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A simple, linear design

Should Central Library be shelved?

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State champs

GPHA PeeWee A Bulldogs nipped Flint in final. PAGE 1C

Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 68, NO. 12, 40 PAGES
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MARCH 22, 2007
 GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Week ahead

18 19 20 21 22 23 24
 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

◆ A shopping fundraiser to benefit Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan will be held from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 24, at Chico's, 16910 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

◆ "An American Music Concert," featuring music by American composers will be held at 7 p.m. in the Fries Auditorium of the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Tickets are \$5 for students and seniors and \$8 for adults and are available at Posterity: A Gallery.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

◆ Music by Chopin, Hayden, Schumann and Shostakovich is featured in the Grosse Pointe Chamber Music concert beginning at 2:30 p.m. in the Crystal Ballroom of the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Tickets are available at the door for \$8 and \$4 for those aged 6 to 15. For more information, call (313) 885-4633.

MONDAY, MARCH 26

◆ The Grosse Pointe Park city council meets at 7 p.m. in council chambers, 15115 E. Jefferson.
 ◆ Grosse Pointe Public Library Board meets at 7 p.m. in the Woods Branch, 20600 Mack.
 ◆ "Drug Trends and Drug Abuse Prevention" is presented by Grosse Pointe school parent clubs from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe South High School auditorium with a federal drug enforcement special agent as guest speaker.
 ◆ The Grosse Pointe Boards of Education meets at 8 p.m. in the Grosse Pointe North High School Library.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27

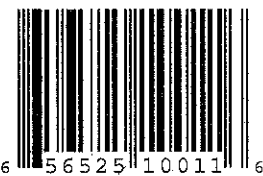
◆ The 26th Annual ArtFest at Grosse Pointe South High School is from 7 to 9 p.m. at Cleminson Hall. Hours through Saturday, March 31, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free admission.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

◆ The central library building committee of the Grosse Pointe Public Library meets at

See WEEK AHEAD, page 2A

Opinion 8A
 Business 11A
 Schools 13A
 Autos 21A
 Obituaries 20B
 Seniors 5B
 Entertainment 7B
 Classified ads 4C



GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Custodial firms trashed

200 strong tell school board not to privatize janitorial/maintenance staff

By Brad Lindberg
 Staff Writer

Representatives of two staffing companies said the district could save at least \$800,000 per year by privatizing the jobs of custodians, skilled tradesmen and building

engineers. Most savings would come from the district no longer having to pay health and pension benefits, which district officials said comprise 48 percent of their salaries. Company spokesmen said if awarded a contract they would try to retain qualified district employees.

"We will hire all staff members at current wage rates plus a 2 percent increase," said Bernie Peroni, director of business development for Sodexho School Services, based in Cincinnati. Sodexho is competing with Aramark Education to take over the jobs of all 78 district employees belonging to the Grosse Pointe Public Schools Plant and Cafeteria Association.

Kevin Finlay, Aramark vice president of client development, forecast his company could save the district \$800,000 to \$1 million based on salaries and benefits alone. Additional savings of \$600,000 would follow if

the company were contracted to provide supplies and energy management, Finlay said. Peroni projected Sodexho's wage-related savings of at least \$868,066 and overall savings of at least \$1.4 million.

See JANITORS, page 3A

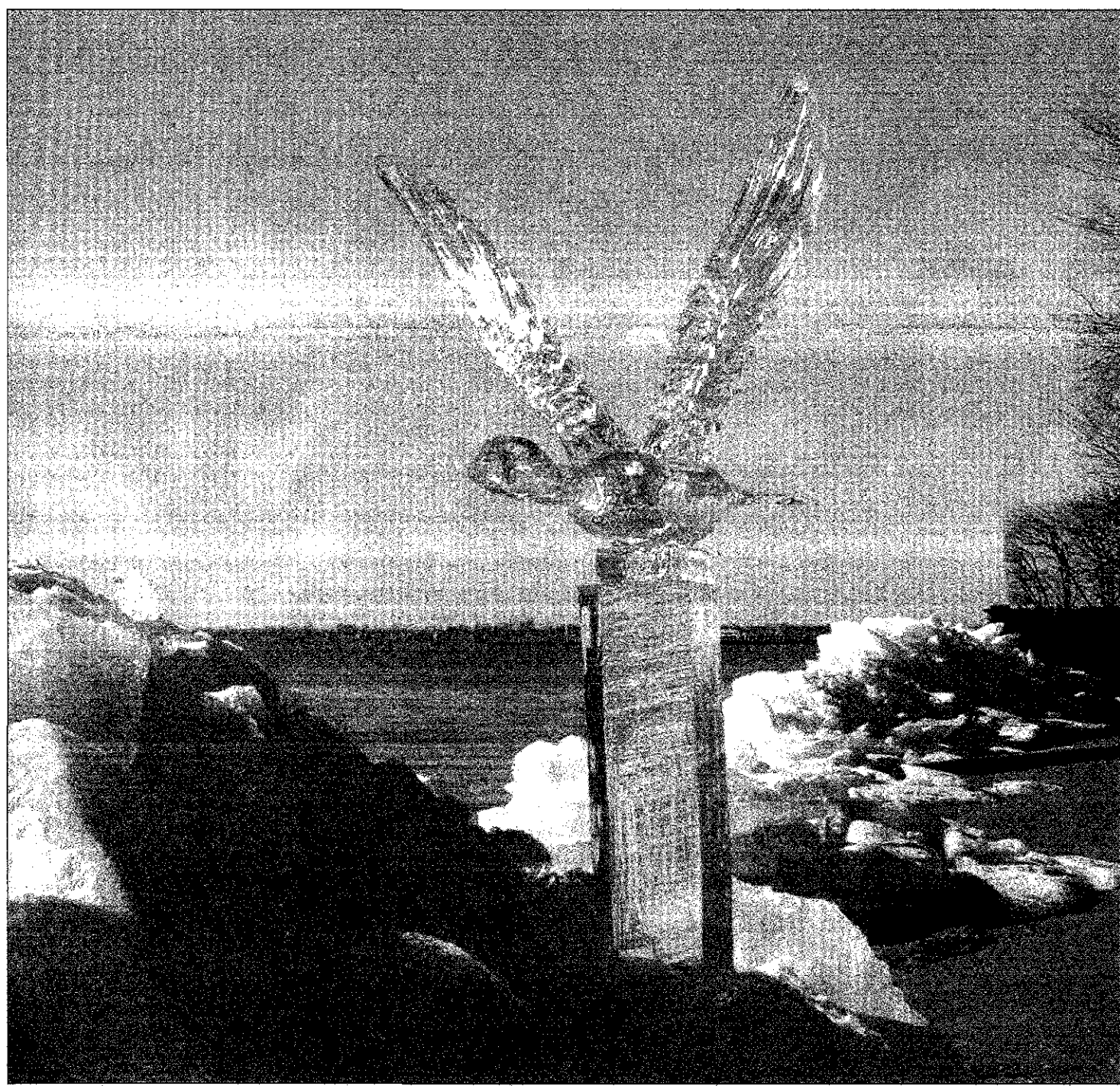


PHOTO BY BETH QUINN

Among nature's ice sculptures along the lake shore, this bird was carved by an unknown sculptor. It stopped traffic on Lakeshore near St. Paul's during the weekend, but like so many beautiful sights, it was gone the next day.

G.P. WOODS

Maison resigns

City to hire forensic firm to audit comptroller's books

By Bob St. John
 Staff Writer

Grosse Pointe Woods' long-time city comptroller Cliff Maison submitted his letter of resignation Monday night, effective Friday, March 16.

Mayor Robert Novitke and city councilmembers accepted the resignation.

City council also approved a forensic audit of city financial records.

Maison did not attend the meeting and said he had "no comment" about the matter.

"We obtained videotape of Mr. Maison pumping gas (into his personal vehicle) from the DPW yard over a period of time," said Chip Berschback, Woods city attorney. "The forensic audit is being done as a precautionary measure."

Maison was hired by the city in 1988 as its comptroller and treasurer. He was also the city's acting city administrator after the firing of Ted Bidigare in 2004.

See RESIGNS, page 2A

Foundation of giving

The John A. and Marlene L. Boll Foundation has pledged \$5 million to the St. John Hospital and Medical Center expansion and renovation. The couple believes in giving back to the community and has done so over the years. Last year, they made a donation to help with the building of Detroit's YMCA. For the story, turn to page 3A.



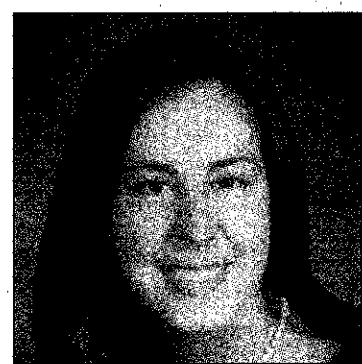
FILE PHOTO

POINTER OF INTEREST

'I take pride in my studies.'

