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 North wins
 ULS hockey
 tournament
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Grosse Pointe News



Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

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Grosse Pointe, Michigan

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December 8, 2005

WEEK AHEAD

Thursday, Dec. 8

A wrestling match between Grosse Pointe North and South High schools is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. at North.

Saturday, Dec. 10

The Midwest Open Mixed Doubles Tennis Championships takes place today and tomorrow at the Grosse Pointe Hunt Club, 655 Cook Rd., Grosse Pointe Woods. Matches start at 10 a.m. on both days, and finals start at 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Monday, Dec. 12

The Grosse Pointe Park city council meets at 7 p.m. at 15115 E. Jefferson.

The City of Grosse Pointe city council meets at 7 p.m. at 17147 Maumee.

Grosse Pointe South High School is conducting an information night for parents of current eight graders who plan to attend the school as freshman in the fall of 2006. The program begins at 7 p.m. in the school's auditorium.

Tuesday, Dec. 13

The Grosse Pointe South High School choirs present their 2005 Holiday Concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church, 8625 E. Jefferson, Detroit.

Reserved seating is \$15; general seating is \$12; and tickets for seniors and students are \$10. Tickets are available at *Posterity: A Gallery in the Village* or at the door on the night of the show, if still available.

In their season's opener, Grosse Pointe South High School's men's basketball team plays Eisenhower High School in South's gymnasium. The varsity game starts at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 14

The Classical Music League presents its annual Christmas dinner benefit at 6 p.m. at the Country Club of Detroit. The festivities will include cocktails at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. and live entertainment by the University Liggett Lower School choir.

Tickets start at \$50 a person, and all proceeds will benefit the performing arts in Grosse Pointe.

To make a reservation, send a check, payable to GPCML, to M.E. Tyzka, 27562 David Givens Ave., Warren, MI 48092, by Friday, Dec. 9. Or call Tyzka at (586) 575-9279.

Thursday, Dec. 15

Men's Night Out is an opportunity for men to shop at all businesses on the Hill from 5 to 8 p.m.

Gleaners begins holiday food drive

You will find an information/donation envelope from Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan inserted in this week's Grosse Pointe News. This kicks off Gleaners' "It's Time to Give" media campaign to raise money and awareness to help feed hungry families this holiday season.

The message is being delivered via print and broadcast media now through the end of the tax year to encourage area residents to put Gleaners on the gift-giving list.

"During this time of giving, we want to encourage everyone to reflect on the meaning of giving

and what a difference it makes in the lives of struggling families who consume more than 2 million meals each month in the six county area," says Agostinho Fernandes Jr., president of Gleaners.

The message It's Time to Give is a reminder to everyone that the spirit and act of giving is alive and well and needed more than ever.

Gleaners Community Food Bank also accepts donations from companies that want to forgo a Christmas party but still celebrate the spirit of giving. Additionally, Gleaners Community Food Bank is taking

orders for holiday cards available for \$10 for 10 cards. Charity Card selections can be made on the Web site gcfb.org. The proceeds go to help the food bank. Each dollar donated can provide up to 16 meals.

Since 1977, Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan has been nourishing communities by feeding hungry people. Gleaners secures, stores and distributes donated food from farmers, grocery stores, supermarkets, food distributors and food processors to local non-profit agencies and charities that directly feed the poor and hungry.

Who are the hungry? People of all ages, races and socioeconomic levels have needed Gleaners' assistance including: senior citizens on a fixed income, single parent households, the disabled or ill, the working poor or unemployed, the homeless and those experiencing an emergency or crisis — flood, fire, death in the family, job loss, etc. Fifty-nine percent of the hungry are children and seniors.

For more information, visit the Web site gcfb.org. Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan is located at 2131 Beaufait, Detroit, MI 48207.



Photo by Brad Lindberg

Members of the Grosse Pointe Community Chorus lead a sing-along of Christmas carols minutes before Santa Claus arrives at the Grosse Pointe Shores Tree Lighting ceremony. The Chorus' annual holiday concert is Sunday, Dec. 11. See page 6A for tree-lighting pictures from around the Pointes.

Community Chorus concert Sunday, Dec. 11

The Grosse Pointe Community Chorus performs its 53rd Holiday Concert, "Home for the Holidays," on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 3 p.m., at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 800 Vernier in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Under the direction of Anna Epley Speck and with piano accompaniment by Marjorie Connell-Strimpel, the concert will feature the 80-member chorus singing a variety of favorite holiday songs, both classic and contemporary.

The program includes music by noted contemporary composer of choral works, John Rutter, and two memorable pieces from Handel's "The Messiah."

A new twist will be put on the traditional French carol "Masters in the Hall."

In addition, "Christmas Time is Here," the theme song from "A Charlie Brown's Christmas," will be performed.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$3 for children under 12.

Advance tickets may be purchased at:

- the church office (313) 884-5040,
- Moehring Woods Florist, 20923

Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods (313) 882-9732, or

• at the door.
 The Grosse Pointe Community Chorus was co-founded in 1953 by Dr. Malcolm M. and Marian Johns.

There are no auditions to join. All a member needs is to share a love of music and singing. Rehearsals are every Tuesday evening in the choral room at Grosse Pointe North High School.

Speck is in her 12th year as chorus director. Besides having a professional singing career, Speck held faculty positions at Wayne State University and was head of the vocal music department at the Center for Creative Studies.

Speck currently heads vocal music programs for middle and upper schools at Cranbrook-Kingswood Schools.

The Chorus performs at various community events, including the Grosse Pointe Shores Tree Lighting Ceremony, the Children's Home of Detroit and more.

Rehearsals start Jan. 10 for the 54th Spring Concert scheduled for May 7.

For more information about joining, call (313) 882-2482.

City manager takes county job Up North

By Brad Lindberg
 Staff Writer

With high temperatures reaching only 27 degrees during the current cold snap, it may seem to Mike Overton that he's already moved to his new home in frigid Cheboygan.

Overton will leave his job as City of Grosse Pointe manager next month to become administrator of Cheboygan County.

"I cannot pass up the opportunity," said Overton, recruited by the City five years ago. "County administrator positions are very desirable and difficult to obtain."

Overton came to the City from a semi-rural area near Muskegon. He and his wife, Lynn, look forward to raising their daughters in a less urban setting than metropolitan Detroit.

"Lynn and I would love to have a few acres, a garden and perhaps a horse," Overton said.

City officials are arranging to search for a new city

manager. A selection is expected by April.

Brian Vick, assistant City manager for five years, has been named interim city manager.

Overton's last official day with the City is Jan. 1.

He'll return to the area in June to retrieve his Morgan 36 sailboat.

"I'll probably take a week's vacation with the girls and sail it up as a family," he said.

Numerous projects arose during Overton's stay in the City, including renovation of Neff Park and hiring a full-time recreation director.

"I am very proud of the work that not only I but citizen committees have done regarding the marina," he said. "We have done a lot for parks and recreation, including having winter activities. That's about family. Family is very important to me."

Overton said Cheboygan County is on the verge of a

See OVERTON, page 2A

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Park free on Mack at Rivard

Free holiday parking has been extended to a municipal lot on Mack at Rivard in the City of Grosse Pointe.

Councilmembers this week granted the privilege in response to a request

by the Grosse Pointe Business and Professional Association of Mack Avenue.

A similar request is granted regularly in the Village.

POINTER OF INTEREST

Kim Rusinow

Home: Grosse Pointe Woods

Age: 48

Family: Husband, Tom; children, Danny, 17, and Natalie, 12

Occupation: Tour coordinator and lead captain for the National Football League's Volunteer Ambassador program at the GM Renaissance Center

Quote: "We want everybody to go back to their hometown with a positive experience and a positive story to tell."



Kim Rusinow

See story, page 4A

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yesterday's headlines

50 years ago this week

■ Grosse Pointe Woods voters will decide next week whether or not to approve a 30-year bond issue of \$115,000. Bonds will pay for a filtering system and other improvements to the swimming pool at Lake Front Park.

State and county health officials have notified Woods leaders that the pool must remain closed until the filtering system is installed.

■ Grosse Pointe Farms officials agree to consult Hill business representatives regarding community parking problems.

Proposals to be discussed include construction of a double-deck parking garage north of Kercheval, and expansion of parking eastward by condemning eight houses on the south side of Muir Road.

■ Detroit water officials ask suburban communities to plan on constructing reservoirs so there will be an ample supply of water for those communities during peak consumption periods.

25 years ago this week

■ Members of the Grosse Pointe school board pursue tenure charges against a male Parcels Middle School teacher who signed a complaint with Grosse Pointe Woods police charging he was assaulted by a female assistant principal after an argument at school.

The teacher, a 14-year veteran of the district, has been

suspended without pay for insubordination.

Two years ago the district sued the teacher for secretly taping conversations with administrators. The matter was resolved when the teacher agreed to pay \$500 damages to two administrators.

■ Grosse Pointe Theatre's production of Edward Albee's evolutionary tale, "Seascape," opens at Grosse Pointe War Memorial Fries Auditorium.

Cast members include George Hunt, Marianne Rink, Pat Villages and Harry Albertson.

■ Jeff Palms, 21, of the City of Grosse Pointe, will compete this weekend at the Silverdome in what is billed as the World's Largest Indoor Midget Auto Race.

10 years ago this week

■ A Santa Claus float sponsored by Jacobson's department store brings up the rear of the annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus parade through the City of Grosse Pointe to the downtown Village shopping district.

■ Administration offices for the Grosse Pointe public school system will remain at 389 St. Clair in the City of Grosse Pointe.

Although administrators would prefer to have new headquarters, moving is ruled financially unattainable, at least for now.

Ed Shine, superintendent, explains that general

fund resources are limited. Shine says asking the community for additional support through a bond issue would not be easy.

■ Our Lady Star of the Sea's seventh and eighth grade volleyball team wins the eastside division championship and the regional playoff before losing to Our Lady of Refuge in the Catholic Youth Organization Detroit city championship.

5 years ago this week

■ The Grosse Pointe Board of Education pledges support of the Grosse Pointe Public School System to join a proposed eight-body joint commission to consider forming an intergovernmental agency that will serve the recreational needs of the five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods.

■ Despite appearances, Grosse Pointe Park doesn't have the nation's first drive-thru combined courtroom and city council chamber.

City officials have only temporarily set up shop in an empty former automobile dealership showroom on Jefferson next to the municipal complex while permanent chambers at City Hall are being renovated.

■ The final two acts of celebrating Grosse Pointe Woods' 50th birthday are scheduled next week when a time capsule is opened and another takes its place behind a wall in city council chambers.

— Brad Lindberg

50 years ago this week



AAA soldiers busily repairing toys

Enlisted personnel of D Battery, 99th AAA Battalion, camp site at Three Mile Drive and Essex, are preparing old and discarded toys for distribution to orphans and needy children in the Detroit area for Christmas. Not having a hobby shop, the soldiers are utilizing the officers' pingpong table for repair work. Putting toys into usable condition are, from left, Pfc. Norman Porter, Pvt. Jessie Robinson and Pfc. Lee Criddle. (From the Dec. 8, 1955 Grosse Pointe News.)

Chow with Santa in Farms

Santa Claus lands at the Park's new community Grosse Pointe Farms Pier building this weekend to

have breakfast with children ages 2 to 7. Parents are welcome, too.

The first-ever Breakfast with Santa, sponsored by the Farms parks and recreation department, is Saturday, Dec. 10, at 9 a.m. Doors open at 8:45 a.m.

Depending on weather conditions at the North Pole and sleigh traffic, Santa is expected to arrive at about 9:30 a.m.

The family event is open to all Grosse Pointe residents, but admission is limited. There are tickets left.

Tickets cost \$15 per person. Prepaid reservations are required. For information, call the recreation department office (313) 343-2405.

Overton

From page 1A

growth period, with a focus on tourism.

"It's not like they have a lot of industry," Overton said. "They want to capitalize on the assets they have, which are natural assets including waterways and lakes."

Overton said he's enjoyed living and working in the City.

"It is a wonderful community," he said. "Both (the city council) and residents have been generous and kind to my family and I. We thank you and wish you and this community all the best."

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The deadline for news copy is Monday 3:00 p.m. to insure insertion.

Advertising copy for Section "B" must be in the advertising department by 10:30 a.m. on Monday.

Advertising copy for Sections "A" and "C" must be in the advertising department by 3:00 p.m. on Monday.

CORRECTIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS: Responsibility for display and classified advertising error is limited to either cancellation of the charge for or a re-run of the portion in error. Notification must be given in time for correction in the following issue. We assume no responsibility of the same after the first insertion.

The Grosse Pointe News reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Grosse Pointe News advertising representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

Hearing in City murder case reset for next year

Defense needs time to study evidence

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

Prosecution of two men arrested for the June 14 premeditated murder of a woman in the City of Grosse Pointe has been postponed one month so defense lawyers can prepare their cases.

A preliminary hearing scheduled last Friday in City Municipal Court has been shifted to 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19.

Judge Russell Ethridge advised prosecution and defense attorneys to clear their calendars because the hearing might carry over to the next day.

Ethridge also arranged for defendant Derrick Anthony Thompson, 46, of Detroit, to be provided reading glasses. His court-appointed attorney, Lisa Dwyer, requested the favor so Thompson can better assist in his defense. Thompson is being held

without bond at Wayne County Jail.

Likewise, Ethridge allowed consideration for defendant Andre Lamar Williams, 36, of Detroit.

Williams, housed without bond at Jackson prison for violating parole on another matter, will be transferred to county jail one day before the January City court hearing to more conveniently consult with his appointed counsel George Chevraue.

Preliminary hearings are mini trials during which judges weigh evidence to determine if a crime has occurred and if sufficient evidence exists to support further prosecution of suspects in custody.

City detectives were groggy last week from working consecutive 18-hour days duplicating reams of documentary evidence in the execution-style murder of Barbara Ann Iske, 57, of Sterling Heights.

Iske, an accountant, was gunned down at close range in the driveway of her employer's house at 21 Dodge Place, a lakeside subdivision replacing the razed estate of a Dodge motor car heir.

The photocopy machine at City public safety headquarters flashed with the pace of a lighthouse past 11 p.m. last week.

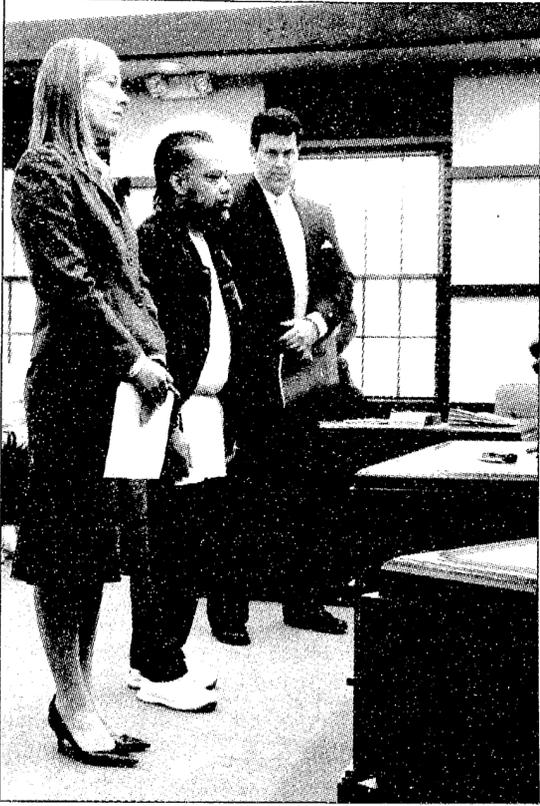
Head detective Lt. James Fox and Ron Wiczorek copied, collated and stacked reams of discovery evidence they, fellow officers and officers from other law enforcement agencies uprooted during five months investigating the first killing on record in the City.

Robert Stevens, county



Photos by Brad Lindberg

Lt. James Fox, head of the City of Grosse Pointe detective unit, sorts another stack of evidence for distribution to defense attorneys in the murder case of Barbara Ann Iske, shot June 14.



Lisa Dwyer, the court-appointed attorney for accused murderer Derrick Anthony Thompson of Detroit, middle, and Stevens in court.



Andre Lamar Williams, his attorney George Chevraue and Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney Robert Stevens stand before Judge Russell Ethridge in City of Grosse Pointe Municipal Court.

prosecuting attorney, called the paperwork evidence "voluminous."

"I haven't seen any of it," Dwyer said Friday morning. "I understand it's to be delivered to my office this afternoon."

Police are confident they arrested the right men but won't say why outside of open court.

"The information we have is sensitive," said Al Fincham, chief of public

safety.

Thompson and Williams are career criminals with violent records. They served time in the same prison cell block during the 1990s.

Police haven't ruled out that Thompson and Williams were hired to kill Iske.

"I want to keep it under wraps until the appropriate time," Fincham said. "I do not want to jeopardize anything in regard to this case."

Although Fincham has been focused on justice at hand, he's tried to determine if the Iske murder is the first of its kind in the City's 112-year history.

"The only thing I heard — and this was from one of our retirees — was there was a murder approximately 60 years ago by a man who came home from World War II and got into a domestic issue with his wife," Fincham said.

City names interim manager

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

If Brian Vick ever wondered what it's like to walk in the shoes of his boss, he'll know soon.

Vick, assistant manager of the City of Grosse Pointe, has been named interim city manager upon resignation of Mike Overton.

Overton will leave the City at the end of this year to administer Cheboygan County.

Vick, a 10-year veteran of the City, has spent the last five years as Overton's assistant.

The interim position is expected to expire in three months when a nationwide recruitment effort is scheduled to turn up a new city manager.

If Vick ever hoped to show his talent as top dog, the workload he'll assume as head administrator could make him careful of what he wishes for.

The City is on the cusp of considering three major development projects in the Village:

- Cullan F Meathe of the Farms has bought the former Jacobson's building. He plans a combination of offices, retail stores, restaurants and living space called Kercheval Place.

- Three companies have submitted bids to develop a block-long municipal parking lot north of Kercheval between Notre Dame and St. Clair. The result will be a mixed-use facility serving essentially the same function as Meathe's.

- Sunrise Development continues developing plans for a 79-unit condominium structure on St. Clair just south of Kercheval.

"There's a lot of work to be done," Overton said. "He's going to be working long past 5 o'clock."

The hometown choice of Vick received unanimous support from the council. Yet some council members spoke against augmenting Vick's \$70,000 annual salary with an extra \$550 per week during the time he assumed two jobs.

Assuming Vick serves as interim manager during the 13-week period from January through March, he'll be paid an additional \$7,150. At year's end, Vick could receive total compensation of \$77,150.

"My calculation tells me you'd be equivalent of a salary that would be exceeding his salary," said Councilman John Stevens, comparing Vick's three-month raise to Overton's \$94,200 annual salary.

"When you look at Mike's (Overton) total compensation package, it's not even close," Vick said. "When you add life insurance, special riders, short-term (and) long-term disability, home loan or vehicle, it is a fraction."

"We need to keep things in perspective," said Mayor Dale Scrace. "We're not talking about a year. He's (Vick) basically doing the responsibilities of two people. It's an added value for a small period of time."

"You need qualified people in place," said first-term Councilman Chris Walsh, top vote-getter in the November election. "I support this. It's revenue posi-

tive, not negative. It's not an expense."

"I agree," said Councilmember Jean Weipert, last month's second-top vote-getter. "Council is lucky we have someone like Brian who can step in when we have a lot going on. He will be taking on two jobs. It makes sense to encourage Brian to step into this."

The arguments were persuasive.

"I have no problem supporting it," Stevens said.

"It's not a good deal," countered Kris Pfaehler, serving his first term.

Councilmembers agreed with colleague Richard Clarke to limit Vick's extra pay to three months.

In addition, a part-time college administrative intern who normally works three days per week for \$10 per hour will work full time at \$15 per hour.

It's a buyer's market for hiring

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

The search for a new manager of the City of Grosse Pointe is expected to last three months.

The quest won't go public until next year when a nationwide advertising strategy joins an active word-of-mouth campaign.

"I've already been contacted by five managers," said Mike Overton, who formally announced his resignation as city manager Nov. 29.

Overton has accepted the job of Cheboygan County administrator.

City officials this week retained the Michigan Municipal League to help fill the vacancy. A \$9,500 contract, plus expenses, is expected to yield a candidate by April.

"The process needs to get started," said Mayor Dale Scrace.

"I think you'll get some high-profile candidates," said Bob Hamilton, League executive search facilitator and retired city manager of Monroe. "The job will sell

itself. This is a wonderful community to work in."

City officials this month will begin the search process by developing a profile of the ideal candidate.

Hamilton will use the profile to advertise the job on Web sites, including the League's and International City Management Association.

"The Web site is where everyone goes now," he said.

Profiles also outline the job in detail, list educational requirements (most likely a master's degree in public administration) and compensation.

"Questions of salary and benefits come up quickly," Hamilton said.

Hamilton also wants an updated community profile to include current and forthcoming tasks a new manager will face.

"We have three significant projects," Scrace said. He referred to downtown development of the former Jacobson's building and municipal parking lot No. 2 into combinations of retail,

commercial and residential space. Also, Sunrise Development plans to construct condominiums for senior citizens.

"Considering what we have on our plate, we need somebody who has experience in mixed development," said Richard Clarke, councilman.

"Accounting and business experience is important," said Councilman John Stevens.

Five years ago when longtime City manager Thomas Kressbach retired, Overton was among 40 applicants.

"We'll get a significant number (of applicants) from outside of Michigan," Hamilton said.

Hamilton expects to screen applications to five or so finalists.

Kressbach accepted Scrace's invitation to participate in the search.

"Recruitment and development of a city manager is one of the most important decisions on your tenure," Kressbach told council members this week.

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RenCen guide wants residents to 'Come on down'

By Beth Quinn
Staff Writer

If Kim Rusinow of Grosse Pointe Woods could, she would personally invite everyone who lives in the Detroit area to visit the GM Renaissance Center.

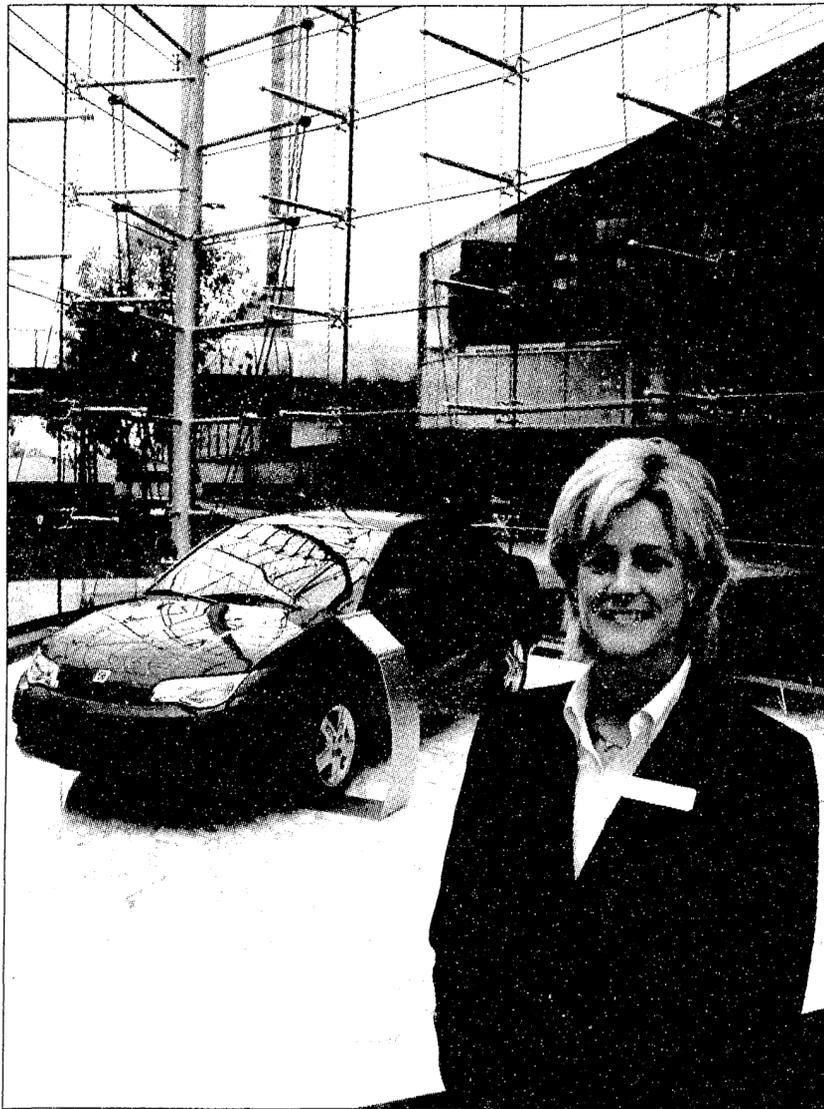
Since she considers the newly renovated RenCen to be an undiscovered gem, she wants people to give the towers a second chance. She believes those who visit the new and improved buildings will want to come back for more.

Rusinow is a tour coordinator for Hines Interest Limited Partnership, the Renaissance Center's property management company. The firm oversaw all aspects of General Motors extensive renovation of the property.

She witnessed firsthand the center's transformation from a dark confusing maze of six seemingly disconnected buildings to a vibrant welcoming multiplex that houses under one roof a first-run cinema, the Riverfront 4, and a wide array of restaurants and shops.

"There is so much to do here. We have some of the best restaurants in Detroit, such as Andiamo Riverfront, Coach Insignia and Seldom Blues, in addition to having a food court and casual eateries, such as Au Bon Pain and Starbucks. We have great shops and have plans to add many, many more," Rusinow said.

"Many people have a mis-



Grosse Pointe Woods resident Kim Rusinow is driven to have people rediscover the General Motors Renaissance Center in Detroit.

conception of the RenCen," Rusinow said. "I want them to know that even though it is a private building, it is opened to the public. You don't have to be a GM employee to come here and take advantage of this wonderful facility."

During her tours, Rusinow graciously and eas-

ily guides visitors around the center. She has a way of making the towers seem less confusing and more manageable. She explains one of the major goals of the renovations was to make it easier for visitors to find specific stores or restaurants.

Rusinow knows firsthand the positive impact these changes can have on shoppers.

"I remember years ago I came here to do some Christmas shopping with my mom. We saw shops, but we couldn't figure out how to get to them," she said.

That was before 1996 when General Motors bought the four tower complex and sank a record-breaking \$500 million to renovate the towers and surrounding landscape.

The new design called for opening up the front by erecting a new glass-and-steel public entrance and by removing the foreboding berms. It also entailed blowing out the backside to make room for the Wintergarden which is a five-story glass atrium overlooking the Detroit River and its new promenade. The atrium has tables and chairs for take-out dining and is the sight of many indoor events that are open to the public.

Perhaps most importantly, GM redesigned the RenCen's confusing labyrinth of corridors by

POINTER OF INTEREST

installing an internal circulation ring and adding signs to direct visitors around the building.

"With the renovation, like-businesses have been clustered together," Rusinow said.

Tower 100 has financial and service businesses, such as banks, a shoe repair shop, tailor and copy center. Tower 200 contains retail shops and stores which wrap to Tower 300. The 300 and 400 towers, which are located along the Detroit River, contain restaurants so diners can enjoy the incredible view of the river and GM's riverfront plaza and promenade.

While the RenCen's new architectural features are the prime focus of her tour, Rusinow makes sure visitors get a chance to view at the front entrance the major piece of contemporary art, titled "Borealis," created by renowned British glass sculptor Danny Lane. It's a wall of 1,250 individual green panes of glass that soars upward more than 22 feet high, making it the tallest vertical art glass sculpture in the world.

General Motors poured \$25 million into the RenCen's backyard transforming it from a strip of nondescript parking lots to a pedestrian-friendly plaza and promenade. The company has been an active participant in the Detroit RiverFront Conservancy's effort to transform the five miles along the Detroit River between the Ambassador and MacArthur bridges.

As Rusinow scanned the sweeping vista from the top of the outside plaza, she said, "It's amazing to think all of this was once nothing more than gravel. Now it is prime real estate and is a proper tribute to our heritage."

A ground-level water fountain is the plaza's showcase. It spouts out purified water ranging from six inches to six feet high. At fifteen minute intervals, the fountain's water pattern changes.

"It's wonderful to see both kids and adults frolic in the fountain during a hot summer day," she said.

Rusinow's training ground for conducting tours was working as supervisor of group operations for Great Lakes Travel which was owned by Phoebe Weinberg. Rusinow, a lifelong Grosse Pointer, guided groups of tourists to the four corners of the world.

Rusinow accredits Weinberg for teaching her how to organize a group tour.

"Phoebe was my mentor," said Rusinow. "She showed me the ropes of the business. She took me under her wing."

As a tour organizer, Rusinow learned to anticipate any possible situation

which might arise. She became adept at adapting to unpredictable situations. It's a skill she utilized frequently as she conducted tours of the Ren Center while it was under renovation.

"The buildings were constantly changing. Walls would go up overnight. Routes that I knew like the back of my hand would suddenly be barricaded," she explained.

Rusinow takes pride in the effect her tour has on visitors to the RenCen. Many times in her public tours, she witnesses a bond being created between people who were complete strangers before the tour began. She is adept at making people feel at ease and getting them to share their ideas and experiences with others.

"Anybody can spill forth facts. What makes your tour interesting is...you. How you bond with the groups," Rusinow said.

Not only does she know the Ren Cen, but she also knows her audiences. She will alter her tours based on her group's special interest or needs. For instance, for some senior citizen groups, she will go at a slower pace, use elevators and find places to sit down during the tour.

"I want everyone's experience here to be a positive one," she said.

Rusinow's enthusiasm for the RenCen and Detroit has been noticed by others, and she has been asked to be the lead captain for the National Football League Volunteer Ambassador program at the RenCen. The Detroit Marriot at the Renaissance Center is NFL headquarters during Super Bowl week. She has been put in charge of training 200 General Motors volunteers who will serve as the Renaissance Center's "Hospitality Ambassadors" during the Super Bowl.

Rusinow has a clear vision of what she wants to achieve as the RenCen serves as the broadcasting base for more than 3000 media people.

"I want to make sure that guests visiting the Renaissance Center are greeted warmly, are able to get accurate directions and assistance, and enjoy our overall hospitality," Rusinow said.

As she gears up for the Super Bowl, she is working closely with the Detroit Metro Convention & Visitor Bureau which is conducting "D-tours" which is a bus tour highlighting the revitalized riverfront, the Ren Cen and the Campus Martius Park. Its motto is "Get into the game. The world is coming."

In order to get into the game, Rusinow has been attending three different tourism programs to round-out her preparation.

"The training has been pretty extensive," Rusinow said. "There has been a great emphasis on listening technique."

Rusinow recited the acronym, WORLD, which she learned during her training:

Welcome people warmly
Offer assistance
Really knock their socks off

Listen
Directions, as in give directions

"We want everybody to go back to their hometown with a positive experience and a positive story to tell," Rusinow said.

"Our volunteers are going to be awesome ambassadors," Rusinow predicts. "They will exceed expectations."

The public is invited to take the free, one-hour long tour of the GM Renaissance Center. Public tours are held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday at 4 p.m. For more information or to book a private group tour, call (313) 586-5624.



STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Grosse Pointe Public Library is looking for citizens of the community to serve on the library's strategic planning committee. This committee, composed of staff, trustees, and members of the public will develop a 10 year strategic plan for the library. If you have an interest in serving on the committee (which will meet during evening hours) please send a short resume to: Grosse Pointe Public Library, Attn: Vickie Bloom, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236. Deadline for resumes is December 31, 2005.

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1 large onion, thinly sliced
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1 cup California white wine
1 1/2 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon pepper

Place lamb shanks in roaster; add remaining ingredients. Cover roaster and cook 3 hours in moderately-slow oven (325°) (If shanks are large, raise temperature to 325° to 350°) Remove cover; continue cooking for 30 min. Pour sauce in a sauce pan; reduce to half over high heat. Pour over meat.

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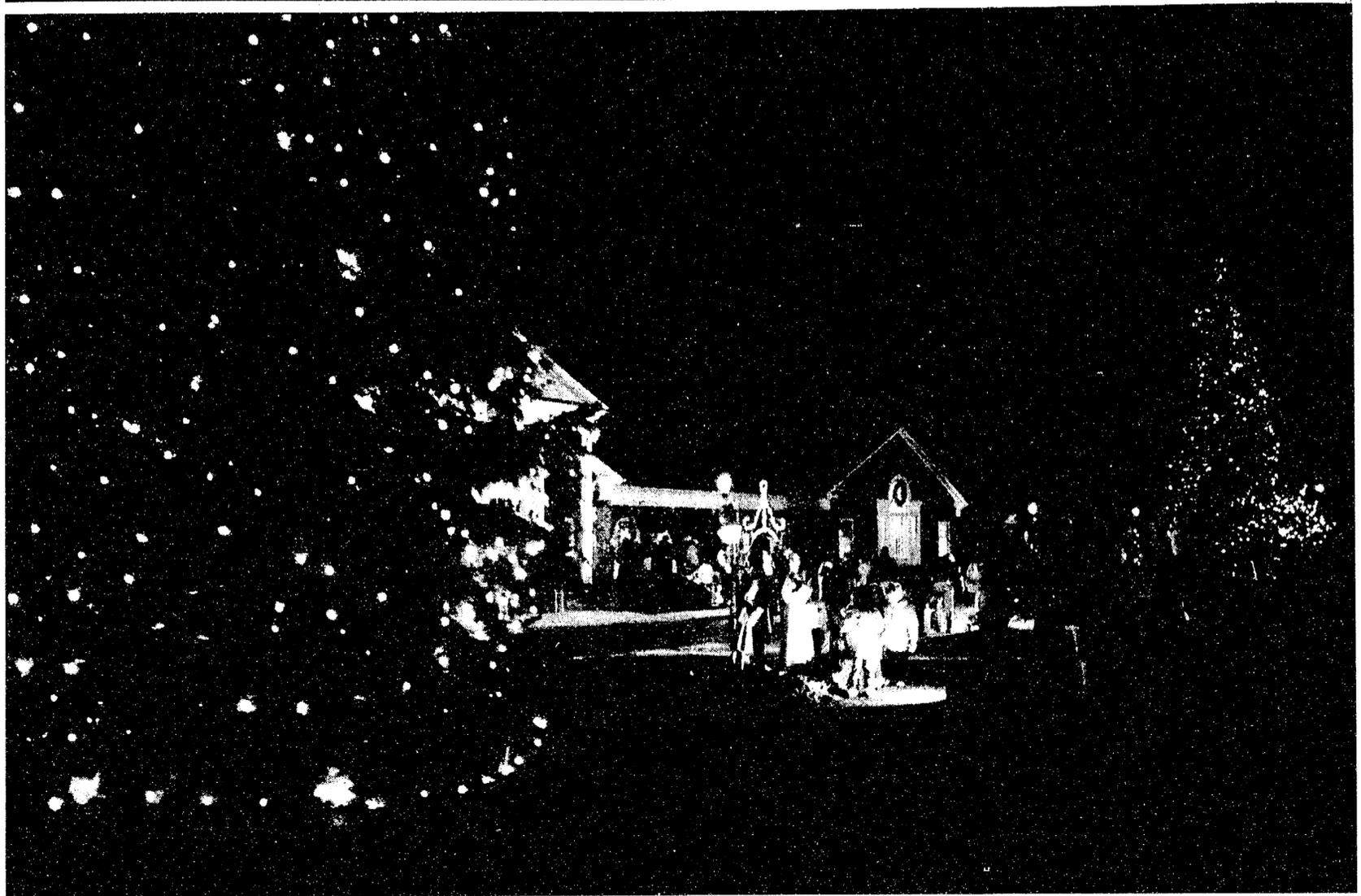
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Pointes 'aglow'

Christmas trees are shining all over town. Clockwise, from top, the lighting ceremony outside Woods City Hall; Molly Walsh, 7, and City Mayor Dale Scrace in the Village; Farms Mayor James Farquhar on the Hill; Santa Claus in the Shores, and back to the Woods.

Photos by Robert McKean





Photo by Bob St. John

Grosse Pointe Woods public safety officer Scott Nota, left, types in some information on the department's new in-car computer system. In turn, Nota will receive information about an individual who was pulled over for a traffic violation.

Woods public safety gets techno in its crime-fighting

By Bob St. John
Staff Writer

Grosse Pointe Woods public safety officers get a new advantage when it comes to fighting crime, in-car computers.

"The officers are excited that they will get an opportunity to improve their ability to fight crime," Grosse Pointe Woods public safety director Mike Makowski said. "It will help reduce the workload of our dispatchers and give our officers more information at a quicker rate than before."

At the moment, public safety officers use the LEIN (Law Enforcement Information Network) to get information about people, but now the new computer software package will allow the officers to get fingerprints, mug shots and more information about criminals at the push of a few buttons in their squad car.

"This is a great way for us to help fight crime and keep our residents safe," seven-year veteran of the Woods public safety department Scott Nota said. "We can get a lot more information quicker than before, and this will help us make decisions about the people who are breaking the law."

Makowski's department only has the computer hooked up to one car, but the other seven cars will be equipped before the end of the year.

"Our entire department, myself included, will be in training sessions on how to properly use this new computer system," Makowski said.

The officers have stipulations on the computers. They have to use the computer at a stationary mode, not when the car is in transit, and they can only use it for ethical purposes.

In addition, the computer system will help officers in Grosse Pointe Woods contact an officer in Auburn Hills about someone who might have committed a crime in

that city just an hour earlier and is trying to get away with the same thing in the Woods.

"We will be able to make more arrests using this new computer system, which will in turn keep our streets safer," Nota said. "This is really exciting for all of us here in Grosse Pointe Woods."

Nota made the department's first arrest using the new computer system last month, and the system came in handy just recently when a man was pulled over trying to scam several Mack businesses.

The man used several aliases, and the computer system gave the arresting officers valuable information about this individual that they used in getting him off the street and into a jail.

The computer system is linked to CLEMIS, which stands for Courts and Law Enforcement Management Information Systems.

Clemis WebLEIN provides an interface between local

law enforcement to the state, federal, and various local criminal justice databases.

These databases include Michigan Secretary of State driving records and images, the State of Michigan Corrections System prisoner information, FBI criminal and stolen property databases, databases belonging to local police agencies around the state of Michigan, and LEIN, which contains criminal, wanted persons, officer safety cautions, and vehicle information.

"We will be linked to as much information as possible," Makowski said. "We will be able to get important information as quick as possible with the in-car computer system. It will save time and help our officers do a more thorough job."

Training for the new computer software will take place during the first two weeks of December, and the remaining seven cars will have the new computers installed by Dec. 31.

GPW hires two public safety men

Grosse Pointe Woods department of public safety has two new officers.

Ryan Schroerlucke and Brian Urban were recently hired into the public safety office, and both will be required to complete a 14-week Field Training Officer program and be state certified as Medical First Responders before being assigned to road patrol duties.

Schroerlucke has a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from Saginaw Valley State University.

He also attended Delta College Police Academy and recently graduated from Macomb County Community College Fire Academy.

Urban has an associate's degree in criminal justice from Macomb County Community College and attended MCC's Police Academy. He recently graduated from MCC's Fire Academy.



Ryan Schroerlucke, left, and Brian Urban are two new public safety officers hired by Grosse Pointe Woods.

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A.H. Peters receives national award

A.H. Peters Funeral Services of Grosse Pointe Woods is a recipient of the 2005 National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) Pursuit of Excellence Continuing Achievement Award.

This award honors funeral homes for outstanding service to families and for community involvement, in addition to meeting strict quality service criteria in nine categories: education, compassionate service, technical skills, community and professional service, library or media resources, professional development, in-house staff training, and public and community relations.

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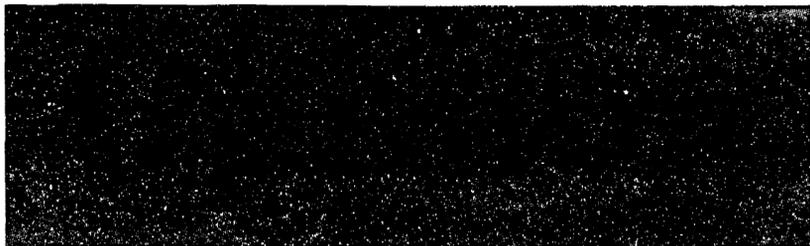
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ty. Pay: \$94,200. Those are just some of the requirements the City of Grosse Pointe elected officials will be asking of the replacement for Michael Overton, who is moving Up North to Cheboygan County as the manager there. Mr. Overton has been with the City for five years, having filled the rather large shoes of long-time, popular manager Tom Kressbach. We wish Mr. Overton well. This may be opportunity time for the City. Of course, there are the ongoing "negotiations" with the developer of the old Jacobson's site. We imagine

that will be put on hold until April, by which time, we hope, a new, seasoned city manager will be hired. In the meantime, 10-year city veteran Assistant City Manager Brian Vick will be taking care of day-to-day municipal business. Also in the works is the possible development of Lot 2 on the other side of the street behind Kroger. One proposal, Jonna Companies, looks promising in that it has a lot to offer and won't cost the City taxpayers a fortune. Then there is the ongoing Sunrise condominium development for active

senior citizens. Housing for independent-living seniors is often cited as a crucial need in this community, and given the aging population, it is probably true. The new city manager will also need some Dale Carnegie skills in smoothing over ruffled feathers among the public safety officers, city employees and managers and residents. And, lastly, the candidate must be able to work for seven bosses — the mayor and city council — as well as 5,670 residents and the business community. It will not be an easy task. The City of Grosse Pointe and all the Pointes are in a transitional period. Michigan is mired in a recession; homes for sale are at long-time highs, and competition with outlying suburbs, new housing stock and shopping malls has never been keener. If you like a challenge and a wonderful community to live in, applications are being accepted.

