received by the Board **PRIOR** to the last session (03/09/98) so they may be reviewed in a timely manner. Additionally, the Assessor, Mr. Timothy O'Donnell, is available to meet with you every Monday afternoon--You may call 884-0234 for an appointment.

GPN: 02/12/98 & 02/19/98

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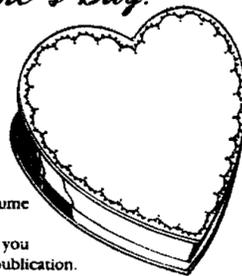
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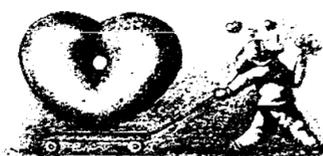
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Autorama brings out the 'kid' in collectors

Advance press materials for this weekend's Autorama at Cobo Center describe the specialty vehicle show as a red hot Valentine on wheels.

Sue Gastmeier's description of the excitement the annual event generates among participants is more to the point. "It's like Christmas," said the St. Clair Shores resident and wife of show participant Tom Gastmeier.

The "boys" — and "girls" — are like kids on Christmas Eve. They can't wait for the show to start.

"Even though they can't get their vehicles on the show floor until 5 p.m. on Thursday, they will all be there at 1 o'clock," she said.

Tom Gastmeier wasn't at home week nights before the show. After several rings, he finally answered Friday morning at Gastmeiers Service, on Groesbeck in Warren.

"I was polishing the El Camino's gas tank," he explained.

This, indeed, is the spirit of Autorama. Where else would a show visitor be treated to glistening gas tanks, for heaven's sake? Or chromed engines like the bare-out small-block 350-CID (now a 355-CID) under the hood of Gastmeier's 1970 Chevrolet car-track El Camino? People, there even are mirrors on the floor at Cobo for this event, said to be one of the biggest and most important shows featuring everything from hot rods to pure classic cars.

Autorama draws local do-it-yourself enthusiasts like Gastmeier and Cedo Padovini, of Grosse Pointe Woods. It also attracts professionally done vehicles.

"There are cars with hundreds of thousands of dollars invested in them," said Padovini, referring to the professional jobs. They are very carefully judged and awards are presented.

There also are awards for the amateurs.



Autos

By Jenny King

But mostly, said Padovini, who is taking his 1969 Chevrolet Camaro with 500-HP, 454-CID engine. It's a chance to show off your vehicle, talk with other enthusiasts and admire their work, he said.

"I'm going with a group of guys," he said. "We do it for the fun of it."

Same for Tom Gastmeier, whose gang numbers eight. Their vehicles include Corvettes, Camaros, Chevrolets from 1940 and 1947 and even a Willys.

"I had my El Camino in the show last year," Gastmeier said. "The rules allow you to show the same vehicle for two years. Then you have to make some substantial changes in order to bring it back."

Gastmeier figured he might bring his 1941 silver-over-black Buick coupe next time. "We found it up in the Thumb in 1990 when we were out driving," he said. "It was at a bump shop. It's very rare. I think there are only three in existence."

The St. Clair Shores resident had a better story about the purchase of his red-and-black El Camino.

"My son Michael and I jumped into the car and drove to Florida in search of a car — we were thinking maybe a Camaro — in 1994," he said. Leaving I-75, they "turned right at Ocala" and began scouring the state, stopping to buy local newspapers and check out leads.

They crossed Alligator Alley to the east coast and found the El Camino in North Miami, he said. "It was in good shape on top. We tore it apart under the hood." The 355-CID V-8 there now has computerized fuel injection.

Would he race such a hot vehicle? Not on your life. Gastmeier doesn't want anything to happen to the body, although he hinted it may have been opened up once or twice late at night on Groesbeck.

Padovini, on the other hand, is a motor sports enthusiast with a passion for drag racing. The General Motors engineer prefers the track at Norwalk, Ohio, to Detroit-area surface streets or strips in southeast Michigan.

But even Padovini, in spite of the tremendous power of his Corvette-white '69 Camaro and his love for racing, now is having second thoughts about sustaining any damage.

This past weekend he and three friends were hard at work both inside and outside the car. Gastmeier chuckled. He remembered the final days before his Autorama debut in 1997. It's a non-stop effort, especially for the first one, he said.

In the Padovini garage, Eric and Don Willson and Jeff Knapp labored alongside the Camaro's owner. Last Saturday afternoon the gigan-

ty new air filter perched atop the 454-CID engine was still in its plastic wrap. Padovini did the engine work himself. It may be the car's best feature, he said.

Paint brushes and tools of all sorts were scattered around the family lit "shop." Outside Padovini's 1971 Oldsmobile SX, another race car, was partly wrapped in a protective canvas. The collector also owns a 1964 Plymouth Sport Fury.

"I bought it new when I got out of the service," he said. When he and his wife, Marlene, started their family, the Chrysler-built muscle car was sacrificed for something more practical.

But Padovini happened to run across the Fury in 1993 and brought it back into the family.