Elizabeth Palmer

Home: Grosse Pointe Farms
Age: 18
Family: Parents, Jim and Denise Palmer; and brother Jimmy, 15.
Claim to fame: All-state field hockey, ice hockey and soccer player; and all "A" student



See story on page 4A

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Yesterday's headlines



PHOTOS BY TOM GREENWOOD

manager.
 ◆ **POINTE SINGERS NEARLY SWEEP INVITATIONAL:** The Grosse Pointe South High School's Pointe Singers took four out of five awards at the International Showstoppers Invitational at Walt Disney World in Florida.
 The choir, under the direction of Ellen Bowen, also took first place gold medals for best soloist, best general effect, best music and grand champions of the show choir category.
 ◆ **TUBBY'S LOOKING FOR SPACE IN WOODS:** The Grosse Pointe Woods, after much debate, tabled a hardship request by Tubby's Inc. to establish a restaurant in the 19000 block of Mack.
 Because the current zoning ordinance limits the number of restaurants that can operate in the city, the restaurant chain would need a variance to move into the Woods. The council plans to revisit the issue in April.

1982: The agony of defeat

Twenty-seven children recently participated in Barnes Elementary School's 14th annual spelling bee. Competitors qualified by passing a 50 word test before going on to the finals. First place went to fifth grader Michele Strey (the first fifth grader to win the contest), and second and third place went to sixth graders Daniel Rashid and Rita Palazzolo. The word that won it all for Strey was "religiously." (From the March 25, 1982 issue of the Grosse Pointe News.)

1957

50 years ago this week

◆ **HOSPITAL ASKS CITY FOR MORE PARKING SPACE:** Citing that new cars are bigger than their predecessors, officials from Bon Secours Hospital have asked the City of Grosse Pointe for permission to construct additional parking spaces for its facility.
 The hospital, one of the largest buildings in the city, wants to increase its current parking capacity from 150 spaces to at least 172, which matches the number of patient beds in the facility.
 The vacant area where the hospital wants to add the spaces is currently zoned as a Residential B District, which

does not allow for public parking.
 ◆ **NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB AMPS UP TENNIS PROGRAM:** The Neighborhood Club in the City of Grosse Pointe is planning to resurface its six tennis courts and sponsor tennis clinics by noted teachers Jean Hoxie and Bill Murphy for the upcoming tennis season.
 Hoxie has agreed to exhibit two of her internationally famous tennis clinics in the summer, and Murphy, the University of Michigan's tennis coach, plans to put on an exhibition with his team in the spring.
 Bids are currently being taken on resurfacing the courts.
 ◆ **CHAMPAGNE TASTES AND CAVIER DREAMS:** Burglars who broke into and robbed Lochmoor Market on Mack took enough money,

food and champagne to throw a party.
 Police said the thieves made off with about \$160 in cash, two steak loins weighing about 30 pounds apiece, 12 pounds of butter and 40 bottles of champagne.
 Entry was gained into the market by forcing open the front door, police said.
 ◆ **WOODS COUNCIL TO CONSIDER HIGH RISE ZONING AT 7-MACK:** A zoning ordinance will be brought before the Grosse Pointe Woods city council in April that would allow high rise, multiple dwellings, restricted office and parking lot development in the

Mack and Moross area.
 The goal of the revised ordinance is to make it easier for the Woods to develop more taxable land, said Brandon Rogers, the Woods planning consultant.
 The revised ordinance is in response to St. John Hospital's continued acquisition of land in the area, which subtracts from the Woods' tax rolls.
 If approved, the high intensity city center district will be confined to the 7-Mack shopping district from Bournmouth to Moross.
 ◆ **PARK AND WOODS JOIN WATER RATE FIGHT:** The Grosse Pointe Park and Woods city councils approved joining the Suburban Association of Detroit Water Customers' appeal of recent rate hikes approved by the Detroit Metropolitan Water Board.
 The action permits the two communities to join the lawsuit pending in the Michigan Court of Appeals.
 The suit contends that hikes, which have increased rates by 39 percent since 1976, are "unjust and inequitable."

1982

25 years ago this week

◆ **FARMS LOOKING TO ADD JOY BELLS TO HILL:** Grosse Pointe Farms city officials are looking to relocate Joy Bells, an old Grosse Pointe attraction, from its current location at Grosse Pointe Blvd. and Moross to the rear of the backstop of Grosse Pointe South High School's athletic field at the foot of McMillan Road.
 The relocation of the bells is one of seven projects proposed by the Farms to HUD through the Community Development Block Grant program. The bells have been at their current location for 25 years.

1997

10 years ago this week

◆ **NEW VIRTUAL HOME FOR THE GROSSE POINTE NEWS:** John Minnis, editor and general manager of the Grosse Pointe News, announced the newspaper would now have a home on the World Wide Web.
 The Web site, grossepointe-news.com, will feature top news stories, features, sports and other news for those with Internet access.
 The Web site is designed by Valerie Encheff, the newspaper's technical operations

2002

5 years ago this week

◆ **HUETTETMAN WILL NOT SEEK A FIFTH TERM:** Grosse Pointe Shores Village President John Huetteman III announced he will not seek a fifth term as village president. Citing his increasing workload in the private sector, Huetteman, village president since 1994, will step down in the spring.
 The announcement ended the Huetteman legacy in the Shores. Huetteman's father was also a Shores village president.
 ◆ **TROLLEY'S ON MACK NOT GOING TOPLESS:** A rumor that Trolley's bar on Mack acquired a permit to offer topless entertainment was dispelled after its owners revealed it had acquired the necessary permit to only operate a bar and dance club.
 A check with Detroit's Consumer License Division revealed that the owners had not applied for a Group D cabaret license.
 A cabaret license is required by the city for topless entertainment.
 The announcement came as a relief to City of Grosse Pointe officials, as the bar borders the municipality.
 — By John Lundberg

WEEK AHEAD:

Continued from page 1A

7 p.m. in the Ewald branch. Discussion includes the latest draft of a space requirements program that fits the total square footage goal and preparation for evaluating proposals of architects due on March 29.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29

◆ **U of M professor George Bornstein will speak at 7:30 p.m. in Grosse Pointe South High School Auditorium on Frederick Douglass' book "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass."**

Grosse Pointe News

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RESIGNS: Maison placed on paid leave

Continued from page 1A

City officials said they received the information of Maison using the DPW gas Wednesday, March 14. On Thursday, March 15, Maison was placed on paid administrative leave.
 He tendered his letter of resignation the following day. "I would like for it to be known that I considered it a privilege to work with some of the finest people I have

come to know," Maison said in his letter of resignation. "To my staff who are second to nobody and made it a joy to come to work."
 In addition, the city has handed the case over to the Michigan State Police.
 "There is a possibility of criminal charges against Mr. Maison," Berschback said. "It all depends on what the state police find in its investigation."
 The search for a new comptroller will begin with a committee-of-the-whole meeting at a yet-to-be-determined date and time.
 Maison's resignation came in the midst of the city formulating its 2007-08 budget.

Village gets 'Pretty Things'

The City of Grosse Pointe approved the front signage site plan review for Pretty Things. It is scheduled to open its doors sometime this spring.
 Pretty Things, which will occupy the commercial space formerly leased to Ambleside Gallery at 17116 Kercheval in

the Village shopping district, presented design guidelines that complied with City color schemes.
 The wording size exceeded the City's code, but since there are no plans for any additional wall signage, the council approved the plan.
 — By John Lundberg

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OPEN SATURDAY, MARCH 24 - 10:00AM - 2:00PM

JANITORS: They play part in education

Continued from page 1A

ings of \$1.1 million if the supply component were added.

Both firms were invited to a special school board meeting Monday night to outline their proposals. Company spokespeople also sought information from board members about the district to use when compiling more detailed bids, including fees.

An audience of about 200 people included district employees who would be affected if privatization occurs.

"I feel that anxiety," said board President Brendan Walsh.

"When you replace us you will be paying top dollar," said Tom Zaglaniczny, president of the Grosse Pointe Public Schools Plant and Cafeteria Association, at this week's board meeting. "You would have no control over outside contractors.

"You would provide the equipment and are responsible for keeping things in working condition. You would give the contractor cost of living increases during each year.

"What is happening is a classic example of penny wise and pound foolish."

Rising healthcare and retirement costs have board members looking everywhere for budget cuts. Cafeteria employees were privatized two years ago. Substitute teachers are next.

"These are difficult times for school districts in Michigan," Walsh said.