Robert G. Edgar
Publisher

Robert B. Edgar
Founder and Publisher
(1940-1979)

Grosse Pointe News
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John Minnis
Editor and General Manager
(313) 343-5590

EDITORIAL
(313) 882-0294
Margie Reins Smith, Assistant Editor/Feature Editor
Chuck Klonke, Sports Editor
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Letters

City Council meeting planned

To the Editor:
At the December City of Grosse Pointe Council meeting, Mayor Scrace committed to put on the City Council's Dec. 12 meeting agenda the city's proposal to change Neff Lane, a residential street in a residential neighborhood, into a Department of Public Works industrial parking and storage yard. Our neighborhood would like the city's residents to know of the planned discussion, so that they might provide helpful input to the city's leadership on this important topic. The City of Grosse Pointe Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. and is tentatively planned to be held at the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church at 17150 Maumee Rd., across the street from the city municipal buildings.
Anne Ginn
City of Grosse Pointe

"analysis of possible solutions to a problem." While the board continues to pursue alternative locations for the new Central Library, we are also considering a possible solution satisfying the city's needs of 40,000 to 45,000 square feet of space at our present location. Another statement in the article that is rather misleading: "When the school system refused to play ball..." Neither of the feasibility study scenarios has been formally presented to the Grosse Pointe Public School system. I can't imagine that they could have "refused to play ball" regarding the first feasibility scenario when we haven't even asked if they'd like to consider playing. Our monthly public meetings have rarely attracted more than a handful of attendees (reflecting, in my opinion, the public's general satisfaction with the job being done by our library and our board). Given the fact so few members of the public attend our meetings, it is very important that any press coverage reflect the actions and considerations of our board as accurately as possible. Thank you for your continuing efforts to do so.
Harvey Weaver
President
Board of Trustees
Grosse Pointe Public Library

demolished. I would like to propose that instead of building yet another branch library, the library board use its resources to work with its librarians to improve existing libraries and create the best small library systems in the region. Such a project would further enhance the quality of life of all of the residents in our community.
Gina A. Granger
Grosse Pointe Park

Library clarification

To the Editor:
The Board of Trustees of the Grosse Pointe Public Library really appreciates the continued coverage and support provided by the Grosse Pointe News regarding efforts to modernize and expand the Grosse Pointe Public Library system. However, I feel it rather important to correct misperceptions the public may have after reading the front page article in the Dec. 1 Grosse Pointe News, "Central Library expansion goes underground." If prior to publication there had been a discussion of the material to be presented in that article with either me or Vickey Bloom, director of the Grosse Pointe Public Library, we would have re-emphasized the statement I made to the handful of attendees at both of our public meetings in which architect James Mumby made his presentations. That statement was: "Mr. Mumby's presentation represents a feasibility study requested by this board in our efforts to evaluate alternatives specific to the Central Library property for satisfying the needs of our expansion program. We also continue to pursue other property locations to satisfy those needs." To refer to Mr. Mumby's assessments as "plans" is very misleading. A plan is a "proposed course of action." A feasibility study is an

Preserve library building

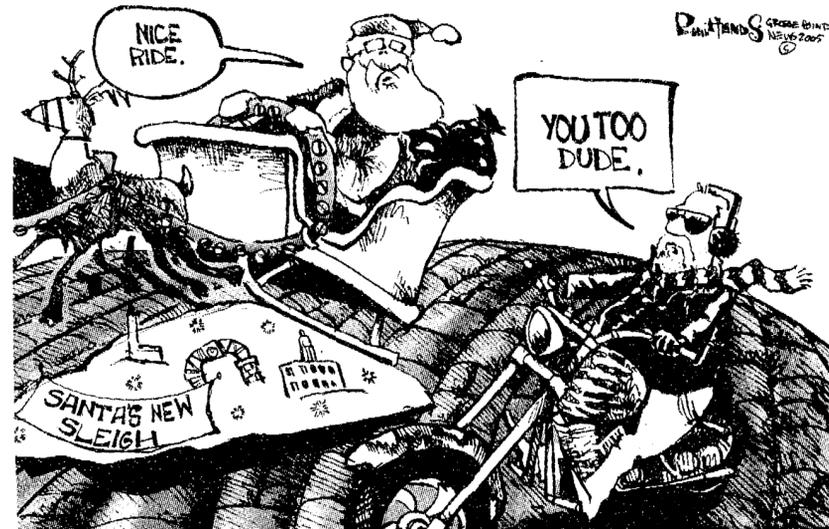
To the Editor:
I pray that the Grosse Pointe Public Library Board of Trustees will think long and hard before it makes a decision regarding the Central Branch Library on the corner of Fisher Road and Kercheval Avenue in Grosse Pointe Farms. This elegant modernist structure fits comfortably and discreetly into the overall cityscape. Its facade is enhanced by Lyman Kipp's red and blue metal sculpture, which was donated by the late eminent art patron and architectural historian Hawkins Ferry, who resided in Grosse Pointe Shores. The building itself was designed by the important modernist architect and designer Marcel Breuer, who designed, among other buildings, the Whitney Museum of Art in New York City. On my view, the Central Branch building, a Grosse Pointe landmark and treasure, as well as a splendid gift to the community from Murray W. Sales and Dexter M. Ferry in 1953, ought to be lovingly conserved, not

Underground parking

To the Editor:
If the Grosse Pointe Board of Education will not permit underground parking at the Grosse Pointe Central Library, don't expect me to vote "yes" on any future request the board makes ("Central Library expansion goes underground," Dec. 1). Many of my friends agree.
James P. Danaher
Grosse Pointe Farms

Santa thanks great welcome

To the Editor:
I would like to thank the entire group of participating Grosse Pointe Business and Professional Association of Mack Avenue merchants for welcoming me on Dec. 1 and Dec. 2. I made several stops along Mack Avenue visiting with all my friends. I really enjoyed seeing everyone and hearing all their Christmas wishes. I stopped in at AAA Michigan for some cookies. I must tell you about the pizza at Uncle Paul's Pizza, my reindeer really enjoyed being there and some of my friends, Kylie, Sydney, Conner and Emma, were there to see me also. Merchants Fine Wine was a wonderful stop where I met Ashley and many more kids. The imported cookies were excellent. I also picked up some bird seed at my stop with Wild Birds Unlimited. I shopped for Mrs. Claus at The Dried Flower. My next stop was the Mack Avenue Diner for a snack where I met Billy and Samantha. I was really excited to talk with them. I had to pick up flowers for some friends of mine, so Moehring Woods Flowers was the perfect place. There I met Adrian and Lilly. My last stop was with Alex and Alexis at TCBY for an ice cream treat. I enjoyed hearing all about the great toys they are hoping my elves were making for them. I must say that Mack Avenue was a stop that I won't ever forget. I didn't



Address comments to cartoonist Phil Hands at phands@grossepointenews.com or go to www.philtoons.com

have enough time to visit with all the shops, so let me thank everyone involved with The Grosse Pointe Business and Professional Association of Mack Avenue: Somewhere in Time Gallery, Rainy Day Art Supply, Mystic Medical Supplies, Edwin Paul Salon, Authorized Cellular, String Beads, Edwin Paul Spa, Farm Bureau Insurance, Quizno's Subs, Sherwin Williams, Flagstar Bank, People State Bank, Joseph DiMaggio Jewelers, Joyce Salon, the Grosse Pointe News, the city of Grosse Pointe Woods, and Christ the King Lutheran Church. I can't wait to visit all of you again on Christmas Eve. Be on the lookout for me and my reindeer pass through soon. Thank you again.
Ho! Ho! Ho!
Santa Claus
North Pole

Frogs*Fur* Friends' final tally

To the Editor:
The following letter is to the supporters of Frogs Fur Friends:
Dear Frog Friends:
I hope this note finds each

of you well and enjoying this fabulous holiday season. It is hard to believe that Frogs Fur Friends was hopping fast and furious this time last year. We are ecstatic to report to you our final numbers. Last year when asked how much we hoped to raise through Frogs Fur Friends for Children's Home of Detroit and Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, we estimated \$150,000. This estimate was based on other similar projects held in communities within our metro area. We have to admit, even we wondered if we were being overly optimistic based on similar projects. We could have never predicted the outpouring of support we received from our artists, sponsors and the community. I believe it is worth reporting how much revenue we generated, as well as how much was actually raised for both nonprofits. In receipts, that includes: sponsorships, donations, events, merchandise and the sale of the frogs themselves at auction, we raised over \$450,000. That is truly an amazing number, thank you! A project of this scale has many costs associated with its success. These costs

include: artist stipends, events, sales tax, transportation of the frogs (multiple times), clear coating of the frogs, the frogs themselves, etc. We were fortunate to have Budco donate all the creative and marketing materials, event program and final auction program book. Frogs Fur Friends is excited to announce that we have raised \$216,193 to support the Children's Home of Detroit and Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society! Proceeds will be split evenly between the two organizations. The Children's Home of Detroit plans to utilize its portion of the proceeds to support the Foundation for Exceptional Children. Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society will utilize its proceeds to structure an endowment fund, in order to guarantee its long-term financial future, allowing them to continue their mission of finding permanent homes for adoptable pets. My heartfelt thanks goes out to all of those who made this dream a reality. Thanks fur being a friend fur a frog.
Donna Brian
Frogs Fur Friends

School outsourcing grows

By Michael D. LaFaive, and Daniel Smith
School districts face the same cost pressures as companies in the private sector in trying to deliver a quality product at the best price. One method used by firms in both the public and private sectors to achieve greater efficiency is the outsourcing of ancillary business operations. Michigan schools are contracting out more nonessential work than ever before, according to the Mackinac Center for Public Policy's third biennial school privatization survey. This year the Mackinac Center successfully interviewed a representative from every one of Michigan's 552 school districts to determine how many of

them use outside vendors for three primary noninstructional services: food, janitorial and busing. The number of districts that contract out rose from 34 percent in 2003 to 35.5 percent currently. Today, 196 of the state's school districts outsource at least one of these three functions. Over 28 percent (156) contract out for some type of food service delivery. Janitorial outsourcing occurs in 8.7 percent of districts, up from 6.6 percent just two years ago. Michael LaFaive is director of the Morey Fiscal Policy Initiative, and Daniel Smith is a research assistant, both with the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, a research and educational institute based in Midland.

The day John died

"Where were you when you found out John Lennon died?"

I think for most baby boomers it is one of those moments frozen in time as is John Kennedy's assassination and Sept. 11.

Lennon died 25 years ago on Dec. 8, 1980, but I remember the day as if it were yesterday.

I was awakened by my alarm radio playing an old Beatle song. Since the station was a progressive rock station, which rarely played oldies, I immediately knew something had happened concerning the Beatles.

When the song was over, the disc jockey referred obliquely to what a sad day this was for the world.

"What happened? Did one of them die?" I asked the radio.

Which one was it? Was it baby-faced Paul who was my first girlhood idol? Was it rebel John whose dark humor confused me when I was really young, but delighted me as I got older? Was it gentle George who seemed approachable like the boy-next-door? Or was it fun-loving Ringo with whom I would have loved to have partied?

It took an agonizing three-minute wait to go through another Beatles' song before I knew it was John. He was shot at close range the night before by an obsessed and delusional fan.

As the news sank into my drowsy head, tears moistened my eyes. As I sat at the end of my bed, I thought about the man who was a major influence on my generation. He and his fellow Beatles were trendsetters — they changed the length of our hair — and they were cultural opinion leaders who were on the cutting edge of



Beth Quinn

the sub-culture and hippy movements.

As I got ready for work, I wondered what went through Lennon's mind as he lay dying outside his Central Park West apartment waiting for the ambulance to arrive. Did he see the irony of a man who imagined a world with no weapons being shot down by a gunman? Strangely, I found comfort thinking the acerbic Lennon might have slightly chuckled over the absurdity of the situation.

When I arrived at work at "People Magazine," the place was in an uproar. Phones

were ringing, and people were frantically running around barking out orders. Normally, the office was quiet and slow-moving on Tuesday mornings since the magazine went to press on Monday nights. However, the top executives at Time Inc. decided to stop the presses and make Lennon's assassination that week's cover story. It was a multi-million dollar decision to scrap an issue which was virtually off the press, and the only decision of that magnitude I saw during my entire 11 years at the magazine.

The following Saturday, I walked to the Great Lawn in New York City's Central Park to take part in a planned moment of silence in honor of Lennon. I was joined by thousands of other distraught Beatles fans of all ages and from all walks of life.

I passed rocker Edgar Winter who was walking arm-in-arm with four beautiful women, proving that rock stars don't have to be good-looking to get babes.

I made eye contact with Harry Reasoner of "60 Minutes." At first it seemed the older man was just being a typical curious reporter surveying a big news story, but then I saw his eyes looked as teary as mine.

The scene was a more mournful version of Woodstock or a hipper version of an Irish wake. Beatles music was blaring out of huge speakers; some people were camped out on blankets; some were drink-

ing beer; and others were smoking pot.

As the minute of silence was about to begin, the speakers were silenced, and everyone simultaneously stood up. During the 60-second pause, only sniffles could be heard.

When it ended, the crowd slowly and quietly shuffled out of the park.

As I was walking home, I wondered if Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono and their young son, Sean Lennon, were looking out at the masses of people from the window of their apartment which overlooked Central Park.

Last night, my soon-to-be 13-year-old son was listening to Beatles downloaded from my husband's iTunes file. He recently has gotten into the Fab Four's music. As I listen to him singing along to "Come Together," I wondered if Lennon was up in Heaven smiling, knowing that his music lives on.

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The Op-Ed Page



Star dog

While she will never compete with Lassie or Rin Tin Tin in the hearts of movie and television fans, one Grosse Pointe dog can boast a cameo appearance in the current hit movie, "Walk the Line," the Johnny Cash biography.

About 10 minutes into the story, there is a pivotal scene where Johnny's older brother is running a nasty-looking power saw, and the camera pans to the dirt road, and there is a medium-sized black dog of indeterminate origin. It could be a cross between a setter

and a Lab.

The movie was filmed in Nashville, and the dog was then named Worm; no one quite knows why, although it may have something to do with the critter's ability to slip through small holes.

Worm was a stray around the set and was adopted by '95 South graduate Parry Creedon, who had graduated with a film major from Barnard and then headed west to Hollywood. She was assistant to the producer of "Walk the Line" and is now in New York working on another project.

In any event, after the shooting, Parry took the dog

fyi

with her to L.A., where she couldn't keep it because of apartment house rules; so despite their protestations, her parents, and our neighbors, Gaylord and Betsy Creedon, wound up with the dog. Of course, Betsy, a former Junior Leaguer, vowed that no dog named Worm would frequent their

household; so the lovable Worm now has a more appropriately Grosse Pointe name — Missy.

Parry also appears briefly in the film a few scenes after Missy when Joaquin Phoenix, playing the role of Johnny Cash, is stationed in Germany in the Air Force. As he walks down a German street, he passes two pretty Frauleins who cast admiring glances his way. The one in the green pill box hat is Parry.



by Ben Burns

O'Neill's last name.

Handel

Several Grosse Pointers will take part in two performances of "Too Hot to Handel" on Dec. 17 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 18 at 4 p.m. at the Detroit Opera House. Those Pointers in the cast of the Rackham Symphony Choir, which includes nearly 100 voices, are Fran Bachmann, Danielle Caralis, Cydney Higgins, Cheri Reid and Suzanne Acton.

International soloists include Rodrick Dixon, Victor Trent Cook and Alfreda Burke.

Tickets are available at the Detroit Opera House, online at www.michigan-opera.org and www.ticketmaster.com or by calling (248) 645-6666. Discounts are available through the Rackham Symphony Choir at (313) 272-0334.

Ben Burns of the City of Grosse Pointe is a professor in the journalism program at Wayne State University. He can be reached at burnsben@comcast.net or by phone at (313) 882-2810.

Streetwise

Question of the Week:

Are you spending more or less this Christmas and why or why not?



"Probably a little less this year because of belt tightening."

Karen Schaeffner
City of Grosse Pointe



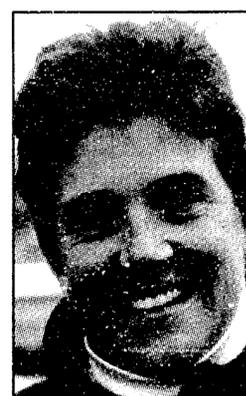
"We're spending about the same this year."

Shane Reeside
Grosse Pointe Farms



"We're spending exactly the same as always."

Shelly Reisen
City of Grosse Pointe



"I'm spending more, but just for the less fortunate."

Virginia Moran
City of Grosse Pointe



"I'm spending less because the family is getting smaller and older, and there are less people to buy for."

Katie Hilton
Grosse Pointe Woods



"We keep it about the same. We have a certain amount to distribute every year."

James P. Evans
Grosse Pointe Farms

Oops

The unsung heroes of newspapers are the copy editors, many of whom have encyclopedic knowledge of people, places and things. These men and women spend anonymous careers making sure that reporters

and writers don't embarrass themselves.

One of the best of those when I was at The Detroit News was Richard E. Nowicki, of Detroit, now retired.

Dick, in a note, points out that I managed to leave an "L" out of Eugene O'Neill's last name when I mentioned the Pointe Players of South High School were performing "Ah, Wilderness."

"Even a topnotch journalism professor and a member of the Journalism Hall of Fame needs a good copy editor once in awhile," he wrote. And Dick is absolutely right.

There is an old saying in journalism that "if your mother says she loves you, check it out." I should have checked the spelling of

Park council OKs satellite dish

Charles and Linda Baisch of Grosse Pointe Park want to hear good news about their variance request on the placement of a satellite dish antenna.

The Baisches, who live in the 700 block of Bedford, want to install a satellite dish antenna in their front yard, but a city ordinance prohibits the placement of satellite dish antennas in the front yard or in required side yards.

The Grosse Pointe Park Zoning Board of Appeals listened to evidence in support of the dish, which can't be placed on the roof of the home.

The satellite dish would be well-placed and hidden by landscape so neighbors would not see it, and the couple brought five letters of support (one letter of disapproval was also submitted) for their case.

With this evidence in

front of them, the Zoning Board of Appeals voted 6-1 in favor of the variance.

"The city council and Mayor Heenan want to make sure the 18-inch dish is hidden from neighbors' views by landscaping," city manager Dale Krajniak said. "The couple had enough support and promised the dish would be concealed from view; so the variance was granted."

— Bob St. John

Points about the Pointes

*The new State curriculum requirements...
...can Dr. Klein turn a lemon into lemonade?*

In case you haven't been watching the news, State Education Head Mike Flanagan has submitted a plan to revamp statewide high school graduation requirements. His goal is to meet the global demand for staff with strong science and math skills which is being filled elsewhere.

Flanagan presented his plan at a School Board Conference I attended in Lansing a few weeks ago. Most of my fellow board members from around the state were sour about this "lemon" plan, as it forces all school systems to ratchet up their high school graduation requirements.

To her credit, our School Superintendent, Suzanne Klein, has committed to turning their "lemon" into lemonade for our students. She has directed her staff to not only satisfy Flanagan's edicts, but also to look at everything else we offer while they're at it.

Her goal? A challenging curriculum for each and every student, each and every day that not only meets Flanagan's edicts, but also more than meets the mandates of our new global economy. Stay tuned for more news soon!

...Ahmed Ismail (ahmed.ismail@comcast.net)

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If you have a question you would like asked, drop us a note at 96 Kercheval on The Hill in Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236 or email to editor@grossepointenews.com

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Grosse Pointe businesses have gifts for everyone

By Bob St. John
Staff Writer

'Tis the season to be looking for that one hot gift everyone has on his or her Christmas list.

The business districts on the Hill in Grosse Pointe Farms, in the Village in the City of Grosse Pointe, and on Mack Avenue in Grosse Pointe Woods and Grosse Pointe Park offer a little bit of everything for everyone including your spouse, children, parents, siblings, nieces and nephews.

The Whistle Stop Hobby shop in St. Clair Shores has gifts for children as well as adults.

Store owners throughout the Grosse Pointes and St. Clair Shores reported that sales have been steady

Pointers are loyal customers, and they shop here to buy specialty items, such as Lacoste, Vineyard Vines (ties), Rain Forest jackets (for men and women), Schneider's dress coats (for men and women), and Lilly Pulitzer (women's apparel)."

For the children, Santa Claus will be visiting Hickey's on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 17 and 18, from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

"Kids will get a chance to sit on Santa's lap and tell him what they want for Christmas," Huntington said.

Girlie Girl, a boutique located on Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods catering to female clients, under the ownership of Michelle

together for a dinner.

Mike Taillefer of NBS TV on Greater Mack in St. Clair Shores said the store's biggest sellers are flat panel LCD and plasma televisions, while at Wild Birds Unlimited, on Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods, owner Roseann Kovalcik said her customers are buying a lot of ornaments, blended bird seed, gift-wrapped bird feeders and birdbaths, Birds of Michigan book, Cherry Republic products and even endangered species chocolate bars.

Other hot selling items at Wild Birds Unlimited are holiday flags, stained glass, and handbags of all sizes.

Lisa Rennell, owner of Rennell & Company's Creative Gift Design in the

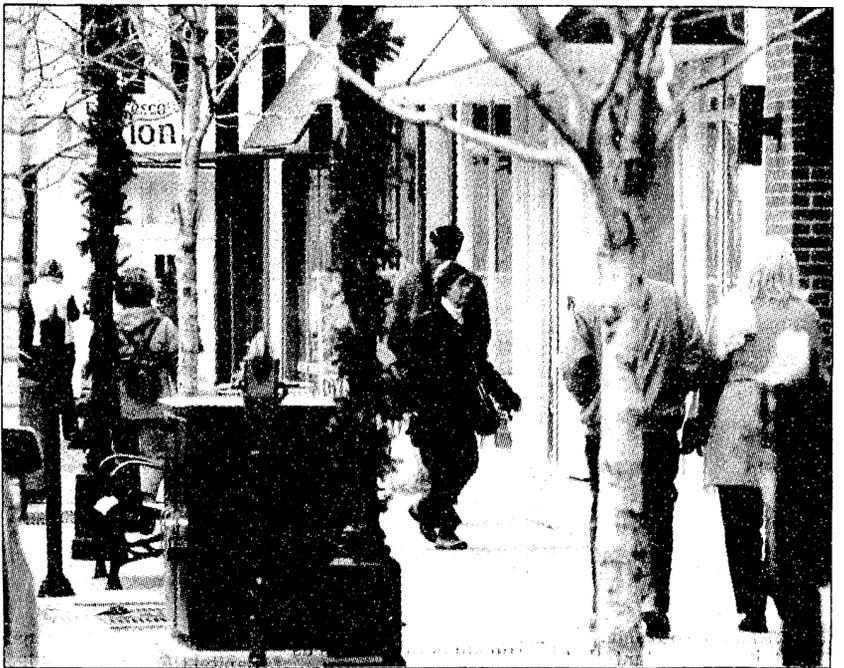


Photo by Robert McKean

Shoppers stroll down Kercheval, dropping into the stores in the Village shopping district in the City of Grosse Pointe.

through the first couple of weeks of the holiday shopping season.

But what do you get the special people in your life during the holiday season?

At Something Special Gifts, located on Kercheval in Grosse Pointe Farms, owner Sandy Gillespie said the hot items selling this holiday season are Gel Gems, which are for people of all ages, Fiber Optic baseball caps with the logo of your favorite sports team on it, Heartwood Creek by Jim Shores figurines and light-up necklaces.

"Business is doing pretty well for us right now," Gillespie said. "We seem to be getting a lot of local residents coming in, which is great."

Aaron Peabody at Edmund T. Ahee Jewelers (on Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods) said the store's biggest sellers are the Roberto Circle of Life diamond pendants, watches, pearl jewelry, multi-layered jewelry and colored stone jewelry.

Whistle Stop Hobby Shop, located on Harper in St. Clair Shores, is selling Lionel Trains, especially the Polar Express line, like hot-cakes and are in the top 10 in America.

"We're selling a lot of charms for girls and the trains for boys," Whistle Stop's Rick Coaggett said. "We have been very busy, which is great for us."

Rob Koueiter of Koueiter & Sons Jewelers (on Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods) said diamond circle pendants and gem stones (especially sapphires) are their biggest selling items this holiday season.

Bill Huntington, owner of Hickey's Walton Pierce on Kercheval in the City of Grosse Pointe, said, "Grosse

Pointe, has been selling a lot of fragrant-scented oils.

"The fragrant-scented oils make great gifts for the mom or wife in someone's life," Beaudette said.

Claudia Corrado, an associate at The Village Toy Company (on Kercheval in the City of Grosse Pointe), said the Ned Head (a goey version of Operation) is a hot item for boys and girls and the Gobblet game is another big seller.

Both games have earned "Toy of the Year" accolades. In addition, personalized items are quite popular at Village Toy.

Jeff Hutchins of Sherman Shoes (on Kercheval in the City of Grosse Pointe) has been selling a lot of Ugg (a boot), Merrell (outdoor footwear), and Birkenstock (clogs) during the holiday season.

"We have been very busy during the past few weeks," Hutchinson said.

Pointe Cycle & Fitness, located on Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods, is selling a lot of treadmills, elliptical machines and Electra Townies (bikes).

Store manager Steve Straub said, "We are one of the top 15 bike shops in the country, which always helps our business. We give our customers a wide variety of bikes and equipment to choose from."

Grosse Pointe Farms' Pointe Pedlar, located on the Hill on Kercheval, has a little bit of everything for its customers.

Chuck Kaess, one of the four owners, said knick-knacks for hosting holiday parties have been hot items, and he has said more customers are staying at home during the holidays, which means more people buying the little items it takes to bring family and friends

Village on Kercheval in the City of Grosse Pointe said, "November and December are our two biggest months of the year. So far, business has been pretty good."

Creative Gift Design specializes in gift baskets containing fine cheeses, meats, wines, snacks and fruits.

The League Shop on Kercheval on the Hill in Grosse Pointe Farms has been selling a lot of Krinkles (hand-crafted, highly detailed tree ornaments) and Byers' Choice figurines.

"The Byers' Choice company helps support the Salvation Army, and its products are big sellers," owner Pat Brinker said. "The ornaments are also nice selling items. We're doing very well as the local residents are coming in a lot and making purchases."

Village Purchase Market, located on Mack in Grosse Pointe Farms, is selling a high volume of wines this holiday season, said representative Marvin Sagmani.

Beaujolais, Banylus, Cabernet and Chardonnay are customer favorites this time of year.

Pat Scott of Pat Scott Jewelers on Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods said diamond earrings, stone set bracelets and Tagheuer watches are selling quite well.

Another great gift to give is a subscription to Grosse Pointe News, which is running a buy one subscription, get one free during the holiday season.

These are just a sampling of stores throughout the Pointes and St. Clair Shores that sell whatever your loved one wants this holiday season.

Restaurants and coffee shops are also open, and there is nothing like a good meal to go with dessert on a busy shopping day.

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Pointers get pointers in economics

Grosse Pointe Farms' Morgan Stanley hosted a seminar presented by Tom Accordino, a Morgan Stanley associate working in the Fixed Income Division.

Accordino spoke on two separate occasions, discussing interest rates, the impending new Federal Reserve Chairman, and the impact of the auto-related woes on corporate and municipal bonds in Michigan.

In addition, he answered dozens of questions from the audience concerning the suffering economic conditions in the Detroit auto-related market and the impact on local and Michigan issued bonds.

He also had a hand in covering the Delphi bankruptcy. Accordino is a Bond Trading Specialist, covering the Midwest Region for Morgan Stanley.

He received his undergraduate degree in economics from Colgate University and his MBA from Fordham University Graduate School of Business.

"Tom was very informative, and he took a lot of time answering questions concerning a wide variety of topics," Morgan Stanley Associate Vice President Shari Warezak said. "I think the people who attended the two seminars received a lot of useful information they can use to help better their financial status."

Tips to help with taxes

As another year comes to a close, investors will be looking at a variety of ways to save on their tax bills.

But it is important that they proceed carefully because what looks like a money-saving move could turn into a loss.

In the cover story from the December issue of BetterInvesting Magazine, the monthly magazine of NAIC's BetterInvesting, authors and certified financial planners Alexandra Armstrong and Karen Preysnar outline three areas that can help reduce your tax bill: the capital gains rules, charitable donations and nondeductible gifts.

In each area, Armstrong and Preysnar outline the detailed steps investors should take and the traps they should watch out for.

Since 1997, many have used Section 529 savings plans as an effective way to save for their children's education. Section 529 plans are education savings plans operated by various states or educational institutions, designed to help families set aside funds for future college costs.

No one has educated more individuals about 529s than Joe Hurley, CPA and author of "The Best Way to Save for College: A Complete Guide to 529 Plans." In this article, author Amy Buttell Crane discusses with Hurley important issues affecting 529s, including how they could undercut eligibility for financial aid grants.

In this month's Mr. NAIC column, Kenneth Janke — chairman of NAIC's BetterInvesting — comments on an online survey that suggests placing stop-loss orders 10 percent below the current stock price.

The Hill hosts 'Men's Night'

The Hill shopping district in Grosse Pointe Farms is sponsoring a Men's Night on Thursday, Dec. 15, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Men will be able to sample beverages and food while they shop for their loved ones during the three-hour shopping spree.

Year-end rally pauses; will December rise again?

November left us all with a lot to be thankful for. The Dow gained 265 points or 3.5 percent, and the Nasdaq spurred 5.3 percent. More meaningful is the fact that all indices are back in positive territory for the year to date, with the S&P 500 up a comfortable 4-plus percent.

But crude oil has inched back, closing last Friday at \$59.32 a barrel. And gold glitters since it passed \$500 on the upside last week, closing at \$503.30 an ounce.

Historically, gold and stocks more often walk different paths.

When stocks swoon, investors often rush to gold for safety, since paper money is — well, it's only paper!

Fed hike next week

The Fed Open Market Committee meets again next Tuesday, Dec. 13. It is virtually certain that Chairman Alan Greenspan will guide the committee in increasing short-term rates by 25 basis points (a basis point is 1/100th of 1 percent).

The new rate, 4 1/4 percent, is still a whisker below the long-time historical rate of 4 1/2 percent; so the 13 heretofore increases are not really "increases" but "catch-ups."

The futures markets indicate an 85 percent probability of another 1/4 of 1 percent rate hike on Jan. 13, the next regular committee meeting. New Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke will be sworn in Feb. 1.

Tax-loss time

Human nature makes us want to hold stocks that are under water, marketwise, in the eternal hope that the price will turn around. So why not bite the bullet; tell the old stocks goodbye, and sell the losers?

After all, your tax accountant will tell you that capital losses are tax deductible 1) to offset capital gains, 2) to deduct any excess losses over gains up to \$3,000 in 2005 and to carry any remaining losses forward to future years' gains.

Money magazine (December) suggested, "Instead of buying shares in a similar company, move to an exchange-traded fund

Let's talk... STOCKS

By Joseph Mengden



(ETF) in the same sector.

This ensures you don't miss an upturn, plus you get diversification that a (single) stock can't offer.

For fund swaps, check out Morningside's "similar fund" tool through a free trial at Morningstar.com.

ETFs trade like stocks on a stock exchange and can be purchased through a stock broker on a commission basis, which sometimes can be negotiated.

Are you a stock picker?

Most individual investment portfolios come in one or more of three shapes: 1) An assortment of individual stocks selected by the investor; 2) One or more mutual funds or ETFs, usually recommended by a broker/adviser; and 3) a professional management contract managed by a bank trust department, stock brokerage or investment adviser, on a fee basis. Or some combination of the above.

The emergence of IRAs and 401(k)s triggered an avalanche of mutual fund investments, because of the availability of wide diversification and/or the ability to select specific sectors (or industries) for investment.

Barron's (Nov. 28) presented an excellent in-depth interview with Bob Lyon, president and co-chief investment officer of Chicago-based Institutional Capital (IC) with \$13 billion under management.

Barron's reported, "This year IC's flagship ICAP Equity Fund, symbol: ICAEX, is up 12.08 percent; its ICAP Select Equity Fund is ahead by 10.45 percent, and its ICAP International Cap Value Fund is advanced 13.53 percent."

IC says it uses a top-down, bottom-up, inside-out approach to uncover the most attractive opportunities around the globe. Lyon sees the Fed's present interest rate policy as still below its historical neutral rate of about 4 1/2 percent and

finds it still pretty easy to get your hands on credit or cash.

Presently, there is no inverted yield curve, no tight money, and credit losses are near all-time lows.

But some stock strategists see an ongoing monetary tightening, with fiscal policy also tightening in early 2006.

But stock valuations are still fairly modest for most stocks.

Lyon expects single-digit returns from stocks, with some rotation from consumer-oriented stocks to industrial stocks. Overall, Lyon sees 2006 as a stock-picker's market, with a sweet spot in mergers and acquisitions. He favors CIT Group (CIT, about 50.30 last Friday), Bank of New York (BK, about 32.87) and Marathon Oil (MRO, about 60.79).

Another sweet spot is capital spending by aerospace, automation, oil services and electric grid companies.

Favored are Honeywell (HON, about 36.06), Cooper Industries (CBE, about 73.87), Halliburton (HAL, about 65.83) and Weatherford International (WFT, about 35.62).

Since trucks aren't nearly as energy efficient as the rails, and the highway system is already maxed out, IC favors Norfolk Southern (NSC, about 44.13), CSX (CSX, about 18.08) and Canadian Pacific (CP, about 44.50).

In aerospace, don't over-

look Textron, which owns Cessna, maker of the hottest business jets (TXT, about 79.74) and Honeywell, the biggest supplier of aviation components (cited above).

What are your best stock picks, right now? Remember, LTS does not recommend individual stocks, thus avoiding any conflicts of interest!

Come next January, after winter officially begins, LTS will discuss how natural gas prices are upsetting the U.S. inflation scene, a subject more avoided by politicians than bird flu.

Meanwhile, LTS wishes you and yours a premature "Merry Christmas" and the very best good health for 2006!

Joseph Mengden is a resident of the City of Grosse Pointe and former chairman of First of Michigan. "Let's Talk Stocks" runs the second Thursday of each month

and is sponsored by the following Grosse Pointe investment-related firms: John M. Rickel CPA, P.C. and Rickel & Baun P.C.



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RICKEL & BAUN, P.C.
ATTORNEYS
P.O. Box 36200
GROSSE POINTE FARMS, MICHIGAN 48236-0200
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Flutes sing song of nature

By Ann L. Fouty
Staff Writer

The trilling of a bird and the rush of the wind through pine needles were sounds re-created for the students of the Grosse Pointe Academy by flute player and storyteller David Nighteagle.

A Lakota, who lives in southern Colorado, Nighteagle incorporates stories about the rich ancestry of the oldest musical instrument in the world, how he came to play it and, if there is time, the physics of creating the flute's sound for audiences.

"The flute has a rich ancestry," he said. The oldest flute was found in Europe and made from a female's femur bone, dating back 82,000 years.

Nighteagle's intentions when he enters an auditorium are to educate, entertain, and share his talents. As various students joined him on stage to beat a handmade drum or shake rattles of nut shells, Nighteagle's purpose was fulfilled. Children may have been shy about getting up on stage before their schoolmates, but it didn't take them long before they were feeling the music flow.

Nighteagle has been traveling across the United States talking to elementary, high school and college-age students about the flute, an instrument his grandfather taught him to play. Not only does he play the flutes, but he has also made more than 9,000, some of which can be seen at the Smithsonian Institution.



A white owl decorates one of the 9,000 flutes David Nighteagle has made. He chooses dry wood of cherry, black walnut and aromatic cedar because it has the best acoustics for the instrument.

Though he also makes ceremonial pipes, Nighteagle's passion is the wooden flutes which play on a platonic five scale.

These are courting flutes, he said of the 18 he made and brought with him to the Academy just before Thanksgiving.

"Hundreds of years ago before dating, young men would have to make a flute and play it for her (the woman he was interested in). He would hide and play for a couple weeks and win her heart," Nighteagle said. "It seems a good way to win a heart by beginning with music."

Coming from a family of musicians, Nighteagle said he thinks all children should

be involved with music.

"Music is something you make. You pick up an instrument and play; it's important," he told the children.

Learning to play the flute is not complicated he told the audience. He showed a small flute played by children. The larger flutes, called grandfathers, are played by adults.

"The older you get, you lose lung capacity," he said and explained that the smaller, shorter flute takes more air to produce the sound while the larger ones, called grandfathers, require less air to blow.

Following each of the 14 tunes Nighteagle played for the crowd, he talked or told a story.

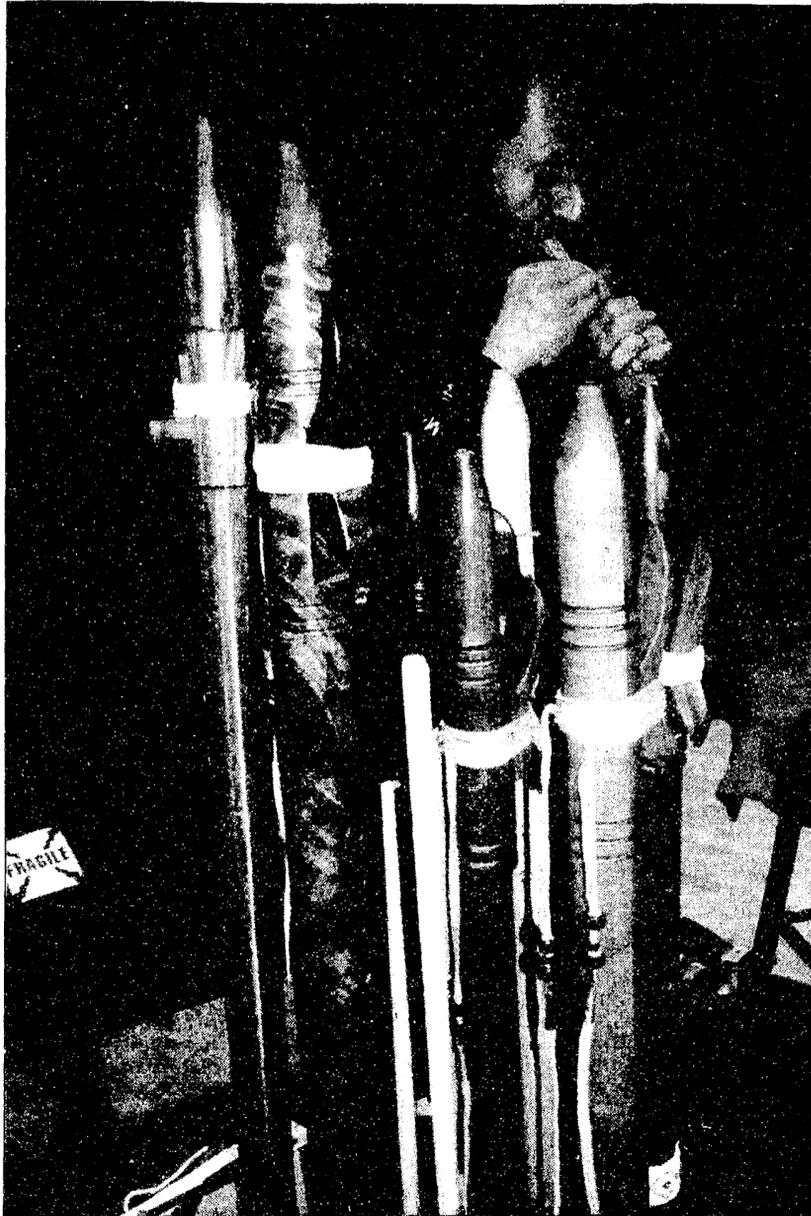
Flutes were formed from a hollow bone or a piece of bamboo or two pieces of hollowed-out wood.

Using cherry, black walnut or aromatic cedar, he coats the inside to protect the wood from the mouth's moisture. The outside is hand-rubbed and polished with carnauba and beeswax.

"I look for any suitable wood. It must be very dry; that's why the desert Southwest is so beneficial. It's made in two pieces, carved in halves, glued and turned on the lathe.

You must remove the heart of the wood and must put your heart into the music to put back the heart of the wood that was taken out," he said.

Some flutes are decorated with animals, such as a white owl or a horse, as he showed the students.



Photos by Ann L. Fouty

Lakota David Nighteagle plays a child's flute for his audience at Grosse Pointe Academy. He brought with him 14 handmade wooden flutes and explained how Native Americans received their musical inspiration from nature.



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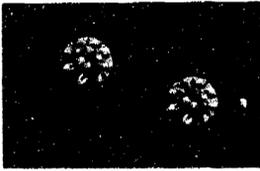
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South's jazz band in holiday mood

Join the Grosse Pointe South Jazz Band for a Holiday Jazz Concert at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 14, in South's auditorium.

The band is a cocurricular

ensemble which studies and performs the uniquely American art of jazz music. The jazz band is an audition-only ensemble that rehearses weekly and performs throughout the school year at concerts, school and community events, and festivals.

Jazz band members are required to be members of a curricular ensemble (concert/symphony band or orchestra) except for rhythm section instruments (piano, bass, guitar) that are not typically offered in a curricular ensemble.

The South Jazz Band has earned a reputation of musical excellence with outstanding performances at MSBOA, University of Michigan, Wayne State University Jazz Festivals. In 2005, South's Jazz Band was one of only 15 school groups from throughout Michigan to be selected to perform at the Detroit International Jazz Festival.

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Unplugging the holiday machine

By Sean Hogan-Downey
LMSW, LMFT
Special Writer

The holiday season can be like an overfilled Christmas stocking bursting with beautifully wrapped concerts, parties, shopping expeditions, craft and baking projects.