See AUTOS, page 20A



Grosse Pointe Woods resident Cedo Padovini will show his 1969 Chevrolet Camaro at Autorama at Cobo Center this weekend. He bought the F-body for drag racing but making it perfect for the big show may cloud its future on the track.



Padovini unwraps the air filter atop the 454-CID engine that produces some 500 HP. The General Motors engineer and motor sports enthusiast did most of the engine refinements himself. Friends pitched in to re-work the interior and paint the body Corvette white with a silver racing stripe.

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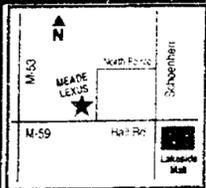
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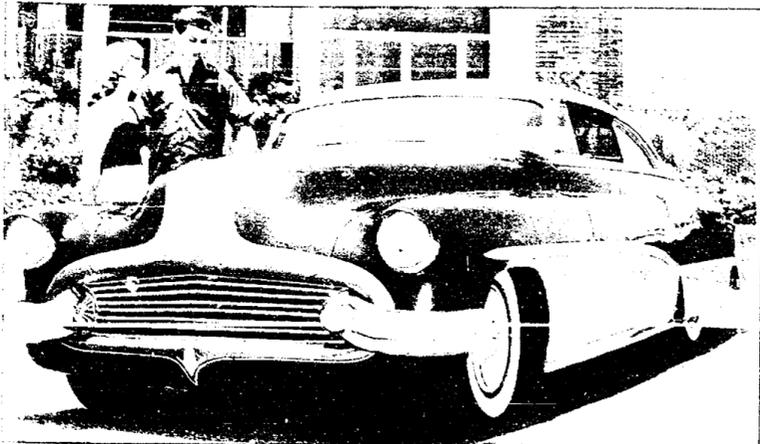
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Autorama cars are so spectacular they even have names. Here's the Blue Danube from Eagle One's Cavalcade of Kustoms. It's a chopped '52 Buick Riviera with two-tone blue pearl and silver blue paint job. Stage-struck, it has been on the show circuit since 1958.

Autos

From page 19A

While participants can get on the floor at Cobo Thursday evening, Autorama opens to the general public Friday, Feb. 13, at 5 p.m. and runs until 11 p.m.

The show continues Saturday, from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. General admission is \$12. Children under 12 years of age pay \$5 each.

Autorama is produced by Championship Auto Shows, Inc., is hosted by the Michigan Hot Rod Association and is sanctioned by the International Show Car Association.

Special attractions include cars, of course, and also stars. Look for Baywatch TV star Donna D'Errio; Red Wings player Kris Draper; University of Michigan quarterback Brian Griese, and Detroit Lions defensive tackle Luther Elliss.



The Padovini team gathers outside the garage following a Saturday afternoon of intense work on the Autorama-bound '69 Camaro. From left are: Don Willson, Eric Willson, Cedo Padovini and Jeff Knapp.



The purple Frankenstude started life as a 1948 Studebaker Starlight Coupe. It is owned by Steve Andersen. Greg Fleury and Thom Taylor were responsible for its design and sculpting.

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Pursuant to federal guidelines, the City of Harper Woods desires to submit the following projects for funding from the 1998 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program:

LOCATION	ACTIVITY	AMOUNT
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City-wide	Pontiac Area Assisted Transit	\$18,500
City-wide	S.O.C. Minor Home Repairs	\$24,500
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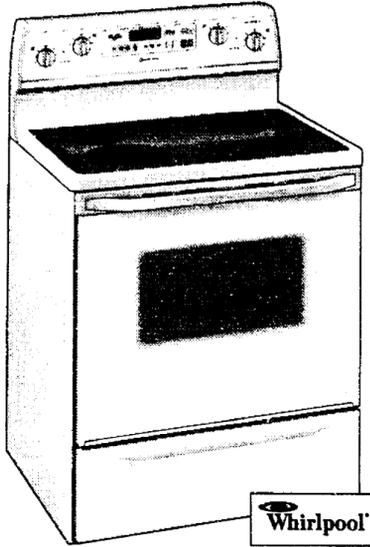
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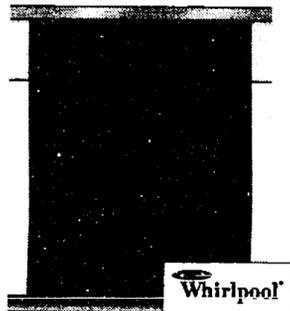
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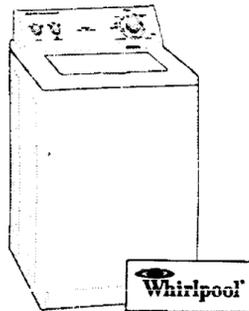
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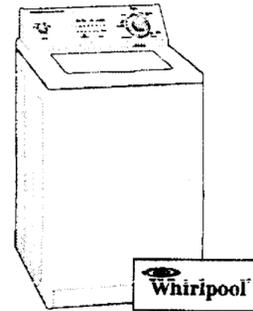
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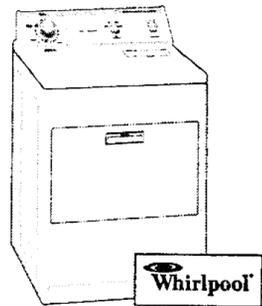
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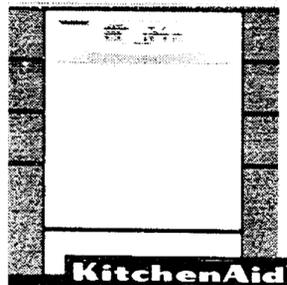
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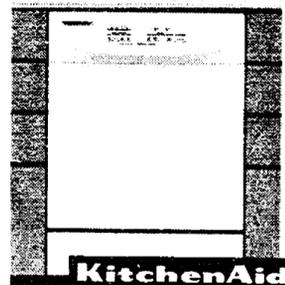
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By Virginia Carr,
The Color Wizard