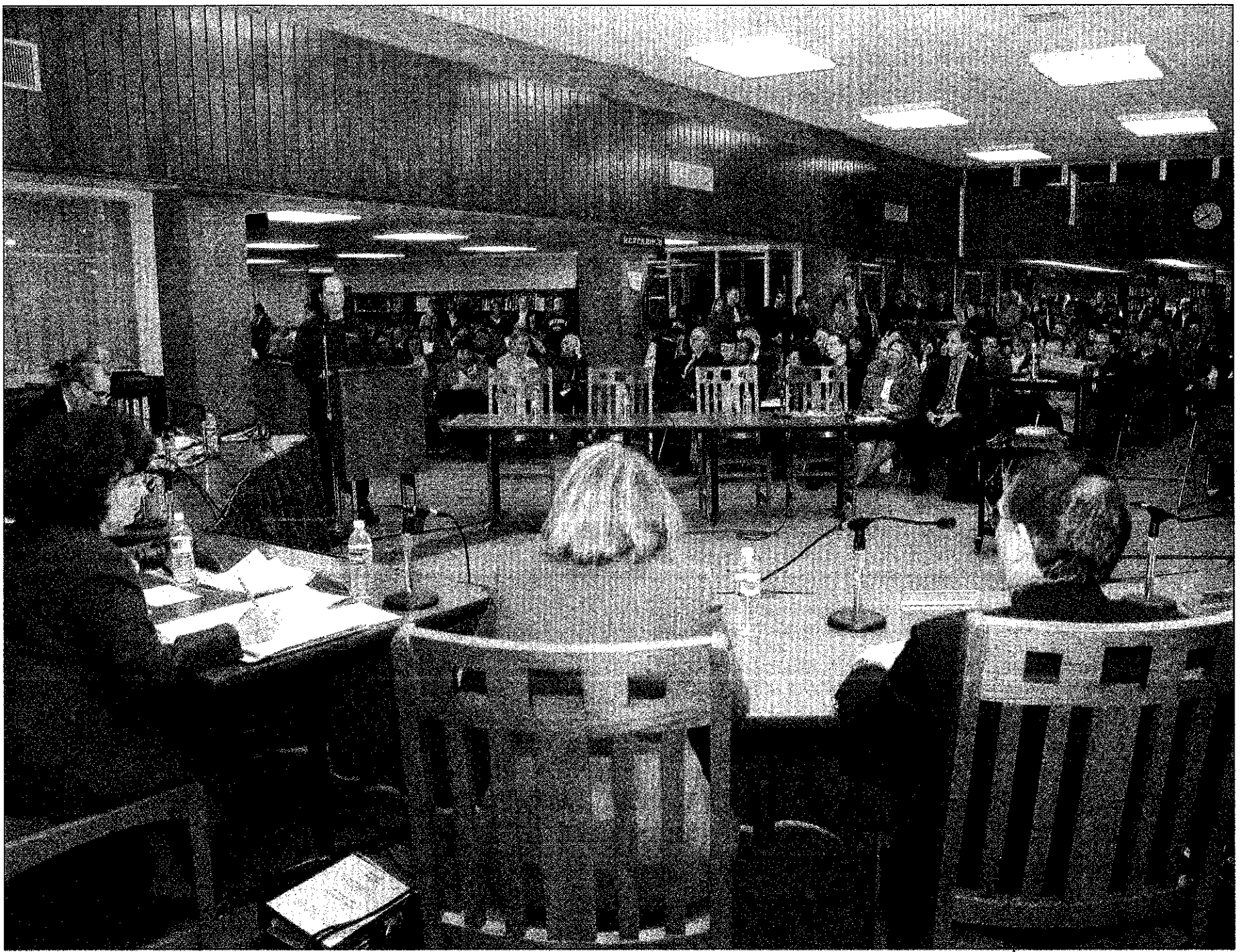
Wants contract

Aramark is an international firm with earnings last year of \$11.6 billion. Fortune Magazine last year named Aramark the "Most Admired Outsourcing Company."

Sodexo, based in Maryland, has a client list of more than 450 school districts. Two years ago it won a contract to privatize Pointe school cafeterias.

Both companies would:

- ◆ conduct criminal background checks of potential



Tom Zaglaniczny, president of the Grosse Pointe Public Schools Plant and Cafeteria Association, takes the podium to defend his unit at this week's packed school board meeting.

employees,

- ◆ offer healthcare and retirement packages,

- ◆ staff extracurricular activities, including community events held on school property

- ◆ provide limited capital equipment — such as cleaning systems and floor scrubbers — to carry out duties and
- ◆ increase custodial and maintenance staff assigned to the district to avoid paying overtime.

Finlay said wages would be adjusted "to what is considered competitive in the market today."

Company representatives toured district facilities late

last year. School officials said discussions will continue at a deliberate pace.

"We view ourselves in the early stages of this process," Walsh said.

For custodians

Of nearly 30 people who addressed the board following the companies' presentations, none supported privatization. All speakers sided with district custodians, whom they described as loyal and dependable employees.

Comments came from parents, teachers, public safety officers and an elected official.

◆ Brett Mitchell, a Farms resident, said custodians are as

much a part of quality education as teachers and administrators.

"A subcontracted maintenance service cannot duplicate the experiences and dedication of our current custodial staff without first reinventing the wheel, which has served us so well."

◆ John Mikesell, a Farms public safety officer, City of Grosse Pointe resident and father of two children in the school system, spoke about his dealings with the current custodial staff.

"These are people willing to troubleshoot after hours and off the clock. I doubt that a privatized company would be

willing to go to such lengths to secure the safety of students and buildings."

◆ Eric Frakes, native Pointer and Trombly teacher for 18 years, said the board's stewardship of the district carries a moral component to its employees that extends beyond financial statements.

"We need you to be wise stewards who guard the value of human lives."

◆ Nancy Swartz, a 30-year Pointe resident and teacher at Richard Elementary for 15 years, described the many roles custodians play at Richard Elementary, where she has worked for 15 years.

"Jack (the day custodian) is a hero to the children who cannot unlock their bike locks and to teachers when they can't unstick a stuck zipper on a snow suit. He is part of the heart of our big family at Richard."

She added, "Jerry, our evening custodian, escorts crying students and anxious parents to lockers to collect homework. He walks me to my car on dark evenings I have worked late or when I returned

'We need you to be wise stewards who guard the value of human lives.'

ERIC FRAKES,
Trombly Elementary teacher

to school for a forgotten item. Will a minimum-wage worker look out for my safety and the safety of the children?"

◆ Debbie Hoshaw, wife of a Park public safety officer and mother of elementary school children, wasn't impressed by cost savings alone.

"Custodians work to provide a safe, clean atmosphere for our children to learn in," she said. "When you spend less, you usually get less."

◆ Donna DeSantis-Reynolds, a Brownell teacher and Grosse Pointe Woods council member, spoke of the board's duty as elected officials.

"Everybody wants you to keep our custodians," she said. "Honor the custodians we have. Show them respect. They have respected us."

Foundation pledges \$5 million to St. John Hospital, Medical Center

The John A. and Marlene L. Boll Foundation has pledged \$5 million to the \$30 million capital campaign to support the St. John Hospital and Medical Center expansion and renovation.

The gift was made to honor the St. John Hospital Guild and the Fontbonne Auxiliary, the hospital's two volunteer service and fundraising groups, of which the Bolls are lifetime members.

With the Bolls' gift, the capital campaign committee has now raised approximately \$24.2 million of its \$30 million goal. The capital campaign

will support the \$163 million, 288,000 square foot expansion of St. John Hospital and Medical Center, which includes consolidated diagnostic imaging center, a doubled-in-size emergency department featuring all private treatment bays, a six-floor tower with 144 private patient rooms, an upgraded and consolidated heart and circulatory center, and easier access with a new main entrance connected to a three-story atrium lobby located adjacent to the main surface parking lot.

The expansion is new, but the Bolls have been longtime

supporters of the hospital.

For more than 30 years, the Bolls have personally volunteered their time and service to St. John Hospital and Medical Center, including serving in various roles on the St. John Hospital and Medical Center Board, St. John Hospital Foundation Board, and Fontbonne Auxiliary Board. They have also been actively involved in many fundraising efforts over the years.

"People think it is easy to give away money," said Kristine Mestdagh, daughter of the Bolls and executive director of the John A. and Marlene L. Boll Foundation, "but a lot of prayer and thought goes into it."

"St. John Hospital and Medical Center has greatly benefited over the years from the generosity of the Boll family," said David B. Stephens, interim president, St. John Hospital and Medical Center. "Their service and dedication, not just through philanthropy but through their personal gifts of time and leadership, has helped make this hospital the world-class medical center it is today."

The John A. and Marlene L. Boll Foundation is a private family foundation that was created in the early 1980s.