Though the trend is to simplify, it can still be a very expensive holiday, financial-

ly and emotionally. Children are prime targets for the Christmas machine. Holidays can be very stressful and virtual minefields for children and parents alike.

Here are some tips for reducing holiday stress:
Establish realistic expectations

Don't overload traditions. Too many "shoulds" rule out

joy. Talk to family members about last year. Find out which ones are important to them. Think and talk about family beliefs regarding the meaning of this season. Help kids think beyond themselves.

Give kids a disposable camera and allow them to take a picture every day from Dec. 1 to Jan. 1.

Encourage them to search for something that is meaningful about each day on a personal level. Follow-up in January by printing the pictures which can become that child's count-down calendar for next year's holiday season.

Remember, it is you who creates the reason for the season.

Make plans.

Don't accept every invitation. Balance adult and family events, and choose events you want to go to, not should go to. The business of the season can be overwhelming for children and adults alike.

Try not to have a month's preparation over in 10 minutes of frenzied gift unwrapping.

There is never more time, only time-shifting. The treatment of choice is choice. Children need their parents to provide structure. An excellent time-management tool is the word "No."

Crowds can produce overwhelming sensations that flood a child's body. Review manners training and establish ground rules for what you expect meeting lots of people.

Plan for journeys. Flying today includes crowds and waiting. Driving requires distractions or focus. If you travel, take the usual props: books, pillows, etc.

Prescribe downtime during this season. Excitement and exhaustion can interrupt sleep patterns for all. Follow a high volume day with a low volume day. Give yourself and your children the opportunity to recuperate and reenergize. Mix a day of rest and low activity in with the fast paced, high energy days. The entire family will be able to enjoy the high volume day when everyone's energy is strong. Take into account the temperament of each member. Some temperaments can handle high stimulation better than others.

Plan for the let-down.

There is nothing so plain as Dec. 26. Transitioning back to a more normal routine while still on vacation is difficult. Parents need to model this and watch their own exhaustion level and negativity regarding post-holiday blues.

Try to initiate rituals between Dec. 26 and Jan. 1. Let kids choose a menu day; sleep until whenever and stay in your pajamas day — teens love this one; and read a story aloud to another person day, etc.

Plan an end-of-Christmas ritual or ceremony.

Self-care is a must.

You can't be there for your children if you aren't there for yourself. Be realistic and don't expect perfection. Kids get sick; planes are late; meat gets dried out or burned in the oven. If you build imperfection into your vision of the holidays, you won't get so annoyed.

Use cues to help you relax. Put bits of red and green yarn on your phone, car dashboard, cell phone and other spots to remind you to slow down, take three breaths and smile.

A sense of humor helps us develop the joy of the season. If you don't have one, borrow one until at least Jan. 15.

Peace is not a season; it is a way of life, and let it begin with you.

Sean Hogan-Downey, LMSW, LMFT has a clinical practice in individual and family therapy. She is also the staff consultant and school counselor for Grosse Pointe Academy. She has been presenting seminars and workshops in the Grosse Pointe area for over 25 years.

The Family Center is a nonprofit organization that supports the families of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods as they face the challenges of raising healthy children. Call (313) 432-3832 for information about programs and services.



Photo courtesy Irene Nosedo

Welcome back

Several St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic School alumni from the Class of 1971 were welcomed to the all-school Thanksgiving Mass. Carolyn Romzick Clark, D.D.S., shared her thoughts about St. Clare by saying "Returning to St. Clare of Montefalco after nearly 35 years was a delightful experience full of pleasant memories. Tracing our steps through the school created images of sisters in flowing habits, straight lines in the hallways, 'candy girls', safety patrol, the 'tunnel,' 25 cent fines for stepping on the grass and Sr. Assumpta passing out report cards. We received a superb education at the hands of the Dominican Sisters, surely in contrast to our thoughts at the time we walked the hallways as children. Our experiences at St. Clare challenged us academically and developed our character for adult success. The photo holds an engineer, a chemist, a publisher, a dentist and business people, all of whom are a representative of the successful Class of 1971. It appears St. Clare continues to have high expectations for her students, and I hope these individuals will come to cherish their time at the school as much as I do." Pictured in the front row from left are Louise Knaus, Clark, Sharon Shaway; middle row from left, Kathy Young Marcaccio, Tom Harvey, Margaret Arsenault Roache, Mike Keegan; in the back row from left, John Schrage and Marianne O'Shee Smith.

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MONDAY

Pointing out readers at St. Clare Freshmen information night

By Ann L. Fouty
Staff Writer

Three St. Clare of Montefalco students are racking up points by reading, reading, reading.

Through the Accelerated Reading program, Christina Ridella, Matthew Thomas and Zachary Shar-D'Angelo, all fourth-graders, have joined the illustrious 100 Point Club.

"I read at home. I read when I'm waiting. I read in the car on the way to hockey," Thomas said.

Shar-D'Angelo said he reads after completing his homework and before bed, if he can fit it in.

It's a common thread for these children and several other St. Clare students who are nearing entrance into the 100 Point Club by reading books and taking a comprehension test.

The national program lists hundreds of books and assigns various points to them. For example the 870 page "Harry Potter, Order of the Phoenix" (a seventh-grade reading level) book would be worth 44 points, while the Magic Tree House "Dinosaurs Before Dark" (second-grade reading level) is worth one point. After a



Photo by Ann L. Fouty

Three fourth-graders at St. Clare of Montefalco are in the 100 Point Club, as part of the Accelerated Reading program. Students read a book, take a comprehension test and are awarded points based on the number of correct answers. Readers in the fourth-grade from left are Christina Ridella, Zachary Shar-D'Angelo and Matthew Thomas.

student reads the book, he or she will take a multiple-choice test on the computer. The computer corrects it and awards points. If the student got 17 of 20 questions correct on the Harry Potter book test, maybe 38 points would be awarded.

Thomas is reading this fourth Harry Potter book and has accumulated 145

points since the beginning of the year when the program began as a way to get more students reading. Just ahead of him is Shar-

D'Angelo who has 147 points and prefers the Dragon's Bane series and the Dark Night Scares books.

Nine-year-old Ridella is reading the Laura Ingalls Wilder series. She would recommend those books and "The Wizard of Oz" to anyone who asked.

The Laura Ingalls Wilder books and "Because of Winn Dixie" are her favorite books, Ridella said.

Books have been a way of life for the students since they can remember their parents reading to them. Thomas said the first books he remembers his mother reading to him were the Berenstain Bears. He and Ridella say that "Leo, the Late Bloomer" was the first book they were able to read by themselves.

All three say there are many books in their homes and Thomas said he will ask for the last book in the Narnia series, as well as books with an Egyptian theme for Christmas.

Parents of current eighth-graders, whose children plan to attend Grosse Pointe South High School as freshmen in the fall of 2006, are invited to a special information meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12, in the auditorium of Grosse Pointe South High School.

This program is especially focused on the ninth-grade curriculum at South. Parents of eighth-graders who are currently enrolled in public, parochial or private schools are also encouraged to attend.

Administrators and counselors will highlight South's curriculum with a video followed by a short presentation emphasizing ninth-grade scheduling procedures, class selections and the class of 2010 graduation requirements.

The auditorium is located in the main building. Parking is available in both the Grosse Pointe Boulevard and Fisher Road parking lots. The program will conclude about 8 p.m.

Official enrollment begins Dec. 15.

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Photo courtesy Nicole Pytel

Girl standards

Gov. Jennifer Granholm stopped to talk with Grosse Pointe North ninth-grader Nicole Pytel. The two discussed high standards for girls in education and Pytel's consideration of becoming a psychiatrist. Pytel maintains a 4.0 GPA and is interested in musical theater. Aaron Caruso provided the evening's music. Pytel and Granholm were attending the Mount Clemens General Hospital Foundation benefit.

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Sex education is no laughing matter for parents

By John Minnis
Editor

It is no longer called sex education, but it still makes parents nervous.

About 100 concerned parents and residents attended a public forum Dec. 1 held by the Grosse Pointe Public School System's Human Sexuality Advisory Board at Brownell Middle School. The topic was revising and updating the fourth-through eighth-grade human sexuality curriculum.

The school district decided to re-evaluate the sexuality program following revised standards adopted by the state Legislature in June 2004. The legislation, among other things, mandated that local school boards establish a sex education advisory board that "reasonably reflects the school district population."

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Ahmed Ismail, the only

school board member in attendance at the Brownell forum, expressed concern that no senior citizens were on the advisory board.

"Whatever we decide here," he said, "must be reflective of the community." He suggested the advisory board meet with SOC (Services for Older Citizens).

The 2004 law mandates that at least half of the advisory board members be parents who have children in the school district. Sixty-one percent of the Grosse Pointe advisory board is made up of school district parents.

The law also requires that the advisory board include students, educators, local clergy and community health professionals.

Brownell Principal Michael Dib, who co-chairs the advisory board along with Dr. Deb Wright of the City of Grosse Pointe, said the district is looking at the

curriculum to see that it is relevant for today and that it is age appropriate.

"Some of the videos we use now are pretty archaic," he said.

The Human Sexuality Advisory Board is looking at revising the fourth-eighth grade curriculum. In grades four-seven, boys and girls would be taught separately.

Under the proposed curriculum, fourth-graders would be taught anatomy, hygiene, good touch/bad touch, media messages, friendships and choices. Fourth-grade girls would also learn about menstruation.

The curriculum in the fifth-grade would include many of the previous year's topics, as well as nutrition, HIV/AIDS, respect/harassment/bullying and Internet safety.

Sixth-graders would build on the previous years' lessons as well as develop refusal skills.

Grade seven would include puberty and adolescence, reproduction, sexually trans-

mitted diseases, cliques, harassment and, again, refusal skills and Internet safety.

Eighth-grade boys and girls would for the first time be taught together. Their topics would include self-esteem, abstinence, consequences of premature sex, peer pressure, dating and healthy relationships and harassment.

School district policy, in addition to state law, allows parents to have their children absented from any or all human sexuality classes (except for AIDS/HIV lessons). According to the district, 99 percent of students attend the human sexuality courses.

The parents' main concerns were abstinence, age appropriateness, explicitness and answering questions.

Dib said students are required to write their questions down and give them to the teacher, who would then decide whether the questions are appropriate to the class. If the questions are not appropriate, teachers are

told to tell the students, "If I have not addressed the question you submitted, please ask your parents about that." The same response is suggested should a student "blurt out" an inappropriate question.

Dan Griesbaum, who teaches health and human sexuality at Grosse Pointe South High School, said, "I have taught this for 22 years. We still teach that abstinence is the only 100 percent way of preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases."

The June 2004 state law provides an avenue for parents who feel a teacher has violated the law or curriculum guidelines. Parents may file a complaint with the school district, which has 30 days to investigate and respond. If a violation has occurred, the district must take corrective action within 30 days and provide a written report. Penalties could include loss of 1 percent of the district's school aid allocation.

The parents and school

administrators seemed to agree on one point: The world has changed since the curriculum was last looked at in the early 1990s. The growth of Internet access and cable and satellite TV has exposed children to far more explicit content.

"The only channel that's safe," commented one parent who is also a teacher, "is the the Food Network."

Griesbaum added, "The No. 1 influence (over teenagers) is not me. It's you, the parents."

"There is so much out there with the Internet and TV. If people like you and me aren't out there telling them 'No,' no one is."

More public hearings will be held before the Human Sexuality Advisory Board in January, the Educational Planning Leadership Council in February and the school board in March.

More information may be found on the school district's Web site, gpschools.org, and e-mails may be sent to the advisory board at hsab@gpschools.org.



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Photo courtesy Kathleen Satut

Electrifying

Maire fifth-graders have been exploring electromagnets in science class. Thomas Malbouef, father of fifth grader, Jacob, is a mechanical engineer at Siemens VDO developing electromagnetic occupant detection sensors for automobiles. These sensors are used to classify the seat occupant's size and position, to enable adjustment of the airbag system performance. Malbouef, along with fellow Siemens VDO engineer, Hassan Idi, and intern Reshma Karikazi, brought this technology to the classroom where the students had the opportunity to sit in a prototype seat and see how passenger safety technology has progressed through the years. The students were able to connect their understanding of electromagnets to the real world of being safe in automobiles with this new development of electromagnetic sensor technology. Pictured with the prototype are from left Idi, Malbouef, Karikazi, Jacob Malbouef, and Austin Pirello is seated.

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Police discuss current drug trends

If you are the parent of a high school or middle school student or a community member in Grosse Pointe or Harper Woods and are concerned about adolescent substance use in our community, join a presentation at 7 p.m., Dec. 14, in Grosse Pointe South IA Bldg. Room 112C for a presentation on current drug trends in Grosse Pointe by Det. Jim Smith, Grosse Pointe Park Police Department. Park on Fisher Road.

For more information, contact Judy Olkowski, Community School (313) 432-3700.

This event is sponsored by the Grosse Pointe Community School with the Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods.

Neighborhood caroling Dec. 10

Our Lady Star of the Sea parish members and friends of all ages will carol in the neighborhood at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 10.

Songbooks will be provided. Bring a flashlight and jingle bells.

Hot cocoa will be served following the carol singing.

The church is located at the corner of Fairford and Morningside, Grosse Pointe Woods.

For information, call Gina Francis at (313) 881-7496.

Names in the news

Reyna Martinez, 9, a fourth-grader at St. Clare of Montefalco, was selected to perform in the "Nutcracker" at Masonic Temple on Nov. 26.

Aralie A. Chase

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Aralie A. Chase, 87, died Sunday, Dec. 4, 2005, at Bon Secours Nursing Care Center.

She was born in Detroit on July 20, 1918, to Jesse and Clara Antwright.

Mrs. Chase's interests included cooking in addition to entertaining her family and friends.

She is survived by her daughters, Suzanne (Ernie) Werle and Nancy (Lowell) Davis and her grandchildren, Michael and Heather Werle and Laura Davis.

She was predeceased by her husband, William K. Chase, and her brother, Jesse Antwright.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 11 a.m., preceded by a visitation starting at 10 a.m., at St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, 375 Lothrop, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, 375 Lothrop, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

Benjamin John Czerniawski

Benjamin John Czerniawski, 90, a former resident of Hamtramck, died on Thursday, Nov. 24, 2005, at St. John Hospital in Detroit.

He was born on Nov. 30, 1914, in Hastings on the Hudson, N.Y.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served in World War II, and was a retired Hamtramck firefighter.

Mr. Czerniawski is survived by his children, Sally (Thomas) Woollet, Dr. Ben (Kathy) Czerniawski and Patricia Sagert; grandchildren, Joshua, Anissa, David, Ellery, Ben, Elizabeth and Jennifer; great-grandchild, Taya and siblings, Wanda Kosinski, Hedy Jaracz and Lillian (Chester) Kata.

He was predeceased by his wife, Thelma; sister, Mary Evans; and brother, Ray (Carol).

A funeral Mass was celebrated at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Grosse Pointe Woods on Monday, Nov. 28, 2005.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hamtramck Fire Fighters Association, IAFF Local 750, P.O. Box 133, Hamtramck, MI 48211.

Share memories of Mr. Czerniawski with his family at www.kaulfuneralhome.com.

Millicent Fay "Dolly" Fox

Millicent Fay "Dolly" Fox, 64, of Overland Park, Kan., died on Thursday, Dec. 1, 2005, at the University of Kansas Medical Center following a courageous battle with cancer. She was surrounded by her loving family at the time of her death.

She was born in 1941 in Detroit to James and Helen, who preceded her in death.

Mrs. Fox was an outstanding homemaker and cook. She was full of life and giving to other people, and she will be dearly missed by her family and friends.

She is survived by her sweetheart, best friend and husband of 44 years, Robert; her son, Rob of Jacksonville, Fla.; her daughter, Heather (Rodney) Williams; grandchildren, Jacob, Annika and Elijah, all of Olathe, Kan.; mother-in-law, Mildred Fox of Grosse Pointe Woods; brother-in-law, Dean (Christel) Fox of Ann Arbor and nephews, Peter (Deena) Fox of Royal Oak and David Fox of Ann Arbor.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, Dec. 7, at Penwell-Gabel Funeral Home in Olathe. Interment is at Mt. Moriah Cemetery in Kansas.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Cancer Center at the University of Kansas Medical Center, 3901 Rainbow Blvd., Kansas City, KS 66160.

Gabriella Gigante

Gabriella Gigante, 70, of North Hutchinson Island, Fla., and formerly of Grosse Pointe and Traverse City, died suddenly on Friday, Nov. 25, 2005, at the Saint Lucie Florida Medical Center.

She was born in Detroit, and attended Dominican High School. She graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Detroit.

During the years, her employment included teaching school and selling real estate. However, her main vocation was being a loving mother and homemaker. Her interests included bridge, golf, reading and traveling to visit her children and grandchildren. She was a member of the Elk's Lodge and Saint Anastasia Catholic Church in Ft. Pierce, Fla.

Mrs. Gigante is survived by her children, Lisa Cloutier of Macon, Ga., William Gigante of Singapore, Peter Gigante of China, Karl Gigante of Thailand and Krista Thompson of Dallas, Texas; 13 grandchildren; and brother, the Rev. Joseph Padelt of Chatham, Ontario, Canada.

She was predeceased by her husband of 43 years, William Gigante.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ft. Pierce Elk's Lodge #1520, Children's Therapy Fund, 615 South U.S. 1, Ft. Pierce, FL 34948.

The Rev. William D. Hammond

The Rev. William D. Hammond, 89, minister of Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church from 1950-1964, died on Thursday, Nov. 17, 2005, in Westford, Mass.

Mr. Hammond was born in Kalamazoo, but soon moved to Columbia, Mo., when his father was appointed professor of physics at the University of Missouri.

He graduated from Missouri and studied at divinity schools in Rochester, N.Y., and Chicago, Ill., prior to being ordained. He and his wife, Carol, and children, Judy and Tom, moved to Grosse Pointe in 1950; children Don and Gail soon followed, and all four children graduated from what eventually became Grosse Pointe South High School.

The Unitarian Church was located on East Jefferson at Rivard when he was installed as minister. Over the next 15 years, the congregation's active growth necessitated the construction of the current building on Maumee. Mr. Hammond was directly involved in the planning for the new building.

He also served as district executive for the denomination in Fort Wayne, Ind., and was later minister in Unitarian churches in Minnetonka, Minn., and Asheville, N.C.

While Mr. Hammond was thoroughly devoted to his calling as a minister, he was a man of wide-ranging interests and activities. He acquired a deep love for the high Colorado mountains as a child, and for many years the Hammond family would spend the summer months in Georgetown, Colo., and other western locations. He was a confirmed shutterbug, and both his family and the vacations out west provided ample opportunities for his photographic talents.

He had a lifelong fascination with astronomy and the space program, and taught adult education astronomy classes in Grosse Pointe.

With the assistance of friends, he built finely crafted furniture, as well as their cutting-edge hi-fi audio systems. It was on this early hi-fi equipment that he played swing and Dixieland jazz, classical music, and even the songs of Spike Jones, for his family, colleagues and friends.

He had a consuming inter-



Millicent Fay "Dolly" Fox



Gabriella Gigante



Thomas Timothy May



Vivian Beatrice Mack Spaulding

est in Great Lakes freighters, and spent many hours watching and photographing the boats as they made their way across Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River.

Mr. Hammond especially loved all aspects of language, both spoken and written. A lover of jokes, wordplay and doggerel, he was also an avid reader in science, politics, history and religious philosophy. While in his 80s, he wrote and published "Ecology of the Human Spirit," an edited collection of 14 sermons he delivered often over the years as a minister.

He is survived by former wife, Carol Hammond of East Lansing; wife, Grace Lindquist of Littleton, Mass.; daughter, Gail (Ira) Stone of Little Rock, Ark.; sons, Tom (Christine) Hammond of Okemos and Don (Linda Alvira) Hammond of Ann Arbor; brother, Edwin (Elizabeth) Hammond; stepchildren, Jeanie (Michael McCallum) Lindquist and David Lindquist; two grandchildren; and four step-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by daughter, Judy H. Kiehne and by former wife, Nancy Kniffin.

Cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held on Saturday, Dec. 17, at Groton, Mass.

Thomas Timothy May

Longtime Grosse Pointe Shores resident Thomas Timothy "Tim" May, 88, died on Monday, Nov. 14, 2005, in Port Charlotte, Fla.

He was born in Fort Dodge, Iowa, on Jan. 7, 1917, and grew up in New Brighton, Minn. He moved to Grosse Pointe with his wife and daughter in 1942.

Mr. May began his career in the Canadian army and later was an instructor with the U.S. military teaching tank repair and maintenance when he was asked to join Continental Motors. He moved on to the Hudson Motor Car Co., and then to General Motors-Chevrolet where he was in charge of promotions for automobile dealerships.

Eventually, he went to work for the Ford Motor Co., developing new-car promotions for Lincoln Mercury, and became an executive at Ford International and the Edsel division. He was instrumental in bringing Mercedes Benz to the United States. In 1956, Mr. May started and became chief executive officer of the P.A.M. (Professional Advertising and Merchandising) Agency handling the new car announcement programs for Ford.

In his retirement years, he owned a ranch in Arizona; purchased and promoted the Wagon Wheel night club in Tombstone, Ariz.; and sold ranch and farmland in Douglas, Ariz.

He was an active member of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, the Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church, the Masons, a lifelong member of the Adercraft Club and past member of the Society of Automotive Engineers.

Mr. May taught everyone about the value of family and commitment. He was especially proud of his achievements and friendships in the auto and entertainment industries, and the

accomplishments of his children.

After his move to Venice, Fla., he spent his time extensively traveling with his wife, Mary, and enjoyed visiting and entertaining old friends and family.

Mr. May is survived by his children, Dr. Steven H. May of Los Angeles, Calif., Martha J. Hanneman of Port Charlotte and Diana R. Hicks of East Lansing; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; his brother, Dr. Eugene May of Port Charlotte; and his sister, Mrs. Helen Brand of McAllen, Texas.

Interment will be in Hartford, S.D.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hospice of Southwest Florida, 5955 Rand Blvd., Sarasota, Fla.

Vivian Beatrice Mack Spaulding

Former Grosse Pointe Farms resident Vivian Beatrice Mack Spaulding, 96, died on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2005.

She was born on Nov. 20, 1909, in Adrian to Stella and Edward Mack. She and her brother, Eddie, were blessed to be born in a small town with an extended family of grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins around them.

She remembered her father taking the train to Detroit to take the master plumber's exam and she also remembered when his passing results came in the mail. She said that her father's license enabled her family to have a lifetime of hard work, comfort and security.

Mrs. Spaulding loved to read and spent her childhood years riding her bike to the local library and checking out books. This relationship with books became a passion of a lifetime.

Her parents valued education and supported her going to Michigan State Normal College (Eastern Michigan University) where she joined a sorority, learned to smoke and became a teacher in 1932.

She taught in a one-room schoolhouse in Saline, driving a Model T car to the country school. After two years, she decided she wanted a master's degree and moved to Ann Arbor to attend graduate school at the University of Michigan.

It was the middle of the Great Depression but she was able to find a job as a waitress at the Chubb House in downtown Ann Arbor. It was here that she met her future husband George Chubb Spaulding whom she married in 1934.

The Chubb House didn't make it during the Depression but Mr. Spaulding's experience in hospitality and finance helped him to get a job with the Milner Hotels, a national chain. The young couple was given a company car and they took off for the next five years, traveling all over the United States, auditing different Milner Hotels in various cities from Maine to Florida to Oklahoma. Mrs. Spaulding enjoyed having plenty of time to read and to study her favorite subjects which were Latin and the ancient histories of the Greeks and Romans.

When Mr. and Mrs. Spaulding came off the road, they settled in Detroit to raise their son, Allan. In 1950, they moved to their home on Touraine Road in Grosse Pointe Farms and

provided what Allan described as a perfect childhood of the '50s. Mrs. Spaulding's love for reading and education were not often appreciated by Allan as he was growing up but, as an adult, he thanked his mother for her dedication and patient guidance.

Her trade-off to her son was their mutual love for baseball. Life on Touraine Road centered on Allan's neighborhood friends, sports, Little League and the Detroit Tigers. Mrs. Spaulding developed a lifelong enjoyment of listening to Ernie Harwell on the radio and following the Tigers' games.

She returned to teaching in 1958 and her passion for educating and enriching the lives of first- and second-graders in the Detroit Public Schools lasted for 20 years. She made lifelong friendships with her fellow teachers and spent her lunch hours avidly playing bridge.

Her relationship with books and bridge were never far from her thoughts. Through her many years as a dedicated teacher, Mrs. Spaulding touched hundreds of young children's lives with both her kind words and her insistence on teaching young children to read.

She retired in 1978 and spent her retirement years with her husband enjoying their grandchildren. She was able to pursue her interest in ancient history by traveling to Europe and Greece. Her thirst for knowledge never diminished and she instilled in those around her the delight of reading and learning.

She took up golf, and her membership in the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church

brought her and her husband friendships, activities, and bridge groups. Her teaching friendships continued and remained a close and dedicated group.

Mr. and Mrs. Spaulding sold their home on Touraine Road after 45 years and retired to Henry Ford Village in Dearborn in 1995. She joined the library guild and learned to operate the cameras for the community television station.

Although her husband died and she lost her eyesight in her final years, her wisdom, kindness and education were reflected in how she chose to live with the disabilities of age.

Her dignity, love and humor are what will be remembered most. These memories of her are cherished by her family and will live on in the lives of her son, his wife, Jane, and their daughters.

She is survived by her son, Allan Newton (Jane) Spaulding and grandchildren, Annemarie and Kristina Spaulding.

A memorial reception and buffet luncheon for family and friends will be held on Saturday, Dec. 10, at the Grosse Pointe Way Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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The 'politically correct' SUV '06 RX400h Hybrid

By Greg Zyla

With hybrid vehicles receiving more and more press due to soaring gas prices, the 2006 Lexus RX400h is certainly worthy of a test drive — base price: \$48,410; price as tested: \$52,545. Its 31 miles per gallon city and 27 mpg highway EPA ratings are very good for a vehicle of this size, and when combined with the Lexus luxury stamp of approval, high-end consumers have a "politically correct" SUV to park in their driveway.

The RX400h incorporates a new advanced Hybrid Synergy Drive system that combines a 3.3-liter V-6 with a high-torque electric motor-generator, plus a rear electric drive motor-generator to provide all-wheel-drive capability. With 268 horsepower and 3,500 pound-feet of low-end torque, this Lexus is capable of both great acceleration AND impressive fuel efficiency. We timed RX400h from zero to 60 mph in about 7.2 seconds, which is better than some V-8-powered competitors and almost all of the V-6s.

The seamless power delivery is what we like best about the RX400h, meaning you don't really know you're driving a hybrid. When you need power, you've got plenty of it. And thanks to the all-wheel system, the RX400h is ready to make short work of snow-covered or off-highway roads while still providing a quiet and comfy ride.

The Lexus RX400h is defined as a "full hybrid," which means it is capable of operating in electric-only, gasoline-engine-only or a combination thereof. This distinction sets Lexus 400h apart from competing hybrids, which require constant gas engine operation. Lexus hybrid technology allows extended electric-



mode operation during low-speed or stop-and-go driving conditions.

The RX400h is a premium model that adds many standard features that are options on the sibling RX330. Externally, the RX400h has a different grille, new front fascia, round fog lamps, 18-inch alloy wheels and LED tail lamps. Overall, the package is very pleasing to the eye.

Inside, brushed-aluminum accents replace the usual wood trim, and a power meter replaces the tachometer. Underneath, the RX400h features struts with internal rebound springs and linear control valves, and features specific suspension tuning for sportier handling.

On the safety side, standard side curtain air bags are

designed to offer additional crash energy management for the front- and rear-seat occupants, and a rollover sensor signals them to inflate if a predetermined threshold of vehicle tip-up is detected.

Capacity-wise, the RX400h offers the same interior versatility as the RX330. The large rear cargo capacity of approximately 38 cubic feet expands to nearly 84 cubic feet with the rear seatbacks folded down, making any type of shopping trip a pleasure. The rear seatbacks feature a versatile 40/20/40-split design, and the seats offer both sliding and reclining adjustments.

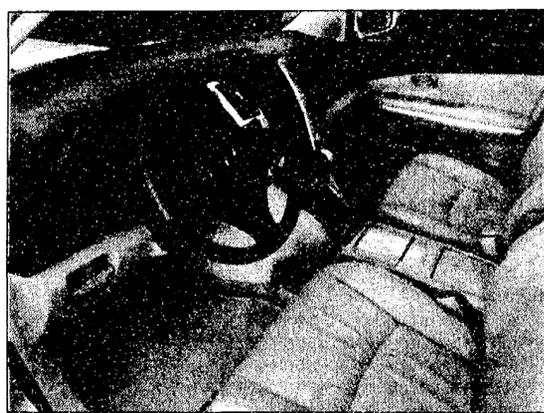
Noteworthy standard luxury features include a power rear liftgate, power moonroof and an illuminated entry

system.

Our tester's optional Mark Levinson audio system (\$980) featured 11 speakers and an in-dash six-disc CD changer. Rear passengers can enjoy the optional factory-installed rear-seat DVD entertainment system with individual wireless headphones (yep, we had it!) for \$1,840. It's a great system. The final option on our tester was heated seats for \$665, bringing the final cost, with \$650 destination, to \$52,545.

Important numbers include a wheelbase of 106.9 inches, curb weight of 4,365 pounds, and a 17.2-gallon fuel tank.

It's difficult to fault Lexus with this great performing SUV-style gas miser, so we'll give it a 9.5 on a scale of one



Photos by Wieck

2006 Lexus RX400h Hybrid

to 10. Likes: Hybrid system, build quality, looks. Dislikes: Optional cargo net and floor mats should be standard equipment. — King Features Syndicate

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Insurance Institute's selection of top safety vehicles

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety lists 10 2006 model cars that won its first ever Top Safety Pick award.

The awards recognize car designs that afford the best protection for people in front, side, and rear crashes, based on performance in Institute tests.

The winning vehicles were chosen from among current models of small, midsize and large cars plus minivans. There's a winner in three of these four groups. The winners include two large car designs, seven midsize cars, and one small car. No minivans meet the Institute's criteria to earn a Top Safety Pick.

Pickups and SUVs weren't included in this round of awards because side impact tests of most of these vehicles haven't been conducted yet.

The following are the winners of the Top Safety Picks 2006 cars and minivans:

- Large
 - Gold: Ford Five Hundred and twin Mercury Montego equipped with optional side air bags.
 - Silver: Audi A6.
- Midsize
 - Gold: Saab 9-3 and Subaru Legacy.
 - Silver: Audi A3, Audi A4, Chevrolet Malibu equipped with optional side air bags, Volkswagen Jetta, and the Volkswagen Passat.
- Small
 - Gold: Honda Civic.
 - Minivans
 - No winners.

"Now that we're rating vehicles' front, side, and rear crashworthiness, based on test performance, we decided to give consumers an overall assessment based on all three tests," says Brian O'Neill, Institute president. "These Top Safety Picks are replacing our previous 'best pick' designations that were awarded separately for front and side crash test perfor-

mance. The new awards mean consumers can compare cars' ratings more quickly and easily. They won't have to review multiple sets of test results separately. And when we test new car designs as they are introduced next year, it's possible that some additional models will be added to the 2006 Top Safety Picks."

Criteria to win gold and silver awards: Top Safety Pick winners reflect an elite fraction of the car market.

Winners of the gold award have earned good ratings in the Institute's frontal offset and side impact crash tests, and their seat/head restraints are rated good for protection against neck injuries in rear impacts. Silver awards go to vehicles with good performance in the front and side crash tests plus acceptable seat/head restraint ratings.

Awards are by car size class because vehicle size and weight influence occupant protection in serious crashes. Larger, heavier cars generally afford more protection than smaller, lighter ones. Top Safety Picks indicate the best choices for safety within each size class, but they don't mean a small car that's an award winner affords better protection than a larger car that didn't win a Top Safety Pick.

Almost all of the 10 winners are relatively new designs, and they all have side air bags designed to protect people's heads. This reflects the improvements manufacturers have been making in the side and rear crash protection afforded by their newer cars (most vehicles have afforded good occupant protection in frontal crashes for several years).

"This is one reason Volkswagen and Audi cars are five of the 10 award winners," says O'Neill. "This company has introduced

five new designs since the 2005 model year and made the commitment to ensure that these designs perform well in Institute tests."

Winners by vehicle size class: Among large family cars, the Ford 500 and its twin Mercury Montego were new designs for the 2005 model year. However, only the models with optional side air bags are Top Safety Pick winners. Another winner is the Audi A6, a large luxury model that was redesigned for the 2005 model year.

"The midsize group is the heart of the car market," says O'Neill. "About 40 percent of new cars sold every

year are midsize, so it's good news that consumers have a number of Top Safety Pick choices in this size group from moderately priced to near luxury models." Seven of the 10 Top Safety Picks are midsize. The Saab 9-3 and Subaru Legacy are gold award winners. The Audi A3, A4, Chevrolet Malibu with optional side air bags, and Volkswagen Passat and Jetta are silver award winners.

The Honda Civic is the only small car among the 13 the Institute has evaluated that meets the criteria for a Top Safety Pick. It's the only car in this size group that has earned a good overall

rating in the Institute's side impact test.

No minivans are among the award winners. This doesn't mean minivans are unsafe. It means none of the current designs the Institute has tested meets the award criteria. The Honda Odyssey, Toyota Sienna, and Nissan Quest are rated good for front and side crashworthiness, but their seat/head restraints are marginal or poor.

Automakers had opportunity to strive for awards: Earlier this year the Institute alerted automakers about the upcoming Top Safety Pick award and the criteria that would have to

be met to earn one. The Institute offered to conduct early tests of any vehicles the manufacturers thought would be candidates for the award. Thus, all current car and minivan models were eligible for consideration.

"A number of automakers requested early tests, and based on our discussions with the automakers we believe no other 2006 models would meet our Top Safety Pick criteria," says O'Neill. A number of major automakers including BMW, Mercedes, Nissan, Toyota, and Volvo aren't represented in the first set of winners.

Vehicle leasing: You have the choice

By David Uffington

When you lease, you are paying for the value depreciation of a vehicle while you use it for a specified time period. The leasing company owns the vehicle, which you've selected from the dealer after you've negotiated the best possible price. You make monthly payments, just as you would on a loan.

Lease payments consist of the depreciation charge, a finance charge and your sales tax. The depreciation charge pays the leasing company for the loss of the vehicle's value while you have it. The finance charge is interest on the money the leasing company has paid to the dealership in your behalf when it purchased the vehicle. The sales tax is paid monthly (in most states), instead of being paid at the time of purchase.

Leasing might be right for you if you don't drive more than 12,000 miles per year, don't care about having the vehicle paid off and prefer to put down little or no cash.

Leasing requires that you have sterling credit — one credit ding and you'll likely

be denied a lease.

With a leased vehicle, you take it as is, with no thought to modification. After all, the vehicle doesn't belong to you.

Perhaps most importantly, before you enter into a lease, be sure that you won't change your mind. It's expensive to get out of a vehicle lease should your financial circumstances change.

If you consider leasing:

- Be sure to get a closed-end lease (at the end of the lease period, you return the vehicle and walk away) with gap coverage (it pays the difference between the vehicle's value and the insurance coverage if the vehicle is totaled or stolen).

- Get a lease period for no longer than the manufacturer's warranty. You're spared major repair expense on a vehicle you don't actually own.

- Insist on a complete breakdown of the costs from both the dealership and the leasing company, to include acquisition fee (the leasing company's paperwork costs), disposition fee (to cover disposing of the vehicle at the

end of your lease) and the actual cost of the vehicle (negotiate as you would when purchasing a vehicle).

- You have a choice of leasing companies. You're not obligated to go with one

associated with a dealership.

Write to David Uffington in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475 or send e-mail to letters.hfws@hearstsc.com.

Watch your engine belt

(MS) — Engine belts are essential to the performance of your vehicle. Belts drive and improve the performance of a car's accessories such as the air conditioner compressor, water and power steering pumps, fan, and even the booster for the braking system.

Unless your car is a vintage model, it most likely has a serpentine belt drive. The serpentine drive is just what the name implies — a continuous loop belt that "snakes" its way around the front of the engine. These belts use smaller pulleys, which are smaller than those used with V-belts. This saves valuable engine compartment space and weight.

Engineers at Gates Corporation, a worldwide

belt and hose manufacturer, say it's important to pay attention to your serpentine belt drive system's condition. If it fails, the engine will overheat, and worse, the car won't run.

To be on top of the belt's condition, listen for signs of possible impending belt failure. A squealing noise when the car accelerates means the belt is slipping and is inefficiently turning the drive accessories. The belt tensioner also could be worn and in need of immediate replacement. Generally the serpentine belt should be replaced every four years, say Gates engineers.

A serpentine engine belt that is four years old or that shows cracks on the underside ribs may need immediate replacement.

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B&E

Thieves smashed through the glass rear door of a business in the 17000 block of Kercheval during the night of Saturday, Dec. 2.

"All cash was placed in the safe the night before," police said.

Takes wood

Signs in the Village say free holiday parking, not free firewood.

City of Grosse Pointe police last weekend arrested a 46-year-old St. Clair Shores man for stealing firewood on sale behind a store in the 16900 block of Kercheval.

On Sunday, Dec. 4, at 1:02 a.m., a store employee spotted the man putting firewood in the bed of a gray 2005 Ford F-150 pickup truck.

The 36-year-old male employee reportedly struggled with the alleged thief, who fled the area northbound on Waterloo.

Police said the suspect is wanted by Wayne County for an unspecified felony.

Officers also are investigating the man for an almost identical incident behind the same business the night before.

On Saturday, Dec. 3, at 11

p.m., an employee saw an unknown man throwing "something" into the bed of a gray F-150 truck.

"As (the employee) moved to investigate, (the) suspect vehicle fled northbound on Notre Dame at a high rate of speed," police said.

More wood

Three unknown males were seen stealing a \$4 packet of firewood stored behind a business on Kercheval in the Village at about 4 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 3.

"(A) witness stated (the suspects') vehicle may be (a) gray or gold-colored Ford pickup," said City of Grosse Pointe police.

Shoplifting

A 31-year-old Detroit man is suspected of shoplifting three video games worth a combined \$131 from a video store in the 16800 block of Kercheval in the City of Grosse Pointe.

Grosse Pointe Park police found the items while searching the man, who is known to officers, on Kercheval at Maryland on Friday, Dec. 2, at 8:13 p.m.

A store employee recognized the games, for which the man did not have a receipt.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

"Clerks stated they recalled seeing a subject fitting (the man's) description in the store between 7 and 7:30 p.m.," police said.

Officers also found a \$31.29 package of Crest Whitestrips believed taken from a pharmacy near the video store.

Truck stolen

A 2000 Dodge 4x4 pickup truck was stolen while parked in the 500 block of Lakeland on Sunday, Nov. 27, between 9 and 10 p.m.

"(A) neighbor reports seeing a suspicious gray van in the area at about 8 p.m.," police said.

The pickup truck belonged to a 28-year-old Grosse Pointe Woods man.

Purse taken

A 79-year-old City of Grosse Pointe woman reported her purse taken on Friday, Dec. 1, at about 1 p.m.

The purse had been in her unlocked vehicle parked near condominiums in the 600 block of St. Clair. The woman told City of Grosse Pointe police the purse contained credit cards and \$100

cash.

Smoke house

On Thursday, Dec. 1, at 6:49 p.m., City of Grosse Pointe firefighters responded to a call in the 800 block of Cadieux.

Four officers arrived to find the dwelling full of smoke. Officers traced the problem to a closed flue. They opened the flue and used a fan to clear the house.

Woman falls, cuts knee

On Wednesday, Nov. 29, at about 10:30 a.m., City of Grosse Pointe medics treated a 91-year-old woman for a cut right knee suffered from falling on the sidewalk in the 17100 block of Maumee.

"(She) stated she tripped on the sidewalk that runs in front of City Hall," police said.

The woman said she didn't need transport to a hospital.

Speeds 63 mph

On Thursday, Dec. 1, at 12:49 a.m., Grosse Pointe

Farms police said they caught a drunken 26-year-old Warren woman speeding a 2002 Chevrolet Trailblazer 63 mph on eastbound Lakeshore near Kerby.

"(She said) she was in a rush to get to work" and thought she was traveling 55 mph, police said.

Officers found a 3/4 empty beer bottle in her vehicle's center console cup holder, plus numerous empty beer bottles on the floorboards.

The woman registered a .16 percent blood alcohol level. Records showed she was on probation with a restricted license dependent upon her not possessing or consuming alcohol.

Salon B&E

Thieves broke into a beauty salon on the Hill in Grosse Pointe Farms during the night of Tuesday, Nov. 29.

Police said there was no sign of forced entry. Drawers were pried open and rummaged through. The cash register till was removed.

Must pay

A 16-year-old City of Grosse Pointe girl attending high school in the Farms will pay restitution for stealing a female classmate's cellular telephone and racking up \$153 in fraudulent charges.

Farms police learned of the agreement on Tuesday, Nov. 29. The theft occurred Oct. 24.

Don't speed

Grosse Pointe Shores police have told a 16-year-old male resident of Regal Place to stop speeding home during lunch breaks from high school in Grosse Pointe Woods.

"(He) stated he would comply," police said. Two Shores residents had lodged a complaint about the teen speeding his green 1998 Dodge Neon.

— Brad Lindberg

Gas odors

On Thursday, Nov. 24, at 9:16 p.m., Grosse Pointe Shores police learned of a possible gas leak in the area of Crestwood and Lakeshore.

An officer confirmed the odor and notified a utility company repair crew.

"(A) DTE technician (arrived and) stated it was sewer gas," said a Shores dispatcher.