Are the winter doldrums coming down on you? Got the blues? It could be a case of classic old "cabin fever." You might say it's just a cliché, but still true. According to Webster's Dictionary, a cliché is defined as an expression or idea which, though it was once fresh and forceful, has become hackneyed and weak through frequent repetition. It commonly expresses a feeling of being closed in for extended periods of time.

However, whether the cliché is "in" or "out," it does have a strong basis for its existence. In Michigan for one, we can almost feel claustrophobic simply due to our winter weather conditions. In an article published in the Journal of The American Medical Association, in simple terms, it describes a condition related to the lack of natural light which sounds like an offshoot of cabin fever. It's called seasonal affective disorder (SAD). People can actually suffer from the lack of natural light. The short, cold, dark days of winter and the lack of sunny, blue skies are definitely lacking around here. Who can deny that just seeing streams of sunlight filtering through our windows can lift our spirits?

The following is a list of chronic ailments that can be attributed to SAD, "light deprivation" syndrome.

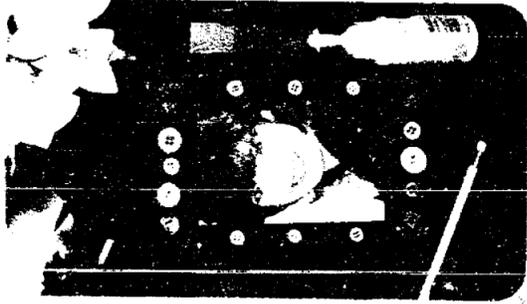
- Light deprivation symptoms are as follows:
- Depression;
- Fatigue;
- Carbohydrate cravings;
- Weight gain;
- Oversleeping;
- Difficulty awakening in the morning;
- Reduced work productivity;
- Withdrawn from social contacts.

The major question is this: Are these symptoms largely absent in the late spring and summer months? Can you pinpoint when they occur? Here are some ideas to keep you busy until you can get outside again.

Cabin craft projects

Lightly sand an old picture frame and finish it with spray paint. Using a white glue, decorate it with colored buttons or trinkets.

- Materials for placements:
- Purchase an 11x17-inch plastic sleeve from a copy shop;
- Scissors;



Cabin Fever

got you down?



- Wallpaper, fabric, drawings, maps and anything else thin and flat enough to laminate;
- Placements are easy to make:
- 1. Just slide the material into the plastic casing. It can be made to fit the rectangle or create a new shape by rounding off the corners or cutting it into a circle. Note: a word of caution: Leave a one-half to one-inch clear border around the edges for a good bond, this will prevent the laminate from coming loose later.
- 2. Now return to the copy shop for the laminating. Have them heat-treat it for permanency. This final process cannot be done at home.

All these placements were made with some thought behind them. See what you come up with. How about something for Valentine's day? A map with a post card



is a remembrance of a special trip. The back of an old favorite shirt was used for another and two were made from left-over wallpaper. Be creative.

Another idea is to design a collage, or a collection of things such as scraps of fabric for a patchwork quilt look. Cut 3x3-inch squares and arrange them side-by-side or make another from a collection of family pictures.

In minutes, peck up any room with these "no sew" pillows. How about this for your sweetie? To fill that sweet tooth here are directions for the Tootsie Roll, the Candy Kiss and a Caramel Square.

- Three no-sew pillows:
- The Tootsie Roll;
- The Candy Kiss;
- The Caramel Square.
- Materials needed:
- Small and large width rubber bands;
- Scissors;
- A round pillow or form (Candy Kiss);
- Standard bed pillow or terry cloth bath towel (Tootsie Roll);
- A square pillow or form (Caramel Square).
- Fabric needed for:
- Tootsie Roll — three widths of the bed pillow and two lengths long.



• Candy Kiss — one square of fabric three times the width and length of the form.

• Caramel Square — a square cloth 2 1/2 times the length and width of the form.

Two squares of the fabric can be made from old sheets, pillow cases, tablecloths or any other soft fabric remnant including terry-cloth. Use your imagination!

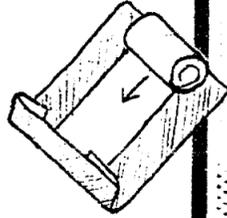
The round candy kiss pillow needs a cloth that does not unravel such as netting, lace or a knit fabric.

- Optional accessories are:
- Ribbon;
- Roping or cording;
- Tassels.