St. John Hospital and Medical Center is located in Detroit at Mack Avenue and Moross and is the largest hospital within St. John Health.

GROSSE POINTE WOODS

CDBG has been budget-approved

By Bob St. John
Staff Writer

Services for Older Citizens (SOC) and Pointe Area Assisted Transportation Services (PAATS) will once again benefit from Wayne County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

Grosse Pointe Woods city council approved the estimated \$82,000 proposed CDBG 2007-08 budget during a recent meeting.

"We get an incredible amount of service for the CDBG dollars," SOC Director Sharon Maier said. "It's a great plan and it's the only plan we have for the seniors of Grosse Pointe Woods. We're able to really help the seniors we see on a daily basis."

'We're able to really help seniors.'

SHARON MAIER,
SOC director

Of the \$82,000, \$7,790 will go to SOC minor home repair; \$40,000 to pay senior citizens coordinators; \$7,790 for PAATS; \$18,820 will be issued to improve handicapped accessibility; and \$8,200 will go toward administration costs.

In addition, Woods City Administrator Mark Wollenweber is going to apply for an additional \$30,000 for general housing repair.

"SOC and PAATS need these CDBG funds," Wollenweber said. "We're more than happy to give those programs the funds."



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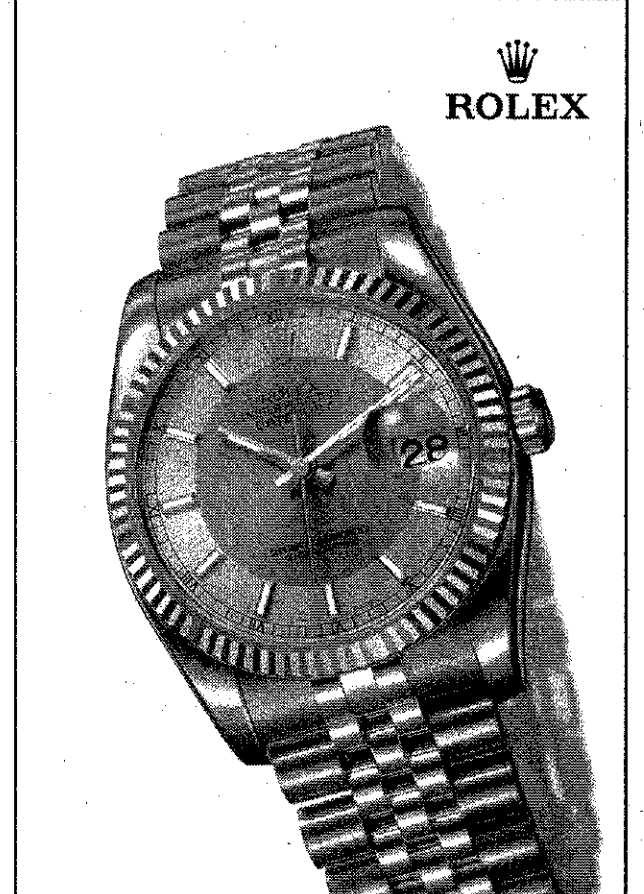
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4A | NEWS

POINTER OF INTEREST

ULS senior **Elizabeth Palmer** earned all-state honors in field hockey, ice hockey and soccer, as well as excelled in the classroom. This multi-talented standout takes her game to college in the fall.

An all-star on, off the field

By Bob St. John
Staff Writer

University Liggett School senior Elizabeth Palmer can hear the clock ticking as the final months of her high school career come to an end and a new chapter of her life begins.

The 18-year-old Grosse Pointe Farms resident still has to decide which college to attend in the fall. The list includes Harvard, to which she has been accepted, Dartmouth, Middlebury and Amherst.

"I love Liggett and everything it represents," Palmer said. "It's a small community where everyone knows everyone. I want my college experience to be similar to Liggett; so I think I am leaning on attending Middlebury because of its smaller size."

Palmer has attended only one school since preschool. Another constant is her grade point average, which is a 4.3.

Her class schedule this term consists of advanced placement physics, world history, Spanish, literature and calculus.

"I take a lot of pride in my studies because I understand how important it is to get good grades," she said.

Palmer's parents, Jim and Denise, give their daughter their unrelenting support, as well as to their son, 15-year-old Jimmy, a freshman at ULS.

"Elizabeth is self-motivated and internally driven," her father said. "She has been blessed to receive a nurturing educational background that helps her keep the flame burning bright."

Jim and Denise were all smiles when their daughter was honored at her final high school girls ice hockey game at ULS Tuesday, Feb. 20.

They were at her side for her final field hockey game in the fall and will be there for her last soccer game in June.

Palmer earned second team all-state and was tied for 12th in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League in scoring, netting 19 goals and 14 assists for 33 points in the Lady Knights' 21 games.

"Palmer is a phenomenal athlete and person," said ULS girls ice hockey head coach Laura Owczarski. "I have absolutely enjoyed watching her the last four years. She got along well with pretty much everyone on the team and is very coachable."

"She is probably one of the hardest workers I have seen. She was never a selfish player, never cherry-picked and al-

ways made her way back to play defense.

"High school athletes like Palmer only come around once in a great while and I feel privileged to have been able to coach her," Owczarski continued. "She has been with me from my first day on the job at ULS and it will be tough next year not having her on the bench and the ice. I will miss her."

Palmer and her teammates lost to city rival Grosse Pointe North 5-1 in the first round of the state playoffs.

She was the Lady Knights' most valuable player this fall and earned all-state honors. She was a co-captain the last three seasons.

"I want a chance to play college hockey, but if that doesn't happen, I am going to take a stab at playing college field hockey," Palmer said.

Since retiring the ice skates for the spring, Palmer has laced up her cleats for soccer.

The Lady Knights are ranked in the preseason top 10 and are anticipating a long run in the state playoffs this June.

She was team captain last year and will once again fulfill that role this spring.

"I am looking forward to my final season of high school sports," Palmer said. "We should have a good soccer team and I know I will be able to play my best to help us fulfill our team goals, which is to win a state title."

Palmer was an all-Metro Conference performer the last two seasons, including her sophomore campaign when the team, under the tutelage of head coach David Backhurst, won the girls soccer Division IV state championship, edging perennial powerhouse Kalamazoo Hackett 1-0.

"This will be the final time I play a sport for ULS," Palmer said. "I will be a little sad when the season ends, but hopefully it ends with a state championship."

When the soccer season ends in June, Palmer will sit back and take a deep breath before embarking to the East Coast at the end of August for her collegiate career.

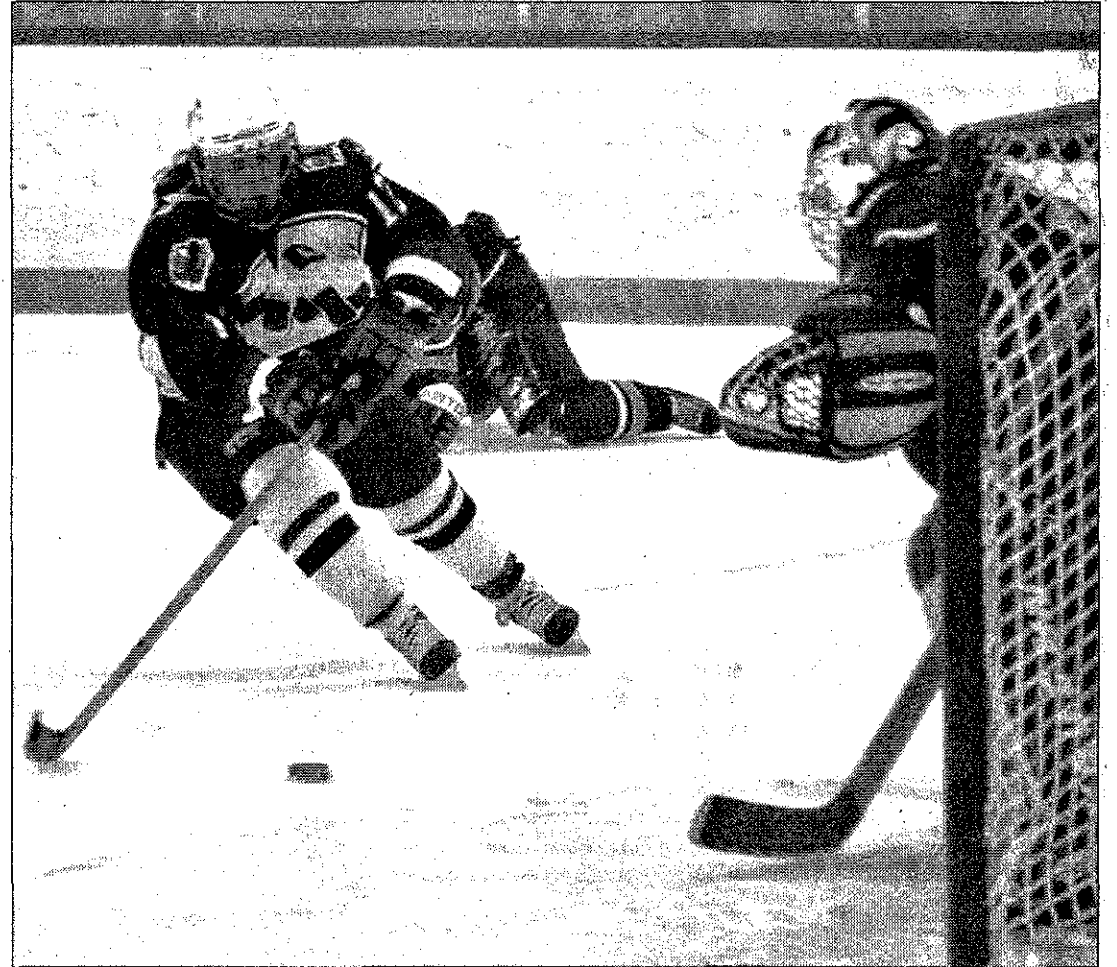
Palmer said she doesn't have any idea what she will major in at college.