On Sunday, Nov. 27, at 1:54 p.m., an officer confirmed the odor of gas inside a house in the 900 block of Lakeshore. Police called Michcon to make repairs.

Water break

While patrolling Deeplands Court on Saturday, Nov. 26, at 2:11 a.m., a Grosse Pointe Shores public safety officer discovered a broken water main.

The officer notified a dispatcher who called the head of the public works department who called a water department employee who confirmed the break and contacted a contractor to make repairs.

The contractor arrived on scene shortly after 4 a.m.

I.D. theft

A Grosse Pointe Farms woman learned last week from a credit agency that someone had used her identity to open a telephone account.

Service had been established at a Detroit address from May to August. The credit agency reported a past-due bill of more than \$260.

Light out leads to gal's arrest

A 54-year-old Grosse Pointe Park woman registered a .116 percent blood alcohol level during a drunken driving investigation last week in the City of Grosse Pointe.

The arrest grew from a traffic stop. A patrolman on Jefferson said he saw the woman driving a gray 2001

Dodge Durango that had a burned out headlight.

Honda hurt

The rear window of a 2001 Honda was smashed while parked overnight Saturday, Nov. 26, in the 700 block of Washington in the City of Grosse Pointe.

Antenna taken off Durango

An antenna valued at \$15 was broken off a 2005 Dodge Durango parked in the Village on Wednesday, Nov. 23, from 6 to 8 p.m.

City of Grosse Pointe police said the vehicle had been parked in a grocery store lot.

Caps taken

Sometime between 9:25 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 22, thieves took four center wheel caps off a 2003 Ford Expedition parked in a lot in the 400 block of Cadieux in the City of Grosse Pointe.

Five beers

A 31-year-old Grosse Pointe Woods woman was arrested for drunken driving in Grosse Pointe Shores on Thursday, Nov. 24, at 2:16 a.m.

A patrolman saw the woman drive her silver 2002 Nissan Sentra through a red light from Lakeshore to Vernier.

Tests revealed the woman's blood alcohol level to be .164 percent. Police said she admitted drinking five beers.

Busted

On Sunday, Dec. 4, at 10:06 p.m., Grosse Pointe Woods police pulled over a 25-year-old Detroit man on southbound Mack at Torrey for having a non-functioning driver-side brake light.

The man gave the officer the necessary information but a LEIN (Law Enforcement Information Network) check revealed the man was wanted for non-payment for child support.

The man was arrested and taken into custody.

Intimidation

On Friday, Dec. 2, at 9:04 p.m., a 48-year-old Grosse Pointe Woods woman drove to the police station and reported that a car of five adult males was following her down Mack.

The car, an older model white Ford four-door, continued on Mack after the woman turned into the police station.

The woman told police that the men wanted to talk to her about a car her son had sold them.

Moments later, the woman's son received a call from his sister, who lives in the victim's home in the 2100 block of Hollywood, reporting that the five men were on the porch, banging on the front window and front door, demanding to talk to the car salesman.

The son arrived at the home to talk to the men. The owner of the car, a 1999 Cadillac, demanded his money back because he thinks the vehicle is not working properly.

The salesman said he had told the Hamtramck man who bought the car that the vehicle was leaking oil, but it didn't stop the man from making the purchase.

Police went to the home, but when they arrived the men were gone. The suspect threatened the homeowner, saying they would come get her.

Police waited for the men to arrive, but they never showed. They are keeping an eye out for the white vehicle or the black Cadillac.

Stolen car

On Sunday, Dec. 4, at 3:17 p.m., a 25-year-old Grosse Pointe Woods man told police someone stole his girlfriend's 2005 Chevrolet Malibu that was parked in his driveway of his home in

See SAFETY, page 21A

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Red Tag Event ends on 12/11/05. See all new 2006 Buick Lucerne.

Safety

From page 20A

the 1900 block of Broadstone.

The man's girlfriend, a 20-year-old Clinton Township resident, had her wallet, Social Security card, a radar detector, her driver license, and a black leather jacket in the vehicle when it was stolen.

Irate driver at Mack & Vernier

During the early hours (12:05 a.m.) of Sunday, Dec. 4, a 60-year-old Detroit man became a little too irate with Grosse Pointe Woods police during a routine traffic stop.

The officer reported seeing the man stopped at the red light on Vernier at Mack. The man took off at a high rate of speed when the light turned green. The vehicle had a broken passenger-side tail light.

When asked for his driver license, proof of insurance and registration, the man refused, saying he wasn't speeding.

The officer told the driver he was not pulled over for speeding, but for the broken tail light and for driving down the center of the street.

While attempting to issue the citation, the driver became irate, saying, "I'll see you in court" and "This is another way for the city to make money."

\$34 worth of gasoline stolen

On Friday, Dec. 2, at 5:20 p.m., a 26-year-old Detroit man, who is an employee of a business in the 20700 block of Mack, reported to police a man pumped 15.342 gallons of unleaded gasoline into his vehicle and left without paying the \$34.96 bill.

Grosse Pointe Woods police called the residence of the owner of the vehicle, but no one answered. They are continuing their investigation.

Home B&E on Brys in GPW

On Tuesday, Nov. 29, at 5:39 p.m., a 40-year-old Grosse Pointe Woods resident living in the 2100 block of Brys called police, saying someone entered his house and robbed him.

The man said he left for work at 7:30 a.m. earlier that day, and when he returned he noticed his back door was forced open and the glass was broken.

He also noticed drawers were open, and items were displaced throughout the home. In addition, a laptop computer and a palm pilot were stolen.

It looks as if the home invader walked through the house and into the basement before exiting.

Home invasion on Nottingham

On Saturday, Dec. 3, between 8:30 a.m. and 9:55 p.m., a 6-inch by 6-inch window pane was broken off the kitchen door of a home in the 1100 block of Nottingham in Grosse Pointe Park.

Jewelry was removed from the master bedroom.

Attempted theft of Dodge

Overnight on Thursday, Dec. 1, a 1997 Dodge Caravan was entered, and the ignition was damaged as it was parked in the driveway of a home in the 1000 block of Maryland in Grosse Pointe Park.

The vehicle could not be started; so the suspect left.

Fraud

On Sunday, Dec. 4, at 9:36 a.m., a 47-year-old Grosse Pointe Woods woman living in the 1800 block of Littlestone reported to police that someone other

than herself made purchases on one of her credit cards.

The woman told police she questioned her statement that had \$678.38 worth of items from the Home Shopping Network and America's Store on it, but she never made the purchases.

The woman said she canceled that credit card months ago after she lost it, and the purchases were made to her new credit card.

The address given by the purchaser was a home in the

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

3600 block of Lincoln in Detroit, but that address was nonexistent when Grosse Pointe Woods police inquired.

In addition, the name given as the purchaser was the woman's deceased brother. The victim advised the credit card company of the fraud, and Grosse Pointe Woods police are continuing

the investigation.

Chrysler LHS taken in Park

On Monday, Nov. 28, at 10:44 p.m., a 1995 Chrysler LHS was taken from the driveway of a home in the 1100 block of Bishop in Grosse Pointe Park.

The car was chased into

Detroit and recovered at Manistique and Mack.

Grosse Pointe Park police tried to locate the suspect but could not find the man, who was wearing a red knit hat.

LEIN on me

On Saturday, Dec. 3, at 1:16 a.m., a 20-year-old Detroit woman driving a 1991 Plymouth was pulled over after making a left-hand turn onto southbound Mack from eastbound

Vernier.

The driver did not have her driver license, proof of insurance or a registration, and told police her license was suspended.

A LEIN check revealed the woman's driver license had been suspended six times, and she had warrants out of Madison Heights and Center Line.

The woman was arrested and eventually picked up by Madison Heights police.

— Bob St. John



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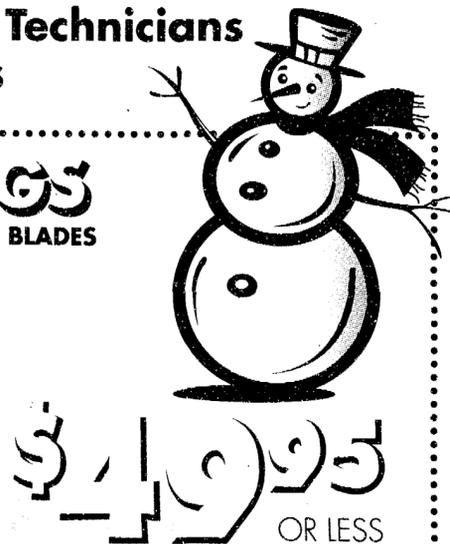
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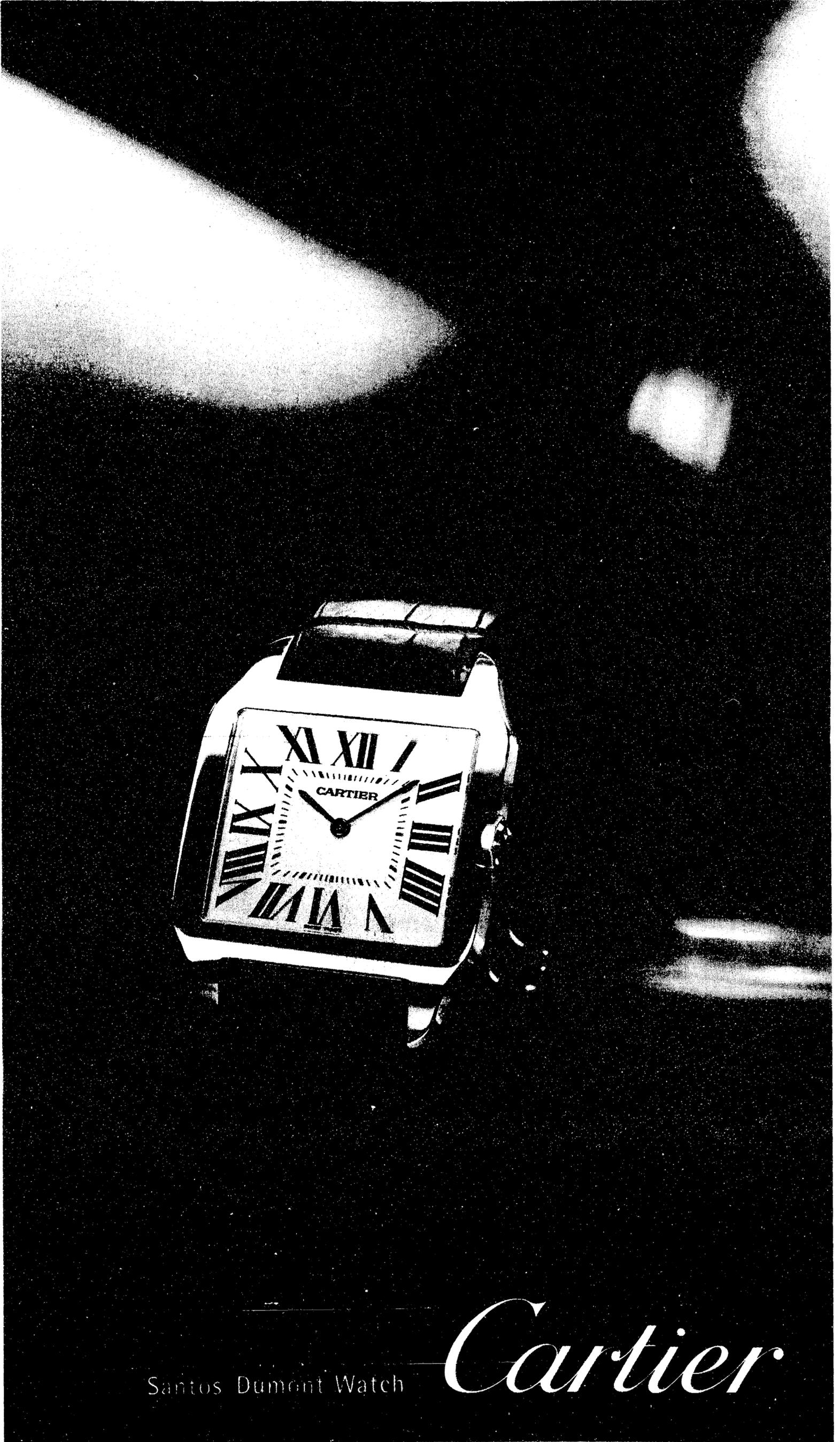
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December 8, 2005

'It's a Wonderful Life — the Radio Show'

By Margie Reins Smith
 Assistant Editor

The time? The 1940s.
 The place? A network radio studio in New York City.

The drama? A well-known, well-loved story, "It's A Wonderful Life." Performed for a live radio audience.

The audience will be seated in the Fries Auditorium of the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, on Friday, Dec. 30.

"It's A Wonderful Life — The Radio Show" will be performed twice, at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., just the way it would have been performed for a radio broadcast in the 1940s, radio's Golden Age.

The cast and crew will use vintage microphones, wear 1940s clothing, and augment the story with vintage sound effects equipment that was used for radio dramas in radio's heyday. They'll use a vintage telephone, an antique siren, a water tank, a cash register, a wind machine, a hinged door and more. They'll even include commercials, 1940s-style.

"People are amazed at the amount of coordination needed to put on a radio play," said Grosse Pointer Marty Bufalini, director and script writer for "It's A Wonderful Life — The Radio Show."

"It's choreography," he said. "Audiences are fascinated by the timing and the coordination among actors and the sound effects people. They love seeing what it takes to create an illusion, a movie in your head, so to speak."

"Audiences get to see it all come together and they're fascinated by this 'new medium,' which, in fact, is an old medium."

Bufalini wrote the script for the play and has presented it eight times in the last decade.

"I started doing old radio shows about 12 years ago for Greenfield Village," he said. "It's A Wonderful Life' is a great story that almost everybody knows."

The movie starred Jimmy Stewart as George Bailey. Donna Reed was Mary Hatch Bailey and Lionel Barrymore played Clarence."

Bufalini described some of the sound effects that will be part of the performance. "We use coconut shells for horses' hooves. We use a water tank to indicate that somebody falls in a pool and when Clarence and George go into the water.

"The wind machine is a cylinder with slats and a piece of muslin stretched over the end. The slats rub against the cloth when they're cranked. I've been told this effect dates back to the Globe Theater in London.

"Footsteps are done directly on the floor, but footsteps in the snow — that's a trade secret," he said, with a smile.

"We have a bag filled with a mysterious material that, when squeezed, crunches like footsteps in snow."

Two tables full of sound effects equipment are on the stage for the show. "Our door — used for slamming — belonged to the old WXYZ studio," Bufalini said. "The Lone Ranger' was broadcast from Detroit's WXYZ studio, so you could say we use The Lone Ranger's door.

"About 90 percent of our sound effects are performed live and are coordinated with the actors, and some of the actors portray multiple char-



"It's A Wonderful Life — The Radio Show" will be performed as a radio broadcast of the 1940s during radio's Golden Age with sound effects and the use of multi characterizations.

acters," Bufalini said. "A few sounds are recorded. We have some network music, some musical bridges and antique automobile sounds.

"The audience likes seeing different characters come out of the same vocal cords."

Bufalini directs the play and plays three characters: Martini, the owner of the bar; Mr. Potter, the town bad guy; and Mickey, an adolescent.

The two performances are

benefits for the Grosse Pointe War Memorial Elevator Project, Bufalini said, and the actors are all volunteers, mostly the same people who put on the show in previous years.

Tickets are a minimum donation of \$15 for adults; \$10 for seniors 60 and older and students with a valid I.D. card.

To order tickets, call (313) 881-4004.

"We scheduled this play for Dec. 30 because the big Christmas rush is over, but it's nice to continue the holiday feeling. Most people who comment on our performance either say, 'This is the first time I've seen it and I'm coming again,' or 'This is the second or third or fourth time I've seen it and I wouldn't miss it for the world.'"

Thanks to the miracle of

the Internet, Bufalini has sold his script to a few other theater groups around the country.

The countdown cues to broadcast time will begin as soon as the audience begins filing into the theater, he said.

"10 minutes to air."
 "10 seconds to air."
 "... five, four, three, two, one...
 "Theme."



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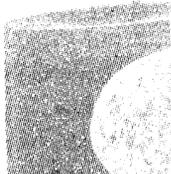
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Thursday, December 1, 2005 10:00 am-8:00 pm

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pat scott  jewelers

Don't lose sight of Christmas

Hustle and bustle misses birth of Christ

Each year there seems to be more hustle and bustle and less about the story of the birth of Christ, until it was never read or recited by us again.

It was Dec. 4, 2002. I was led by the Holy Spirit to hear the devotion given by the Rev. Melodie Jones, associate pastor, of Allen Park. At the time, I had only been to a few gatherings of the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Detroit. Her devotion was about celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. She told us not to decorate our trees with ornaments, beads and bows but let the light shine.

Stop the hustle and bustle with no presents. That's right, no presents. Jones made me reflect on my life.

As an adult, reminiscing on my childhood Christmases, I felt short-changed, cheated and deprived.

My family came to this great nation through Ellis Island in 1954. Five of my siblings were born in Lebanon, and three of us were born in the states; I being the first.

Each Christmas morning we, the three Americans, would wake up excitedly, run to our dad's bedroom, jump on the bed, and wish him a Merry Christmas.

The day was filled with togetherness, feasting, laughter, hugs and kisses. We would be reminded of the story of our Savior's birth, the Son of God who gave his life to save us from sin. There were no Christmas trees, no decorations, and no presents; yet, we were happy. We did not know any other way to celebrate the birth of Christ. As I grew older, I realized there were other ways to celebrate the birth of Christ with decorations, presents and Santa Claus.

One time I questioned my

mother. "Why do we not celebrate the same way as our friends?"

Her reply, "That is the way the people of this country celebrate this holiday, but not where we come from."

When I was 9, my oldest sister, Wadad, gave us a pair of socks for Dad on Christmas morning.

The three Americans were so excited to give him a present.

Dad smiled with a look of shock as he held up the socks.

For just a moment, we felt Americanized; but immediately our parents redirected us to our customs on Christmas Day. The following year in September, a terrible accident occurred at Dad's work and he died.

That Christmas Wadad purchased a silver Christmas tree with a rotating color spotlight and gave us each a present. She wanted to make us feel happy with Dad not being there. Each year we would add more ornaments to the tree.

As an adult I tried to give my children all that I thought I had missed. Decorations so elaborate that we would win first place each year in our subdivision when we lived in Rochester Hills — mechanical dolls swinging and decorated trees, Care Bears on ladders and teeter-tottering, Santa Claus and his reindeer on the roof, tin soldiers moving around the toy house, and 12-foot candy canes lighting a pathway to the front door. Then there were all the fresh garlands and lights.

It was so extravagant that the neighbors (even a Detroit Lions player) were worried about our electric bill.

Do you get the picture?

Of course, there was an abundance of presents under the tree.

Do you notice something missing?

Where is Jesus, the Son of God?

What happened?

Oh my. I had been wrong in my thinking all these years.

My parents had it right all along. I wasn't cheated, shortchanged or deprived as a child. I was blessed in God's gifts and graced in God's love. My parents knew it is not the gifts we give or receive, but that we honor God, which is most important.

My father died saving a man at work and also attempted to save another, during which he lost his life at the age of 46.

He gave of himself as we are commanded to.

Today during the holidays our home has few lights outside and lights only on our Christmas tree inside.

The decorations are nestled in their boxes in the attic.

As for presents, they have been cut drastically.

I pray that I will not lose my way again, nor my children, nor any of you.

Have a blessed Christmas.

By Ruth Azar

Theology on tap

The Rev. Ken Kauchek hosts Theology on Tap from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, at Andiamo Lakefront Bistro, Nine Mile and Jefferson, in St. Clair Shores.

This week's topic will be "Looking for the One You Don't Know" based on John 1:6-8.

For the Tuesday, Dec. 20, get-together, the topic will be "Conceiving through Courage" and based on Luke 1:26-38.

No reservations are needed.



Cookie Sale

The women of the Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church will hold their annual Cookie Mart from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 10, at the church, 211 Moross in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Buyers can select Christmas specialty foods or choose from hundreds of homemade cookies for \$7 a pound.

Shirley Van Becelaere, at the left, Noelle Landin and Gretchen Brammer, at the right, admire the selection of baked goods. Chairmen of the sale are Judi Ashbury and Laurie Stowell.

Red Barons, Southeastern Village team up for children

Two nonprofit organizations, Grosse Pointe Red Barons and The Southeastern Village, have joined to collect toys and gifts for less fortunate children during the holiday season.

The Red Barons' recent annual recognition ceremony was a celebration of the past little league football season for players, cheerleaders, coaches, volunteers and parents. As part of the celebration, the Red Barons collected unwrapped toys, school supplies, clothing and shoes for children in the boundaries of the Southeastern Village organization.

"We're really proud to be part of the community efforts with SEV," said Red Barons President Rene St. Hilaire. "The Red Barons

family encompasses a large part of our community, and we are thankful to have the opportunity to help provide for children of less-fortunate families this holiday season and to such a worthy organization as the SEV."

The Red Barons organization includes nearly 300 players and cheerleaders for six teams who reside in Grosse Pointe's north and south school districts.

The Southeastern Village organization is a nonprofit whose purpose is to promote neighborhood development, school improvement and child welfare strategies to build a strong community. Its boundaries are from Mack Avenue to the Detroit River and from Mt. Elliott to Alter Road.

For more information, visit www.gpredbarons.org.

Good News Singers appear Dec. 11

The open door series at First English Ev. Lutheran Church presents its annual Christmas Music Sunday on Dec. 11, at the 11 a.m. festival service.

The Good News Singers, along with a brass ensemble, will perform music under the direction of Robert Foster, coordinator of music, and Christina Judson, handbell choirs director.

Bells and brass will be featured in the performance of John Rutter's "Rejoice and Be Merry" and "O, Come All Ye Faithful," as well as "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers" and "Air for Advent" - theme by J.S. Bach.

Nursery for children through the age of 3 years will be available, and refreshments will be served in the lounge following the service.

First English is located at 800 Vernier in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Tenor's concert postponed

World-renowned tenor Mario Frangoulis has postponed his Thursday, Dec. 8, concert at the Michigan Opera Theatre.

Ticket sales will continue and current holders and seating will be honored when he comes on Saturday, May 6.

This will be a one-of-a-kind performance by the young tenor who has a versatile style.

The concert was to have benefited Assumption Greek Orthodox Church fire restoration fund and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit.

For more information, call (248) 823-2400 or (586) 779-6111.

WORSHIP SERVICES

First English Ev. Lutheran Church
Vernier Rd. at Wedgewood Dr.
Grosse Pointe Woods
884-5040

8:15 a.m. Traditional Service
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Service
11:00 a.m. Traditional Service
9:30 a.m. Sunday School

Dr. Walter A. Schmidt, Pastor
Rev. Gerald Eblitz, Assoc. Pastor
Robert Foster, Music Coordinator

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH
First Church of Christ, Scientist
282 Chalffonte Ave.

Sunday Service - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Wednesday Testimony Meeting
8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

All are warmly welcome at both services.
Free childcare provided
Questions? 884-2426

GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1175 Lakepointe at Kercheval
Grosse Pointe Park 822-3823

Sunday - Worship 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday - Thrift Shop 10:30 - 3:30

Wednesday - Amazing Grace Seniors
every second Wednesday at
The Tompkins Center at
Windmill Pointe Park 11:00 - 3:00

COME JOIN US
Pastor: Maguerite (Margo) Allen

St. James Lutheran Church
170 McMillan Rd
Grosse Pointe Farms

Sundays

9:00 a.m. Education time for all ages
9:45 a.m. Refreshments & fellowship
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Nursery available

Wednesdays
Noon: Holy Eucharist

Phone: 884-0511
Visit our website:
www.stjamesgp.org

Saint Ambrose Parish



Saturday Vigil Mass
at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday Masses
at 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church
15020 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Park
One block north of Jefferson, at Maryland

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20475 Sunningdale Park
near Lochmoor Club
Grosse Pointe Woods
313-884-4820
www.stmichaelsgpw.org

Sunday
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:15 a.m. Church School
10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist
Nursery Available

Wednesday
7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

e-mail: office@stmichaelsgpw.org

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St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church
375 Lothrop at Chalffonte
881-6670

9:00 & 11:15 a.m. Worship
10:10 a.m. Education for All

Nursery Available

Rev. Frederick Harms, Pastor
Rev. Morsal Collier, Assoc. Pastor

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church
December 11, 2005

"The Difference Between Loving
Jesus and Rejecting Christianity"

Guest: The Rev. Ms. Hannah Wells
Service 10:30 am

17150 MAUMEE 881-0420

Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church
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19950 Mack (between Moross & Vernier)

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Educational Hour at 9:30 AM

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Sunday, December 11, 2005

9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Christmas Pageant
"The Story of Our Savior's Birth"

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www.gpcong.org

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(crib room available)

10:00 a.m. Church School

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Mack at Lochmoor
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9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
& Bible Classes

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Randy S. Boelter, Pastor
Timothy A. Holzerland, Assoc. Pastor

Grosse Pointe Baptist Church

Christ Centered and Caring - Committed to Youth and Community

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Sunday School - 9:30 AM for Age 2 - Adult

Awana Clubs Wednesday @ 6:15 p.m.

Middle School Youth meet Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Senior High Youth meet Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

21336 Mack Avenue Grosse Pointe Woods
Phone: (313) 881-3343 Web Page: www.gpbc.org

THE GROSSE POINTE MEMORIAL CHURCH

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The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The Third Sunday of Advent
Advent Lessons & Carols

9:00 & 11:00 a.m. - Worship Services in the Sanctuary

Rev. William C. Yeager, preaching
"Messiah"

10:10 a.m. - Church School for all ages

8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Crib/Toddler Care

7:30 a.m. Ecumenical Men's Friday Breakfast



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www.stjohnsdetroit.org
(313) 962-7358

Sunday, December 11th, 2005

Third Sunday in Advent

7:30am Morning Prayer

8:00am Holy Communion

9:05am Christian Education

10:00am Choral Holy Communion

Avoid the Christmas Rush -

come to Church this Sunday!

Christmas Eve - 4pm Children's Pageant Service

10:30am Carol Prelude, 11pm Festive Service

Christmas Day 10am Service only (in the Chapel)

St. Vincent de Paul winter clothing drive under way

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) and Art Van Furniture are teaming up to launch a winter clothing drive now through Sunday, Dec. 18, at nine SVdP thrift stores and 16 Art Van stores in Southeast Michigan.

"The Detroit Council of St. Vincent de Paul provides assistance for clothing, food and other domestic needs to approximately 30,000 households in Southeast Michigan each year," said Bill Brazier, executive director of St. Vincent de Paul. "These local families have little or no income and need the community's help, not just during the winter months, but throughout the year. The need is especially critical, however, in the winter months, and this drive will help draw attention to that."

Collection sites will be located at 16 Art Van Furniture stores and nine SVdP thrift stores through-

out the extended Southeast Michigan region including Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, Livingston and St. Clair counties. All stores will be collecting new and gently used winter coats, hats, scarves, gloves and blankets. Cash and check donations will also be accepted.

"In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Rita many local charities have been neglected," said Art Van Elslander, chairman and CEO of Art Van Furniture Inc. "We are pleased to participate in the winter clothing drive and offer our support to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul."

The winter clothing drive coincides with SVdP's observance of the 10th anniversary of a fire that destroyed the society's Gratiot warehouse on Dec. 15, 1995, but ended up paving the way for a new community center

that expanded the society's service in the area.

The Van Elslander family led a fundraising effort to build the \$6.4 million facility that stands on the site of the old warehouse today and offers social and health services to families with little or no income. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Van Elslander Family Center opened to the public in 2000.

"Art Van Elslander has been a tireless supporter of St. Vincent de Paul through the years, including his key role in building the Gratiot center," said Brazier. "We are deeply grateful that he is stepping up to help the 30,000 families we serve once again by sponsoring this winter clothing drive. He is showing once again his commitment to giving back to the communities that he serves."

The center services approximately 10,000 local households annually. The

35,000-square-foot facility is the headquarters for the Detroit Council of SVdP and home to 10 tenant partners that provide a range of services from child care, health and dental care, and job training to emergency relief and substance abuse counseling. SVdP also operates a thrift store and food depot on-site.

On the evening of Dec. 15, 1995 a five-alarm fire broke out at the Gratiot warehouse, destroying the entire three-story complex and consuming more than \$1 million in goods for families in need. About 120 firefighters and 30 fire truck units battled the blaze through the night.

The warehouse served as the main distribution center for supplying 18 thrift stores in the SVdP's chain throughout Southeast Michigan. The society had occupied the warehouse for about 50 years.

Thousands of metro Detroiters responded to the tragedy by generously donating items at collection centers set up at shopping centers and local television stations.

Local St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores are located at 23746 Greater Mack in St. Clair Shores, phone (586) 773-0190; 3000 Gratiot Ave. (VanElslander Family Center) in Detroit, phone (313) 393-2920; and 14922 Kercheval in Detroit, phone (313) 331-6992.



Crystal Rose Ball

Dr. Donald and Dale Austin of the City of Grosse Pointe attended Hospice of Michigan's 20th annual Crystal Rose Ball on Oct. 22. The black-tie event celebrated the organization's 25th anniversary of service and honored the compassionate care that Hospice of Michigan provides. Proceeds from the ball went to support Hospice of Michigan's open access policy which provides care to individuals regardless of age, diagnosis or ability to pay.

will follow.

Holiday of Hope: The Project Hope League will celebrate its 16th annual "Holiday of Hope" party beginning at 1 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 18, at the Country Club of Detroit in Grosse Pointe Farms.

The party will begin with a silent auction and cocktails. Dinner will be served at 2 p.m. Musical entertainment by Rennie Kaufman

The cost is \$60 for members and \$70 for nonmembers, which includes valet parking. Proceeds are dedicated to Hope's children around the world and world medical relief.

Chairmen of the event are Larry Marco and Jacqueline Kendall. For reservations, call (313) 881-8513 or (248) 538-0777, through Monday, Dec. 12.



Festival winners

The tradition continues as co-designers and Grosse Pointe residents Lynn Kiley, above, and Sue Huvaere win Diamond and Gold awards for their wreaths at the 2005 Festival of Trees. The Diamond-winning wreath in Children's Fantasy, left and above, was sponsored by Grosse Pointe Shores Garden Club. The Gold-winning wreath in the Traditional category was sponsored by Credit Card Services.com

Last year, Lynn Kiley packed a one-two punch winning Diamond and Gold for her wreaths at the 2004 Festival of Trees. Proceeds from sales of the wreaths went to benefit Children's Hospital of Michigan.

Meetings

Herb Society

The Herb Society of America/Grosse Pointe unit will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, at the Children's Home of Detroit, 900 Cook in Grosse Pointe Woods. Mary Northcutt will demonstrate how to make herbal candies and syrups. Visitors are welcome. Call Kathleen Peabody at (313) 886-2797.

Alliance Francaise

The Alliance Francaise de Grosse Pointe will hold its Repas de Noel from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12,

at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

The cost is \$25. For reservations, call Christine Stein at (586) 777-4602.

Grand Marais Questers

The Grand Marais chapter of Questers will meet at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 9, at the home of Cathy Kegler.

Member Anne Ryan will give a talk about Christmas ornaments. Members are asked to share their favorite ornaments. A catered luncheon will follow the program.

AAUW

The American Association of University Women will celebrate the season at an

annual holiday luncheon on Saturday, Dec. 17, at the Grosse Pointe Hunt Club.

The reception and cash bar begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at noon and a program at 12:30 p.m.

Women of the community are invited to attend.

The cost is \$30. To make a reservation, call Pat Petro at (586) 776-7429 by Saturday, Dec. 10.

G.P. Questers

The Grosse Pointe Questers will meet at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 9, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club for its annual Christmas auction.

The hostess is Carol Stephenson. Co-hostesses are Karen Joslyn, Lisa Gandelot and JoAnn Krueger.

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Cinnamon Hazelnut Crescent

Choc-Oat Chip Meringue Bars

Cookie exchanges are the perfect way to give and receive this holiday season.

Time is tight for everyone during the holidays, so why not host a cookie exchange this year and check off two important items on your "to do" list? Not only will you have a great opportunity to reconnect with friends, co-workers and neighbors, but you'll also end up with a delicious assortment of holiday cookies.

COOKIE BAKING TIPS

- ◆ Read the entire recipe before baking to make sure you have all the ingredients and utensils on hand.
- ◆ Measure all ingredients accurately. Line them up on your countertop or island in the order they appear in the recipe for quick, easy preparation.
- ◆ Follow baking directions to the "t." Be sure to use the correct pan size and begin checking for doneness at the minimum baking time given in the recipe.
- ◆ Bar cookies should cool in the pan on a wire rack. For a festive holiday touch, try cutting them in triangle or diamond shapes.

Lemon-Cranberry Crumb Bars

- 1 can (15 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
- 1/2 cup lemon juice
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1-1/2 teaspoons grated lemon peel
- 3/4 cup dried cranberries
- 1 cup (2 sticks) Shedd's Spread Country Crock Spreadable Sticks
- 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups Quaker oats (quick or old fashioned, uncooked)*
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Confectioners' sugar, for sprinkling

*If using old fashioned oats, add additional 2 tablespoons flour.

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Generously spray 15-1/2 x 10-1/2 x 1-inch jelly roll pan with no-stick cooking spray.
2. Combine condensed milk, lemon juice, egg and lemon peel in medium bowl; whisk until well blended. Stir in cranberries; set aside.
3. Beat spread and sugars in large bowl with electric mixer until blended. Add combined flour, oats, baking powder and salt; beat well. Reserve 2 cups oat mixture for topping. Press remainder evenly onto bottom of pan. Pour lemon mixture over crust. Crumble reserved oat mixture evenly over lemon mixture.
4. Bake until edges begin to brown, about 35 to 40 minutes. Let cool in pan on wire rack 15 minutes. Cut into 1-1/2-inch squares. Cool completely. Cover and refrigerate. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar before serving.

Makes 60 bars

Holiday Oatmeal Drops

- 1 cup (2 sticks) Shedd's Spread Country Crock Spreadable Sticks
- 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 cups Quaker oats (quick or old fashioned, uncooked)*
- 1-1/2 cups holiday (red and green) candy-coated

chocolate pieces 1 cup white chocolate chips

*If using old fashioned oats, add additional 2 tablespoons flour.

1. Heat oven to 375°F. Grease or line cookie sheets with parchment paper.
2. Beat spread and sugars in large bowl with electric mixer until creamy. Add eggs and vanilla; beat well. Add combined flour, baking soda and salt; beat well. Stir in combined oats, candies and chips.
3. Drop dough by rounded measuring tablespoonfuls onto prepared cookie sheets.
4. Bake 9 to 10 minutes, just until set and light brown. Cool 1 minute on cookie sheets; remove to wire racks. Cool completely. Store tightly covered at room temperature.

Makes about 6 dozen cookies

Cinnamon Hazelnut Crescents

- 1 cup (2 sticks) Shedd's Spread Country Crock Spreadable Sticks
- 1-1/2 cups sifted confectioners' sugar, divided
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup (3 ounces) toasted ground hazelnuts
- 2-1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon, divided
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup Quaker oats (quick or old fashioned, uncooked)

1. Beat spread, 3/4 cup confectioners' sugar and vanilla in large bowl with electric mixer until creamy. Add combined flour, hazelnuts, 1 teaspoon cinnamon and salt; beat just until combined. Add oats; beat until combined. Cover and refrigerate dough until firm, about 2 hours or overnight.*
2. Heat oven to 350°F. Combine remaining 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar and remaining 1-1/2 teaspoons cinnamon in medium bowl; set aside.
3. Roll rounded measuring teaspoonfuls of dough into 2-inch ropes. Place ropes about 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets; shape into crescents.
4. Bake 10 to 13 minutes, until golden brown. Cool 2 minutes on cookie sheets. Roll cookies, a few at a time, in cinnamon-sugar. Transfer to wire racks. Sift remaining cinnamon-sugar over tops of cookies. Cool completely. Store loosely covered at room temperature.

Makes about 6 dozen cookies

*If dough is too cold to shape easily, let stand at room temperature 15 minutes.

Cook's Tip: To toast and grind hazelnuts: Spread 3 ounces chopped hazelnuts in single layer on cookie sheet. Bake at 350°F until fragrant, 6 to 8 minutes. Cool completely. Process toasted nuts in food processor until finely ground.

Choc-Oat Chip Meringue Bars

- 2-1/2 cups firmly packed brown sugar, divided
- 1 cup (2 sticks) Shedd's Spread Country Crock Spreadable Sticks
- 3 eggs, separated
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1-1/2 cups Quaker oats (quick or old fashioned, uncooked)*
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup (6 ounces) semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 3/4 cup shredded coconut
- 3/4 cup chopped pecans

*If using old fashioned oats, add additional 2 tablespoons flour.

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Generously spray 15-1/2 x 10-1/2 x 1-inch jelly roll pan with no-stick cooking spray.
2. Beat 1-1/2 cups brown sugar, spread, egg yolks and vanilla in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Add combined oats, flour, baking powder and salt; beat just until dry ingredients are incorporated. Stir in chocolate chips. Spread evenly onto bottom of pan. Sprinkle with coconut. Bake 25 minutes. Remove to wire rack; leave oven on.
3. Beat egg whites (at room temperature) in clean dry bowl with electric mixer on high speed until foamy. Gradually add remaining 1 cup brown sugar beating until stiff peaks form. Gently fold in pecans. Spread meringue evenly onto warm cookie layer.
4. Return pan to oven. Bake 15 minutes until meringue is light brown.
5. Cool bars completely in pan on wire rack. Cut into 1-1/2-inch squares with thin, wet knife. Store tightly covered at room temperature.

Makes 60 bars

For more delicious cookie recipes, visit www.quakeroatmeal.com and www.countrycrock.com.

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Can smoking pot trigger mental illness?

By Jeff and Debra Jay
Special Writers

Dear Jeff and Debra:

I have a lot of friends who say smoking pot is harmless for the most part, and it should be legalized. I've tried it a couple of times and don't really like it. I honestly don't know what everyone sees in it. But I wonder if it really is harmless. I've read different things about marijuana that point out some serious side effects from smoking pot, but what really surprised me is hearing that it could cause mental illness. Is this true?

— Curious

Dear Curious:

There is new research that suggests that smoking pot can increase the risk of schizophrenia among adolescents genetically predisposed to it. A particular brain region that is not fully developed during adolescence appears to be affected by marijuana and schizophrenia. The study strongly suggests that marijuana use can trigger schizophrenia if a teenager has a family history of schizophrenia.

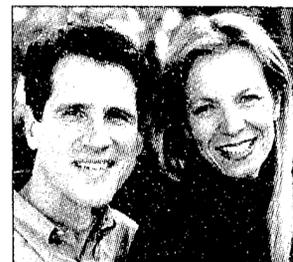
"Because this language/auditory pathway continues to develop during adolescence, it is most susceptible to the neurotoxins introduced into the body through marijuana use," said researcher Dr. Manzar Ashtari, an associate professor of radiology and psychiatry.

This study in no way infers that marijuana causes mental illness in all people who smoke it, although marijuana causes other problems such as impairment of attention, memory and the organization and integration of complex information.

According to co-principal investigator Dr. Sanjiv Kumra, an assistant professor of psychiatry, "The findings suggest that in addition to interfering with normal brain development, heavy marijuana use in adolescents may also lead to an earlier onset of schizophrenia in individuals who are genetically predisposed to the disorder."

Marijuana has also been known to cause temporary psychosis in some users and is linked to anxiety disorders. In addition, it can lead to respiratory problems, cancer and addiction.

Jeff Jay and Debra Jay are the authors of "Love First: A New Approach to Intervention for Alcoholism and Drug Addiction," and Debra Jay is the co-author of "Aging and Addiction." Both are Hazelden publications. Jeff and Debra Jay are professional interventionists who live in Grosse Pointe Farms. They may be contacted with your questions at (313) 882-6921 or www.lovefirst.net.



Jeff and Debra Jay

Jim Ruffner: A man of many parts

Many think of Jim Ruffner primarily as the man who established the Jazz Forum in Grosse Pointe in 1990 and the man who continues to be the heart and soul of the program.

But Ruffner has always been a man of many parts, and his involvement in the world of jazz is just one.

He has a master's degree from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. from Indiana University; he's taught in colleges and universities, and, as a member of the U.S. Air Force, he served as weather officer for the last above-ground atomic test at the Nevada proving grounds.

At age 75, Ruffner continues to be involved in multiple projects.

Ruffner's interest in the business of music began in high school and college where he acted as an agent for combos. Then, as now, he worked behind the scenes, never as a performer, and found playing engagements for jazz groups.

He established Jazz Forum 15 years ago with the intent of increasing interest in jazz by providing audiences with a permanent location and regularly scheduled programs that featured the best of established musicians and new talent.

From the beginning, the setting for Jazz Forum has been the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church.

"The church was supportive; it had a nice setting, a fine piano, ample space for instruments to be brought in and parking space," Ruffner said.

He is pleased that audience attendance at the Forums is growing and that he still has the ability to bring talented new musicians onto the performing scene.

"I'll never get wealthy from the Forum," he said,

"but it's beginning to pay its way and that's great."

Ruffner's formal schooling in the sciences exposed him to the many differing divisions in sciences. He chose the history of science as his Ph.D. project.

In 1969, Wayne State University brought him to Detroit to be on the staff of the newly opened Monteith College. The college was an experiment by Wayne State University to introduce a curriculum for liberal arts students that included classes in the sciences not usually offered to liberal arts students.

Ruffner particularly enjoyed giving these non-specialists a broad understanding of science and the role it has played in forming our society. Budget problems forced WSU to close the college, but Ruffner said that the experiment resulted in greater numbers of its liberal arts students going on for graduate work than those from the traditional liberal arts school.