Select colors to match or contrast the fabrics.

The Tootsie Roll

1. Roll up the bed pillow and secure with a thin rubber band.
2. Center it on one end of the fabric square, print side down.
3. Fold the raw edges of each side over to meet the rolled ends of the pillow. This creates about a 6-inch fold on each side.
4. Next, fold in the raw edge of the opposite end, creating a 3-inch deep fold.

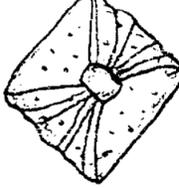
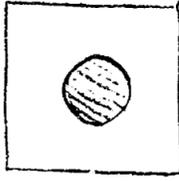


5. Now begin rolling the pillow in the fabric.
6. Fasten the rolled pillow on each end with a wide rubber band and tuck in any raw edges.
7. Accessorize by tying the Tootsie Roll with ribbon or roping.



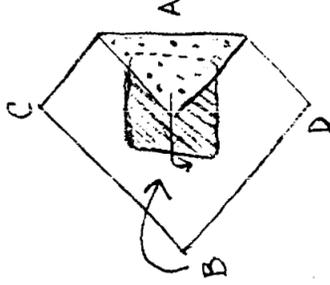
The Candy Kiss

1. Sit your round form in the center of a square of non-velveting fabric.
2. Draw the fabric up around the form to the center top and secure with a wide rubber band. Adjust pleating.
3. Now cut off the excess fabric in a circle. Be creative and follow the outline of the lace fabric: cut peaks or scallops.
4. Finish off by covering the rubber band with ribbons or a lace bow.



The Caramel Square

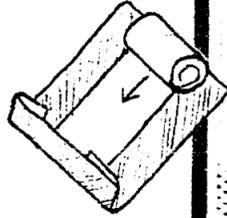
1. Lay the square pillow form kitty-corner on the fabric square, print side down.
2. Draw up one point of the fabric over the form and tuck it under.
3. Now take the opposite corner and also bring it across the form and this time fold the raw edge under at the top middle of the form.
4. Now draw up the remaining peaks of fabric across from each other and tie them in a square knot (right over left and left over right). Tuck in any raw edges.
5. Finish it off with roping. Tie it like a package.



As of the end of January the days have been getting longer — lighter longer — and the temperatures warmer. Short of an extended vacation in the tropics, enjoy the next couple of months and have some fun with these ideas.

It won't be long now, spring is on its way. And then it's time to prepare to endure these long hot "dog days" of summer.

Watch for solutions to your decorating dilemmas or home improvement ideas in the YourHome section. Whether you are moving in, out, or just around at the same address, we welcome your questions. Call (313) 343-5590, or send your question to Virginia Carr, P.O. Box 104, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080 or to the Grosse Pointe News, 96 Kercheval Ave., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.



Money made available to assist low-income homebuyers

Grosse Pointe Farms-area residents earning less than 60 percent of the city's median income may be eligible for a financial boost toward their dream of homeownership.

The Northwest Homeownership Assistance Program (NHAP) provides up to \$2,000, or 5 percent of the total mortgage to assist eligible low-and very-low-income homebuyers obtain closing costs or down payment funds.

Robertson, regional vice president for the Grosse Pointe Farms area of Northwest Mortgage, said the nationwide demand for the NHAP program exemplifies the growing need for affordable housing solutions.

Under NHAP guidelines, if a borrower's income is between 50 and 60 percent of the area's median income, Northwest Mortgage will match \$2 for every \$1 the borrower contributes, up to a maximum of \$2,000. If the borrower's income is less than or equal to 50 percent of the area's median income, he/she is eligible for a \$2,000 contribution toward closing costs or as a down payment. A borrower's contributions may come from personal funds, grants or gifts.

Robertson says since the program's inception in August of 1995, nearly 1,000 families have been served through this program, totaling more than \$1.8 million in NHAP contributions, and leveraging nearly \$58 million in first mortgage financing. With the new Federal Home Loan Bank

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St. Clair Shores Attractive starter home features newer kitchen and vinyl siding, driveway, and wood deck. Subdivision has private park for residents. \$95,900 * 34855 (CPN-44DAN)

St. Clair Shores Updates since 1993 include: roof, furnace, central air ducts, electrical, kitchen, and sump pump. Upstairs could be finished, electrical already there. Finished basement with gas fireplace, dry bar and carpet. Large lot with corner patio. \$92,900. * 34125 (CPN-F-20MAN)

Harper Woods 1 1/2 A WOODS Surprising detail rarely found in this price range! Hardwood floors, natural fireplace, and eating bay in kitchen. New vinyl windows. Very convenient location. \$92,500. * 36735 (CPN-H-00WAS)

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Shores, LAKESHORE DRIVE. Rear-sited five-bedroom home featuring master suite with fireplace and jacuzzi. Stunning staircase with imported chandelier. New Euro kitchen with granite counters and marble floors. # 312755 (CPN-H-59LAK)