"I am going to take my time deciding what I want to do for a career," she said. "I will take the courses I have to during my first year and go from there. I'm looking forward to it, but I know I will miss my family a lot and I will have to use my e-mail and text-messaging every day to keep in touch."



PHOTOS BY RENATO JAMETT

ULS senior Elizabeth Palmer, above, earned all-state second team accolades this season after being named all-league honorable mention a year ago. She scored 19 goals in the Lady Knights' 21 games this season and added 14 assists to go with the 19 goals to finish with 33 points for the ULS girls ice hockey team.



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6A | NEWS

GROSSE POINTE WOODS

Sunrise officials give pitch to residents

By Bob St. John
Staff Writer

Plans are in motion for Sunrise Senior Living to erect a third facility in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Laura Hester, senior vice president of development, laid down the groundwork for the project during a meeting for residents last week.

The project would include razing the Vernier Grosse Pointe Terraces apartment complex, owned by ANK Enterprises, to make room for the 3.4 acres the Sunrise facility would need.

"We want to come in and blend in with the community, like our other facilities," Hester said. "Our plans will allow more than a 50-foot setback and the grounds will be well kept."

Hester said Sunrise officials would help those apartment residents find other housing.

The new Sunrise facility would hold 74 units for independent living and another 68 units for assisted living. Statistics provided by Hester show demand for senior-style assisted living is expected to grow 3 to 4 percent annually to 2010, while supply will only

grow 1 to 2 percent during the same time frame.

The structure will be 55-feet in height at its highest point with a six-foot brick wall surrounding three sides. The entrance would face Vernier and the back would face Grosse Pointe North High School's tennis courts. The sides of the structure would face Vernier Circle and Fairway Lane.

Tall arborvitae would also be planted around the facility as a buffer zone to the residential neighborhood.

"We (Sunrise) wanted to give you a chance to see the plans before you get a letter in the

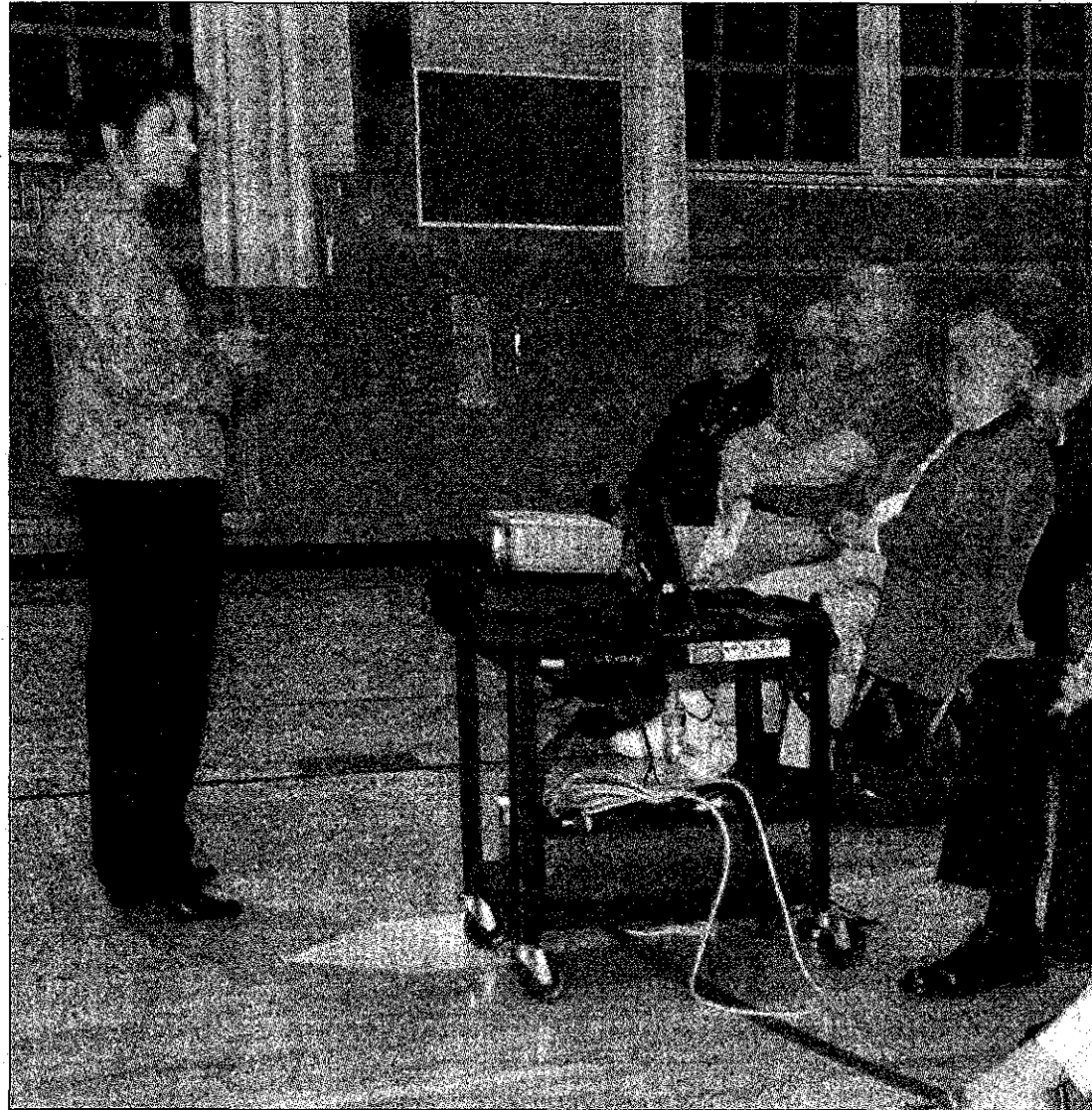


PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Sunrise Senior Living Senior Vice President of Development Laura Hester, left, gave Grosse Pointe Woods residents information about the company's plan to build a third complex on the grounds that the Grosse Pointe Terraces apartment complex currently occupies.

mail notifying you of the project," Hester said. "We're here to answer any and all of your questions."

Most of the residents in attendance were in favor of the project. Some questioned the size of the structure (three stories at the sides and four stories in the center), the height of the brick wall surrounding the building and the increased traffic entering and leaving the facility.

Hester said Sunrise has a site plan and an option to buy the apartment complex. Next on

the agenda is a March 27 meeting with the Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission.

If the commission approves the project, Sunrise officials would have to get city council's OK.

Hester said if the planning commission and city council approve the plans, it would be eight or nine months before the apartment complex would be razed, possibly longer.

Once Sunrise has a flat surface to work with, Hester said it would take approximately 18 months to build the facility.

It took construction workers eight months to build the first Sunrise facility on Mack and Brys and 12 months to erect the second Sunrise building on Vernier and Mack.

The Sterling of Grosse Pointe, a Sunrise Senior Living condominium facility, is currently planned for the east side of St. Clair just south of Kercheval in the City of Grosse Pointe.

Groundbreaking is scheduled for this summer with a projected grand opening in 2009.

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GROSSE POINTE PARK

Public safety director sees crime decline

By Bob St. John
Staff Writer

Public safety in Grosse Pointe Park is on top of the world, according to the city's chief.

Department of Public Safety Director Dave Hiller was all smiles during his presentation of the 2006 Public Safety Annual Report to Mayor Palmer Heenan and city councilmembers during Monday night's meeting.

"I'm happy to say overall crime in the city has dropped 3 percent (3.1 percent to be exact)," Hiller said.