When the college folded, WSU offered him an academic appointment. He stayed until he retired in 1996.

His lifelong interest in science led him to an exciting endeavor: translating the private papers written by Isaac Newton. Many have never been published; therefore, they aren't available to scientists worldwide.

There are thousands of these sheets, written in Latin, which will have to be translated and cataloged so they can be available to scientists throughout the

Senior Scene



By Ruth Cain

world's greatest scientists, his thoughts and how he proceeded in his work. I can't tell you how important I think this work is."

Ruffner's business card lists Alembic Arts as his business. Alembic is an Arabic word used to describe distilling as a way of finding the very best. Alembic is a CD recording company of which Ruffner is the sole owner and administrator.

One of Ruffner's responsibilities is selecting the musicians he uses for making the CDs. He knew starting and conducting the business would be hard work.

"I got into this in part to see if I could do it," he said.

And, of course, he did. He produces a small number of CDs and sells them out of a trunk at concerts and night club performances.

You may contact Cain at ruthcain@comcast.net

The papers came on the market some 30 years ago, most of them bought by Cambridge University in England.

Ruffner spent several years there working with the papers. He is one of only a dozen specialists worldwide in this field.

"There have been many books written about Isaac Newton," he said, "but none of them has had the full information contained in Newton's private papers. This is extremely valuable information from one of the



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SOC offers December events

Services for Older Citizens (SOC), located at 17150 Waterloo in the City of Grosse Pointe, will offer the following events for the month of December:

- Monday, Dec. 12 — A presentation by Physicians Residential Service will be held at 11:15 a.m. Know where to turn when you or a loved one needs an X-ray or

ultrasound or needs specialized wound care but is unable to get to the office due to his or her disability.

- Tuesday, Dec. 13 — Kerby Elementary School's 5th Grade Choir will perform at 11 a.m. The sweet voices of Mrs. Barkley's fifth-grade choir will fill you with the spirit of Christmas. A hot lunch will follow the performance.

- Wednesday, Dec. 14 — Grosse Pointe Academy fifth grade will perform "Macbeth" from 11 a.m. to noon. A hot lunch will be served prior to the performance at a cost of \$2.

For more information, call SOC at (313) 882-9600.

SOC is looking for volunteers to teach new Medicare coverage

Services for Older Citizens needs volunteers to help seniors understand the new Medicare coverage. Training will be provided.

Volunteers can help make a difference for many who are trying to make sense out of Medicare.

Help older adults receive the health care they need and deserve. Assist in the

computer lab by filling out documents online. Help seniors understand the new prescription drug changes. Answer simple questions from the Medicare guide book.

To learn more about this volunteer opportunity, call Betsy Schulte, SOC director of volunteer services at (313) 882-9600, ext. 245.

Know Your Skin

by Lisa A. Manz-Dulac, MD



A raised, bumpy or ring-shaped lesion, whether by itself or in groups may indicate a condition called granuloma annulare.

Although it affects people of all ages, granuloma annulare is more common in children and young adults; and it is twice as common in women as it is in men. Most often seen on the tops of the hands, feet, elbows, and knees, granuloma annulare starts as a firm, smooth, bump which becomes a circular ring with a clear center like that of a doughnut.

Granuloma annulare is usually asymptomatic and often goes unnoticed. Usually harmless, because there are skin conditions with similar symptoms that do require treatment, including ringworm (a fungal infection)

and reactions from insect bites, such as the initial lesion of Lyme disease, it is best to have the diagnosis confirmed by a physician.

With most patients, this benign condition will resolve on its own in a few months, so no treatment is needed. When treatment is advised, topical steroids may be prescribed, or the area may be injected with steroids to help the lesion disappear faster. Another treatment option is PUVA, a special kind of ultraviolet light therapy that is sometimes used for patients with widespread lesions. Once resolved, some patients will experience recurrence at the same or a new site at a later date.

To learn more about granuloma annulare, contact your dermatologist or call us at **Eastside Dermatology, Dr. Lisa Manz-Dulac and Associates (313) 884-3380.**

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Prickly issues during annual Picking-of-the-Tree

It's that time of year again. And I don't mean for shopping or putting up lights or breaking out the good snow boots. I mean it's time for an annual ritual so stressful and confusing that chances are, afterward, you

will be found tucked under the ottoman humming and braiding your hair. I'm talking about the annual Picking-of-the-Tree ritual. Those of you who've done this without kids are probably thinking, "What's so bad

about that? You just go to the lot, pick one, and voila!" Ha! Ha! I say. Once you have kids, the Picking-of-the-Tree is one of the most mind-boggling experiences imaginable. Let me explain.

Each year, not being organized or outdoorsy types, we usually wait until the last possible minute then choose our tree from the middle of a discount store parking lot. (Which, everyone knows, is just like going to the forest except for all of the shopping carts and halogen lights.)

Everything always starts out fine. We eagerly enter the lot filled with holiday spirit and high hopes. We may even make it past a tree or two in this very same mood. But, inevitably, someone will point and say something upsetting like, "Hey, what about this one?" And then a major fight breaks out.

I'm not sure why this always surprises me. Because, let's face it, there is something about the Picking-of-the-Tree that causes even the most laid back person to suddenly have a wildly passionate opinion.

Take, for instance, my 13-year-old daughter. She is the type of person who doesn't even know that trees exist at any other time of the year. But come December she must find one that's exactly 6 feet tall, at least 24 inches in diameter, with bluish-green needles and preferably in the

Family Daze By Debbie Farmer



pinus strobus family.

Then there's my 10-year-old son, who claims he doesn't care what kind of tree we get as long as it doesn't look too tall, too short, too bushy, too twiggy, too green, too flocked or too much like, well, a tree.

But don't feel sorry for me. Save it for my friend Julie. After spending three hours meticulously studying every tree (including the ones planted between the cars in the parking lot), breaking up six fist fights and getting two dozen splinters in her hands, her kids suddenly decided that the only true, ecologically correct thing to do would be to go to the local nursery and buy a live tree.

Maybe I should be more like my friend Barb. At her house, when she suggests getting a tree, her husband sighs then goes into the

garage and pulls down a cardboard box. Then the whole family spends a nice, non-stressful evening drinking hot apple cider and unfolding branches.

But where is the adventure in that?

Face it, despite the cold and all of the yelling, there's something special about picking out a Christmas tree together. I'm not sure why. Maybe it's from the anticipation. Or perhaps it's from being outside in the fresh air.

Or maybe it's the effect of the fumes from all of the cans of flocking.

Whatever the reason, one thing's for certain: Once the tree is decorated, no one cares what kind it is anymore or even remembers who, exactly, chose it. In fact, by the time New Year's Eve rolls around, people go out of their way to avoid it altogether.

Hey, nobody ever said that the Picking-of-the-Tree makes any sense.

Debbie Farmer is a humorist and a mother holding down the fort in California and the author of "Don't Put Lipstick on the Cat." She can be reached at www.familydaze.com, or by writing familydaze@oasis-newsfeatures.com.

Biscotti gets its snap from espresso beans

Christmas cookies are a seasonal favorite for most, but spending the time to create the tasty bites can be a problem for most. With no intentions of baking cookies myself this year, I happened across a recipe for biscotti and decided to give it a shot.

Biscotti is a twice-baked Italian cookie with a crunchy finish which makes it a perfect dipper for coffee or tea.

Double chocolate biscotti was rather easy to make and the chocolate-coffee flavor combination is nothing short of incredible.

Double Chocolate Biscotti

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup cocoa powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 stick (4 oz.) unsalted butter, softened to room temperature
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup chocolate-covered espresso (coffee) beans

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. In a medium bowl, sift together the flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Set aside. In a large bowl, beat together the butter and the sugar until creamy. Beat in the eggs, one at a time.

Turn the mixer to low and gradually add the flour mixture. (The dough will be thick.) Using a wooden spoon, fold in the chocolate chips and chocolate-covered espresso beans.

Divide the dough in half and form each half into a 2-inch wide log. Place the logs (well apart from one another) on a baking sheet that has been coated with nonstick spray. Brush each of the logs with the egg white.

Bake at 325 degrees for 30 minutes, remove from the oven and cool on the baking sheet for 10 minutes. Increase the oven temperature to 350 degrees.

Using two metal spatulas, carefully transfer the logs to a work surface. Cut

À LA ANNIE By Annie Rouleau-Scheriff



each of the logs crosswise into 1/2-inch slices. Arrange the slices, cut side down, on two baking sheets (with plenty of room in between the cookies). Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes longer, until slightly dry.

Let the cookies cool right on the baking sheets. I sprayed my hands with nonstick spray to keep from sticking to the dough. For a true biscotti shape, round off the top of your logs.

The intense flavor from the cocoa and the chips pairs well with the mouth-watering snap from the chocolate-covered espresso beans.

You can find the chocolate-covered beans at Caribou Coffee shops. (They're called reindeer nibblers and you'll need two 1.75-oz. packages.)

These delicious cookies are sturdy and will package well for a holiday hostess gift.

Edsel & Eleanor Ford House offers specialty tours during holiday season

The magic of the holiday season has taken hold at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House. December brings a time for exploring and enjoying the interior beauty of the historic house as it offers the sights, sounds and even tastes of the holiday season. Ford House holiday tours and events are designed for all ages.

Daily holiday tours

Holiday tours have long been a favorite for Metro Detroiters looking for a unique Christmas experience. The Christmas decorations in the house are influenced by Eleanor Ford's elegant style of decorating and create a beautiful atmosphere in the home. In the Gallery, the home's largest

room, a 15-foot Christmas tree is adorned by ornaments influenced by the time period. It towers above festively wrapped presents and an electric train circling its base. Each decorated room tells a unique story about how the Ford family shared holiday traditions.

The Play House, Josephine Ford's miniature mock-Tudor house on the grounds, is decked out in themed decor for the holidays. In honor of Josephine Ford's lifelong love of dogs, this year's theme features the playful canine, with stuffed dogs, ornaments, books and presents throughout the Play House.

Holiday hours are: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and

Sunday from noon to 4 p.m., except for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve when the final tour begins at 3 p.m.

Admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for senior citizens (60 and over), and \$6 for children (ages 6-12). Children age five and under are admitted free. Ford House is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's days.

Holiday evening tours

This tour is sure to warm each visitor with the beauty of twinkling lights, songs of carolers, glowing candlelight and tasty hot chocolate. The Play House will also be open for visitors to take a peek. The evening tours will be offered on Thursdays, Dec. 8, 15 and 22, from 6 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person.

Nutcracker teas

Children have long enjoyed this special tea and visit with Santa at Ford House. This special visit begins with tea time at the Tea Room and follows with a visit to Santa in the Play House on the grounds. This is truly a unique holiday experience for children. Reservations are required for this event, and tickets are \$12 a person. The Nutcracker Teas are at 4 p.m. on Dec. 9, 13 through 16, 19; and at 6 p.m. on Dec. 13.

Gingerbread play house

A visit to the Play House will spark children's imaginations as they make their own miniature gingerbread home to take with them. The Gingerbread Play House activity begins at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3 and is \$20 per child. (This event is sold out.)

See FORD HOUSE, page 8B

Grosse Pointe War Memorial's WMTV5

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December 12 - Dec 18

Featured Guests

- 8:30 am The S.O.C. Show
- 9:00 am Vitality Plus (Aerobics)
- 9:30 am Pointes of Horticulture
- 10:00 am Who's in the Kitchen?
- 10:30 am Things to do at the War Memorial
- 11:00 am
- 11:30 am Out of the Ordinary
- 12:00 pm Economic Club of Detroit
- 1:00 pm Watercolor Workshop / Senior Men's Club
- 1:30 pm Great Lakes Journal
- 2:00 pm The Legal Insider / Consumers Corner
- 2:30 pm The John Prost Show
- 3:00 pm Things to do at the War Memorial
- 3:30 pm
- 4:00 pm Vitality Plus (Step/Kick Boxing)
- 4:30 pm Young View Pointes
- 5:00 pm Positively Positive
- 5:30 pm Watercolor Workshop / Senior Men's Club
- 6:00 pm The Legal Insider / Consumers Corner
- 6:30 pm Who's in the Kitchen?
- 7:00 pm Vitality Plus (Tone Exercise)
- 7:30 pm Things to do at the War Memorial
- 8:00 pm
- 8:30 pm Young View Pointes
- 9:00 pm Vitality Plus (Step/Kick Boxing)
- 9:30 pm Pointes of Horticulture
- 10:00 pm The John Prost Show
- 10:30 pm Great Lakes Journal
- 11:00 pm Out of the Ordinary
- 11:30 pm The S.O.C. Show
- Midnight Vitality Plus (Aerobics)
- 12:30 am Pointes of Horticulture
- 1:00 am Who's in the Kitchen?
- 1:30 am Things to do at the War Memorial
- 2:00 am
- 2:30 am Out of the Ordinary
- 3:00 am Economic Club of Detroit
- 4:00 am Watercolor Workshop / Senior Men's Club
- 4:30 am Great Lakes Journal
- 5:00 am The Legal Insider / Consumers Corner
- 5:30 am The John Prost Show
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- 6:30 am
- 7:00 am Vitality Plus (Step/Kick Boxing)
- 7:30 am Young View Pointes
- 8:00 am Positively Positive

The S.O.C. Show
Dan Clark - Government Prescription Plan

Who's in the Kitchen?
Annie Scheriff Rouleau - Cranberry Crazy

Things to do at the War Memorial
The 30th Annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade

Out of the Ordinary
Dr. William J. Martin - Healthy Breathing

Economic Club of Detroit
Robert Pozen - Chairman, MFS Investment Management - "Social Security Reform"

Watercolor Workshop
Winter Wonderland & Pine Trees Part II

Great Lakes Journal
David Howell - Friends of the Detroit River

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Michigan State Housing Development Authority

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Concert canceled

The Mario Frangoulis concert, a fundraiser for the Assumption Greek Orthodox Center's Fire Restoration Fund, has been postponed until Saturday, May 6.

Ticket sales will continue, and current ticket holders and seating will be honored.

Toronto conductor, DSO go for baroque

The affinity of baroque music for the holiday season is undeniable, and this year's version of the annual baroque concert by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra last weekend was a special treat. With works by six composers, ranging from Pachelbel to Bach, the program provided outstanding examples of the 17th century style. But one of the most rewarding elements of the evening was not even a piece of music. It was conductor/violinist Jeanne Lamont who also served as program commentator, charmingly offering spoken insights into the music and enlightening our understanding of the true nature of its historic place.

Musical director of the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra in Toronto since 1981, Lamont has been a major force in the movement to perform this music as nearly as we can in the

way the composers originally intended. Audience members who assembled in Orchestra Hall one hour before the performance were rewarded with a highly informative and entertaining talk on how this is accomplished, along with anecdotes about the differences between baroque era and contemporary instruments and playing styles. And she did not stop there.

In the course of the concert, between the works performed, she gave lucid explanations of many examples of the surprising ingenuity of the composers in scoring the music with devices so subtle they are easily overlooked by casual listeners who are not watching closely. To recognize what was happening, the audience had to observe carefully as well as listen while the musicians seemed to derive a higher level of fun and challenge in the

close collaboration that performing the music demanded. The impact of Lamont's enthusiasm and obvious authority had both her audience and the DSO musicians in a state of heightened alert for the evening.

Prime example of this experience was the Bach Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 for nine strings and harpsichord. At first the sections take turns in leading the melodic theme. Then one section would begin the theme and the others would pick it up and complete it. In another variation of instrumentation, three trios of first and second violins and viola took their turns. But you had to watch closely to recognize that the main theme had moved from one trio to the next. The switch was seamless and added immeasurably to the fascination of the performance once you knew

State of the Arts



By Alex Suczek

what to look for.

In her commentary, Lamont also explained that for the second movement, Bach wrote only two chords for the orchestra. Just as the composer might have done (he was a skilled violinist) Lamont played what must have been her own or an improvised solo cadenza which was concluded by the orchestra with its two chords. As in American Jazz, improvisation was a routine tradition for baroque performers.

Another feature of baroque musical art was illustrated similarly in the famous Pachelbel Canon. Explaining that the versions most of us are familiar with, or possess on a CD at home, are actually expanded orchestrations catering to contemporary taste for a richer orchestral sound, Lamont and four other players performed it as originally written and gave it a unique fascination of its own. Each player had a solo part to play in a routine that Lamont described as similar to the old round, "Row, Row, Row your Boat." One after another, the instruments joined in. As each part changed when another player came in with the opening phrase, the piece ended with all four parts playing harmoniously together. Amazingly, the sound of the quartet was rich, full and satisfying in the wonderful acoustics of Orchestra Hall. Moreover, experiencing the music's original personality was a revelation and a delight.

Fleshing out the program was a collection of treasures by Handel, Vivaldi, Pietro Antonio Locatelli and Marc-Antoine Charpentier.

A work that stood out from the rest was the Concerto Grosso in F minor by Locatelli. His music is somehow more sophisticated and structurally more intense. It also had a somber and brooding mood that emerged frequently and provided a stimulating contrast to the stately and generally cheerful airs that we enjoy so much in Handel, Vivaldi and Pachelbel's Canon.

With Lamont's guidelines to the music fresh in mind, it was possible to recognize Locatelli's extensive use of counterpoint, chromatic phrases and even discord and to appreciate how he

enriched the texture of the string sound by adding a second viola part. These were devices later employed by Bach and even anticipated future developments in composition.

Equally fun to watch was Lamont's versatility in conducting from the podium for the larger ensembles and then moving into the group to play with them while always providing the spark for bright and highly precise performances. More concerts like this might well bring back the rage of enthusiasm that baroque music enjoyed a few decades ago. It certainly was an inspiring kickoff for the holiday season.

Another inspiration to come this month is not in the holiday tradition. It has not been performed in December on the DSO series since 1923. But on the weekend of the 15th through Sunday the 18th, Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos will lead the DSO, four vocal soloists and the University Musical Society Choral Union in Beethoven's Symphony No. 9.

Keep in mind that a convenient preconcert supper is available in the Paradise Cafe (mezzanine of Orchestra Hall). It is a nice opportunity to come early, park once and attend the preconcert conversation. Call (313) 576-5111.

Al Jarreau reunites with the DSO

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra wraps up its 2005 UBS Holiday Festival with a concert that welcomes back Grammy Award-winning and category-defying superstar Al Jarreau at Orchestra Hall on Friday, Dec. 23, at 8 p.m. at the Max M. Fisher Music Center.

Jarreau takes the stage with the DSO to perform selections from his new Grammy-nominated CD, "Accentuate the Positive," along with his classic hits and songs of the season.

Jarreau has been delighting audiences with his innovative and cross-genre vocal stylings since the 1970s.

With the release of his debut album, "We Get By in 1975," Jarreau's career has steadily ascended. Jarreau embarked on his first world tour in 1977, from which the selections for "Look To The Rainbow," his double live

album, were culled. That same year, he won his first Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Performance and was singled out for special honors in readers' and critics' polls in Performance, Cashbox, Downbeat, Stereo Review and other top music publications.

Jarreau's fourth album, "All Fly Home," was released in 1978 to further accolades and a second Grammy for Best Jazz Vocalist. It was followed by a string of innovative and original offerings, including 1980's albums "This Time," and the million-selling "Breakin' Away." The latter brought him a broader audience and two more Grammys with awards for Best Male Pop Vocalist for the single "Blue Rondo a la Turk," and Best Male Jazz Vocalist for the album. His next albums, 1983's "Jarreau," and 1984's "High

Crime," spawned a string of hits and were followed by "Al Jarreau Live In London," recorded before an SRO crowd at Wembley Arena in 1985, and "L is For Lover," which brought some new styles and sounds to the singer's repertoire.

In 1987, Jarreau became a weekly guest in America's living rooms singing the Grammy-nominated theme song for the hit television series "Moonlighting." "Heart's Horizon," released in 1988, contained the No. 2 smash hit "So Good" and earned Jarreau a Grammy nomination for Best R&B Album.

After touring the globe for nearly two years, he recorded 1992's "Heaven and Earth" for which he received his fifth Grammy, this one for Best R&B Vocal Performance.

"The Best of Al Jarreau" was released in 1996, and

the new century brought a string of new hit albums including "Tomorrow Today," "All I Got" and his latest release, "Accentuate the Positive," which is comprised of classic standards, jazz standards and two new original songs. Jarreau is one of the rare artists to have won Grammy Awards — five in all — in the categories of jazz, pop and R&B. Recently he was awarded a star on the "Hollywood Walk of Fame" commemorating his status as one of the best singers of his generation.

Tickets to "Al Jarreau with the DSO" range in price from \$26 to \$78. Box seats are \$110. Tickets can be purchased at the Max M. Fisher Music Center box office at 3711 Woodward Ave. in Detroit or by calling (313) 576-5111. Tickets can also be purchased 24-hours-a-day at the Web site detroitsymphony.com.

DSO presents Christmas gospel concert

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra and the Perfected Praise Choir of Perfecting Church, under the direction of Pastor Marvin L. Winans, will present the DSO's first-ever holiday Gospel concert, "Joy: A Gospel Christmas," on Thursday, Dec. 22, at 8 p.m. Led by guest conductor Charles Floyd, the concert is part of the DSO's UBS Holiday Festival at the Max M. Fisher Music Center at 3711 Woodward Ave. in Detroit.

This collaboration brings together one of the world's great symphonies and a legendary choir that is led by one of the most acclaimed artists in Gospel music. "Joy: A Gospel Christmas" celebrates the season with

inspirational music and holiday praise.

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The Perfected Praise Choir was founded in 1989, the same year that Perfecting Church was

established by Winans with eight members in the basement of Winans' home. The church held its first official service on May 27, 1989 and since that very humble beginning has grown into a ministry campus of over 165,000 square feet and a current membership of more than 3,000 people.

Prior to his career as the founder and pastor of Perfecting Church, Winans was a member of the Winans — not just the well-known "First Family" of contemporary black gospel, but the

actual quartet of that name which laid the foundation for the family's veritable gospel empire beginning in the early 1980s.

As a member of the quartet, Winans won five Grammy Awards and also won a Grammy for "Best Soul Gospel Performance — Male" in 1985 for "Bring Back the Days of Yea and Nay."

The Perfected Praise Choir was founded before Perfecting Church officially

See GOSPEL, page 8B

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Babies

Caroline Olivia Nicol

Donald and Rayelene Nicol of Walnut Creek, Calif., are the parents of a daughter, Caroline Olivia Nicol, born Nov. 14, 2005. Maternal grandparents are Ismael Ramirez of Martinez, Calif., and the late Carol Ramirez. Paternal grandparents are Don and Janet Nicol of Grosse Pointe Shores.

Anna Maria Tischbein

Geoff and Patti Tischbein of Grosse Pointe Shores are the parents of a daughter, Anna Maria Tischbein, born May 23, 2005 in Guatemala, joined the Tischbein family Nov. 6, 2005. Maternal grandparents are Roger and Betty Eger of Marco Island, Fla. Paternal grandparents are the late Donald and Jacqueline Tischbein of Grosse Pointe Woods. Great-grandfather is Donald Tischbein of Sterling Heights.

Adam Leland Johnson

S. Lee Johnson and Elizabeth Newhart of Grosse Pointe Park are the parents of a son, Adam Leland Johnson, born Jan. 10, 2005, in South Korea and brought home on Nov. 8, 2005. Maternal grandparents are Gregory H. and Pamela Newhart of Swartz Creek. Paternal grandparents are Gary and Sandra Johnson of Keokuk, Iowa.

Alexander John D'Angelo

Tom and Anne D'Angelo of Grosse Pointe Farms are the parents of a son, Alexander John D'Angelo, born Oct. 12, 2005. Maternal grandparents are John and Carol Pollis of La Quinta, Calif. Paternal grandparents are Joe and Joan D'Angelo of Bingham Farms. Great-grandparents are Placidus and Mary D'Angelo of St. Clair Shores.

Pride of the Pointes

Ann Wenzel, a senior communication studies major at The College of Wooster and a resident of the City of Grosse Pointe, has been chosen to present a research paper at the National Communication Association Conference this month in Boston. Wenzel, a graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School, is one of four Wooster students and 17 nationwide to be selected. She will present "Science, Space and Sputnik: President Eisenhower's Post-Sputnik Rhetoric," a rhetorical analysis of two speeches delivered by Eisenhower after the Soviet launch of Sputnik in the late 1950s. The paper explores the failure of his rhetoric to quell public hysteria and gain the trust of citizens.

Four local students have been accepted this fall into the Albion College Carl A. Gerstacker Liberal Arts Institute for Professional Management. They are: **Grant Ditzhazy**, son of John and Darby Ditzhazy of Grosse Pointe Woods; **David Hollidge**, son of Gary and Wendy Hollidge of Grosse Pointe Park; **Brenna Przeslowski**, daughter of

John and Michelle Przeslowski of Harper Woods; and **Maxwell Haarz**, son of William and Patricia Haarz of Grosse Pointe Farms.

Laura B. Marsico of Grosse Pointe Park was named to the Ferris State University academic honors list for the semester ending in August 2005.

Joseph Perry, son of Beverly and Joseph Perry of Grosse Pointe Park, was selected as a resident assistant for the University of Findlay's office of student services for the 2005-06 year. He is a sophomore majoring in hospitality management and technology management.

Claire Miller, daughter of Anne and Ken Miller of Grosse Pointe Farms, has been awarded the St. Camillus/Borgess Honorary Alumnae Scholarship from the Nazareth Association. She is a sophomore at the University of Detroit Mercy, McAuley School of Nursing, Aquinas campus in Grand Rapids.

Kristen McPharlin,

Local artist wins multiple awards

Zena Carnaghi, a member of the Grosse Pointe Artists Association, was accepted

into the Wayne County Council for the Arts, History and Humanities.

She has also won several awards for her work. In the visual arts category, she took a second place for "April" and in the music arts category, she won first place with a musical composition, "Spirit of Spring."

In the collaboration arts category, Carnaghi and Pietro M. DiGiorgio won for each writing a piece of

music: "April" for Carnaghi, and "Labyrinth," by DiGiorgio. DiGiorgio's work was inspired by Carnaghi's watercolor.

Another entry by Carnaghi, "Iroquois," inspired poet Carol Carpenter to write a poem, "Relativity of Roots," which won second place in the literary arts category.

China Christmas, New Year

Ever wonder how people in China celebrate Christmas? Christians in China celebrate by lighting their houses with beautiful paper lanterns and decorating their Christmas trees, which they call "Trees of Light," with paper chains, paper flowers, and paper lanterns.

Chinese children hang muslin stockings and await a visit from Santa Claus, whom they call Dun Che Lao Ren (dwyn-chuh-lau-oh-run), which means "Christmas Old Man."

Since the vast majority of the Chinese people are not Christian, the main winter festival in China is the Chinese New Year, which takes place toward the end of January. Now officially called the "Spring Festival," it is a time when children receive new clothing, eat luxurious meals, receive new toys, and enjoy fire-

cracker displays. An important aspect of the New Year celebration is the worship of ancestors. Portraits and paintings of ancestors are brought out and hung.

Ford House

From page 6B

Holiday tea and tour

What better way to spend a Saturday afternoon than enjoying a holiday tour of Ford House, followed by sandwiches, pastries and tea in the Tea Room? Anyone wishing for a relaxing break from the demands of the season is invited to attend a Holiday Tea & Tour at Ford House. Reservations are required. Holiday Tea & Tour runs Dec. 10 and 17 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$24 a person.

Holiday dinner and tour

Holiday Affair is an evening of indulging in an extravagant dinner, sumptuous desserts and a guided tour of the elegantly decorated house. Holiday Affair is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11 and 15. Reservations are required and tickets are \$36 per person.

Gospel

From page 7B

opened. Auditions began in the summer of 1990, at Peoples United Methodist Church, when Perfecting Church was still a "church-on-wheels." Everyone had to join the choir; there were no exceptions. From the onset, Winans held to his conviction that it "would not be an ordinary choir." Winans was determined to create a choir of superior singers, and he, along with Elder Donnie McClurkin and evangelist Iona Locke, instilled in the members that the ensemble was not just a choir, but also a ministry.

The choir's first singing engagement coincided with the 1991 holidays when they went caroling through Detroit neighborhoods. Soon

Enchanted holiday evening

Enjoy a perfect evening out complete with fine cuisine and holiday entertainment. The enchanted evening includes a guided tour of Ford House, a gourmet dinner and musical handbell performance by Classic Bells. Enchanted Holiday Evening is at 5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 18. It is sponsored by Hour Detroit Magazine. (This event is sold out.)

The gallery shop

There's always an opportunity to fit in some holiday shopping in the Ford House Gallery Shop, which is filled with an assortment of Christmas ornaments and decorations available at all prices, as well as unique books, videos, garden items, jewelry and other items relating to Ford House. The shop is open from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, and

from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m., Sundays. Admission tickets are not required to visit the Gallery Shop.

The tea room

The Tea Room, serving lunch daily, will be open throughout the holiday season from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Tuesdays through Sundays. Admission tickets are not required to have lunch in the Tea Room.

The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House is located at 1100 Lakeshore, between 8 and 9 Mile, in Grosse Pointe Shores. Since 1978, Edsel & Eleanor Ford House has shared Eleanor Ford's vision of preserving and maintaining the house and grounds for future generations to enjoy through interpretive tours, family activities, lectures, exhibits, and gardens and grounds events. For more information about Ford House, go to www.fordhouse.org or call (313) 884-4222.

daughter of Thom and Linda McPharlin of Grosse Pointe Woods, has accepted membership in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She is a student at Michigan State University.

Reilly Joseph O'Toole of Grosse Pointe Woods earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Ann Kirby of Grosse Pointe Woods recently received a scholarship from the SBC Foundation. She is a student in the school of nursing at Michigan State University.

Rose Urbiel of Grosse Pointe Park has received a scholarship from the SBC Foundation. She is studying violin performance at Butler University.

Correction

Jason Rusko, son of Ron and Kathie Rusko of Grosse Pointe Shores, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice from Michigan State University.

pointe counter points

kathleen stevenson



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December 8, 2005

North girls win ULS hockey tournament for first time



Photos by Bob Bruce

The Grosse Pointe North girls hockey squad, above, celebrates after winning the University Liggett School Holiday Tournament for the first time in team history, beating Northville 3-1 in the championship game.

By Bob St. John
Sports Writer

Grosse Pointe North's girls hockey team won the University Liggett School Holiday Tournament last weekend, beating Northville 3-1.

It was the first time head coach Tim Van Eckoute and his Norsemen won the tournament after taking second several times and dead last a year ago.

"We came out in one system that let Northville's offense get too many scoring opportunities," Van Eckoute said. "We made an adjustment between the first and second period and totally controlled the play during the final two periods. It's nice for the girls to finally win this tournament."

VanEckoute was worried his girls would take Northville too lightly after they defeated the Mustangs 6-1 on opening night.

"Obviously Northville is a much-improved team since we played it on opening night," Van Eckoute said. "They have some players who are pretty skilled."

The Mustangs, who beat defending state champ Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood 5-4 in the second semifinal, took a 1-0 lead, scoring a power-play goal by senior Anjali Saran at the 8:40 mark of the opening period.

The Norsemen countered with the tying goal less than one minute later (7:55) when freshman Alexa Quinlan blasted a shot by senior goalie Lee Cee Criswell, assisted by junior Marissa LaValley and senior

Melissa Carron.

North outshot Northville 6-5 in the opening period and finished the game with a 22-12 advantage.

The Norsemen took the lead for good midway through the second period when LaValley tipped a shot by Criswell on a power play. Senior Elizabeth Rabidoux and junior Katelyn Zemenick drew assists.

Early in the third period, a Mustang defender mis-played the puck in front of her net, which resulted in an insurance goal by LaValley, assisted by Rabidoux.

Senior goalkeeper Angela Lee stopped 11 of 12 shots and helped the Norsemen fight off four of five Northville powerplays.

"This was a total team

See NORTH, page 3C



University Liggett School junior Monique Squiler, No. 9, scored a goal in the Lady Knights' 7-2 consolation game loss to Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood. Squiler earned all-tournament honors for the host team.

South win is a coach's dream

By Chuck Klonke
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe South's Michigan Metro Hockey League opener with Ann Arbor Huron last week was a coach's dream.

"Everything was positive," coach Bob Bopp said after the Blue Devils' 3-1 victory. "The effort was the big key. We skated well and we skat-

ed hard.

"We spent a lot of time in their zone. We were quicker than they were and we forechecked well. And when the puck was in our zone, we broke it out quickly."

If there was one thing that kept it from being a perfect performance it was that South only scored three goals on its 28 shots.

Three goals were plenty, however, as freshman goalie Trevor Sattelmeier stopped all but one of the River Rats' shots in his varsity debut.

"There's no doubt we'll be hearing a lot about him during the next four years," Bopp said of Sattelmeier.

There was no scoring in

See SOUTH, page 3C

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Photo by Dr. J. Richard Dunlap
South's Hiliary Inger slides a backhander past the Walled Lake goalie.

Norsemen improve after a slow start

By Chuck Klonke
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe North's hockey team didn't get any victories from its trip to Davison over the weekend, but that doesn't mean it was a lost weekend for the Norsemen.

"There were a lot of positive things that we can build on," said North coach Scott Lock.

"I like the chemistry on our team. I found out they won't quit no matter how bad things might look. We were down 6-0 to Trenton after two periods and we came out and dominated the third period.

"I think we learned that we have to be prepared to play, not just skate out on the ice. Preparation is the most important thing."

The Trojans skated off

with a 6-3 victory, but they had to have a few uneasy moments in the final period.

"The first two periods were pretty ugly from our standpoint," Lock said. "Then we decided to wake up. We had eight shots in the first two periods and 19 in the third."

North got third-period goals from Rob Ireland, Doug Rahaim and Mike Rourke, and might have added few more if the Norsemen hadn't been called for three straight penalties.

"That took away some of the momentum we had built up," Lock said.

Lock also liked what he saw from freshman goalie Eric Rohrkemper, who was making his varsity debut.

"He played well, especially after he got over the ner-

vousness at the start," Lock said. "And the next night he played even better."

Ireland and Rahaim had assists to go with their goals, while Julien Horrie collected two assists.

"I was impressed with Trenton," Lock said. "They look even better than last year. They're really quick up front and they've got a good defense. On Saturday, they beat (Muskegon) Mona Shores 5-0."

In the second game of the mini-showcase tournament, North skated to a 1-1 tie with host Davison.

"That was really a great hockey game," Lock said. "I was even more impressed after watching the video. We played very physical and looked extremely quick."

The game was scoreless until North's Mike Yakomovich scored with about seven minutes remaining. Rourke and Jeff Rohrkemper assisted.

The Norsemen's lead lasted only two minutes before Davison got the equalizer.

North had some chances to break the tie. Rourke hit a crossbar, then was pulled down on a breakaway attempt in overtime, but no penalty was called.

"Both goalies played well," Lock said. "I really liked the way Eric played for us."

There were other strong performances for North. Defensemen Adam Davis, Matt Miller, Michael Neveux and Evan Skorupski all had fine games.

"I was really happy with the defense," Lock said. "They got involved. It was a physical game and they didn't back down. We had some awesome hits."

Up front, North had good games from Ben Scarfone, Horrie and Rahaim.

"Rahaim played well both nights," Lock said.

North's next two games are against Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League foes. The Norsemen travel to Catholic Central on Saturday, then return home to face Brother Rice on Wednesday, Dec. 14.

South girls crush two hockey opponents

By Bob St. John
Sports Writer

Grosse Pointe South's girls hockey team made it 3-0 on the season last week, beating Port Huron 9-2 and Walled Lake United 10-0.

"We have started each game very strong and we're rolling all of our lines throughout the game," co-head coach Bill Fox said. "Everyone is making contributions, and we're getting our younger girls some valuable playing time."

Against visiting Port Huron, senior Ali Morawski scored not just a hat trick, but five goals in her first game of the season. She missed the season opener because of another obligation.

"Scoring five goals isn't bad for your first game of the season," Fox said. "Ali played a strong game, as did all our girls."

The Lady Blue Devils led 3-1 after the first period and never looked back as sopho-

mores Anna Shepard, Laura Bristol, Alexandra Rentz, and Kathleen McDonald also scored goals.

Junior Amanda Marsh, freshman Hannah Orlicki and Bristol recorded two assists apiece, while senior Hiliary Inger, senior Katherine Gerow, sophomore Maria Hartman, McDonald, and Bristol each had one assist.

Port Huron's goals were scored by Karly Kerr and Maggie Grossman.

Fox split the goalkeeper duties as junior Caroline Sweeny started, and freshman Christine Jarboe played during the second half of the game.

It took host South a little more than 22 minutes (an official high school hockey game is 45 minutes long) to mercy the Walled Lake Wild.

The Lady Blue Devils smothered the Wild and held the opposition to only three shots on net, while they finished with 26.

Fox watched his squad score four goals in the first period on 14 shots as Marsh, assisted by Morawski and senior Katherine Dosch; Morawski (shorthanded), assisted by Marsh; Rentz, assisted by Shepard; and Marsh, unassisted, paved the way.

The Lady Blue Devils continued the onslaught in the second period as Inger (Bristol and junior Shami Entenman drew assists), Morawski (Entenman and senior Linda Stanek assisted), Shepard (Inger and sophomore Jenna Huitsing assisted), McDonald (Bristol drew the only assist), freshman Erin Shook (junior Elizabeth McCaughey and Huitsing recorded assists), and Dosch (junior Kelly Breen assisted) scored six goals in eight minutes of action to end the game due to the 10-goal mercy rule.

Sweeny played most of the 22 minutes, and Jarboe saw a couple of minutes in the

net before South scored its final goal.

"The girls were on fire tonight at both ends of the ice," Fox said. "The goals came in bunches tonight, but it won't be like that in every game."

The Grosse Pointe South girls hockey team improved to 3-0 in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League and 1-0 in the East Division.

Hoops camp during break for Christmas

Basketball City will hold its annual Christmas Break Basketball Camp for boys and girls ages 6 through 17 from Dec. 26 through 30.

Sessions will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day at Basketball City, 16400 Eastland, Roseville. The cost is \$130.

The camp will feature station work to improve fundamental skills, teaching of basic and advanced offensive and defensive strategies during scrimmages, a competitive environment that emphasizes good sportsmanship and player evaluations for each camper.

The camp is structured to accommodate players of all skill levels.

Basketball City is operated by Grosse Pointer Steve Bevard.

Local goalie gets a victory

Grosse Pointer Michael Jarboe recently recorded his first victory in goal for the Bozeman, Mont. Icedogs of the North American Junior A Hockey League when the Icedogs beat Fairbanks 5-3 in a game played in Alaska.

Jarboe made 34 saves and was chosen as the game's first star.

He is attending his senior year of high school in Bozeman, but will return to Grosse Pointe in the spring to graduate from South.

Lochmoor tennis team wins state title

For the first time in the Lochmoor Club's tennis history, a 2.5 women's tennis team has won the United States Tennis Association's (USTA)/Midwest Michigan state championship.

Lochmoor, led by captain Michelle Nichols, won its local league flight with a 9-1 record. Team members were Mary Annas, Susan Azar, Rosanne Bertakis, Mary Anne Cafagna, Lisa Cornell, Tina Craparotta, Amy Danna, Heather Fedyk, Melisa McEnroe, Beverly Smigelski, Trisha Stander and Alicia Turnbull.

The team's initial success came as a surprise.

"We started playing this summer's USTA season just having fun, however, as the season unfolded and we continued to win we were truly inspired to play even more competitively and take it as far as we could," Bertakis said. "It was truly a thrilling experience for all of us."

The team won all 12 of its matches at the district championship in Ann Arbor. Lochmoor beat teams from other clubs, including Franklin Racquet Club of Southfield, Metropolitan Racquet Club of Detroit and Wimbledon Racquet Club of St. Clair Shores.

Lochmoor's team advanced to the USTA/Midwest Michigan State Championship in Midland where it beat teams from the western and north-eastern areas of the state.

"Watching my teammates win game after game and knowing that we had only been playing together for a short period of time was truly amazing," Nichols said. "I am so proud of this

team's accomplishments."

Annas agreed.

"This is an incredible group of women who are also mothers," she said. "We accomplished some great things together."

The team was grateful for the support of family and friends while they practiced and competed during the spring and summer.

Unfortunately, the Lochmoor team was unable to go to Indianapolis for the USTA Sectional, where teams from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin competed.

The Ohio team won the sectional and represented the Midwest in the USTA National Tournament in Palm Springs, Calif. The National championship was won by the Southern Sectional winner, Cary (N.C.) Tennis Park.

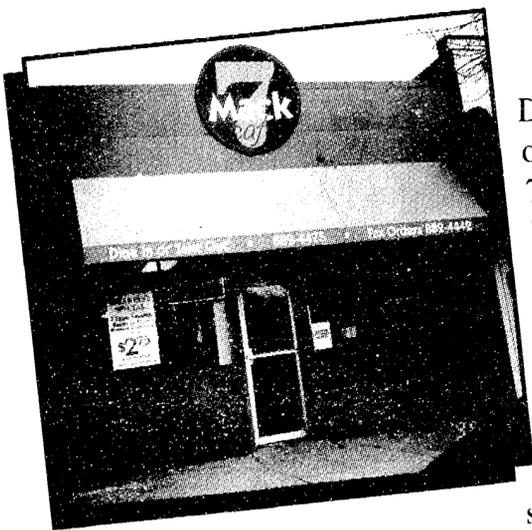
"The playoff experience that this team shared has solidified our commitment to the game of tennis," Nichols said. "We have already started practicing again in preparation for next season."

The USTA rankings were recently updated and because of Lochmoor's success, many of the team members have moved up to the 3.0 level.