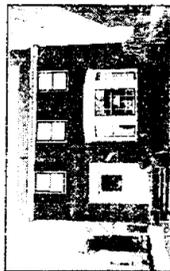
Shores, ALBERT KAHN. Lakefront home with separate carriage house. Panoramic views of Lake St. Clair. Wonderful detailing on first floor, leaded glass windows. A wonderful home to enjoy in all seasons! # 36645 (CPN-H-44LAK)



Shores, THEIL BUILT. Classic Cape Cod with many updates and additions including 600 square foot family room with cathedral ceiling, beautiful dining room. Library with built-in bookcases. In-buff kitchen. Near private clubs and lake. \$729,000. # 32675 (CPN-GW-41BEL)



Farms, REFINISHED AND REDICATED. Beautiful and charming Cape Cod on private court in the Farms. Recently updated. Refinished hardwood floors and newer Masterchef kitchen. A real beauty! \$310,000 # 36655 (CPN-H-48PIN)



Who Is, NOT A DETAIL MISSED in this five bedroom brick Colonial featuring formal dining, family room, natural fireplace, bay window and finished basement with laundry. \$167,000. # 32665 (CPN-GW-53LAK)



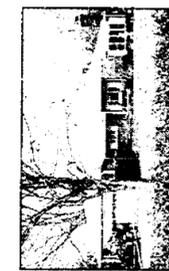
Harper Woods, FANTASTIC RANCH! Three bedrooms, two bath home. Natural fireplace in living room with new oak mantel. Updated kitchen with built-in oven, new range and refrigerator. Updated baths. \$189,900. # 36765 (CPN-H-43WCK)

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St. Clair Shores, IMPROVABLE open floor plan. Living room, kitchen and great room with natural fireplace. All rooms updated with neutral decor. Home well situated on lot on boulevard. \$129,900. # 34735 (CPN-H-15LUD)



St. Clair Shores, IMMACULATE BUNGALOW with three bedrooms, newer windows, steel doors, copper plumbing and roof. Huge family room with natural fireplace, finished basement with bar and laundry. \$129,900. # 33385 (CPN-GW-33HUS)



Harper Woods, Spacious ranch on large lot, affording owner country living in the city. Finished basement with laundry and bath. Extra large kitchen \$119,000. # 36345 (CPN-F-97JLD)

REAL ESTATE RESOURCE

835 DETROIT

No Listings Available

Address	Bedroom/Bath	Description	Price	Phone
20330 Vernier	1/1	1st hand built first fl. unit	\$57,900	810-775-4900
19711 Fleetwood	1/1	Open Sun. 2-4 p.m.	\$49,900	810-775-4900
19950 Anita	3/3	Grosse Pointe schools	\$145,000	810-677-3967
21197 Manchester	3/1.5	Sharp brick bungalow. Most see!	\$123,000	313-884-9502

830 GROSSE POINTE SHORES

No Listings Available

Address	Bedroom/Bath	Description	Price	Phone
1121 Torrey Rd.	4/2	Open Sun. 2-4, 2-2:30 p.m. 1-1/2 story, 8x10 ft. lot	\$245,000	313-527-8808
2147 E. Eight Mile	3/1	Land contract terms. Cheryl Barbour, Bolton Johnston, Pager	\$106,900	313-340-3454

833 GROSSE POINTE WOODS

No Listings Available

Address	Bedroom/Bath	Description	Price	Phone
92a University	3/1.5	Open Sun. 2-4, Sharp English bungalow. 1,421 sq. ft. Tom Steen, Remax in the Pointes.	\$179,000	313-881-9020

834 GROSSE POINTE PARK

No Listings Available

Address	Bedroom/Bath	Description	Price	Phone
1014 Wayburn	2/2	New construction, vacant lots available. Call holder is ready to build. Call for more info. R.C.C. Edgar & Associates, NEM CONSULTING CORP. Lots available. Call holder awaiting call for immediate construction. Call for immediate construction. Call for immediate construction.	\$165,000	313-823-0660
1452 Bishop Rd.	3/2.5	All brick, 2 family. Attaches-to-law suite! New!	\$188,000	313-882-1013

837 ST. CLAIR SHORES

No Listings Available

Address	Bedroom/Bath	Description	Price	Phone
1065 Woodbridge	2/2.5	Open sun. 1-4, Sharp + visible	Call	810-775-4900
22805 Pointe Drive	3/2.5	Stieber Realty	Call	313-882-3731
23918 Elmira	3/2	Lake access. Under construction	Call	313-882-3731
22225 Lange	2/1	Open Sun. 1-5, Bungalow	\$115,000	810-415-7172
		Most see.		
		Open Sun. 11-5	\$82,500	248-693-4566
		Conv. and clean!		