"I am extremely proud of the continued dedication and commitment displayed by all of the members of the department in the last year."

"The chief and I are very proud of our officers and detectives for their efforts to work as a team," Deputy Director John Schulte said.

Index crimes, which are the most serious crimes such as murder, criminal sexual conduct, robbery, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft, rose by four (362 from 358), or 1 percent.

"A lot of key issues have gone down, which is a positive for the department," Park City Manager Dale Krajniak said. "Keep up the good work."

Park police reported 16 robberies, four aggravated assaults, 22 burglaries, 18 larcenies, 19 automobile thefts and three cases of retail fraud in 2006, which total eight less than 2005.

"The numbers are skewed a little since two suspects were responsible for 11 home invasions," Hiller said. "Our officers caught both of those individuals who were charged with the crimes."

Non-Index offenses dropped from 405 in 2005 to 370 last year. Of those offenses,

43 were alcohol-related and 47 involved narcotics.

"We're proud of the fact that we post a 63 percent clearance rate, which is nearly double the state average (which is 33 percent)," Hiller said. "This is an outstanding rate and one we take great pride in."

Auto theft rose from 84 in 2005 to 96 last year, well below the 127 vehicles taken from Grosse Pointe Park in 2003.

Hiller said the city hasn't had an auto theft in a couple of weeks, which can be attributed to the new task force called Arresting Car Thieves in Our Neighborhood (ACTION).

The task force is a collaborative effort between the Wayne County Sheriff's Office and the public safety departments in the five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods.

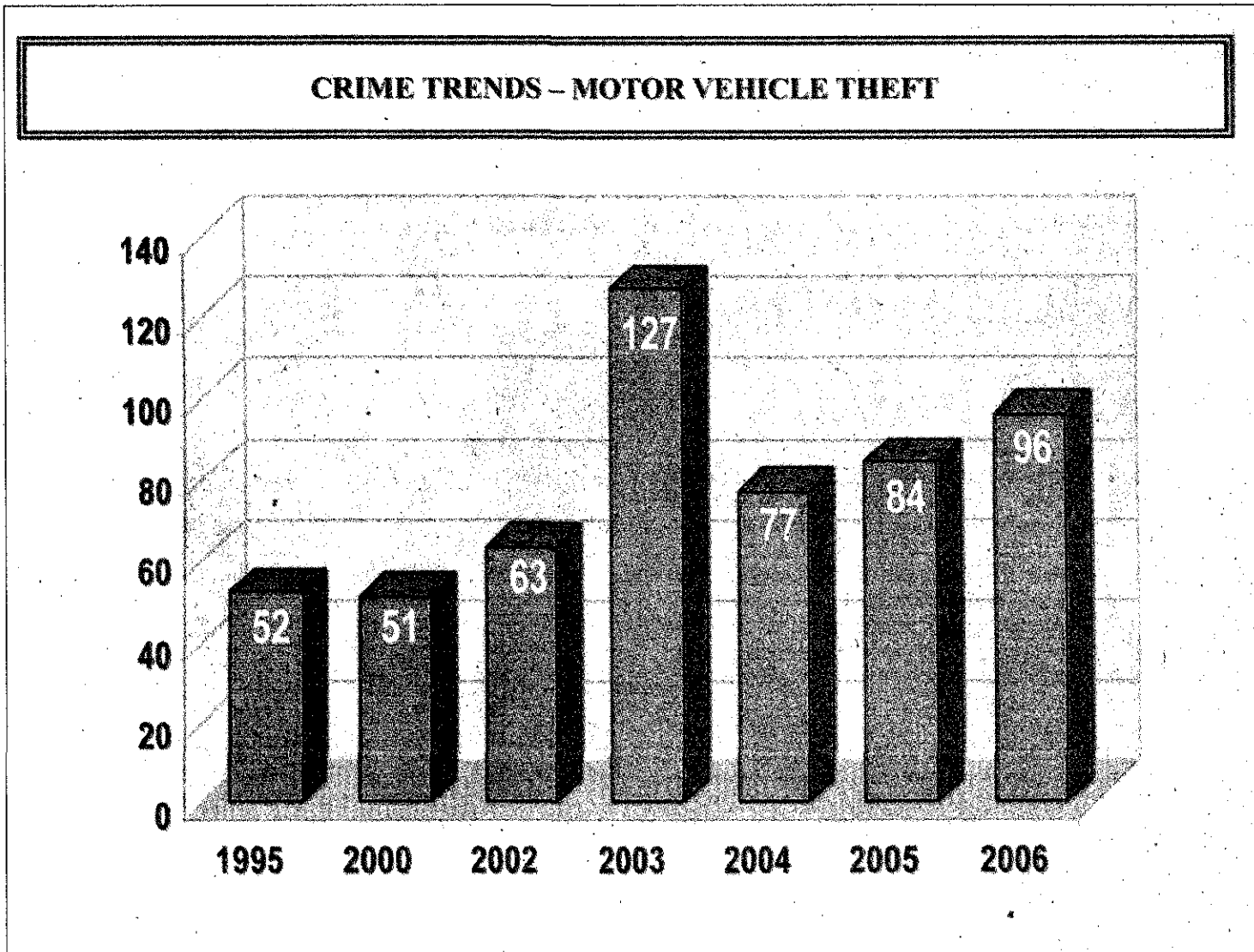
"ACTION is still in its infancy state, but so far we think the officers are making an impact in fighting auto theft," Hiller said. "Our goal is to develop long-term solutions to the problems we all experience."

"You are always looking for new ways to fight crime," city councilmember James Robson said. "We thank you for your efforts."

The newer Youth Services Unit (YSU) has made a positive impact on the community, Hiller said. Juvenile offenses rose from 104 in 2005 to 123 last year, including 25 auto thefts and 25 involving stolen property.

"The YSU has done a great job of quickly handling these cases we get and processing them through its system," Hiller said.

"Unfortunately, juveniles are involved with more auto thefts than ever before, but our officers handling juvenile



Grosse Pointe Park has seen an increase in auto thefts (96) in 2006, but the number is less than the city's high of 127 experienced in 2003.

cases are working very well at making arrests."

Park police officers initiated 7,087 vehicle stops in 2006 with a majority of those involving speeding and driving with a suspended license.

Having no proof of insurance and displaying an improper license plate accounted for numerous stops as well.

"I get a lot of positive comments from our citizens regarding the professionalism of your officers," city councilmember Robert Denner said.

Each patrol car is equipped with computers that are directly linked to CLEMIS (Courts and Law Enforcement Management Information System), a multi-jurisdictional system that provides immediate information to officers.

In addition, Hiller said his officers spent a total of 3,056 hours in training to become more effective.

"We take a lot of pride in providing our residents with the highest sense of honor," Hiller said. "We settle for nothing less."

GROSSE POINTE WOODS

Easter egg hunt

The Grosse Pointe Business & Professional Association of Mack Avenue, in conjunction with Grosse Pointe Woods, is sponsoring a free Easter egg hunt from 11 a.m. to noon, Saturday, March 31, at Ghesquiere Park.

The event (rain or shine) is for children ages 2 to 8 and each child must be accompanied by an adult.

Sign up by March 23 at one

of these neighborhood locations:

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Hall, 20025 Mack
- ◆ AAA-Grosse Pointe, 19299 Mack
- ◆ Joyce's Salon, 17912 Mack
- ◆ Josef's French Pastry Shoppe, 21150 Mack
- ◆ Rainy Day Art Supply, 20507 Mack
- ◆ Flagstar Bank, 19733 Mack

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8A | OPINION

Grosse Pointe News

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EDITORIAL

Privatization is not a joke

Continued employment and a 2 percent raise. Who could possibly object to that in today's dismal economic climate? Apparently school cafeteria, custodial and maintenance workers would complain, along with some 200 spectators at Monday night's school board meeting held at Grosse Pointe North High School.

As with all issues involving schools, the proposed privatization of services is an emotional one.

Parents fear private companies will not do sufficient criminal checks of potential janitors or maintenance workers to weed out sexual predators. However, this accusation is ill-founded.

Yes, the schools do a good job of criminal checks. Last July, the Michigan Department of Education released a list of 193 public school employees who had been convicted of misdemeanors. Nearly all of the offenses involved assault, battery or domestic violence and went back as far as the 1960s. According to the Detroit Free Press, which obtained the report under the Freedom of Information Act, the list included just one conviction for criminal sexual conduct and three for child abuse. At least one name on the list was found to be a mistake, and others are being challenged by named employees and their unions.

We remind readers of last summer's story for two reasons. One, even school districts make mistakes. So the mere fact that a janitor, for example, was hired directly by the school system is no guarantee that no mistake was made. Second, the state Department of Education report was positive in that school districts made very few mistakes in their hiring practices. Fewer than 200 misdemeanors among thousands of public school employees statewide is minuscule.