Lochmoor's tennis program is guided by head tennis professional Joe Shaheen and assistant pro Mike Rose.

The Lochmoor Club has participated in USTA tennis competitions for more than a decade. The USTA is the largest tennis organization in the world.

Mack 7 Cafe



Dave Piche, owner of Mack 7 Cafe says "The Grosse Pointe News has been the best way to let Pointers know we're here". Ever since taking

over the business in 1999, Dave has used the Grosse Pointe News as his marketing tool of choice. Customers love our early bird breakfast specials before 10 a.m. "We advertise our specials in the Grosse Pointe News with great results." "Pointers up and out early in the morning and looking for a great breakfast stop in. We're here at 6 a.m. with fresh coffee and a smile. And we know they found us in the Grosse Pointe News", says Dave.

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Photo by Sue Hastings
The Lochmoor Club's 2.5 women's tennis team won the USTA/Midwest Michigan state championship. In front, from left, are Lisa Cornell, Melisa McEnroe, Susan Azar and Amy Danna. In back, from left, are Mary Anne Cafagna, Rosanne Bertakis, Michelle Nichols, Beverly Smigelski, Alicia Turnbull, Tina Craparotta and Mary Annas. Not pictured are Heather Fedyk and Trisha Stander.

Breakers '92 achieve a GPSA milestone

The Grosse Pointe Soccer Association Breakers '92 A under-14 girls soccer team achieved a first in Grosse Pointe soccer annals.

The Breakers became the first team to make it to the semifinals of the Michigan State Cup tournament.

The tournament began with 32 of the state's finest soccer teams. The Breakers won their four preliminary games before losing to the Michigan Hawks Black team, which won the State Cup.

The Breakers finished second in league play this fall with a 7-1-1 record.

Team members were Hannah Orlicki, Catherine Wiczorek, Alyssa Bruno, Ariana Conti, Allison Handlon, Holly Spencer, Ana Harris, Katherine Bowman, Kathleen Weston, Stephanie McShane, Gabby McIntyre, Emily Klinefelt, Nikki Capizzo, Rae Sklariski and Sami Filippelli.

John Mellon was the head coach. He was assisted by Harris Harris. Louis Bruno was the team manager.

South

From page 1C

the first period but Huron snapped the scoreless tie 1:03 into the second period. Sattelmeyer made the initial save, but couldn't get the rebound.

Huron's lead lasted until midway through the period when South scored goals 10 seconds apart.

Tom MacEachern tied the game, assisted by Frankie DeLaura, at 7:09, and Trevor John put the Blue Devils ahead to stay at 7:19. Geoff Osgood and Mike Lewandowski had the assists.

"Trevor followed the play up the ice and scored from the slot," Bopp said. "I don't think there's anyone in the state who can shoot the puck better than he does. That's why we have to keep him shooting every chance he gets."

Ryan Abraham gave South an insurance goal with 35 seconds left in the second period. It was his first goal of the season to go with six assists.

Abraham took a pass from Tim Shield in the slot, and although he was stretched out and off balance, he managed to get off a shot that beat the Huron goalie. Mac Brookes also assisted.

"Ryan is really a team player, who was one of our leading scorers last year, and will be again this season," Bopp said.

The coach also praised the play of Brookes, who moved from forward to defense because of an injury to one of the Blue Devils' defensemen.

"You would have thought he has played defense all season," Bopp said. "He played very well. He's such a valuable player for us because of his leadership and the fact that he can play forward or defense."

South did a good job of controlling the puck on the power play, although Bopp would like to see the Blue Devils take a few more shots when they have a man advantage.

The coach has been especially happy with the penalty killing.

"That's something we don't work on a lot, either," Bopp said. "Shield and Abraham have been doing a good job, and in this game, Jim Marshall and Frankie DeLaura played very well when we were shorthanded. Both players were very disciplined and limited Huron's chances on the power play."

South has two tough games coming up. The Blue Devils visit Wyandotte Roosevelt on Saturday, then return to City Arena on Wednesday, Dec. 14 for a game with perennial state power Trenton.



University Liggett School's Adam Rock attacks the net against Lincoln Park.

Photo by Renato Jamett

Former South swimmers help set Albion record

Two former Grosse Pointe South swimmers were members of the Albion College 200-yard medley relay team that broke a school record for the event at last weekend's Wheaton College Invitational.

Senior John Fodell and freshman Ryan Gunderson were members of the relay team that was clocked in 1:39.91, breaking the record that had stood since 1994.

Fodell swam the breaststroke leg and Gunderson

anchored the race with a strong freestyle leg.

Fodell also lowered his own school record in the 200 breaststroke with a time of 2:07.74. That was also an NCAA Division III championship B qualifying time.



Photo by Bob Bruce

Grosse Pointe South's Geoff Osgood is checked closely by an Ann Arbor Huron player.

South team in Midwest Open field

Two of Grosse Pointe South's top tennis players will be in the field of 16 teams that will compete in this weekend's Midwest Open Mixed Doubles Tennis Championships at the Grosse Pointe Hunt Club.

Melanie Capuano and Ben Hartman will form one of the teams trying to earn a spot in the finals which are scheduled for 3 p.m. Sunday.

Another local team competing is Hunt Club tennis instructor Sam Poole and Margo Hyman.

North

From page 1C

effort," Van Eckoute said. "All of the lines chipped in with an effort needed to win this game. I'm proud of the girls."

North beat host University Liggett School 5-0 in the first semifinal as it scored four goals in the opening period and never looked back.

"We were able to jump out early and play a puck-control game the rest of the way," Van Eckoute said. "We didn't want to give up any good scoring chances and let Liggett get back into the game."

"We played better than in our previous game, which is encouraging," ULS head coach Laura Owczarski said.

Sophomore Meredith Chicklas (assisted by LaValley and Carron), Carron (assisted by Rabadoux), LaValley (assisted by Zemenick), and Zemenick (assisted by freshman Lauren Walsh and senior Ashley Allemon) tallied in the first period for the

Amy Frazier and Steve Herdoiza, who have a combined 14 titles between them, will return to defend their championship.

Also returning are 2004 finalists Diana Ospina and Steve Campbell. Ospina will be looking for her fifth finals appearance. Campbell was also in the 2001 final with Grosse Pointer Susan Mascarin Keane.

Armand Molina, who teamed with Frazier to win the championship in 1990 and was on the winning

team with Carrie Cunningham in 1991 and 1992, returns to the tournament with Cranbrook Kingswood high school standout Shannon Matthews.

The opening rounds begin at 10 a.m. Saturday. Semifinal matches are slated for 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday.

For information on tickets and specific match times, call the Hunt Club tennis house at (313) 882-4100.

ULS boys fit to be tied, 2-2 with Dakota

By Bob St. John
Sports Writer

University Liggett School's boys hockey team came back from an 11-day layoff to play a 2-2 tie with visiting Macomb Dakota last week.

The tie might have been a gift as junior goalkeeper Alex Brooks made several key saves that surely would have been Cougar goals.

"We played a very strong game against a big, Division I school and had our chances to win it," head coach Terry Olson said. "We played disciplined hockey, which we had to do in order to beat Dakota."

The teams played a scoreless opening period, but at the 10:56 mark of the second period freshman Drew Amato scored a powerplay goal to give ULS a 1-0 lead, assisted by junior Ryan Deane.

Less than two minutes later, Dakota countered with a powerplay goal, tying the game 1-1.

The Knights had a two-man advantage for 40 seconds late in the second stanza but couldn't crack the Cougar defense.

Junior Mike Lukas tallied (assisted by Amato and junior Greg Jones) in the first 90 seconds of the third period to give the home team another one goal lead, 2-1, but once again the Cougars tied the game within two minutes.

Olson's squad was behind the eight-ball twice in the latter stages of the game as Dakota had a powerplay at the 6:27 mark and another at the 2:20 mark, but the Knights' penalty kill unit

and Brooks came up huge to keep the game a 2-2 draw.

Senior Adam Rock had a chance to win the game for the Knights in the latter stages of the third period, but Dakota goalkeeper Mike Stoll came up with the saves.

Last weekend, ULS hosted Lincoln Park, losing 7-3. "It was a 3-3 game after two periods, but we gave up four goals in the final period," Olson said.

"It's a tough loss, but I think our kids played well enough to win. However, we took too many penalties, and that will not get us victories."

Senior Ryan League (assisted by junior Pat Latcham and senior Alex Amicucci) and senior Adam Rock (assisted by Amicucci and sophomore Mike Burchi) scored first-period goals for the Knights.

Zukas scored in the second period with sophomore Mike Thomas drawing an assist.

The goal gave the home team a 3-2 lead, but Lincoln Park tied it with a tally late in the second stanza.

It was all Lincoln Park in the third period as it scored goals (the final goal was into an empty net).

"Lincoln Park was 4-for-10 on the powerplay, and that is not acceptable," Olson said.

"I told the guys they have to play disciplined hockey to win games. Despite the loss, this group is learning how to play some fundamentally sound hockey."

The University Liggett School boys hockey team is 3-1-1 overall.

Red Barons freshmen teams each get wins

The Grosse Pointe Red Barons two freshman teams picked up victories in the East Suburban Football League.

The North freshman beat Warren 26-13 for their second straight victory.

Quarterback Jack Stander threw a 12-yard touchdown pass to Robert Smith, and ran for three more scores, including a 50-yard run for the winning touchdown.

The South freshmen rang up their sixth straight victory with a 21-7 win over Mount Clemens.

Nate Gaggin, Jack Doyle and Liam McIlroy each forced a fumble and had an interception.

Daniel Baird caught two passes from Gaggin and scored two touchdowns. Doyle scored two extra points and a touchdown.

Josh Gall had two outstanding runs from scrimmage and provided a solid ground game between the tackles. Gall was also valuable on defense with two touchdown-saving tackles.

Despite solid coverage by the Red Barons' Michael Seago, Warren scored in the first quarter on a 75-yard touchdown pass as the much taller Warren receiver made

an outstanding play in the Jets' 20-0 victory.

Warren also scored on a 15-yard play, but for most of the game, the Barons defense shut down the Jets.

Grosse Pointe made several tackles for losses, and had fumble recoveries by Lawrence McCarter, Davante Morris and Andrew Achille.

South varsity

The Red Barons lost a 42-38 thriller to Mount Clemens in a game that featured three touchdowns in the final minute.

Barons quarterback Patrick Kennedy connected with Charles Getz for two scores, while Alex Koski ran for a 13-yard touchdown. Getz also had an 80-yard kickoff return for a touchdown.

North junior varsity
The Red Barons beat Warren 22-6.

South junior varsity
The Red Barons did all the scoring they needed in the first 30 seconds of the 7-0 victory over Mount Clemens.

On the first play from scrimmage, Jon Parker intercepted a pass and returned it 45 yards for a touchdown. Ben Fry added the extra point on a tough run up the middle.

Grosse Pointe News online

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now and forever. Oh
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pray for us. Worker of
miracles, pray for us.
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hopeless, pray for us.
Say this prayer 9 times
a day. By the 8th day,
your prayer will be
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been known to fail,
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E-2

Thursday 12-08-05

DIRECTIONS:

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3 x 3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats.

E-1 SOLUTION 12-01-05

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1 "Humbug!"
4 Rascally sort
9 Confucian concept
12 Parisian pal
13 Pentateuch
14 Hostel
15 Start of a patriotic song
17 Catch sight of
18 Suitcase
19 Nudges
21 Long, loose overcoat
24 Cruise the 'Net
25 Tier
26 Fa's neighbor
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31 Merriment
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35 Siamese
36 Vote into office
38 Warsaw's land (Abbr.)
40 Sprite
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43 Straightforward
45 Bar
47 Ostrich's cousin
48 Literary collection
49 Words after
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54 Heavy weight
55 Schroeder's prop
56 Have bills
57 Conclude
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59 Speck
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10 From the top
11 Individuals
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20 Very dry, as in champagne
21 Impulse
2 Grant or Irving
3 Here (Lat.)
4 Dolts, jocularly
5 Rein
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32 Reverberate
34 Cough-syrup ingredient
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MOVING SALE
FRIDAY, DEC. 9th and SATURDAY, DEC. 10th
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
45 BEVERLY, GROSSE POINTE FARMS
(Corner of Beverly and Grosse Pointe Blvd.)
This home features new and antique furniture including Baker oval dining table w/ 6 chairs, gray upholstered sectional, Henredon occasional chair, wicker 4 drawer cabinet, pair of Widdicomb demi-lune cabinets, wicker etagere, mahogany coffee and end tables, pr. of uph. wing back chairs, mahogany desk, and more.
Decorative items include crystal, fine and costume jewelry, many framed paintings and prints, silver plate, tons of books, Hall Autumn Leaf, lots of older and newer knickknacks and more.
STREET NUMBERS HONORED AT 8:30 A.M. FRIDAY ONLY. Our numbers available 8:30 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. FRIDAY ONLY.
stefekestatesales.com

**307 SITUATIONS WANTED
NURSES AIDES**

CERTIFIED nursing assistant available. Short visits, or 24 hour care. Dependable. (313)372-4846, (313)526-1947.

COMPASSIONATE & experienced male caregiver, references. (313)475-3759

**310 SITUATIONS WANTED
ASSISTED LIVING**

COMPANION, helper, driver; for appointments, shopping, light housekeeping, laundry, meals. Experienced. (586)774-8076

THE "At-Home Caregivers" provides in home care with professional, dependable, care for your loved ones. We are insured and bonded and also provide 24 hours/ 7 days a week care. Please call today for a free assessment at 586-774-8490. You may also visit us at www.at-homecaregivers.com "The home is where the heart is!!!"

312 ORGANIZING

IN Perfect Order- Overwhelmed with "stuff"? Declutter now and get organized. Reasonable rates. (313)885-7393, (586)791-9290

MERCHANDISE

400 ANTIQUES / COLLECTIBLES

25 antique carousel horses from amusement parks & Boblo Island. (586)751-8078

3 antique bedspreads, beautiful and new. (586)978-1574.

406 ESTATE SALES

400 ANTIQUES / COLLECTIBLES

MADAME Alexander dolls; foreign countries. Excellent condition, many in boxes. (313)882-8188

RECHERCHE
506 South Washington Royal Oak
Monday- Saturday 11am-5:30pm
Sunday 12-4pm
(Located in Downtown Royal Oak)
We offer the finest collection of traditional Mahogany Furniture, in the Metro area;
New Shipment Arrived,
including Baker, Kindel, Johnson-Handley Kittinger.
**1/2 off dining rooms thru the Holidays!
(248)399-0996

404 BICYCLES
BICYCLE, magnificent burgundy 10 speed for Christmas 1300 ST on a 23" frame. \$85.00. 313-882-6503

406 ESTATE SALES

BOOKS WANTED
John King
313-961-0622
Clip & Save This Ad

DEL GIUDICE ANTIQUES
We make house calls!

MEMBER OF ISA
WE ARE ALSO LOOKING TO PURCHASE: Fine China, Crystal, Silver, Oil Paintings, Furniture, Costume & Fine Jewelry.
YOU'VE SEEN THE ROAD SHOW
If You Have Unusual Items That You Feel Would Appeal To
A WORLD WIDE INTERNET AUDIENCE
We will Research, Photo And Sell Your Item For You Through The Internet
Please Call For More Information
VISIT OUR GALLERY LOCATED IN THE OLD CHURCH AT:
515 S. Lafayette Royal Oak
Monday-Saturday 11-6
248-399-2608

406 ESTATE SALES

Wanted Vintage Clothes And Accessories Paying Top Dollar For The Following: Clothes From The 1900's Through 1970's.
•Costume •Fine Jewelry/Watches
•Cufflinks •Furs •Hats •Handbags •Shoes
•Lingerie •Linen •Textiles
•Vanity •Boudoir Items
References, Complete Confidentiality
"Paris" 248-866-4389

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•Costume •Fine Jewelry/Watches
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•Lingerie •Linen •Textiles
•Vanity •Boudoir Items
References, Complete Confidentiality
"Paris" 248-866-4389

406 ESTATE SALES

401 APPLIANCES

WASHER and dryer, stackable. Kenmore, white, largest capacity. Gently used, reasonable. (586)838-8565

WASHER/ dryer- GE electric white, stackable #WSM2420DWW. 1 year old; \$600/ best. 313-909-3848

404 BICYCLES

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406 ESTATE SALES

BOOKS WANTED
John King
313-961-0622
Clip & Save This Ad

MULTIPLE estate sale- Metropolitan United Methodist Church, 8000 Woodward Avenue. December 10, 9:30am-3:00pm. Secure parking.

407 FIREWOOD

ALL seasoned hardwoods, \$85/ face cord delivered. (586)463-3363

408 FURNITURE

1860'S Oak Trestle table 53x 30, with fitted glass top, 2 benches to match, also from 1860. Dark wood. \$450/ best. (313)640-7703

WE ACCEPT

VISA MasterCard
FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

411 JEWELRY

MAURICE Goldman Fine & Estate Jewelry, since 1910. Akcya. South Sea, Tahitian cultured Pearl Jewelry. Diamond, emerald, ruby, sapphire, jade-ite jewelry. www.mauricegoldmanandsons.com 1-800-847-8878. Wholesale to the public!

412 MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES

AREA rug- 100% wool hand knotted, 9x 12. Slate/ blue. (313)886-6708

413 MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

1942 Beckwith Artist piano, bench included. Recently tuned, \$250. (586)772-1814

413 MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

1942 Beckwith Artist piano, bench included. Recently tuned, \$250. (586)772-1814

413 MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

PIANO, black baby grand. Fully reconditioned. Tuned, clean. Excellent condition! \$4,200. 313-881-1552

413 MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

WANTED- Guitars, Banjos, Mandolins and Ukels. Local collector paying top cash! 313-886-4522.

408 FURNITURE

BEAUTIFUL upholstered chair, flower design, \$200. Matching couch also available. (313)881-0490

DINING table-glass with beveled edge, brass trim, 4 red leather style chairs, pad included. Excellent condition. \$400. 313-350-0281

ENTERTAINMENT center, Ethan Allen, perfect condition. Solid plank cherry, Autumn Harvest finish. 62 1/2" wide, x 22" deep x 44 1/2" high. Holds 32" T.V. Paid \$2,000. Will sell for \$1,000. (313)886-8332

ENTERTAINMENT center/ armoire- cherry finish, slide in doors, fits 36" TV, room for radio components. 36" flat screen TV, free with purchase. 313-410-9289

KINDEL 18th century reproduction dining room. Magnificent 84 pane hand glazed, hand carved china cabinet. Book match crotch mahogany double pedestal table. 2 arm chairs. Pristine condition. For the most discriminating taste. On-line photos available. 248-882-0059

411 JEWELRY

MAURICE Goldman Fine & Estate Jewelry, since 1910. Akcya. South Sea, Tahitian cultured Pearl Jewelry. Diamond, emerald, ruby, sapphire, jade-ite jewelry. www.mauricegoldmanandsons.com 1-800-847-8878. Wholesale to the public!

412 MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES

AREA rug- 100% wool hand knotted, 9x 12. Slate/ blue. (313)886-6708

413 MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

DOUGLAS Fir, 7 1/2 ft. Christmas tree. Used once. \$40. (313)886-6463

G.E. gas stove \$200; G.E. refrigerator with ice/ water in door \$250; Magic Chef microwave \$75; maple dining set, china cabinet, oval table, 6 chairs \$500; Conover sofa, floral \$100; 2 chairs, 1 recliner, \$25 each. (313)885-7850

413 MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

HEARTH-MATE wood-burning cast iron fireplace stove. Includes fire brick, pipes. \$300. (313)331-7531

413 MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

1942 Beckwith Artist piano, bench included. Recently tuned, \$250. (586)772-1814

413 MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

PIANO, black baby grand. Fully reconditioned. Tuned, clean. Excellent condition! \$4,200. 313-881-1552

413 MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

WANTED- Guitars, Banjos, Mandolins and Ukels. Local collector paying top cash! 313-886-4522.

413 MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

WANTED: musical instruments of all kinds, guitars, saxophones, synthesizers, band instruments, studio buy outs, banjos, mandolins. Cash paid. Will pick up! (248)842-6869

415 WANTED TO BUY

FINE china dinnerware, sterling silver flatware and antiques. Call Jan/ Herb. (586)731-8139

ANIMALS

500 ANIMAL ADOPT A PET

GROSSE Pointe Animal Adoption Society- Pet adoption. Saturday, December 10, 12-3pm. Children's Home of Detroit, 900 Cook Road, Grosse Pointe Woods. 313-884-1551. GPAAS.org

GROSSE Pointe Animal Clinic: female mix breed sweet dog, about 30 pounds. Male Shepherd mix. Male Husky. Female black/ white kitten. (313)822-5707

MINIATURE Pinschers- Foster homes and adoptive homes needed for rescued miniature Pinschers. Please contact Cindy at 313-570-1085 or website www.minipinrescue.org for volunteer application.

503 HOUSEHOLD PETS FOR SALE

AKC Golden Retriever puppies, parents have all OFA clearances, champion bloodlines, (248)969-0054

AKC Labs, black and yellow. \$400- \$450. Ready for Christmas. 586-933-7096

AKC Weimaraner puppies will be born December 14th. Asking \$800. Accepting deposits. (231)937-4923

LAB puppies. Excellent pedigree, \$450, deposits 12/ 12. Ready 12/ 23. (313)884-1278

505 LOST AND FOUND

FOUND 9/ Harper area-medium yellow dog, friendly. (313)884-1551

GROSSE Pointe Animal Clinic: male Retriever mix. Male orange cat. 2 male Beagles. Female Rottweiler Male black/ white rabbit found in Grosse Pointe Woods. (313)822-5707

507 PET EQUIPMENT

60 gallon fish tank, custom wood cabinet, some accessories. \$350. (313)521-7712, (313)407-1899

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601 AUTOMOTIVE CHRYSLER

1996 Chrysler Sebring, convertible, red, 135,000 miles. \$2,200/ offer. 313-822-9424/ home, 313-393-7599/ work

602 AUTOMOTIVE FORD

1998 Ford Escort LX- newer tires and brakes. No rust. \$2,000. (586)773-8150

603 AUTOMOTIVE GENERAL MOTORS

2000 Buick Lesabre, custom. Loaded, extra clean, low mileage. \$8,300. (586)228-0790

1999 Buick Century. Loaded, 19,000 actual miles. This car is like new! \$6,500. (586)779-1041

2004 Chevy Impala LS, maroon, full power, leather bucket seats, 36,000 miles. \$14,950. Call (313)882-7773

1999 Chevy Cavalier, low mileage- 33K, air conditioning, power steering and brakes. \$4,400/ best. (313)962-1500

1993 Chevy Cavalier convertible, black, 132,000 miles, auto, new top, body in great shape. Call 313-642-0693 with best offer.

1992 Chevy Caprice Stationwagon, excellent condition, tinted windows, 350- runs great. (313)363-3427

2003 Saturn Ion. Warranty! Impeccably maintained. Loaded, moon roof, spoiler, reasonable. (586)838-8565

AKC Golden Retriever puppies, parents have all OFA clearances, champion bloodlines, (248)969-0054

AKC Labs, black and yellow. \$400- \$450. Ready for Christmas. 586-933-7096

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LAB puppies. Excellent pedigree, \$450, deposits 12/ 12. Ready 12/ 23. (313)884-1278

605 AUTOMOTIVE FOREIGN

2001 Honda Accord- White. 54,000 miles. Sunroof, new tires, 6 CD changer. \$13,500. (586)530-9039

1997 Land Rover Discovery SE7. \$8,700/ best. (586)350-6044

2002 Lexus ES300, black/ camel, moonroof, navigation, chrome wheels, perfect condition, 36K miles. \$22,400. (313)882-3720

1998 Lexus LS 400. Loaded, black, must sell. Good condition. \$8,800/ best. (586)575-1398

2000 Nissan Altima- Good condition. Florida car. Must sell. \$6,400. 586-215-3152. 586-778-3819

1989 Nissan Sentra, 2 door, 5 speed, air, new brakes, muffler, oil change, excellent condition. \$995/ best. (313)443-5558

1999 Subaru Forester. Great condition! Had all scheduled maintenance. New tires, \$5,400/ best offer. (313)882-2598

1997 Toyota Camry LXE- loaded, great condition. 95,000 miles. \$5,500. (313)822-7666, after 6pm.

1990 Volvo 740 GLE 16 valve wagon, 169K miles. \$1,800. (313)884-8571

606 AUTOMOTIVE SPORT UTILITY

2003 Yukon XL, white, all options, 16K miles. \$29,000. (313)882-2448

611 AUTOMOTIVE TRUCKS

1995 Ford F150 XLT. 4WD. Extended cab truck. Light blue/ white with a top. Excellent condition. Clean. 145K. \$3,900/ best. (313)477-3560

612 AUTOMOTIVE VANS

1996 Caravan LE, loaded. 3.3L, original NV car. 79K miles. \$4,200. (313)823-8538

1999 Chrysler Town and Country, red. Good condition, 82K. \$6,200. 313-885-5878

1996 Chrysler Town & Country Touring for sale. Needs transmission. Body in good condition. Best offer. Call (586)552-4422, after 5pm, ask for Michele.

2000 Dodge Grand Caravan SE; loaded, like new condition, 68K, new brakes. \$7,100. 586-212-0995.

<

700 APTS./FLATS/DUPLEX
POINTES/HARPER WOODS

596 Notre Dame- completely renovated 1 bedroom lower unit. Walking distance to the Village! New kitchen, bath, carpeting, roof, windows, garage and dishwasher. Stove and refrigerator provided. New furnace, window air conditioning unit provided. Separate basement storage. No pets. \$900. Shown by appointment. New Clam Investment. (313)884-6861

639 Neff, 1 bedroom upper, furnished, close to Village. \$650/month. Utilities included. (313)884-0840

908 Nottingham, 2 bedroom, appliances, off-street parking, \$675. (313)617-8663

942 Beaconsfield, two bedroom lower, freshly painted, separate basement, parking, \$620. (313)886-0181

AFFORDABLE townhouse rentals in Grosse Pointe Woods. 2 or 3 bedroom. Clean, well maintained, central air, cable ready. No pets. \$825- \$1,050. Call for appointment, (248)848-1150

ATTRACTIVE 2 bedroom lower. Hardwood floors, private patio, fireplace, all appliances, formal dining room. \$1,000. 313-570-9799, 313-882-9686

BEACONSFIELD 895, south of Jefferson, upper 2 bedroom, completely remodeled, new kitchen. Heat & water included. \$675/month. No pets. (248)370-8865

BEACONSFIELD- beautifully remodeled 2 bedroom, \$750. Maryland- clean 2 bedroom townhouse with central air, \$700. Call Tom for details. (313)717-6463

BEAUTIFUL 2 bedroom carriage apartment on secluded street near lake and park. \$1,000/month. For appointment: fax resume to 313-886-3365

CARRIAGE house on Lakeshore: 7 rooms, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, garage, appliances included. \$1,200/month. (313)884-2814

CARRIAGE house- new bath, updated kitchen, ideal for 1 person. Private entrance, non-smoking/pets. (313)886-8546

CHARMING 2 bedroom upper. All appliances included. Fireplace, private patio, office space, formal dining room. \$1,000. 313-570-9799, 313-882-9686

DUPLEX, 19119 Roscommon, 2 bedroom, basement, yard. \$650/ deposit. 586-791-2534.

GROSSE Pointe Park, Nottingham, upper, 2 bedroom apartment. \$595/ month plus utilities, 586-739-7283

GROSSE Pointe. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Many updates. \$790/ includes heat. (586)292-0007

HARCOURT- duplex, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Large family room. All appliances. \$1,150/ month. (313)822-8186

HARCOURT: upper and lower, each 2 bedrooms, new kitchens, and air. (313)821-8411

HARPER Woods- 2 bedroom duplex, basement, fenced yard, close to schools, section 8 ok. \$700/month. Rent or rent to own. (586)293-8185

LAKEPOINTE, spotless 5 room, 1 bedroom, appliances, quiet building, no pets. \$650. (313)882-0340

MARYLAND. 1 bedroom, heat included, washer/ dryer access. \$575. (313)550-3713

700 APTS./FLATS/DUPLEX
POINTES/HARPER WOODS

NEFF, charming duplex, walking distance from The Village. A must see, natural fireplace, all the amenities. \$1,000. (586)909-0956

NEFF, near Village, 2 & 3 bedrooms, hardwood floors, fireplace, new carpets, \$950 & \$1,000. 313-640-8991

RENOVATED 2 bedroom upper. Private parking. No pets. Security, references. \$700. (313)822-5534, (313)492-5333

ROSLYN/ Mack, 2 bedroom bungalow, appliances, dishwasher, family room, \$850. (313)886-1924

SPACIOUS 2 bedroom lower. Sun room, hardwood, appliances, private drive, full basement. Well maintained. \$750. (586)246-1373 (586)294-5731.

ST. Clair Street- upper flat, one bedroom, large living room, central air, laundry facility, 1 car garage. \$795, includes gas, electric and water utilities. Non-smoking. (313)590-1947, after 5pm.

TROMBLEY, Spacious 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, family room with fireplace, basement, garage, central air. \$1,200 plus security. (313)331-0903

701 APTS./FLATS/DUPLEX
DETROIT/WAYNE COUNTY

2 bedroom and 3 bedroom available on quiet dead end streets, off of Cadieux. Section 8 ok. 313-530-1313.

2 bedroom apartment, Whittier- Balfour, heat included, \$600/month. Section 8 acceptable. (586)445-3070

2 bedroom upper, Devonshire Street. Deposit and garage space. (586)792-3215

2 bedroom, East English Village. Upper. Hardwood floors. Appliances. Driveway. \$650. (313)883-4442

236 Alter Road. 1 bedroom upper, living room, kitchen, bath, basement, washer, dryer. \$499/ month. Available immediately, 1 1/2 month security, (313)823-4649

4366 Chatsworth- 2 bedroom upper flat. \$500. Shown by appointment. Jimco Properties, (313)884-6861

5050 Three Mile Drive (East Warren/ Outer Drive)- 2 bedroom lower. \$600/ security. 586-296-0887.

5519 Guilford (Cadieux/ Chandler Park)- 1 bedroom upper. \$425/ heat included, plus security. (586)296-0887

ALTER/ Charlevoix- 1 bedroom. \$400 includes heat, appliances, laundry. Available now. (313)885-0031

BEDFORD, 3 bedroom lower, near Mack. \$710/ month, plus security deposit, no pets. (313)885-4236

CADIEUX/ Mack, 1 bedroom, includes heat. New floors, laundry. \$420- \$500. (313)882-4132

Chalfonte Apartments
East Jefferson at Fischer, near Indian Village
2 & 3 bedroom units. Approximately 1,200 sq. ft. Starting at \$750. Some utilities included! Show by appointment 313-821-1447

DUPLEX- Cadieux/ Warren- nice 2 bedroom on great street. \$650 plus utilities. (313)881-1811

DUPLEX- 2 bedroom, central air, basement, 22110 Moross. \$795. Section 8 OK. (313)343-0622.

EVANSTON- 2 bedroom upper flat, water included. \$0 security, \$575 rent. 313-475-8853

701 APTS./FLATS/DUPLEX
DETROIT/WAYNE COUNTY

EAST English Village- clean, quiet, secure, 2 bedroom upper flat. 5041 Bishop. Use of laundry. Water paid. Prefer one person. \$600 plus security. (313)510-4470

HISTORIC West Village- 1 bedroom, \$470. Free heat/ cooking gas. Appliances, hardwoods. (313)300-0253, (313)571-2583

MUST see 1 to 3 bedroom flats in Alter/ Jefferson area. Hardwood floors, off street parking. Starting at \$500/ month. 313-331-6180

NICE 2 bedroom, lower unit. Cadieux/ Mack area. Available now. \$700/ month, includes utilities 313-640-1844

NOTTINGHAM/ Warren, upper. Freshly decorated, new carpet. \$550, includes water. (313)881-0892

OUTSTANDING spacious 2 bedroom. New carpet, appliances. Garage, \$780 includes heat! (313)886-1924

POINTE Manor Apartment. 1060 Alter/ Jefferson. 2 bedroom, \$500. All utilities. 313-331-6971 or cell 586-292-3189

PREMIER penthouse- downtown loft for lease. Bi-level with two exterior decks. Beautiful views of downtown and Detroit River. \$1,900/ month. (313)884-7000

702 APTS./FLATS/DUPLEX
S.C.S./MACOMB COUNTY

2 bedroom apartment, for rent. Good view. Living room, dining room. (586)771-4575

CLEAN, large 1 bedroom. New carpet/ appliances. Free heat. \$499/ month. First month free. Leave message. (313)884-2141

SPACIOUS 1 bedroom, heat/ water included. On site laundry. Newly painted, carpeted. \$515/ month. Bob (313)824-2010

ST. CLAIR SHORES HARPER WOODS EASTPOINTE
1 & 2 bedrooms available.
\$550-\$595/ month
No smoking/ pets.
The Blake Company
(313)881-6882

ST. Clair Shores, 2 bedroom colonial duplex. 1 1/2 baths, central air, garage, tiled basement. No pets. \$875. 586-725-5923

705 HOUSES FOR RENT
POINTES/HARPER WOODS

\$1,300, Farms 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath, air, near school, shopping, appliances. 313-884-1128

2 bedroom cozy, clean, air, appliances, garage, beautifully landscaped yard, \$1,000. 313-884-1128

2025 Stanhope- 3 bedrooms. Air conditioning, finished basement. Grosse Pointe schools. \$1,250/ month. (313)343-0622

414 Neff. Four bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Air conditioned, two car garage. \$1,400. (313)884-6451

873 Loraine- 4 bedroom, 1 bath bungalow. Approximately 1,100 sq. ft. Freshly painted, newer Berber carpeting, 2 car garage. No pets. \$1,200. Available January 1st. Shown by appointment. Jim Saros Agency (313)884-6861

CAPE Cod home, Grosse Pointe Park. 3/ 4 bedrooms. All appliances, including washer/ dryer. 2 full baths. Air. Finished basement. 2 car garage. \$1,000, plus utilities. 313-492-4569

CARRIAGE house. Gorgeous 2 bedroom, Lakeshore, furnished or not. All amenities. \$1,500. 313-884-2087

HARCOURT- 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 baths. Living room, dining room. \$1,400. 313-884-0501

705 HOUSES FOR RENT
POINTES/HARPER WOODS

GROSSE Pointe Farms, 3 bedroom bungalow on Muir, fireplace, garage. \$1,000. (313)884-0501

GROSSE Pointe schools, 3 bedroom bungalow, excellent condition, \$1,175. (586)776-2444, leave message.

GROSSE Pointe Woods, 4 bedroom executive colonial, 2 1/2 baths, 2,700 sq. ft. Marble foyer with circular staircase. \$2,500/ month. 313-886-0478

GROSSE Pointe Woods, large 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath bungalow, family room, \$1,150. Kathy Lenz, Johnstone & Johnstone, 313-813-5802

GROSSE Pointe Woods, St. John Hospital area. 3 bedroom colonial with family room. \$1,200 per month. (313)884-7000

GROSSE Pointe Woods- spacious 4 bedroom on Crescent Lane. 2 1/2 baths, finished basement with wet bar, air, fireplace, all appliances, including washer and dryer. 2 car garage, close to Grosse Pointe schools and privileges to Woods water park. \$2,400, plus utilities. 313-363-4136

HARPER Woods, 2 bedroom bungalow. \$700/ month. Work. 586-776-2060, evenings, 734-587-2077

HARPER Woods, 3 bedroom, gorgeous- brick ranch, 2 bath, finished basement, 2 garage, appliances. Woodcrest, \$1045. (586)779-0842

HARPER Woods, Kenmore. 3 bedroom bungalow, freshly painted, new kitchen, \$1,200/ month. (313)882-7967

LAKEPOINTE- classic English Tudor home, short walk to Windmill Pointe Park/ Trombly school. 6 months plus lease available. \$2,750/ month. (248)936-5504.

LARGE 2- 3 bedroom, \$970. Month to month lease available. Harcourt. (313)550-8607

PEMBERTON- lovely tudor, 3- 4 bedrooms, newer gourmet kitchen, formal dining room, family room, finished basement, 2 car garage, walk up attic, all appliances. \$1,950/ month. (313)443-9968

RENT or lease with option to buy. Immaculate Grosse Pointe City colonial. 2,500 sq. ft. beauty, 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Large kitchen, new hardwood floors and carpet, finished basement, 2 fireplaces, attached 2 car garage, deep lot. Alarm, air conditioning storage, much, much more. Great location. This will go quick. \$2,500. (586)215-1362

706 HOUSES FOR RENT
DETROIT/WAYNE COUNTY

1925 Westphalia- 3 bedroom brick colonial, living room with fireplace, dining room, partially finished basement. \$800. Shown by appointment, Jimco Properties. (313)884-6861

2 bedroom near St. John, \$650 plus utilities, 1 1/2 months security, credit check, no pets. (248)891-6519

3 bedrooms- Cadieux/ Mack, 1 1/2 baths, new floors, garage, \$750- \$850. 2 bedroom, \$575- \$625. (313)882-4132

7- Mack; small, clean 1 bedroom house. \$525/ month. (313)885-7492, (248)608-0148.

7/ Mack. Charming 4 bedroom brick, 2 bath, 2 car garage, \$750/ month. Available December 15th (313)640-1850

CHALMERS/ south of Jefferson- 5 bedrooms, Very clean. \$900. (313)822-4514

706 HOUSES FOR RENT
DETROIT/WAYNE COUNTY

EAST Warren/ Mack, 4975 Anatole- 3 bedroom, basement, appliances. \$650/ month plus security. (313)882-8390

EAST Warren/ Mack- cute 2 bedroom, large yard, \$600/ month plus security. Immediate occupancy. (313)882-8390

GUILFORD- clean 3 bedroom home, freshly painted, \$600/ month. (586)321-2828

HARPER/ I-94, large 3 bedroom, finished basement. Immediate occupancy. \$650/ month plus security. Section 8 ok. (313)882-8390

707 HOUSES FOR RENT/
S.C.S./MACOMB COUNTY

3 bedroom, Shores. Fully remodeled, includes, new kitchen, paint, carpet. Finished basement. Available now. \$1,150/ month. 313-640-1844

SMALL 2 bedroom house, large fenced yard, washer/ dryer included. Reduced \$725/ month. Available now! (313)882-6367

SPACIOUS 1,100 sq. ft. 3 bedroom ranch. Completely remodeled, 2 full baths, finished basement. \$1,100. (313)790-2250

ST. Clair Shores, 3 bedroom, 1 plus bath, finished basement 2 plus garage, central air & appliances, \$1,200/ month plus security. Keller Williams Realty, ask for Joyce, (586)421-1550

ST. Clair Shores- 1,100 sq. ft. 2 bedroom, garage, air. \$895. (586)206-6145

709 TOWNHOUSES/
CONDOS FOR RENT

1927 Ridgmont- St. Clair Shores. 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath first floor condo. All appliances and heat included. Credit report and employment necessary. \$750/ month. Call Tappan & Associates, (313)884-6200

GREAT location! 2 bedroom condo, Grosse Pointe Village area, \$975/ month. (313)378-8978

GROSSE Pointe, Village, 3 bedroom townhouse, no pets/ smoking, newly renovated, (313)617-8663

LAKEPOINTE Village, 2 bedroom. New paint/ windows. No pets. \$800/ month. First month \$400. (586)773-2686

LAKEPOINTE Village- 2 bedroom, refurbished. No pets. \$850/ month plus security. 313-729-0108

709 TOWNHOUSES/
CONDOS FOR RENT

LAKEPOINTE Village- 22980 Marter Road. 2 bedroom, new windows, air conditioning & heat, fresh paint, newer kitchen, washer, dryer, window treatments. Move in condition, immediate occupancy. Credit check. \$875/ month. 248-613-9493

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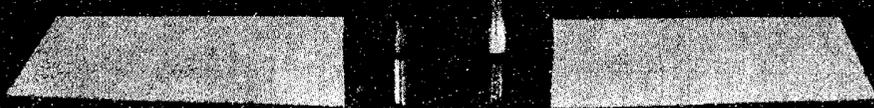
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2005
Holiday
Gift Guide



Finding that picture-perfect Christmas tree

For some, the process of selecting a Christmas tree is akin to an art form. They scout out the ideal tree farm or lot, eye up the selections, and then poke, prod and shake until they've found a winner. Others go strictly by sense of smell: The more potent the piney aroma, the better the tree must be. Still others have no discernible method for choosing a tree other than basing the purchase on cost — if it's a steal, they'll take it.

However you choose your Christmas tree, you may be interested in learning there are actually a few

different species common to farms and lots across the country. By learning about the differences between species, and also some general tree-care tips, you can ensure that this year you'll have the tree that's perfect for you.

Tree Species

Fraser fir is a uniformly pyramid-shaped tree. Strong branches are turned slightly upward, giving the tree a compact appearance. Needles are flattened and dark green with a groove on the upper side and two broad silvery-white bands on the lower surface. The combination

of form, needle retention, dark blue-green color, pleasant scent and excellent shipping characteristics has led to Fraser fir being one of the most popular Christmas-tree species.

The Scotch pine is known for its dark-green foliage and stiff branches, which are well suited for decorating with both light and heavy ornaments. It has excellent needle retention characteristics and holds up well throughout harvest, shipping and display. It is likely the most-used species for Christmas-tree purposes.

As a Christmas tree,

Balsam fir has several desirable properties: a dark-green appearance, long-lasting needles and attractive form. It also retains its pleasant fragrance. Balsams are so fragrant that their needles were once used for stuffing "pine pillows" to act as a natural deodorant.