838 NORTHERN MICHIGAN

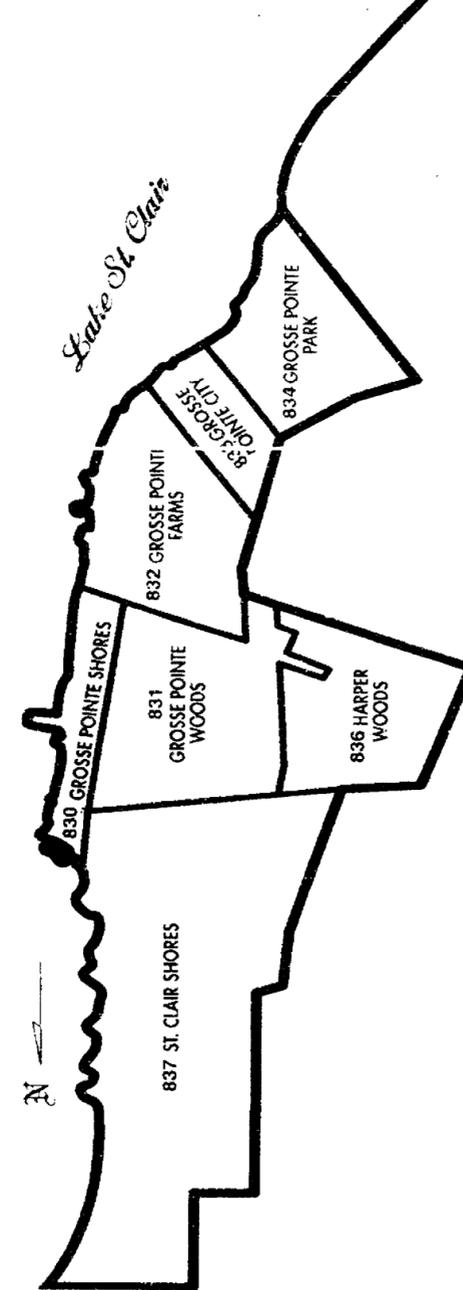
No Listings Available

Address	Bedroom/Bath	Description	Price	Phone
1014 Wayburn	2/2	New construction, vacant lots available. Call holder is ready to build. Call for more info. R.C.C. Edgar & Associates, NEM CONSULTING CORP. Lots available. Call holder awaiting call for immediate construction. Call for immediate construction. Call for immediate construction.	\$165,000	313-823-0660
1452 Bishop Rd.	3/2.5	All brick, 2 family. Attaches-to-law suite! New!	\$188,000	313-882-1013

840 OTHER AREAS

No Listings Available

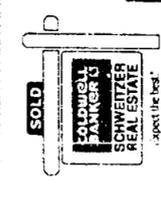
Address	Bedroom/Bath	Description	Price	Phone



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Antiques

Modern figurines usually are made to resemble the more-beautiful-than-life people envisioned by the artist. Lovely women with flowing dresses from earlier times, American Indians dressed in colorful costumes and heroic men dressed for battle are popular subjects.

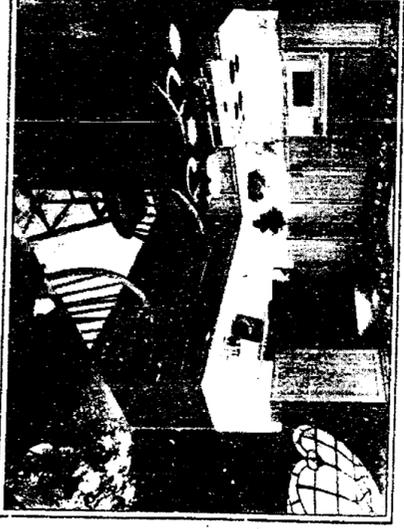
Gourmet art

6x3 feet. When discussing content she says her clients are either very specific about what they want, as was Wagner, a lover of Italian and Mexican cooking, or wide-open to her suggestions.

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 This show home on back lot, it's just wonderful! Updated kitchen, hardwood floors, and sharp detail. \$109,900



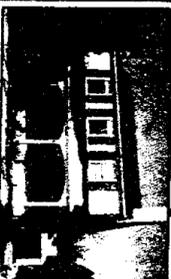
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 As fresh as a daisy and ready to move into. Three bedrooms, one and one half baths and a two car garage. \$272,500



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 Beautifully remodeled turn of the century farmhouse features six bedrooms and three full baths. Also has garage and a pool. \$729,900.



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 Hard to find four bedroom brick one and one half story with large kitchen with eating space. Downwell of dining room to deck. \$115,000.



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Grosse Pointe News & Connection
 February 12, 1998

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 A modern kitchen in an old space!



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FEBRUARY 12, 1998

Grace Counseling Center helps keep families intact

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

"Family life doesn't have to be miserable."

On that optimistic note, meet Hillary Harris, family therapist and resident of the City of Grosse Pointe. But don't think she's being cynical. Harris just wants to give families all the help they need.

"Therapy can keep a family happy by keeping its members on track," said the master's holder family therapist with Grace Counseling Center on Moross near Harper.

Stress, anxiety, and substance abuse put pressures on families often felt most by the people least able to comprehend or communicate their frustrations — children.

Plus, working parents don't have as much time for children as they used to, explained Harris.

"The counseling center was founded because we, through our work with the church, saw a need in the community for affordable mental health therapy," said Jamie Rasmussen, founding executive director of the center and executive pastor of Grace Community Church.

As weekly attendance at Grace Community Church grew, a church study found that the pastors were counseling more than 60 people a month.

"Because pastors are not necessarily trained in therapy, we were referring between 40 and 50 of those people to therapists," Rasmussen said.