Under proposed contracts with private companies, criminal background checks of all potential new hires would continue to be routine and mandatory. The school system could also perform the criminal background checks if such a procedure is included in contract negotiations with the private firms.

Tom Zaglaniczny, president of the Grosse Pointe Public Schools Plant and Cafeteria Association, the union that represents the 78 affected employees, charged that the school district would not have any control over an outside contractor. That is simply not true.

There will be contractual obligations covering all possible contingencies, just as there are in labor contracts between the school district and the union.

A Grosse Pointe Woods mother said she surfed the Internet and found that in 2005 one of the proposed contractors allegedly staffed a college cafeteria with scantily clad male and female wait staff to boost attendance. However, the Woods mom's proof, we found, appears to be an April Fool's Day prank published in a college newspaper.

One elementary school teacher was complimentary of an evening custodian who walks her to her car for safety when she works late. She asked, "Will a minimum wage worker look out for my safety and the safety of the children?"

Both private firms bidding on the custodian and maintenance services have not only promised to match current employees' pay, they also promise a 2 percent raise. We doubt any of the affected workers make the minimum wage, which in Michigan is \$6.95 an hour and goes to \$7.15 on July 1.

Also, since when does human compassion depend on how much one makes per hour? One would hope people making \$14,000 a year are just as caring as people making \$140,000 a year.

Parents fear janitors, maintenance and cafeteria workers hired by a private firm will not be as caring as those hired by the school system. If the private companies hire from within the community based on sound hiring practices, we doubt the quality of the staff will diminish.

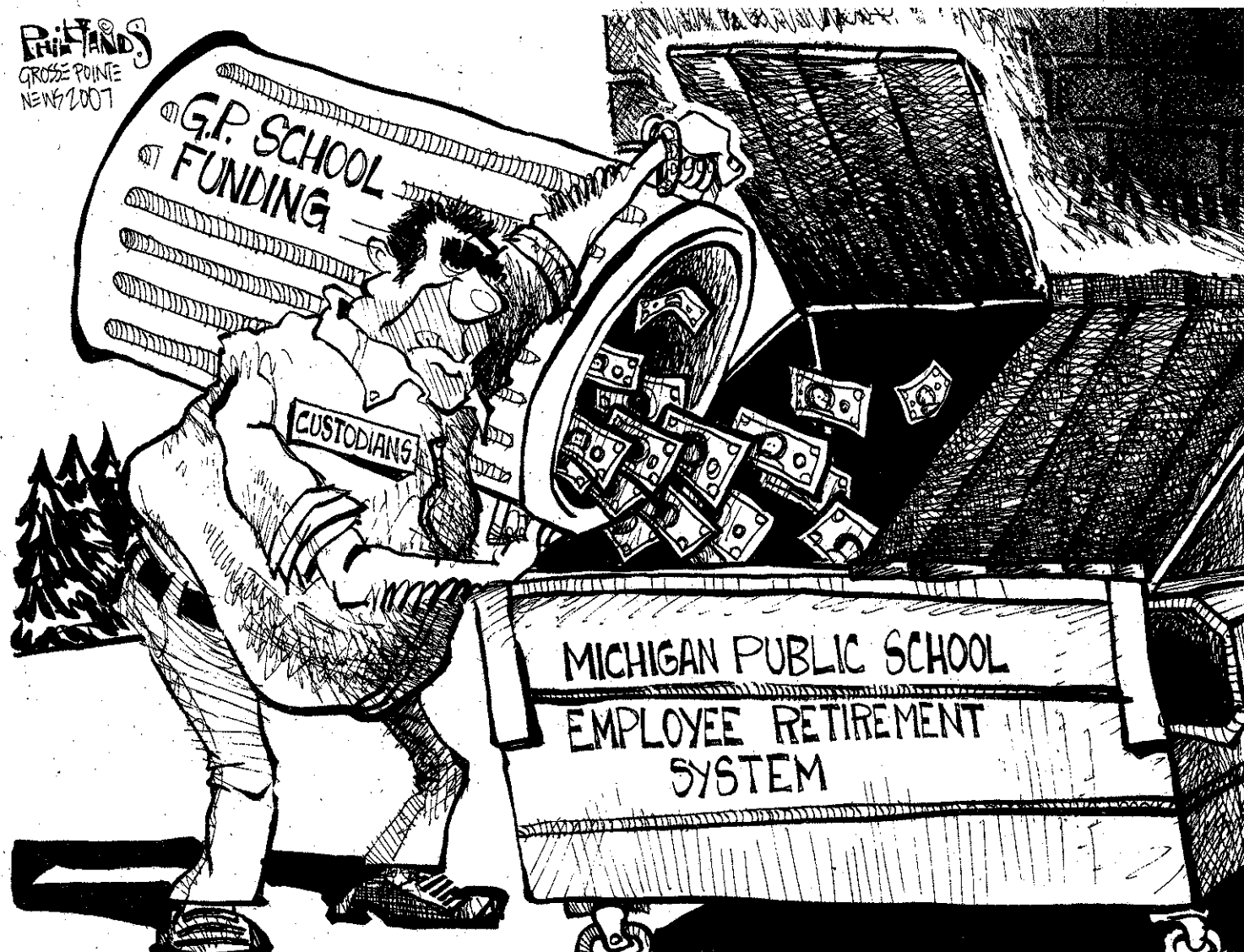
The Grosse Pointe schools face budget deficits. The board and administration could save \$1 million by raising elementary class size or eliminating all extra-curricular activities. Or it could do so by privatizing maintenance and support services. Which would you do?

The problem with the school district hiring the janitors, maintenance workers and cafeteria personnel has nothing to do with the quality of employees. It has everything to do with nearly half of the public schools' personnel costs going into health and pension benefits.

Those perks are the reason many people seek public employment. The problem is that we, the taxpayers, can no longer afford to be so generous. Besides, private sector workers — the rest of us — seem to be getting along on standard employment benefits. And, yes, we would walk a fellow employee to their car at night and zip up a child's coat if necessary — and without additional pay or benefits.

Privatization may be a dirty word to school unions and dotting parents, yet we believe its time has come.

PHIL HANDS



LETTERS

The Grosse Pointe News welcomes your letters to the editor. All letters should be typed, double-spaced, signed and limited to 250 words. Longer letters may be edited for length and all letters may be edited for content. We reserve the right to refuse any letter. Include a daytime phone number for verification or questions. The deadline for letters is 3 p.m. Monday.

Wildlife management

To the Editor:

While I appreciate the submission of some additional information regarding the coyote issue submitted in a letter to the editor, "Coyotes in Grosse Pointe," March 15 Grosse Pointe News, I would like to add some pertinent facts.

I was not attempting to "romanticize" the issue, in my letter, "Let's not get too trigger happy" (March 1 Grosse Pointe News), but provide some concrete information and rational alternatives to the community and your readers.

I also wouldn't want to assume the recent letter writer "cherry picked" the facts to mislead.

The University of Michigan website the letter writer referenced is actually, stated in their disclaimer: "written largely by and for college students and while we edit our accounts for accuracy, we cannot guarantee all information in those accounts."

The website also states that published submissions are from high school students and undergraduates, to encourage student authorship. Including that hot bed of zoology research, Cocoa Beach High School.

The website is not a formal department of the University of Michigan. They also state in the "Contact Us link": "Please remember that we are a nonprofit site on a shoestring budget. We will not answer questions that can easily be answered by effective web searches or questions in subject areas where we do not have expertise, including pets, wildlife management, pest control, wildlife rehabilitation and veterinary care."

The letter writer also selected the website's "Economic Importance for Humans: Negative" category, but failed to include the next category, "Economic Importance for Humans: Positive."

Coyotes help control some agricultural pests, such as rodents.

The letter also stated a portion of their food habits, but failed to record the next continuing sentences in that section that state: "Plants eaten include leaves of balsam fir and white cedar, sassafras, strawberry and apple. Fruits and vegetables are a significant part of the diet of coyotes in the fall and winter months."

The letter went on to imply "they serve as hosts for a num-

ber of diseases including rabies." Well, a bit of a stretch. According to our excellent, local staff at the Grosse Pointe Animal Clinic, "To state that the local coyotes have rabies would be totally false, and a specific test on the animals brain has to be performed to verify it and the instances are extremely low."

As far as the letter writer stating, "Youth" at the Lakefront Park will be ambushed and consumed, according to the state of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources, they need to be more cautious of "attacks from snakes, rodents, and domestic dogs, than coyotes." These are the people that actually have advanced university degrees in wildlife management.