The Douglas fir has been the major Christmas tree species used in the Pacific Northwest since the 1920s. The needles are dark green or blue-green, are soft to the touch and radiate out in all directions from the branch. They have a sweet fragrance when crushed.

Colorado blue spruce, or blue spruce, is an attractive tree often used for Christmas trees or ornaments. It has a narrow, pyramidal shape and cone-shaped crown. As trees become older, they often take on a more irregular appearance. The tree is very popular thanks to its symmetrical form and attractive blue foliage. Blue spruces are often used as living Christmas trees (bought with root ball intact and planted afterward).

Tree Care

Once cut, there are steps you can take to ensure your tree lasts through the Christmas season.

- Trees, even healthy ones, will have their share of needle loss. However, if the tree is faded, if the bark on branches is wrinkled, or exterior needles fall off at even the most gentle touch, the tree is excessively dry.

- Cut trees will absorb

water more readily from their stand if they are given a fresh cut prior to submerging the trunk. A tree that has not been freshly cut will still absorb water, but at a

ensures the water will last longer between refills. Also, check water levels regularly. There are products on the market that will automatically add



slower rate. A thick, crusty sap forms on the end of the trunk and can hamper water absorption.

water to tree stands in case you forget.

Tree Misconceptions

Many people avoid real Christmas trees because they feel they are "killing" a tree and harming the environment. In fact, Christmas trees are raised on farms and harvested for this specific purpose. For every tree harvested, at least three are planted in its place. Each year there are more trees available than the last. Cut trees can be recycled after the season and impact the environment far less than artificial trees made of non-biodegradable metal and plastic.

Gift cards can help eliminate unwanted gifts

A gift certificate lets your friends and loved ones get exactly what they want for Christmas from their favorite merchants, ensuring that your gift won't end up on the unwanted gift circuit.

Gift certificates are popular with adults and teens. According to the National Retail Federation, nearly three quarters of all consumers purchased a gift certificate in 2004 and more than half said they wanted to receive a gift

certificate during the holidays. A recent study by Stored Value Systems found that gift certificates were the first choice when teens bought gifts for their friends and that nearly two-thirds of teens have purchased a certificate.

The meteoric rise in popularity of gift certificates also means that they are no longer seen as impersonal gifts — in fact, giving a gift that people truly want is the best way to show that you care.

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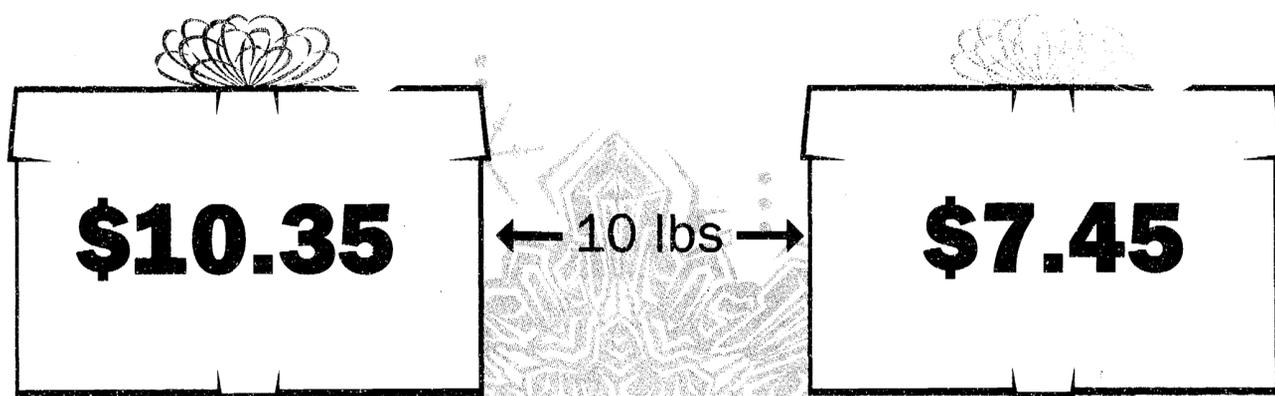
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Be a hit with toy gifts for anyone on your list

It happens every holiday season. You've got a list of kids for whom you need to buy presents, and the experts on TV just keep talking about the same 12 toys over and over again. How do you find something different? How can you be that super aunt, uncle or grandparent who finds a surprise gift that's the hit of the holiday?

Here are ideas for great gifts that are off the beaten path.

Where the boys are

Monkey madness is sweeping the nation this holiday season, so go ahead and feed into that primate love with an unusual and

exciting offering from Hot Wheels. The Gorilla Attack Track Set is an elaborate, gravity-defying amusement park playset that features high-speed racers facing off against a rampaging gorilla's threatening fists and chomping teeth. Kids race around the motorized track, doing their best to avoid the pounding fist of one of the gorilla's hands and shoot the stun gun before the angry ape destroys the park's roller coaster. The gorilla's other hand diverts the cars into his mouth.

For kids who want to create chaos in addition to saving the day, there is a manual override so that

kids can "become" the gorilla and try to knock off the cars. It's more fun than a barrel of ... well, you know.

It may be the holiday season, but don't let that make you forget about Batman Begins, one of the summer's biggest movies. Mattel's action figures and playsets are based on the beloved comic book character and inspired by the blockbuster film. The Batman Begins Gotham City Playset is the perfect centerpiece for any Batman collection. The playset dramatically transforms from the Batmobile into a full playset of Gotham City with tons of play features, including lights, sounds and a working monorail. With the film now out on DVD, this is a great way for the youngster on your list to recreate all the excitement of the movie over and over again.

Older boys are sure to flip for Tyco R/C's new Dropstars assortment of remote-control vehicles. Representing the after-market trend so prevalent in today's car culture, these 1:18-scale models make a perfect gift for the dub-style car guy in your life. Choose from designs such as the Range Rover or Dodge Magnum, each with light-up wheel wells, spinning rims, authentic detailing, and music from some of today's hottest hip-hop artists! Sure to add a little "bling" to the holidays, these vehicles catch the lifestyle car trend with

cool R/C action.

A 'little' something for the girls

When Dean Martin sang, "Baby, It's Cold Outside," he may well have been talking about America's favorite mini-doll, Polly Pocket, especially this year, as Polly hits the slopes with her Snow Cool Hotel and Playset Assortment. Polly's "coolest" new hotel looks like a magical winter castle but opens to reveal the ultimate winter adventure destination, complete with a working ski lift and ski slope to race down. Grab dinner on the balcony, and then it's time for Polly to hit the ice-skating rink, where a magnetic feature allows her to actually dance on the ice! Last but not least, hit the hot tub to chill. There's so much to do for hours of winter getaway play.

Polly's friends also join her on vacation with two winter-themed playsets.

The entire crew can stock up on skis, snowboards or winter fashions at the Snow Cool Ski Shop with Drew, one of Polly's newest friends. It even has a cash register to ring up the fun mini goods. Or if everyone wants to see the sights, they can bundle up and catch a ride with Lila thanks to the Snow Cool Sleigh Day playset.

Older girls will love the

newest phenomenon to hit the doll aisle. Teen Trends.

From Mattel, the makers of Barbie and American Girl, comes this



line of poseable 17-inch fashion dolls — each with a different personality and style. Choose from Gabby (the feminine "girly-girl"), Kianna (the "rocker girl" with pink hair gel), Deondra (the "glam girl" with a velour sweat suit), or Courtney (the "preppy girl" with casual fashions). These dolls have long, beautiful hair that holds sassy styles. And, like the real fashion magazines that girls love to read, each doll also comes with her own personalized Look

Book! Teen Trends. These are the "It Girls" for fashion, hair and style.

Game time

Winter months mean more time inside. And what better way to spend that time than by bonding with family and friends while playing a game?

The makers of America's No. 1 family game have a new take on an old favorite.

UNO Attack is a frenzied, unpredictable version of the popular UNO card game that adds speed and surprise to the classic game.

Players push the button on the Card Launcher and, if they are lucky, nothing will happen.

If they're not, the Card Launcher will fire a stream of cards at the player. UNO Attack comes with 112 UNO Attack cards, including special command cards such as "Trade Hands," "Discard All," "All Hit," "Hit Fire," and "Hit 2," along with a motorized Card Launcher.

For other great game ideas, visit the Web site mattelgamefinder.com.

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Have a very 'Harry Potter' Holiday

This holiday season, fans can test their Harry Potter knowledge with a magical new game that is sure to top many wish lists.

A spellbinding game that's fun for the whole family, the Scene It? Harry Potter Edition DVD game features movie clips, puzzles and questions,

inspired by the first three Harry Potter films, plus select content from the fourth film, "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire."

How much do you really know about Quidditch or Hogwarts? You may find out as you race your family and friends around the game board.

The game contains a game board, metal tokens, question cards and dice, plus a DVD featuring more than 180 images from the movies. To play a demo of the game, visit the Web site harrypotter.com.

Wizards-in-training may enjoy a new game based on the Harry Potter movies.

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Quick and easy ideas for holiday entertaining

Blame it on the cocooning and hiving trends or the influx of decorating shows and shelter books, but one thing is clear — people are opening their doors more than ever to friends and family and expressing their creativity through home entertainment. And with home entertaining peaking between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve, home entertainers are already feeling the pressure to execute the perfect party.

"The holidays alone are stressful enough and I know people fret over trying to throw the perfect party, but it doesn't have to be difficult," said Robert Zollweg, creative director for Libbey Inc. "Before your party, take inventory of your house and you'll find that you probably have everything you need to make a lasting impression on your guests."

According to Zollweg, everyday items around your house, like plates and wine glasses, can be turned

into conversation pieces. "Whether you're looking to throw an elaborate cocktail party with tapas and worldly cocktails or an impromptu potluck game night, simple touches can give any soiree a personal and festive feel."

For your next party, try one of these entertaining tips from Libbey:

Place settings

- Recycle old Christmas cards and use the cover as a place card setting. Place cards encourage mingling among people who might not chat otherwise. Recycled cards also make great invitations.

- An apple or pinecone with a small slit in the top make perfect cardholders. Or if you're having a game night, spell out guests' names with Scrabble tiles.

- Make cookies in the shape of holiday items. Write guests' names with icing, setting one at each place setting.

- Dress up place settings by stacking dinner and

salad plates. Tie them together with a decorative ribbon.

Centerpieces

- For a last-minute centerpiece, take a mirror (try one with an ornate border) and place it on the table. Place simple glass votive candles on top. Out of votives? Cupcake foils can be used as disposable votives.

- Place seasonal fruit in a glass bowl or shoeboxes wrapped with white paper. Or fill it with ornaments or cookies.

- For a simple arrangement that makes a statement, partially fill a shallow glass bowl with water and add fresh or frozen cranberries. Then, place a cylinder-shaped vase or tumbler filling it with seasonal white flowers in the center of the berries. Float tea lights around the vase. Finish with holiday greenery if desired.

Fun with glasses

- Create custom glass-

ware by painting a simple pattern onto a plain wine glass, using egg whites and a small paintbrush — immediately sprinkle fine sugar over the egg white pattern.

- Fill drinking glasses — stemless wine glasses work great — with decorative stones, then place a tea light inside. Or, turn traditional wine glasses upside down and use them as candleholders. Use different heights and group them together for an elegant look. There is no such thing as too many candles. Candlelight is very flattering on everyone.

- Fill martini, wine and brandy glasses with silver or clear marbles and add a tea light.

- Fill beer pilsners with nuts, mints and other candy and use ribbon to tie a bow at the stem. Place glasses throughout the house so guests can munch while mingling.

- Use clear martini glasses or margarita glasses to serve desserts, mashed potatoes, sorbets or other side dishes and tapas.

- An inexpensive way to dress up your party is to pick up some specialty barware like unusual martini

glasses or stemless wine glasses.

Forgo the typical bar

- Set up a wine sampling station. Give guests an opportunity to try different types of wine. Another idea is to have guests bring a bottle of wine from their family's heritage and sample wines from different

parts of the world. A classic shot glass or cordial can be used for sampling.

- Why stick to wine? Try sampling different martinis. Libbey offers a mini martini set that features recipes and mini martini glasses. The same theme can be used for beer or non-alcoholic drinks like smoothies.

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The following is a list of gifts for pets or for those who love them:

- Hydration System Dog Pack — Do you like taking your dog on long hikes, but hate carrying extra water for it? Make your dog carry its own. The Hydration System holds 56 ounces of water and fits medium to large dogs. Available at the Web site pawshop.com.

- Wheeled pet carriers — If you've had to lug a pet carrier for any distance, you know it's a pain. Wheeled carriers provide a smooth ride for small to medium pets. Available at local pet stores.

- Tote bag — Pet owners need something durable to hold their pet's toys, treats, leash and grooming items. Give them a tote bag — the bigger their pet, the bigger the bag.

- Framed picture — Some pet owners have pictures of their dog or cat plastered all over the house. Others don't have a single snapshot. For the latter, a framed picture of their pet may be very welcome.

- Books — Check the

bookstore or pet store for pet-treat recipe books, or, if the owner is a child, an adventure story featuring their pet's breed would be great. Just don't give them books on obedience training

or special diets — they'll have plenty of those already.

- Gift certificate — If you can't decide on a gift, most local pet stores offer gift certificates.

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Your home can glow with glamour this season

Many of the scents that set the mood for the holiday season—pine, peppermint, cinnamon, cranberry, vanilla—were inspired by the love of one English queen for her German hus-

band. England's Queen Victoria had always loved celebrating Christmas but when she married Prince Albert of Germany, she wanted to please her hus-

band by establishing German Christmas customs in England. These customs included the use of Christmas trees decorated with cookies, candies and candles and the giving of presents.

For many modern Americans, candles still make terrific holiday gifts and are a delightful way to decorate. This year, many candles are pretty in plaid and mirrored crackle balls provide seasonal sparkle. A number of houses will be made festive with candles from the Bath & Body Works "A Perfect Christmas" collection designed by Harry Slatkin, home fragrance guru and candlemaker to such celebrities as Demi Moore and Elton John.

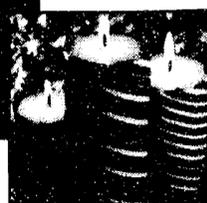
One popular pillar provides a refreshing, spicy scent, but it looks like a giant peppermint candy in

bright red and green swirls. Other candles are encased in a hurricane lamp.

You can also get candles from the collection that fit into holders made to look like tree ornaments in shiny red, green and silver and pert red and green plaid votive holders that look marvelous on a man-



tepiece. To make the most of your can-



dles, consider new ways to use them.

• For example, float a few in the bathtub in a few

inches of water when entertaining. Cluster several tapers together and stick them in floral foam.

• Fill clear glass containers with fresh cranberries, set a pillar candle in it and tie a bow around the container.

• Arrange lots of candles on the dining table and dine by candlelight every night of the holiday season, even if only the family is dining. They'll help make every meal more festive.

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Choose the perfect doll for every age

For generations, dolls have been a treasured gift given at the holidays. With so many dolls on the market today, it can be difficult to select the right play doll for your child's age. Here are some helpful tips from the experts at Corolle:

The size of the doll should be proportionate to a child's size and strength.

When she cradles the doll in her forearm, she should be able to hold the doll's bottom in her hand, and its head should nestle in the crook of her elbow — exactly the way a baby would be held by an adult. The weight of the doll should also be proportionate to that of the child, which makes the doll easy to

manage.

Here are other tips specific to your child's level of development:

• **Zero-plus:** As a baby begins to investigate her new world of shapes and textures and develops essential skills, she needs a snugly security companion. Select a plush and washable doll that is lightweight and between 10- and 12-inches tall, perfectly sized for tiny hands to hold and hug.

• **Eighteen months:** As baby transitions to the toddler years, she begins to care for and nurture her doll, imitating her parents.

Select a doll that will make an ideal playmate: Look for a doll that is about 14 inches that is soft, lightweight, and easy to dress and undress.

• **Three years-plus:** Little girls at this age begin to act out many real-life situations with their dolls. They may become big sister, mother or babysitter. Baby dolls encourage creativity and inspire pretend play memories young girls will cherish forever. For the added fun of hair play, choose a doll with well-rooted hair that can be combed.

• **Five years-plus:** Girls begin to project themselves into their world and start to develop and value friendships. In turn, they are looking for playmates. Select dolls that have a variety of wardrobe, hair design and accessory choices.

"Dolls are important to children at each stage of development, providing comfort, security, and 'an available friend,'" says Joanne Oppenheim, co-author of the "Oppenheim Toy Portfolio 2006."

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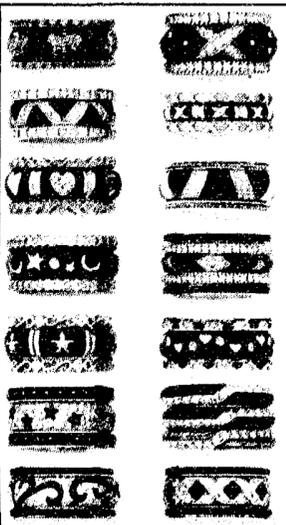
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Tips for taking great holiday pictures

For many people, the holidays are about spending time with family, and wherever there is a family gathering, the camera is never far behind. If you're like most Americans, chances are you are snapping up memories with a digital camera. According to the Consumer Electronics Association, the digital camera was the most popular gift last holiday season.

Kevin T. Gilbert, president of Blue Pixel LLC, a company dedicated to making digital photography fun and exciting, lends some helpful tips and sim-

ple guidelines to capture great holiday photos:

- We're all family here. Making your spouse and mother stand next to each other and smile might result in an unnatural-looking shot. So move away from the poses where everyone stands in a line. Have fun, move around, go outside and experiment.

- Get that mistletoe out of the way. Wreaths and presents create clutter and take the focus away from your subject. Try moving around to make the picture simpler. You can also have the subject move closer to the camera, to reduce

the emphasis on the background.

- Don't be flash happy. Know when (and when not) to use your camera's flash. It may seem funny, but sometimes turning the flash off in low light or on in bright light can make your photos really shine.

- Red-eye is for the weary. Red-eye can ruin an otherwise perfect picture, but there are ways to overcome it. Use your camera's red-eye reduction feature. It sends out a quick series of flashes to reduce the dreaded red-eye.

But remember, don't stress if your pictures

aren't perfect. One of the greatest benefits of digital photography is that you can use your computer to change and correct countless aspects of an image after it's taken.

You'll want a software program that makes it easy to get started, but lets you enhance your skills once you are ready. If you are a Windows XP user, Microsoft Corp.'s Digital Image Suite 2006 (ERP \$99.95) has everything you need to enhance, create, share and organize your photos. With simple tools such as one-click Auto Fixes, along with more advanced features such as RAW support, Digital Image Suite grows with

you as you advance from a novice to a seasoned digital photographer.

With a few simple photography tips and the right

software, you can have a collection of digital memories to cherish throughout the year and for generations to come.

Award the gadget freak on your list

Finding that perfect gift for the gamer in the family won't be a chore this holiday season. The Sony PSP is one of the hottest gaming sensation this year. Once serious bucks have been dropped for a PSP, it's always a good idea to protect and enhance your investment.

That is exactly why the busy elves at Nyko Technologies offer gizmos that will help you sleep at night — without the egg nog.

The hip and multi-functional device for games, music, movies and more can still use some more (jingle) bells and whistles. Nyko is serving up a hot holiday lineup that will melt Frosty and send Rudolph into the stratosphere.

One must-have accessory that will be on all the wish lists this holiday season is the Theater Experience for PSP. The device is a stylish, compact and powerful battery charger that protects the Sony PSP and converts

Sony's popular handheld gaming system into a portable home entertainment system as well. The Theater Experience offers users two powerful high fidelity stereo speakers and a stand for adjustable viewings of your favorite holiday flick.

For the fanatic who easily drains their PSP's juice, the Charger Case from Nyko is built to protect the unit and supply it with extra battery life. Perfect for those long gaming sessions under the table at Christmas dinner, the product does double duty by offering stylish protection and adding seven extra hours of play time to Sony's popular handheld device.

For gamers who have too many movies to fit in their stockings, Nyko offers a new product that houses and protects three UMD disks — ideal for PSP users on the go. The Pocket Case is a compact, lightweight protective case, allowing players to transport valuable UMD games and movies with no problems from the Grinch.

All of these accessories are available at major consumer electronics retailers nationwide.

tection and adding seven extra hours of play time to Sony's popular handheld device.

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This collection of holiday cards features a variety of designs, including a foil-stamped ribbon, a metallic border, and a variety of holiday scenes and messages.

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With 11 holiday cards to choose from, you're sure to find a card that's right for you and your family. Every card includes a message about Karmanos Cancer Institute, so you can thank and encourage your family and friends for their support in the fight against cancer.

ABOUT KARMANOS CANCER INSTITUTE
Karmanos Cancer Institute is a leading cancer center in Detroit, Michigan. We are committed to providing the highest quality cancer care and research to our patients and the community. Our research programs are focused on understanding the causes of cancer and developing new treatments to improve patient outcomes. For more information, visit our website at www.karmanos.org.

Create your own holiday wreath

Homemade holiday wreaths are like snowflakes — no two are alike, and all are special. Whether it's displayed on a door or graces a table as a festive centerpiece, making your own holiday wreath can bring out your artistry, creativity and joy for the season.

and artificial) to wire and Styrofoam. A 14-inch round fir wreath is perfect for a beginner's door decoration.

Ribbon can be used to loop around the wreath and for a bow. If you're using a wire or Styrofoam wreath base, you'll need to cover it completely, overlapping slightly so that no part of the base is visible. Secure the beginning seam on the backside with a thin line of hot glue. Wrap around, and secure again at the backside when you have covered it completely.

When attaching ribbon as looping (as with a fir or willow base), secure it on the backside of the wreath with a drop of hot glue; then wrap it around the wreath loosely, making five or six turns

around the wreath. Secure it on the backside with hot glue at each turn. Then secure both ends together on the backside.

Decorations should fit a theme, and the best rule of thumb is "less is more." Many things can be used as decoration on a wreath, and

you should not limit yourself to traditional holiday picks or flowers. Lightweight Christmas tree ornaments can be a lovely addition. You can make a memory wreath from souvenir items you have collected throughout the year, such as ticket stubs, photographs that

have been cut out and laminated, small toys, etc. Consider where it will be displayed, as heavier decoration items would be better suited for use on table-centerpiece wreaths.

Use your remaining ribbon to make a large bow. Tie the bow to the wreath with

florist's wire, and tuck the wire ends under the bow to the backside, so they are not visible. To finish up a door-hanging wreath, tie a small loop of florist's wire to the backside of the top of your wreath. Secure the loop with florist's tape and hang on your door.

Here's what you'll need:

A wreath base

Wire-edged ribbon

Florist's tape and wire

A variety of decorations (flowers, woodcrafts, ornaments, souvenir items)

A hot-glue gun and a supply of glue sticks

The base can be pre-purchased in any number of different mediums, from willow, grapevine and fir (live

Video games fit the bill for those on your list

Video games have been around for years and have scored legions of fans throughout their existence. From classics like "Pong" to the modern games of today offered by Activision Inc., the popularity of video games shows little sign of slowing. Plus, they're attracting audiences as var-

ied as the games themselves.

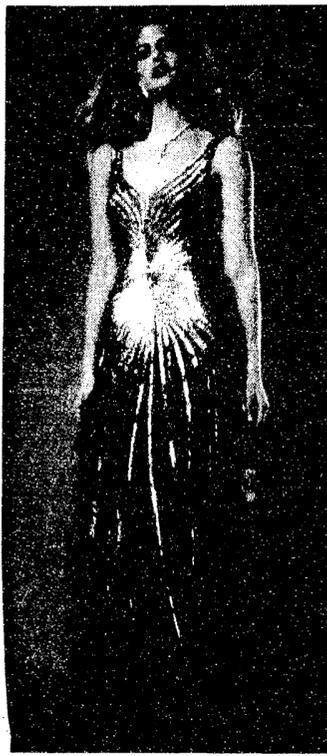
Games are being developed to appeal to different age groups and members of the family, and no longer carry the stigma they once did — that they're mindless child's play. In fact, people are realizing that gaming actually promotes some very positive skills: perseverance, problem solving, memory, logistics, quick thinking and hand-eye coordination. Games for younger children incorporate learning lessons in a fun atmosphere, perfect for kids who need to brush up on school skills or toddlers who can use visual and

mental stimulation. What's more, interactive games, which allow multiple players to compete for the same target or goal, allow players to work together and strategize. Gaming isn't as solitary in nature as one would expect.

Browse through an electronics boutique or toy store and you'll see that there are hundreds of games to choose from — for all age groups. Activision's holiday offerings include a variety of titles for kids of all ages, including games based on some of the entertainment industry's most recognizable brands from Spider-Man, Fantastic

4 and the X-Men, to Shrek and Madagascar.

Teen and adult gamers can choose from popular interactive entertainment properties, including Tony Hawk's American Wasteland, the latest installment in the No. 1 best-selling action sports franchise, new titles in the award-winning first person action series, Call of Duty 2 and Call of Duty 2: Big Red One; as well as a life simulation game called The Movies, which allow players to become movie moguls, running their own studio and creating movie masterpieces.



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JANE WOODBURY

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Treat yourself to a holiday gift

Most of us have been raised to believe that being selfish is morally wrong. But there is such a thing as positive selfishness, which means being aware of the needs of others without ignoring your own. When you take care of yourself, your health and sense of well-being improves and you're more able to deal with your responsibilities, whether they involve your work and/or your relation-

ships. Use this holiday season to learn how to practice positive selfishness. Here are five examples of what you might want to put on a gift-giving list just for you:

Pamper me — If you gave Aunt Jane a head-to-toe makeover day at a salon or spa last year, give one to yourself this year. And won't you be surprised at who looks back at you from the mirror at day's end. Where

has that fine-looking lady been all this time?

Perk me up — Look at your wardrobe and think about what you'd like someone to give you to perk it up — then go out and buy it yourself.

Spoil me — Remember the special feeling the last time you ate in a restaurant with white tablecloths instead of at your desk or perched on a stool at the diner counter? Feel it again. You'll go back to work or to your next appointment feeling special.

Thrill me — Love the theater but think that it costs too much? Not when you realize that the memories last a lifetime. Go, and maybe take someone you care for with you.

Move me — Where would you like to go for, perhaps, a weekend? Call your travel agent and have her set you up for a trip.

Now maybe paying for any of these self-giving ideas means you'd have to cut down on what you would usually spend on gifts for others. But considering how much you deserve to be treated the way you treat other people, it sounds like a bargain to me.

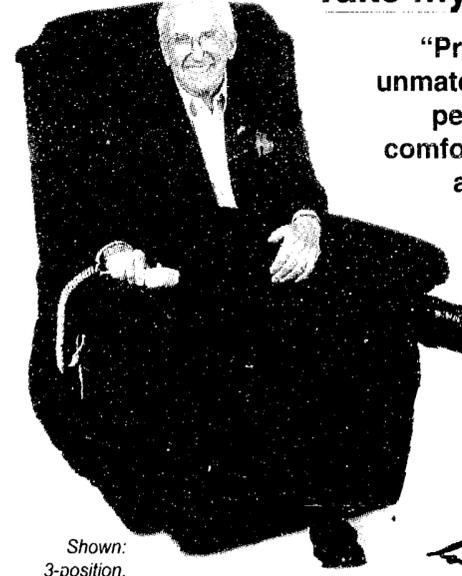


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Sine & Monaghan/GMAC Real Estate

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Know the advantages
of buying and selling
in the winter freeze!

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Century 21
Town & Country
has great buys!

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Classifieds:
Award-winning
section in time
for the holidays!

Page.....10

The advantages of buying and selling in winter

Q. We just received our pre-approval letter and we were wondering is winter a good time to buy?

— Mike of St. Clair Shores.

A. Why wouldn't it be?

Especially for first-time home buyers. Why? Clearly, when the snow starts to fly fewer home buyers are willing to brave the conditions. That means you can save thousands of dollars on your home purchase. Fewer buyers mean less competition. Less competition means that you, as a buyer, are in a stronger position to negotiate a deal that is favorable for you. Remember, buyers determine home values not sellers. In a buyer's market this is even more true.

Clients sometimes fear, "Aren't there fewer homes on the market?" Not really. People still need to sell and want to sell regardless of the time of year. Truthfully, a home suited for you is out there at any time of the year. You just need to find it. Statistically, there are approximately the same number of homes on the market in spring as in winter. Sure, there may be a few more homes on the market in spring, but you don't want to look at every house: You just want to see the ones that fit your needs. Consequently, it is not about the sheer volume of homes that is relevant, but rather, it is about a nice selection of great homes.

One other key point is that if a home has not been taken off the market for the holidays, buyers know that a seller is motivated to sell. What does that mean for a home buyer? Most often, a very good deal.

What about sellers? Is winter a good time to market your home? Yes it is. Think about people's buying habits for a moment. If potential buyers were out looking for homes in the slush, do you think they are serious about actually buying? Because there may be slightly fewer homes available in winter, houses that show really well do stand out more easily.

Sellers who pull their listings during the holidays have only increased your chances of selling



Real Estate Matters

By Steve Aiuto

your home. You might wonder, "Did you not just say that buyers can negotiate more aggressively?" Some also think, "Might I be leaving money on the table selling in winter?" The relatively little you may give to the person buying your home is that same "deal" you can expect on your next home purchase. It is, after all, relative. Some homes even sell for more money because buyers need to find a home right away and don't want to battle the elements anymore.

Mortgage money is another key factor that makes winter a great time to buy and sell. Because the real estate market slows down a bit, there is a large amount of money available for home buyers. What that means is that you can really shop for the very best mortgage product, people and rates out there for you.

Here are the keys to getting what you want if you are a buyer:

- Winter weather means fewer buyers — less competition.
- Less competition means lower prices for you.
- Motivated sellers may need to sell in a slower winter market.
- Great selection of homes at oftentimes better values.
- If you meet a resistant seller, move on to the next home.
- Find a savvy buyers agent who knows market subtleties.

Here are things to remember for sellers:

- Winter buyers are serious. No wasted showings.
- Winter buyers generally need to find a home.
- Fewer listings/less competition could mean more money for you.

See REAL ESTATE, page 8



ON THE COVER...

95 LAKESHORE GROSSE POINTE FARMS

Magnificent Lakeshore Georgian Colonial with unobstructed lake views. Built with exceptional quality and architectural style. Detailed wood carvings and marble from historic Detroit buildings. Master suite with natural fireplace, private bath, sitting room and two dressing rooms. Five fireplaces, sun room overlooks private professionally maintained grounds and large slate patio. Four zoned heating and cooling units. Slate roof. Finished basement, bomb shelter, walk in vault.

4 CARMEL LANE GROSSE POINTE FARMS

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272 RIDGE • GROSSE POINTE FARMS



\$1,100,000 Flexible layout. Home office optional master suite above three car garage. Ad # 2143

591 OXFORD • GROSSE POINTE WOODS



\$1,275,000 Totally renovated on 1.09 acres. Modern kitchen opens to huge great room. Five car garage. Ad # 2003

1016 BISHOP • GROSSE POINTE PARK



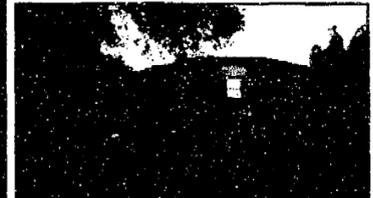
\$1,490,000 Brand new home! Unparalleled privacy. Luxurious first floor master suite. Ad # 2483

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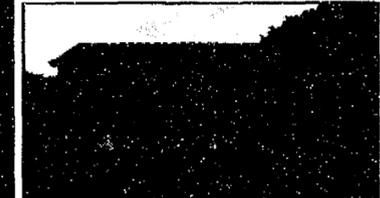
\$469,000 Prime Grosse Pointe Woods location. First floor master suite. Ad # 2103

1374 THREE MILE • GROSSE POINTE PARK



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338 MORAN • GROSSE POINTE FARMS



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184 KERBY • GROSSE POINTE FARMS



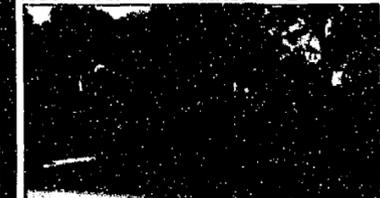
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1358 HARVARD • GROSSE POINTE PARK



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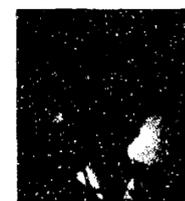


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Costs put home heating safety No. 1 concern

With experts predicting that heating costs will be higher for most families this winter, the prospect of using alternative heating sources — wood stoves, space heaters and fireplaces — is more tempting than ever.

But alternative heating may carry some additional safety risks. Of the 45,500 home heating fires reported to the nation's fire departments in 2002, 68 percent involved fireplaces, space heaters and chimneys, according to the latest figures available from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Alternative heating also was associated with 85 percent of the 220 fatalities associated with home heating fires, including 46 percent for portable space heaters, 28 percent for wood stoves and other fixed space heaters, and 11 percent for fireplaces and chimneys.

"Alternative heating can save money, but be sure the savings don't translate into a fire in your home," said John Drengenberg, manager of Consumer Affairs for Underwriters

Laboratories (UL), the not-for-profit safety testing organization. "Many of us too often focus on cutting expenses while overlooking basic safety steps that could prevent a tragedy and the emotional costs associated."

To help reduce the injuries and property damage that occur every year from alternative heating, a few simple safety precautions should be followed.

"Cooking stoves, gas ovens and grills should never be used for heating a room or home," Drengenberg said. "That's not what they were designed for, and there are too many other options out there that are safer."

A popular alternative is the space heater. But be sure to use it the right way. Space heaters were associated with nearly three-quarters of heating fires resulting in deaths, the leading cause being a space heater operating too close to combustibles, such as draperies, clothing and furniture.

For a safer operation of portable

space heaters, UL offers these safety tips:

- Keep all space heaters at least 3 feet away from household combustibles;

- Use space heaters only as a supplementary source of heat. These devices are not intended to replace the home's heating system;

- Do not use extension cords with space heaters unless absolutely necessary. If you must use an extension cord, be sure that the cord is marked "12-gauge" or "14-gauge;"

- Inspect the heater's cord periodically. Do not use a heater with a damaged cord;

- Check periodically for a secure plug/outlet fit. If the plug becomes very hot, the outlet may need to be replaced by a qualified technician;

- Heaters should be placed on a flat, level surface. Do not place heaters on furniture since they may fall and dislodge or break parts in the heater;

- Unless the heater is designed for use outdoors or in bathrooms, do not use in damp, wet areas;

- Look for the UL Mark on your electric heater. This means representative samples of the appliance have met UL's stringent safety standards;

- If you have a liquid-fueled space heater, use only the fuel recommended by the manufacturer. The wrong fuel could burn hotter than the equipment was designed for and cause a serious fire;

- When refueling, turn off the heater and let it cool down completely before adding fuel. Wipe away any spills promptly;

- Before you buy a kerosene heater, check with your local fire

department to ensure that it is legal.

Other heating alternatives have a different set of safety considerations.

Fireplace and chimney fires are mostly caused by a buildup of flammable creosote, the product of wood smoke and moisture. To prevent this, wood and coal stoves, fireplaces, chimneys and chimney connectors should be inspected annually by a professional and cleaned as often as inspections suggest. It's just as important to burn properly seasoned wood. Wood that is green has more moisture and is likely to smolder, leading to more creosote buildup. Also, make sure your fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room, and allow fireplace and wood ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container.

Furnaces also should be inspected and serviced annually. Homeowners, however, can change or clean the furnace filter themselves. Combustible materials, such as paint thinners or gasoline, should never be used nor stored near the furnace.

Finally, the best defense is a good offense. Install smoke alarms to warn of a fire, but also have carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in the home to warn about faulty furnace, fireplace and oven flues or any other venting problems and inadequacies.

Check existing alarms to ensure they are in working order. Replace the batteries once a year.

"Between the cold and the cost of heating, there will be enough discomfort this winter," said Drengenberg.