The center opened in 1996 and handles the gamut of mental health issues, from stress management to marriage counseling, from substance abuse to helping people overcome grief and loss.

The center is an independent non-profit organization partly supported by Grace Church, private and corporate donations.

"We're privately funded by some very generous, good people, most of

whom wish to remain anonymous," Rasmussen said.

The center now generates about half of its own budget.

Rasmussen said many members of the center's volunteer board of advisers are from Grosse Pointe, including Dr. Donald Garver and Dr. Brian Joondeph.

"We wanted a center that had the value of being a professional mental health outpatient clinic," Rasmussen said.

Another goal was affordability. "The trend with insurance companies is to limit mental health counseling," he said.

The average therapy session in metro Detroit costs \$90 an hour, said Rasmussen.

"There's no way the average person can afford that. Even people with insurance face a \$45 co-pay. So, we developed a fee schedule based on the patient's income. Our highest rate is \$75 an hour. We make payment easier for the average family," Rasmussen said. "We look at the finances of each case individually to try to work out the best plan possible."

Last year, the center brought in Dr. Timothy Hoaga of Children's Hospital to develop a child, adolescent and family therapy practice.

"The center is getting more and more into child psychology," Rasmussen said.

"As a pastor, I try to keep families together by teaching them how to make wise decisions."

What's good for one family might not be good for another, but there's one constant. "We try to get family members to communicate. It's our universal goal," therapist Harris said.

She rated the importance of communication as "huge."

"A mom might say one thing, but her child hears something completely different. We need to get everyone on the same wavelength," she said.

"Through counseling, we try to find ways for the family to spend meaningful time together, whether that means reading, playing or even doing small chores."

"In larger families it's especially important for parents to meet with their kids individually."

Harris advised parents to ask their kids what they want to do for quality time.

Sometimes quality time means doing something special together as a group. Sometimes it means meeting one-on-one. Other times it means just being together without doing anything particularly unique, she said.

Harris pointed out that even busy people are willing to set aside 20 minutes a day three or four days a week to exercise, so they can do the same for their kids and spouse.

"Schedule time with each of your kids. If you're really busy, combine family time with another activity that normally brings you together. Dinner is a great time for family bonding," she said.

Mention television and Harris' normally upbeat tone turns serious and clinical. There's almost a warning in her voice.

"TV has become a passive pastime which reduces interaction between family members. There's a temptation to plunk 3-year-olds in front of PBS for two hours a day while parents do housework. But with a little extra effort adults can involve children in meaningful daily activities."



Photos by Rob Silars

Hillary Harris, above, an individual and family therapist with the Grace Counseling Center, said the center's playroom provides a comfortable and informal environment for children.

Jamie Rasmussen, at the left, founding executive director of the Grace Counseling Center and executive pastor of Grace Community Church, said, "Affordable access to quality mental health care is the main idea behind the center."



The center treats children as young as 3 years old.

"When treating a very young child, what we're really doing is working with the parents on parenting skills," Harris said.

During a patient's initial counseling session, Harris interviews the parents and child together. "I introduce the family to the counseling process in a comfortable group setting that

puts everyone at ease," she said.

Thereafter, the child is counseled one-on-one a few times. Later, upon learning more about what's troubling the child, Harris schedules a follow-up joint session with the parents and child. Siblings are often included.

"The bank vault is an extremely effective place to get to know chil-

See GRACE, page 3B

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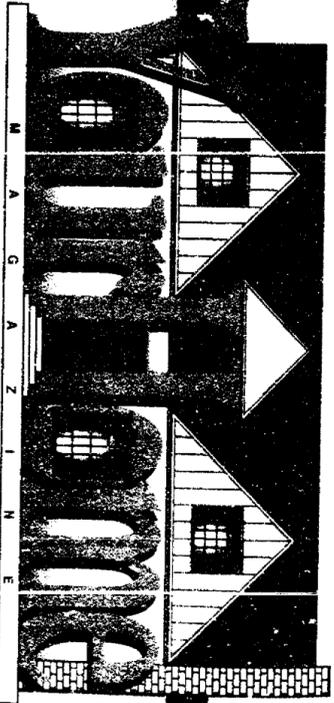
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Hard to find four bedroom brick cape and one half story with large kitchen with eating area. Downfall off dining room to deck. \$154,800.

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Loving two bedroom two bath cottage house with granite in kitchen, hardwood floors, small, modern fireplace. \$279,900.

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Grosse Pointe News Sports

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FEBRUARY 12, 1998

South rolls past Stallions to stay atop MAC Red race

By Chuck Klonke
 Sports Editor
 Grosse Pointe South's game against Sterling Heights last week was one of those contests that coaches always dread.

in a very workmanlike performance." Blue Devils coach George Petrouleas said after his team's 51-43 victory that kept them atop the MAC Red standings.

The only thing that bothered Petrouleas was Sterling Heights' advantage on the boards in the first half.

"They outrebounded us by five in the first half, but we addressed that at halftime and got much better position in the

second half," Petrouleas said. The Blue Devils got a big lift off the bench in the rebounding department from Mike D'Amico, who grabbed a career-high 12 rebounds.