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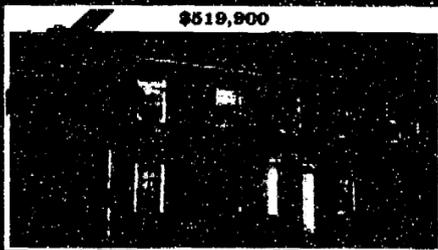
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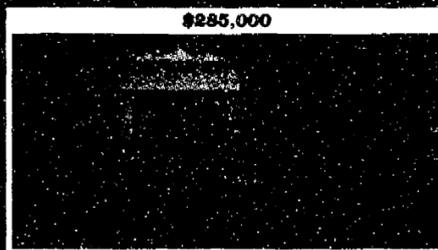
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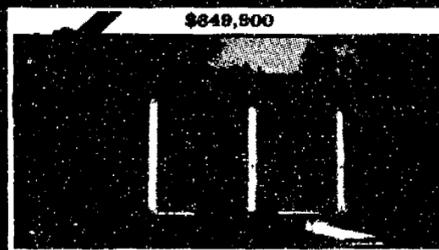
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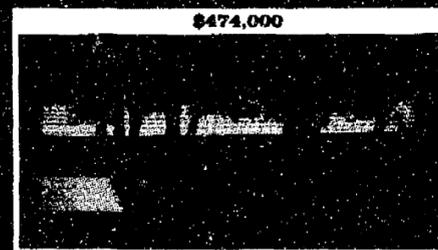
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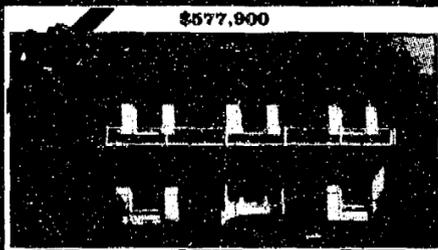
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DEAN LANE, GROSSE POINTE FARMS
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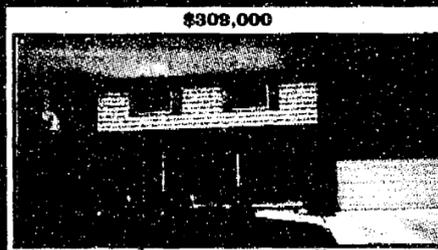
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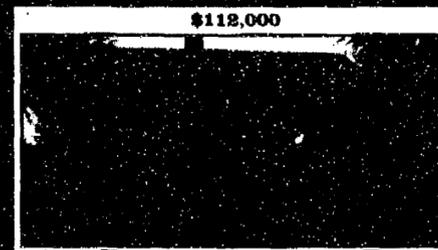
\$308,000

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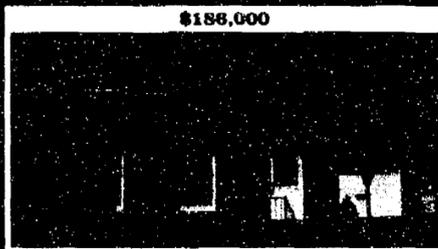
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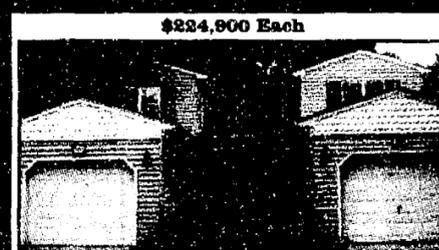
\$199,500

LANCASTER, GROSSE POINTE WOODS
4 Bedrooms, 1 Bath



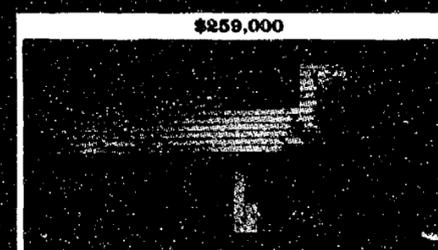
\$87,900

EVANSTON, DETROIT
3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath



\$224,900 Each

ST CLAIR, GROSSE POINTE CITY
2 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 Baths



\$259,000

LITTLESTONE, GROSSE POINTE WOODS
4 Bedrooms, 1 1/2 Baths



\$255,000

EDMUNTON, ST CLAIR SHORES
4 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 Baths



\$149,900

LENNON, HARPER WOODS
3 Bedrooms, 1 1/2 Baths



\$282,500

NEWBERRY, ST CLAIR SHORES
2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths



\$155,000

PARKCREST, HARPER WOODS
2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath

82 Kercheval,
on the Hill
Grosse Pointe Farms

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GROSSE POINTE PARK 1st Offering
Beautiful five bedroom with stunning plaster and leaded glass details. Terrific updates including copper plumbing, dimensional shingle roof, 200 AMP service, central air, more. Three fireplaces, huge rooms, great floor plan. (LSC17BIS) 586-778-8100 \$524,000



GROSSE POINTE WOODS Elegant
Are you the lucky one? Redesigned spacious Cape Cod with four bedrooms, four baths, three fireplaces. Open concept for entertaining. Graciously manicured lawn. Three car garage. Additional bonus finished lower level. (LSC53LOC) 586-778-8100 \$897,000



GROSSE POINTE FARMS Spacious
Beautiful five bedroom, four and a half bath Colonial custom built in 2002 with open floor concept. Nice size family room, living room with fireplace, formal dining room, library/den, hardwood floors and more. (LGP37CHA) 313-886-5040 \$695,000



GROSSE POINTE PARK Elegant
All the right updates, including dimensional tear off roof '04, gutters/downspouts '04. Professionally landscaped, in ground sprinklers, attached garage. Newer baths, kitchen floor and countertops. Blown-in insulation, central air. (LGP45THR) 313-886-5040 \$690,000



GROSSE POINTE PARK Beautiful
Meticulously maintained home. Park-like yard has maintenance free landscaping. Updates in 2004 include kitchen with granite countertops, refinished hardwood floors, garage and entry doors. Call listing agent for more information. (LSC14AUD) 586-778-8100 \$510,000



GROSSE POINTE WOODS Cape Cod
Lovely location and condition. Beautiful pean kitchen with built-ins, wonderful glassed family room with built-in bar. Park-like lot, freshly painted, newer furnace, windows, carpet, library, master suite with full bath and adjacent sitting room. (LGP60REM) 313-886-5040 \$459,900



GROSSE POINTE WOODS Spacious
Custom built home for original owner. Four large bedrooms, three full baths, three fireplaces, first floor laundry, hardwood floors throughout. Newer roof. Your personal touches will reward you endlessly! (LGP28MOO) 313-886-5040 \$379,000



GROSSE POINTE PARK Spacious
Four bedrooms, two full baths. Master with private sitting room. Gourmet kitchen, butler's pantry, family room, formal dining, living room with fireplace. Recreation room, enclosed porch, patio, hot tub. Prime location. (LGP58LAK) 313-886-5040 \$340,000



GROSSE POINTE PARK Custom Tudor
Three bedroom brick Tudor with two car garage, formal dining room, fireplace in living room, library/den on main floor. Great location close to schools and shopping. Immediate occupancy. (LGP44BIS) 313-886-5040 \$319,000



GROSSE POINTE FARMS Custom
Spacious brick Cox and Baker Cape Cod with three bedrooms, two updated full baths. Gorgeous living and dining rooms with refinished hardwoods and natural fireplace. Updated kitchen, newer roof and windows. Two car garage. (LGP21CHA) 313-886-5040 \$289,900



GROSSE POINTE PARK Two Family
New condominium conversion located South of Jefferson. Entire building can be purchased or condominiums can be sold separately. Each unit has two bedrooms, fireplace, central air, one and one half baths. (LGP13HAR) 313-886-5040 \$280,000



GROSSE POINTE PARK Opportunity
Just off Kercheval and just a few hundred yards from the Village! With a little painting and tweaking this home will be outstanding. Lots of character and detailing throughout. Appliances included. Great investment. (LGP54BIS) 313-886-5040 \$274,900



GROSSE POINTE FARMS Cape Cod
Beautiful three bedroom Cape Cod. Hardwood floors refinished. Newer carpeting in all bedrooms. Alarm system, freshly painted, natural fireplace. Central air. Wiring updated. Ceramic tile in kitchen. Loads of updates. A must see. (LGP49MDR) 313-886-5040 \$269,900



GROSSE POINTE WOODS Elegant
Call us today to visit this charmingly renovated larger home. Three bedrooms, two full baths, updated kitchen, all appliances stay. Family room, sliding doorwall to deck overlooking private yard. A must see now! (LSC32HUN) 586-778-8100 \$259,700



GROSSE POINTE Spacious
Spacious three bedrooms, two and one-half baths, two car garage, two fireplaces, finished basement, library, Florida room, rear deck, air conditioning, fenced yard, corner lot, occupancy at closing. Home Warranty. (LGP66CAD) 313-886-5040 \$259,000



GROSSE POINTE WOODS Custom
Built in 1999. Oak kitchen with island, breakfast counter and oak floors. Vaulted ceiling in family room. Neutral decor throughout. Finished basement. Central air. Copper plumbing. One year warranty. (LGP04RID) 313-886-5040 \$249,000



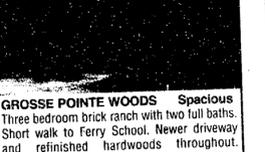
GROSSE POINTE WOODS Outstanding
In everyway possible this four bedroom, two bath has been extensively updated, not to mention a large family room with cathedral ceilings, hardwood floors throughout, fireplace and recreation room. A true gem! (LGP26LOC) 313-886-5040 \$244,900



GROSSE POINTE WOODS Updated
Adorable three bedroom brick ranch with updated kitchen, bath, windows, doors, roof, central air. Completely finished basement with ceramic tile floors, office or bedroom and updated lavatory. Hardwood floors and more! (LGP79STA) 313-886-5040 \$224,000



GROSSE POINTE WOODS Multi-Family
Well maintained two-family brick dwelling with two bedrooms in each. Family room in lower, possible third bedroom. Fireplace in living room, eating space in kitchen, hardwood floors. Long term tenant in upper. (LGP17VER) 313-886-5040 \$219,900



GROSSE POINTE WOODS Spacious
Three bedroom brick ranch with two full baths. Short walk to Ferry School. Newer driveway and refinished hardwoods throughout. Finished basement with half bath plus, two car garage. Priced below market value. Warranty. (LGP20ROS) 313-886-5040 \$212,500



GROSSE POINTE PARK Charming
Old world charm abound in this wonderfully updated Cape Cod. Three or four bedrooms, oak kitchen, natural fireplace, family room, finished basement. Newer windows, heat and air, two full baths. Appliances included. (LGP31 LAK) 313-886-5040 \$199,900



GROSSE POINTE WOODS Great Value
Nice three bedroom Colonial has a large living room, dining room, family room with fireplace. Half bath on first floor, full bath on second. Full basement, two car garage. Freshly painted with new carpet throughout. Immediate occupancy. (LGP78RID) 313-886-5040 \$174,000



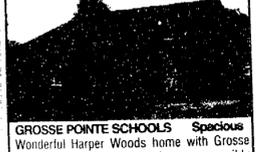
GROSSE POINTE PARK Charming
Enjoy all the Grosse Pointe amenities including the private lakefront parks. Large deck perfect for entertaining. Natural fireplace in living room, formal dining room, hardwood floors. Kitchen appliances. Ready to move in. (LGP30WAY) 313-886-5040 \$158,000



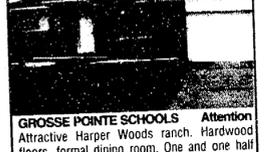
GROSSE POINTE WOODS Ranch
Major price reduction! Act fast! Grosse Pointe Woods two bedroom ranch. Large master bedroom with walk-in closet, gas fireplace and deck. Hardwood floors. Neutral decor. Two and one half car garage. (LGP41HAM) 313-886-5040 \$148,900



GROSSE POINTE SCHOOLS Exceptional
Colonial featuring a newer custom kitchen with hickory cabinets, ceramic floors and counters. Beautifully refinished hardwood floors, family room, beautiful walnut fireplace in living room. Professionally landscaped. Tastefully decorated. (LGP59COU) 313-886-5040 \$184,500



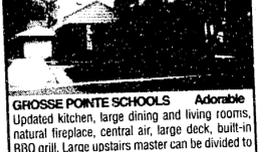
GROSSE POINTE SCHOOLS Spacious
Wonderful Harper Woods home with Grosse Pointe Schools. Three bedrooms, possibly four. Two full baths, including master bath. Finished basement with half bath. Updates include furnace, central air and more. (LGP25 LEN) 313-886-5040 \$174,900



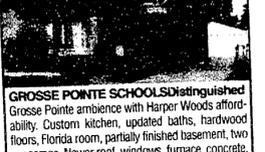
GROSSE POINTE SCHOOLS Attention
Attractive Harper Woods ranch. Hardwood floors, formal dining room. One and one half baths. Doorwall leads to roofed patio with lights. Central air, alarm system, newer windows. Attached two car garage. Home warranty. (LGP67FLE) 313-886-5040 \$169,900



GROSSE POINTE SCHOOLS Charming
Three bedroom brick ranch. Grosse Pointe Schools, two car garage, updated kitchen. Finished basement with full kitchen and full bath. Hardwood floors, newer roof and windows. Patio, fenced yard, air, home warranty. (LGP91KEN) 313-886-5040 \$149,900



GROSSE POINTE SCHOOLS Adorable
Updated kitchen, large dining and living rooms, natural fireplace, central air, large deck, built-in BBQ grill. Large upstairs master can be divided to create a fourth bedroom. All appliances stay. Agent owned. (LGP44LAN) 313-886-5040 \$149,500



GROSSE POINTE SCHOOLS Distinguished
Grosse Pointe ambiance with Harper Woods affordability. Custom kitchen, updated baths, hardwood floors, Florida room, partially finished basement, two car garage. Newer roof, windows, furnace, concrete, appliances. Neutral decor. Move-in ready. (LGP67NOR) 313-886-5040 \$144,500



GROSSE POINTE SCHOOLS Quality
Original owner! Full brick. Natural fireplace, roof ten years old, formal dining room, vinyl windows new 2004. Finished basement, copper plumbing, washer, dryer and kitchen appliances. Walk to Mack Avenue shopping and Gesquire Park. (LGP47NOR) 313-886-5040 \$134,900



GROSSE POINTE SCHOOLS Bungalow
Three bedroom, one and one half bath. Open floor plan, eating space in kitchen. Two car garage, extra wide driveway. Some newer windows, newer hot water tank, updated bath. Stove, refrigerator and dishwasher included. Must see. (LGP11COU) 313-886-5040 \$123,900



BIRMINGHAM 1st Offering
Recently renovated condo, walking distance to downtown Birmingham. Two bedrooms, two full baths. Incredible gourmet kitchen with stainless appliances and granite countertops. Master bedroom has walk-in closet. See and buy! (LSC15OLD) 586-778-8100 \$479,000



ROSEVILLE Luxury Living
Four bedroom brick main home. Two bedroom apartment above six car garage. Full size indoor pool, sauna, locker room, huge deck. Huge master suite, multiple fireplaces, party kitchen in heated garage. Complete resort. (LGP58ELM) 313-886-5040 \$399,000



LATHRUP VILLAGE Surprise
Beautiful estates area, designer's home. Use of hardwood, granite, high end materials abound. Euro kitchen has very unique cabinetry and all stainless steel appliances. Four bedrooms, two fireplaces and two full baths. (LGP00SAN) 313-886-5040 \$344,500



DETROIT Indian Village
Multi-family. Unique opportunity. Believed to be the only two-family in historic Indian Village. Natural fireplace in both units, separate utilities, two car garage. Old world charm. Family room, master bedroom with private bath. (LGP17SEM) 313-886-5040 \$297,500



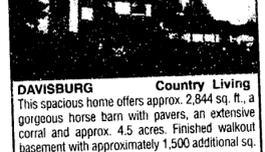
DETROIT Exceptional Loft
Exceptional Detroit loft condo in Wayne State area. Two bedrooms and one and one half bath, attached garage. Beautiful hardwood floors and exposed brick walls, stainless steel appliances. Home warranty. Immediate occupancy. (LGP48MIL) 313-886-5040 \$289,900



ST. CLAIR SHORES Gorgeous
Beautifully updated four bedroom, two and one half bath Colonial. Refinished hardwood floors, recessed lighting. Newer carpeting, roof and humidifier. Remodeled half bath with granite and undermount sink. Newer GE appliances stay. (LGP31NEW) 313-886-5040 \$274,900



ROCHESTER HILLS Spacious
This spacious family home offers four bedrooms and two and one half baths. Large corner lot in a beautiful sub. Master bedroom offers private full bath and walk-in closet. Doorwalls to deck from both kitchen and family room. Fireplace. (LGP35FAI) 313-886-5040 \$273,900



DAVISBURG Country Living
This spacious horse barn with pavers, an extensive corral and approx. 4.5 acres. Finished walkout basement with approximately 1,500 additional sq. ft. Two fireplaces - one is in master bedroom. (LGP21EAG) 313-886-5040 \$267,000

Relocation Services 800-448-5817



Grosse Pointe 313-886-5040 St. Clair Shores 586-778-8100 Birmingham 249-642-8100 Chesterfield Twp. 586-949-8590 Clarkston 248-620-7200 Clinton Twp. 586-386-5000 Commerce Twp. 586-1200 Fraser 586-234-3655 Northville 248-349-6600 Plymouth 734-455-5600 Rochester 248-653-8100 Royal Oak 248-260-4777 Shelby Twp. 586-731-9191 Southfield 586-939-2800 Troy 248-524-1600 West Bloomfield 248-626-8800



THE GOING RATE

Mortgage Rates as of December 2, 2005

| | Phone Number | 30 Yr. Fixed | Points | 15 Yr. Fixed | Points | 1 Yr. ARM | Points | Other Progs |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------|-----------|--------|-------------|
| 1st Choice Mortgage Lending | (734) 459-0782 | 6 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | 3.75 | 0 | JB |
| 1st National Bank in Howell | (517) 545-2207 | 6.25 | 2 | 5.625 | 2 | NR | NR | J |
| A Best Financial Corp. | (800) 839-8918 | 5.5 | 2.375 | 4.875 | 2.625 | 4.5 | 1.125 | JB |
| AAXA Discount Mortgage | (877) 728-3569 | 6 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | NR | NR | JB |
| AFI Financial | (877) 234-0600 | 5.875 | 0.5 | 5.5 | 0.375 | NR | NR | J |
| America's Premiere Mortgage | (800) 586-8730 | 6 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | 5.5 | 0 | JB/VF |
| Ameripius Mortgage Corp. | (248) 740-2323 | 5.99 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | 4.875 | 0 | J/VF |
| Bay Pointe Mortgage Corp. | (248) 652-3598 | NR | NR | NR | NR | NR | NR | J |
| Brighton Commerce Bank | (810) 220-8646 | 5.875 | 1 | 5.5 | 1 | 5 | 1 | J |
| Brinks Goldstar Mortgage | (800) 785-4755 | 5.75 | 1 | 5.5 | 0.875 | 3.75 | 0.5 | JB/VF |
| Capital Mortgage Funding | (248) LOW-RATE | 6 | 2.25 | 5.625 | 2 | NR | NR | J |
| Captiva Group Mortgage Co. | (248) 682-8643 | 6 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | 3.375 | 0 | J/VF |
| Centerbrook Mortgage | (248) 851-4150 | 6 | 0.25 | 5.875 | 0.5 | NR | NR | JB |
| Charter One Bank | (800) 342-6336 | 6.625 | 0 | 6.125 | 0 | NR | NR | J/VF |
| Client Services by Golden Rule | (800) 569-5805 | 5.625 | 1.625 | 5.125 | 1.625 | 2.5 | 1 | JB/VF |
| Co-op Services Credit Union | (734) 466-6113 | 5.875 | 2 | 5.375 | 2 | 4.75 | 0 | J |
| Community Bank of Dearborn | (734) 981-0022 | 6.375 | 0 | 5.875 | 0 | 5.5 | 0.5 | J/VF |
| Credit Union One | (800) 544-5567 | 6.375 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 0 | JB |
| Dearborn Federal Savings Bank | (313) 565-3100 | 6.25 | 0 | 5.875 | 0 | 3.625 | 2 | JB |
| DFCU Financial | (800) 739-2770 | 5.875 | 2 | 5.375 | 2 | NR | NR | J |
| eREFI.com | www.eREFI.com | 5.99 | 1 | 5.625 | 1 | 4.75 | 1 | R |
| Fifth Third Bank | (800) 792-8830 | 6.375 | 0 | 5.875 | 0.375 | 5.125 | 0.25 | VF |
| First Alliance Mortgage Co. | (800) 292-7357 | 6.25 | 0 | 5.875 | 0 | NR | NR | JB/VF |
| First International Inc. | (248) 258-1584 | 6 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | NR | NR | JB |
| GMAC Mortgage Corp. | (800) 888-4622 | 5.625 | 3 | 5.625 | 1 | 4.375 | 1 | JB/VF |
| Golden Rule Mortgage | (800) 785-4755 | 5.5 | 2.25 | 5 | 2 | 2.25 | 2 | JB/VF |
| Goldstar Mortgage | (800) 784-1074 | 5.875 | 0.375 | 5.5 | 0.25 | 3.125 | 0 | JB/VF |
| Group One Mortgage | (734) 953-4000 | 6.25 | 0 | 5.875 | 0 | 5 | 0 | JB/VF |
| Home Finance of America | (800) 358-5626 | 6 | 0 | 5.5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | JB |
| Horizon Financial Group | (866) 538-7887 | 6 | 1 | 5.5 | 1 | NR | NR | J |
| JMC Mortgage Corp. | (248) 488-4020 | 5.75 | 3 | 5.25 | 3 | NR | NR | JB |
| Keystone Mortgage | (866) KEY-FREE | 5.5 | 2.75 | 5.25 | 2 | 3.75 | 1 | JB |
| LaSalle Bank Midwest | (800) HOME-800 | 6 | 2 | 5.625 | 2 | 3.625 | 2 | JB/VF |
| Lira Financial | (586) 228-0900 | 6 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | 3.125 | 0 | JB/VF |
| Macomb Schools & Gov. CU | (586) 263-8900 | 5.75 | 2 | 5.25 | 2 | 4.875 | 0 | J |
| Mainstreet Mortgage | (800) 900-1313 | 6 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | NR | NR | JB/VF |
| Manufacturers | (586) 777-1000 | 5.75 | 1.25 | 5.625 | 1 | NR | NR | JB |
| Mortgages by Golden Rule | (800) 991-9922 | 5.75 | 0.875 | 5.25 | 1.125 | 2.5 | 1 | JB/VF |
| National City Bank | (586) 825-0825 | 5.875 | 2 | 5.375 | 2 | 5.375 | 1 | JB/BI |
| Northlawn Financial | (248) 988-8488 | 6 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | NR | NR | VF |
| Pathway Financial LLC | (800) 726-2274 | 6 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | 3.375 | 0 | JF |
| Peoples Mortgage | (313) 730-5040 | 5.875 | 0.5 | 5.5 | 0.375 | NR | NR | J |
| Premiere Mortgage Funding | (248) 358-2800 | 6 | 0 | 5.75 | 0 | 2.75 | 0 | J |
| Prime Financial Corp. | (248) 203-7010 | 6 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | NR | NR | VF |
| Shore Mortgage | (800) 678-6663 | 5.5 | 3 | 4.875 | 3 | 3 | 3 | J/VF |
| Sterling Bank & Trust | (800) 926-LOAN | 6.25 | 0 | 5.875 | 0 | 4.375 | 0 | JF |
| United Mortgage Group | (586) 286-9500 | 6 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | 5.25 | 0.25 | JB/VF |
| York Financial Inc. | (888) 839-9675 | 6 | 0 | 5.625 | 0 | 4.75 | 0 | JB |
| Average of Rates and Points | | 5.96 | 0.85 | 5.56 | 0.79 | 4.15 | 0.60 | |

Rates subject to change without notice. Rates and points based on a \$150,000 loan with 20% down.
 Updated rates available Tuesdays after 2:00 P.M. at www.rmrreport.com
 Key - NR = Not Reported / J = Jumbo / B = Balloon / V = VA Loan / F = FHA Loan / BI = Bi-weekly
 Source: Residential Mortgage Consultants based in Brighton

List helps keep your home spotless for the holidays

The holidays are a great time for catching up with friends and family. It's also the time of year you want your home clean and inviting to guests.

If you've avoided your regular household chores, and the prospect of cleaning has you feeling overwhelmed, here are a few suggestions for cleaning up in time for the holidays.

"This is the time of year, as temperatures cool and people head indoors, when we notice all of the things we neglected during the warmer summer months when we spent our time outdoors," says Amy Beck, owner of the St. Clair Shores-based Molly Maid franchise.

Here is a checklist to review and rely on to get your home back in shape for the entertaining season:

The first thing to do when preparing to clean, particularly since the days are getting shorter, is to turn the lights on to their highest setting when you clean.

"Bright light helps to reveal the spider webs and dust bunnies hiding in the shadows," says Beck.

"If you are pressed for time, concentrate on these areas first: guest bedrooms and bathrooms, kitchen, family room and dining room.

During the holidays, these are the rooms that see the most activity," says Beck.

Take the time to do a thorough cleaning of your guest bathroom, being sure to reach behind fixtures, replace the shower liner, wash your curtains and clean your medicine cabinet.

"Make sure the bathroom is properly stocked with the neces-



By Elizabeth Gauthier
 Molly Maids East

sary supplies," says Beck.

Your kitchen and dining room are probably two rooms that are cleaned on a regular basis, but make sure you take the time to clean the cabinet doors and hardware which can brighten up your kitchen by removing grease, dirt and dust that can give cabinets a dull exterior. The chairs and lighting fixtures in the dining room could also use good cleanings.

Although many families devote a few hours each week to doing a thorough job of cleaning, you can save a lot of time and energy by taking a few minutes each day to put things away where they belong. This can prevent "clutter buildup," says Beck.

If your hectic holiday season doesn't give you time to stay on top of these tasks, hiring a professional is a great option.

"We understand that a lot of people are busy and do not have the time to clean their home like they would want," says Beck. "Our services are available on a one-time basis, or we can work out a regular schedule — whatever works for you."

Elizabeth Gauthier is president of Molly Maids East.

Real Estate

From page 2

Whatever you give up selling, you should make up on the buy.

• Fewer mortgages in process means less likelihood of mortgage-related problems.

Remember, the people who go against the grain of popular think-

ing often come out with the best results. Thinking innovatively can often produce your best results. If someone tells you not to sell or buy in winter, merely reply "bah humbug."

Steve Aiuto is a licensed Realtor living in Grosse Pointe Park. He can be reached at steveaiuto@hotmail.com.

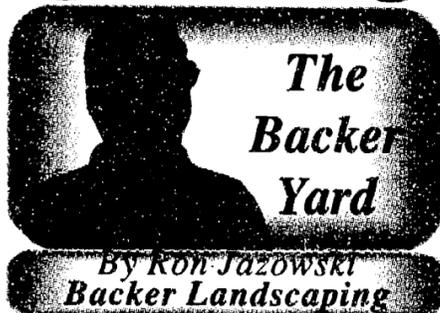
Last call to get the garden 'winter proofed'

We're running out of time to put the garden to bed before winter. There are still a few things we can do to help the transformation.

Garden objects — mini statues,azing balls, metal sculptures, etc. — can usually withstand our winter. However, storing these items into your shed or garage will help extend their life. If you're looking for that "aged" look to metal or stone items, nothing ages an object more than a Michigan winter. Some items "age" better than others. Depending on the metal content, an item can either look hastily rusted or pleasantly patina enriched.

Most concrete items can be left where they are with the exception of birdbaths or other objects that hold water. Water freezes, and freezing causes expansion that can lead to cracked concrete.

Never use chemicals to keep the water from freezing. I know of a case where a concerned homeown-



er wanted to give the birds a place to bathe in the winter. She filled her birdbath with a mixture of water and antifreeze, forgot that birds might like a drink, and noticed many dead birds lying around the garden. Also, a fountain running with added chemicals can kill birds and other animals. It's better to put the birdbath away for the season.

Waterfall and pond items need to be winterized just like your lawn irrigation system. They have to be blown out and have the

pump taken out, if accessible, to preserve the units. If you have fish in them, you need to contact a pond company to get advice as to what to do with them during the winter. It gets complicated with the depth of the pond, the type of fish, and the recirculation factors all needing to be considered.

On the market there are mini heaters for birdbaths that keep the water from freezing. You'll need to provide electric power to the birdbath to get them to work. Make sure the heater is sized to the gallon amount you want to heat; otherwise you'll get boiling water, and no bird will like that — they just don't take well to hot tubs!

Ron Jazowski is a senior landscape designer at Backer Landscaping located at 27739 Groesbeck in Roseville. All questions pertaining to your garden

needs are welcome; phone (586) 774-0090; e-mail customerservices@backerlandscaping.com.

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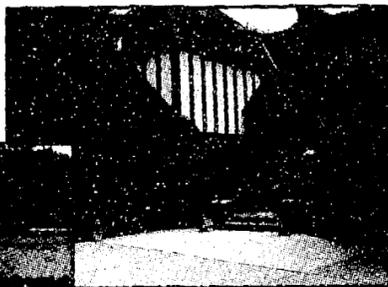
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**800 Bishop
Grosse Pointe Park**
WITH PANORAMIC VIEWS. Must see to appreciate. First floor Master Bedroom. 3-1/2 Baths. Huge finished lower level. Incredible opportunity to purchase **LOWEST PRICED** Grosse Pointe Waterfront. **TWO BOATWELLS!**

28 WINDEMERE • GROSSE POINTE FARMS

Detached Condo

Views of the Water from some rooms. First floor Master Bedroom with "HIS and HER" Master Baths. Total of 4-1/2 Baths. **ONLY CONDO** with **ADJACENT LOT**. Sold separately. Call Pat for details.



Adjacent Lot

Please call for your appointment!

PAT BOURBEAU

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Buy Yourself a Christmas Gift! A NEW HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



472 BELANGER \$253,000

Come home to this darling brick bungalow on a quiet cul-de-sac in Grosse Pointe Farms. Walk to schools & shopping. Three bedrooms, two baths. Vinyl windows, newer roof, updated kitchen, appliances included, even washer and dryer. Living room has fireplace for a cozy winter. Deep lot and landscaped yard with large deck. Come see it!

41 FAIR ACRES \$748,000

Gracious Colonial on one of Grosse Pointe Farms most sought after streets. Fabulous gardens and brick patio off three season glass enclosure. Master on first floor. Three bedrooms, three baths. Room for expansion. Call today for private showing. One block from the lake.



20056 ROSCOMMON \$134,500

Why rent when you can own your own home? Brick bungalow in great condition in Harper Woods. Three bedrooms, new bath, eat-in kitchen. Two car garage, walk to schools, hardwood floors, all appliances stay, vinyl windows, beautiful brick patio. Call Cindy Hill for more information.

OPEN SUNDAY DEC. 11th 2-4 P.M.



CINDY HILL, GRI CRS ABR

313-884-6400



313-882-6900 ext 3

FAX: 313-343-5569

http://grossepointenews.com

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING HOMES for SALE INDEX

WEEKLY READERS OF
THE GROSSE POINTE NEWS
& POINTE OF PURCHASE
PLUS THE WORLD
ON THE INTERNET

DEADLINES**HOMES FOR SALE**

Photos, Art, Logos - FRIDAYS 12 P.M.

Word Ads - MONDAYS 4 P.M.

Open Sunday grid - MONDAYS 4 P.M.

(Call for Holiday close dates)

RENTALS & LAND FOR SALE

TUESDAY 12 NOON

CLASSIFIEDS (ALL OTHER CLASSIFICATIONS)

TUESDAY 12 NOON

OVER-SIZED AD DEADLINE,**MONDAYS 3:00 P.M.**

(Call for Holiday close dates)

PAYMENTS**Prepayment is required.**

We accept Visa, MasterCard, Cash, Check

Please note - \$2 fee for declined credit cards.

AD STYLES & PRICES:

Word Ads: 12 words - \$19.95;

additional words, 65¢ each.

Abbreviations not accepted.

Measured Ads: \$31.90 per column inch

Border Ads: \$38.50 per column inch

Photo Scans: \$5.00 each (includes web sent)

Email: JPEG photos only.

FULL PAGE \$650.00

1/2 PAGE \$450.00

1/4 PAGE \$325.00

1/8 PAGE \$200.00

Photo Ads In-Column \$43.00

(small photo with 15 words)

FREQUENCY DISCOUNTS: given for multi-week

scheduled advertising, with prepayment or credit

approval. Call for rates or for more information.

Phone lines can be busy on Monday & Tuesday

Deadlines... please call early.

CLASSIFYING & CENSORSHIP: We reserve

the right to classify each ad under its appropriate

heading. The publisher reserves the right to edit or reject

ad copy submitted for publication.

CORRECTIONS & ADJUSTMENTS:

Responsibility for classified advertising error is limited to

either a cancellation of the charge or a re-run of the

portion in error. Notification must be given in time for

correction in the following issue. We assume no

responsibility for the same after the first insertion.

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

See General Classifieds Section

HOMES & LAND FOR SALE

800 Houses for Sale

801 Commercial Buildings

802 Commercial Property

803 Condos/Apts./Flats

804 Country Homes

805 Farms

806 Florida Property

807 Investment Property

808 Waterfront Homes

809 Waterfront Lots

810 Lake/River Resorts

811 Lots For Sale

812 Mortgages/Land Contracts

813 Northern Michigan Homes

814 Out of State Michigan Lots

815 Out of State Homes/Property

816 Real Estate Exchange

817 Real Estate Wanted

818 Sale or Lease

819 Cemetery Lots

820 Businesses for Sale

821 Open Sunday Grid

822 Vacation Properties

823 Homes/ Out of State

824 Mobile Homes



CALL FOR COLOR

800 HOUSES FOR SALE

DETROIT- 4 bedroom, 1.5 bath, updated, garage, \$96,000-\$110,000. Preapproved. 313-882-4132

**Classifieds
Work For You**

To place an ad call:
(313)882-6900 x 3

Grosse Pointe News **POINTE O' PURCHASE****800 HOUSES FOR SALE**

EXCELLENT brick ranch, east of I-94. Grosse Pointe schools. 3 bedroom, 2 car. New kitchen, and basement recreation. \$145,000. 313-671-0334

Classifieds: 313-882-6900 x 3

Grosse Pointe News **POINTE O' PURCHASE****800 HOUSES FOR SALE**

GROSSE Pointe Woods, 760 Pear Tree Lane. 2,800 sq. ft., center entrance colonial, new kitchen, bathrooms, windows, roof, driveway, landscape, like new. Must see! \$519,000. (313)884-8514.

GROSSE Pointe Woods- builder's close out! 4 bedroom, 3 bath, luxury kitchen, master suite. Price drastically reduced. Best value in the Pointes. Open Sunday 1- 4pm. 20127 West Ballantyne Court. (586)944-8849

LOOK

Classified Advertising
313-882-6900 ext 3
Fax 313-343-5569

Grosse Pointe News **POINTE O' PURCHASE****800 HOUSES FOR SALE**

GROSSE Pointe Woods- Wanted... growing family to enjoy spacious Cape cod bungalow with 2.5 baths, dining room, 2 fireplaces, basement, 2.5 car garage. \$262,900. Monteith schools. Schultes Real Estate, (586)573-3900

HARPER Woods brick ranch, 3 bedroom, vinyl windows, finished basement, 2 car, 2002- new air & furnace. Reduced to \$128,500. Century 21 AAA, Joe, Surmont (585)899-7171

MCCORMICK- Moross/Beaconsfield. Spacious 3 bedroom aluminum bungalow, updated kitchen, basement, 2 car garage. Gillen Realty, (313)886-3665.

ST. Clair Shores- 22625 Maxine, \$95,000. Updated large 1 bedroom, 1 1/2 lot. Garage. Seller will pay up to 3% closing costs. By appointment. (586)777-5664

803 CONDOS/APTS/FLATS

CO-OP apartment near Grosse Pointe Woods. 1,000 sq. ft. \$260 monthly assessment. \$49,500 By owner, (313)885-8247

807 INVESTMENT PROPERTY

2 unit investment property on Wayburn. Fully rented with long term occupants. \$137,995. Call 313-622-8733 for details.

808 WATERFRONT HOMES

ST. Clair Shores- new lake front 4,300 sq. ft. \$895,000. Grosse Pointe Shores- near lake, 4,900 sq. ft. \$995,000. (313)882-9431. www.hno.com, I.D.s 20204, 20206.

813 NORTHERN MICHIGAN HOMES

"INVEST in Leelanau". It's a buyers market in Leelanau County. Call for details, (231)218-6278; dshiffett@centurytel.net

PETOSKEY, (4) new custom built ranches. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Wooded lots. Minutes: ski, golf, lakes. daydevelopers.com 231-439-9535.

800 HOUSES FOR SALE**800 HOUSES FOR SALE**

**FOR SALE
Single Family Lot**

90 Feet Frontage on a Dead End Street, leading to Lake St. Clair. Established

Grosse Pointe neighborhood.

Represented by Broker

Call 313-343-5588

800 HOUSES FOR SALE**800 HOUSES FOR SALE****800 HOUSES FOR SALE**

**MOST DESIRABLE WOODS LOCATION
Open Sunday, December 11, 2- 4pm**



Inquiries: (313)882-0154 or visit
www.677sunningdale.com

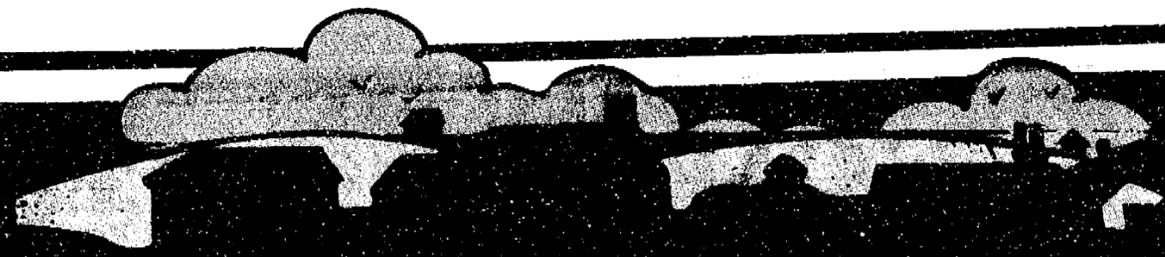
Sophistication and elegance are the Hallmark of this charming 3,800 sq. ft., 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath historic Elizabethan English Tudor. Painstakingly restored and tastefully updated and redecorated to its original grandeur. Amenities to suit the most discriminating buyer... \$795,000.

Interest only monthly mortgage payments to qualified buyers makes this home very affordable. Call for Details!

**ATTENTION:
& Buyers
& Sellers**

Grosse Pointe News **POINTE O' PURCHASE**

(313)882-6900 ext. 3



Sunday OPEN HOUSE December 11, 2005

GROSSE POINTE CITY

| | | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------|--------------------|--------------|
| 2 Lakeside | \$1,900,000 | 2-4pm | Higbie Maxon Agney | 313-886-3400 |
|------------|-------------|-------|--------------------|--------------|

GROSSE POINTE PARK

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1238 Audubon | \$409,000 | 1-4pm | Kelie McMillan/Adlhoch & Associates | 313-570-4555 |
| 15225 Essex | \$299,999 | 1-4pm | Adlhoch & Associates | 313-570-4555 |
| 1365 Maryland | \$173,900 | 1-5pm | By Owner | 313-822-9722 |

GROSSE POINTE SHORES

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-------|--------------------|--------------|
| 951 Lakeshore | \$549,000 | 2-4pm | Higbie Maxon Agney | 313-886-3400 |
|---------------|-----------|-------|--------------------|--------------|

GROSSE POINTE WOODS

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------|---|--|
| 813 Crescent Lane | \$449,000 | 2-4pm | George Smale/Coldwell Banker Schweitzer | 313-886-4200 |
| 788 Fairford | \$385,000 | 2-4pm | By Owner | 313-882-7205 |
| 600 Hidden Lane | \$350,000 | 2-4pm | Julie Ahee/ReMax Capital | 313-642-1000 |
| 760 Pear Tree Lane | \$519,000 | 2-4pm | By Owner | 313-884-8514 |
| 677 Sunningdale | \$795,000 | 2-4pm | | www.677sunningdale.com |
| 991 South Oxford | \$699,000 | 2-4pm | By Owner | 313-881-6448 |
| 1750 Vernier Road, Unit 27 | \$172,000 | 2-4pm | Enid Brahms/Johnstone & Johnstone | 313-884-0600 |
| 20127 West Ballantyne Court | \$429,000 | 1-4pm | By Owner | 586-944-8849 |

ST. CLAIR SHORES

| | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|----------|---------------|--------------|
| 22971 Englehardt | \$182,000 | 1-4:30pm | Sine Monaghan | 586-777-5664 |
|------------------|-----------|----------|---------------|--------------|

To Advertise in this Section please call 313-882-6900 ext. 3 by Monday 4:00 p.m.

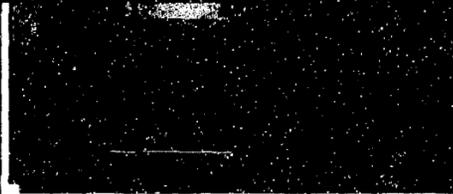
Look for the Blue Bow for Holiday Bonus Homes

FIRST OFFERING



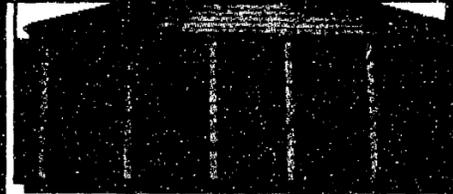
WHITTIER, GROSSE POINTE PARK
SUPERB STYLE & UPDATES await you in this five bedroom Colonial. Gorgeous hardwood floors throughout, four fireplaces, paneled library and large family room. Updated kitchen with granite counters opens to a fantastic solarium style family room, which overlooks a beautifully landscaped yard. \$589,900.

FIRST OFFERING



MT. VERNON, GROSSE POINTE FARMS
JOYOUS LIVING! You'll love the stunning master suite with peaked ceiling, skylights and private bath. The spectacular family room also features skylights and cathedral ceiling. Spacious kitchen with window seat bay window. Two full baths and finished basement with half bath. \$319,000.

FIRST OFFERING



E. EIGHT MILE, ST. CLAIR SHORES
GIVE YOURSELF A CHRISTMAS PRESENT! Sharp two bedroom, one and one half bath condo in a great location. Bonus stackable washer/dryer in half bath saves steps. Kitchen with appliances, Pergo floor in kitchen and dining area. Monthly maintenance fee includes HEAT! \$85,900.

WOW! HUGE PRICE ADJUSTMENT!



OWNER VERY, VERY ANXIOUS! Pampered three bedroom English is move in ready. Many newer updates include cherry kitchen, roof, furnace and air, security system. The two and one half baths are a rare find in this price range. New pricing \$289,000.

ST. CLAIR SHORES



SAVE ON GAS! You can walk to stores and restaurants from this clean, two bedroom condo. Nothing to do but move right in. The furnace and air conditioning are one year old, updated windows and kitchen. All appliances included. \$104,900.

GROSSE POINTE PARK



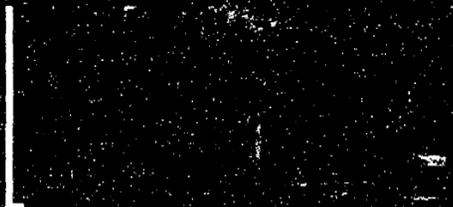
COLONIAL WITH CHARACTER! Fall in love with this storybook Colonial with its built-in bookshelves, curio shelves, window boxes and picket fence. Fireplace in living room, half bath in basement, two and one half car garage. \$222,000.

GROSSE POINTE WOODS



INSIDE - OUTSIDE, this two full bath home couldn't be cuter! Neutral décor, hardwood floors, updated kitchen including newer appliances. Newer large family room with new windows and recessed lighting plus a lot more! \$198,500.

GROSSE POINTE PARK



CHARMING COLONIAL - PRIME LOCATION! Four bedrooms, two and one half baths, updated kitchen with eating space, den and family room. Hardwood floors, custom shutters, finished basement with home office. \$495,000.

GROSSE POINTE FARMS



OVER \$35,000 in improvements since 2000. Beautiful Colonial with two and one half new baths, updated kitchen adjacent to family room and sun-room. New furnace, central air, roof and more. Immediate occupancy! Owners say, "bring offers!" \$299,500.

GROSSE POINTE WOODS



GREAT AS A STARTER or add on later! On a fenced lot with mature trees, it's situated across from a park. Hardwood flooring, first floor laundry, appliances included. Close to freeway, shopping, schools and park. \$98,900.

GROSSE POINTE WOODS



SMART CONDO ALTERNATIVE! Two bedroom ranch with an updated kitchen and bath and large family room that opens to a spacious deck and lovely garden. New windows, newer two and one half car garage. \$184,900.

GROSSE POINTE WOODS



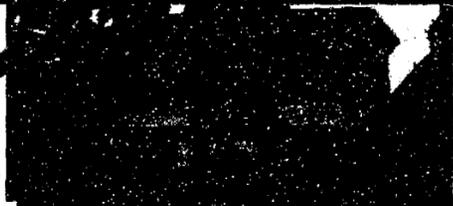
OWN INSTEAD OF RENT! Three bedroom Colonial has been freshly painted along with a new kitchen floor and new ceramic tile in bathroom. Hardwood floors, fireplace in living room and all appliances. \$139,900.

GROSSE POINTE WOODS



GREAT LAYOUT - GREAT VALUE - NEW PRICE! Three bedrooms, two full baths plus half bath in finished basement. Family room with door leading to patio and yard. Kitchen has been updated and includes all appliances. \$199,000.

GROSSE POINTE PARK



OWN EITHER A FIVE OR SIX easy to manage unit. Two identical properties. Both have two bedrooms each. Kitchen appliances included, washer and dryer in basement. Ample parking in rear. \$300,000 and \$325,000. Buy one or two!

GROSSE POINTE CITY



TERRIFIC BUY! Very desirable second floor corner unit with many amenities. Two bedrooms, two full baths, cozy den. Living room overlooks courtyard. Walk-in closets, all appliances included, private basement area. \$299,000.

GROSSE POINTE PARK



SMART INVESTMENT! Exceptional two-family with three bedrooms per unit. Separate entrances, basements and porches. Updated kitchens with eating space and built-in dishwashers. All appliances included. Many updates. Great location. \$229,000.

OPEN SUNDAY
2-4 P.M.

2008 Ridgmont, Grosse Pointe Woods
20418 Country Club, Harper Woods
22801 Rosedale, St. Clair Shores
20924 Parkcrest, Harper Woods
294 Touraine, Grosse Pointe Farms

2128 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Woods
482 Colonial Ct., Grosse Pointe Farms
20313 Edmunton, St. Clair Shores
85 Deeplands Court, Grosse Pointe Shores

1995 Littlestone, Grosse Pointe Woods
935 Berkshire, Grosse Pointe Park
1750 Vernier #27, Grosse Pointe Woods 1-5
1321 S. Oxford, Grosse Pointe Woods

82 Kercheval,
on the Hill
Grosse Pointe Farms

Johnstone & Johnstone

313-884-0600

www.johnstoneandjohnstone.com