South opened up a 10-point lead in the second quarter, but Sterling Heights cut the margin to a single point at half-time.

The Blue Devils led by four points going into the final quarter and maintained the lead the rest of the way.

South had several excellent performances, led by Adam Hess, who had 21 points, six rebounds and two assists. Jesse Lawson had 19 points, four assists and two blocks, while Jeff See had a solid game with five rebounds and four

points. Brian Hodgman and Karl Fromuth played their usual good defensive games.

The victory improved the Blue Devils' record to 8-1 in the league and 10-2 overall.

South will try to avenge its only league loss of the season Friday when the Blue Devils host Ford II.

South clinched Detroit Kettering in a non-league Tuesday, Feb. 11.

The Stallions are in the middle of the pack in the tough Macomb Area Conference Red Division and can spring a surprise on one of the leaders if it isn't ready to play.

"They're tough to beat, especially at home, but we turned

Knights led by seniors

By Chuck Klonke
 Sports Editor
 Senior leadership is a valuable commodity for a high school volleyball team.

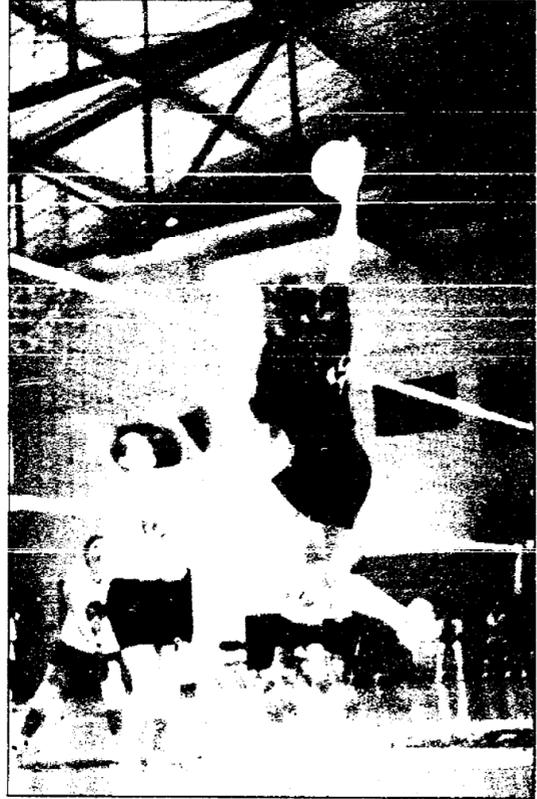
And University Liggett School is making the most of it this year as the Knights battle with perennial powers Lutheran North and Clarenceville for the Metro Conference championship.

"We've had a lot of success this year in pulling things together after losing the first game," said ULS coach Ken Klenk after the Knights came from behind to win a non-league match with Detroit Country Day and did the same in a league showdown with Hamtramck.

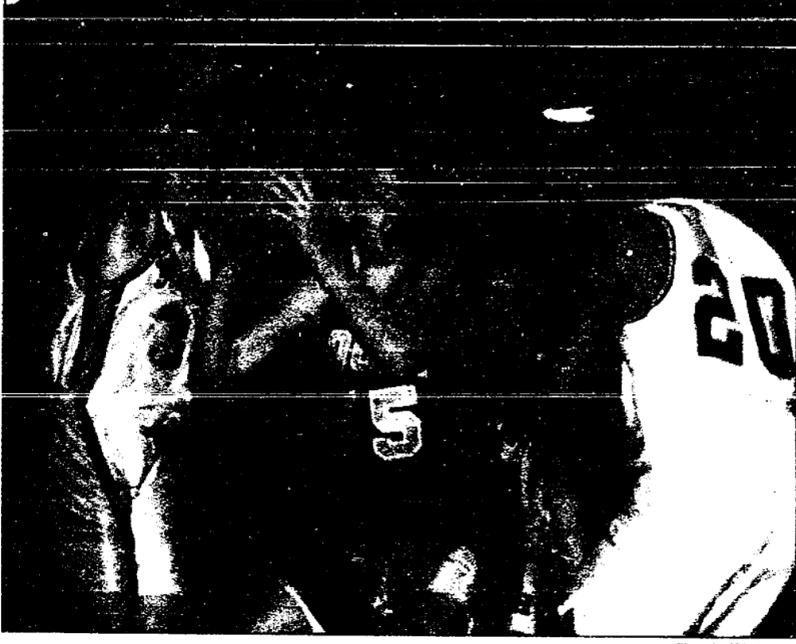
"Our senior leadership keeps us from getting rattled if we lose our first game. We might start slowly, but we're able to get focused for the second and third games."

ULS lost the first game to Hamtramck 11-15, but came back to win the next two 15-9, 15-12.

The Knights are 4-1 in the See ULS, page 3C



Stephanie Roehl goes high for a kill during University Liggett School's Metro Conference volleyball victory over Hamtramck last week.



Grosse Pointe South's Jeff See looks for a friendly face as he's surrounded by Sterling Heights players during last week's victory over the Stallions.

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