BILL BRADLEY
Grosse Pointe Park

Equalized pop-up tax

To the Editor:

I wish we could receive a true impartial study of the so-called pop-up tax, rather than the smoke and mirrors presented by Grosse Pointe Realtor Michael LeVan and apparently endorsed by the Grosse Pointe News, "Realtor: Where does the pop-up tax go?" (March 15 Grosse Pointe News).

Mr. LeVan stated that his property taxes are 81 percent higher than had been paid by the person who sold him his home.

Actually the story is much worse than that. I'm sure Mr. LeVan paid much more, perhaps at least 81 percent more for his home, than did the seller in 1990. Not only is he paying more taxes for the same service as his neighbors, but he paid much more for equal property than did his neighbors. Based on these facts, the solution is obvious — pass a law that no homeowner may sell his property for more than he paid for it (plus inflation). Then the pop-up tax would be eliminated and all property of equal value would be taxed equally regardless of how long it had been held.

Of course the Board of Realtors would vigorously oppose such a law, as would I.

Thirty-five years ago, before all these "heinous" laws had been passed, many long-term senior citizens were being driven from their homes because skyrocketing tax increases were becoming more than they could afford.

The Grosse Pointe News was in the forefront in calling for a moratorium on increasing taxes on current homeowners. The taxes could be brought up to actual market value when the property was sold.

It's true that those who ignore history are doomed to repeat it.

EDWARD HAUG
Grosse Pointe Farms

Discouraging pop-up tax

To the Editor:

Michigan's property tax system is broke. A tax scheme whereby one neighbor benefits at the expense of another is truly wretched public policy. And, it may very well be that nobody actually benefits and that this is a bad system all the way around. The reason is that we live in a market economy in which wealth and income are created by buying and selling. The more we do of it the better off we are.

Think of a garage sale. The seller puts a bunch of old stuff up for sale. This generates income because the alternative would be to trash the stuff and get nothing. The buyer gets a bargain compared to buying the stuff new and will gladly part with his money for something he perceives has much greater value. Everyone is better off because the deal is done.

So what's the pop-up tax do? Well, it discourages the buying and selling of property, which leaves us all worse off. The older couple, who really want to downsize, ends up hanging on to the big house because moving to a condo would mean a tax increase.

The couple with a growing family ends up not moving into the big house they really need because they will be hammered by taxes. Nobody gets what they want. Everybody is worse off.

What should be done? Cap taxes, not assessments. Allow assessments to rise with market values. If assessments go up faster than the rate of inflation, cut back on the millage rate so that taxes do not.

PHILIP ALLOR
Grosse Pointe Park

First-class education spent

To the Editor:

The March 8 Grosse Pointe News editorial, "Privatizing saves money," should make sense to every citizen in the Pointes.

Privatizing school employees has been successfully implemented by others for decades, yet we, in the Pointes, only hear about it when there is a serious budget shortfall. Why is that?

The following are a few "Public Education Truisms":

Truism No. 1) The public school system will never ever have enough money. Last November's election proposal was, as usual, touted as "for the

children." It was soundly rejected because it was rightfully recognized as a money grab "for the teachers."

Truism No. 2) That teachers and other school employees work fewer hours per year, yet have far superior health care and retirement packages than basically everyone else.

But wait, maybe we're getting our money's worth.

Truism No. 3) The most deplorable truism. Of all of the money spent in the world on education, the United States spends half of that total, yet we have but 5 percent of the world's population. When our students are given measurable tests in math and science, we rank near the bottom — 24th — when compared to other industrialized countries. Simply put, we are clearly providing ample funds for a first-class education. Are we really getting our money's worth?

REBECCA BACCUS
Grosse Pointe Woods

Thanks public safety officers

To the Editor:

I have lived in Grosse Pointe for 40 years and have, fortunately, never needed assistance until March 2, when my car broke down in the middle of Mack Avenue.

I immediately panicked and realized I did not have my cell phone. Within minutes, Grosse Pointe Woods' Public Safety Officer Anthony Chalut was at my side.

Officer Chalut calmed me down and took me to his car to stay warm while he arranged towing to a local service center. Then, he took me home and made sure that I was OK. I am a senior and do not know what I would have done without the help of Officer Chalut.

I wish to thank our wonderful public safety officers for the job they do.

MRS. JEANNE DIVOZZO
Grosse Pointe Woods

Water call has new hours

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department is extending its Customer Call Center hours of operation to include 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays. The center's new phone number is (313) 964-9090. Regular customer call hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Water Board Building, 735 Randolph, first floor. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The office is closed between noon and 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

Eastside Customer Service Center, 13303 E. McNichols, 1 1/2 blocks west of Gratiot. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

All centers are available to assist with billing and account inquiries.

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I SAY By Ann L. Fouty

Life and death show up in the cards



There are as many nights as days, and the one is just as long as the other in the year's course. Even a happy life cannot be without a measure of darkness, and the word "happy" would lose its meaning if it were not balanced by sadness.

—Carl Jung

Our friend's father died last month. It wasn't unexpected. He had been sick for quite a few months. Upon his death, I brought out my box of cards to find the appropriate sentiment.

I selected one and mailed it.

Not a week later, my sister-in-law's aunt died. Again, I went to my card box to select a sympathy card.

Fanning them out over the table, I realized I didn't have many. I had used several in the past months and the choices I had were few. As I sat drumming my fingertips on the table top, I was confronted with the realization that I am in that part of my life when people I know are dying — a measure of darkness. On the flip side, I am buying wedding and baby gifts.

I seem to be in the "dead" center of life and death events.

I've been attending funerals off and on since I was in elementary school, beginning with a beloved great-aunt and

then a grandfather. But it's the thought that I'm at "THAT" age which I sense is the balance Jung is talking about.

Attending visitations, funerals and wakes has been a laboring part of life. Death is always a part of one's life. Attending funerals is gloomy and duty-bound. It's an unhappy event.

As the lily-of-the-valley card catches my eye, a card with blue and pink teddy bears draws me in.

Life and rebirth is part of life, I remind myself, because I had to mail cards to two nieces on the births of their children. And that is the happy part of life, celebrating life, continuance and adding another chapter to life.

For death, I donate to a cause

in the name of the deceased. I perceive that I am giving to the greater good, accelerating research to eliminate the disease from which the person died or to assist a nonprofit's continuance which the dead person had a fondness or a penchant; or an effort to continue life. It's an effort to add to the daylight, holding back the darkness.

For births, I donate to American consumerism — I buy a gift. It could be a department store gift card, a piece of clothing or a toy.

It used to be a chore baby shopping, now it's a trip — a trip down memory lane and for the sheer happiness of it. Where's the fun in buying adult-size boots for clomping through slush and mush to the grocery store? It's spirit-lifting

to purchase gayly-colored plastic boots which will never set foot in snow because the wearer's feet have yet to balance on the carpet, let alone plow through snow and splash into puddles.

Here we were in a department store new to Michigan anticipating new arrivals.

My daughter and I handled, picked up, sorted through, touched, and mixed and matched an assortment of clothing for the newest Girl Fouty.

Who doesn't love baby clothing, we exclaimed, as we moved from one rack to another? We oohed and aahed over the spring and summer fashions for the little dark-haired girl who will just spit up on the overpriced clothing.

"Look at these," I said, wistfully as I held a pair of spring green corduroy shoes with embroidered pink flowers. "These are just too cute."

A rack away, my daughter rejected hat after hat. Should it be a pink one or white with pink flowers?

We looked at little blue jeans with matching vests and miniature jackets.

We considered onesy and a la carte outfits. We laughed at rain boots for children who don't even walk yet and petted blankets with animals attached.

Experiencing newness of birth is part of the joy of life. This is definitely the happy part of life made more meaningful because death has been a part of it as well.

STREETWISE By Renee Landuyt

How excited are you about spring and what do you like best about it?

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



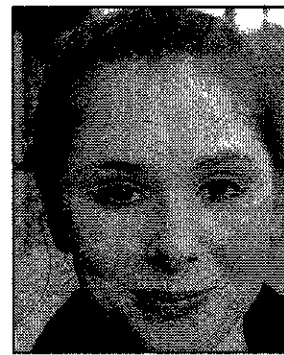
"I am very excited because the snow is gone and it's warmer."
SHANE IRELAND
Grosse Pointe Woods



"I am excited because I like the weather and all the flowers."
ANNA BRUCKER
Grosse Pointe Woods



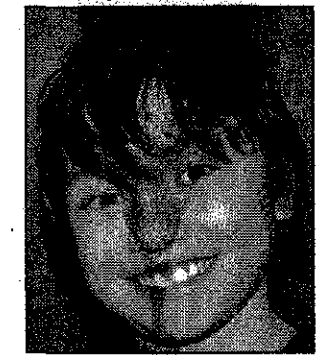
"I am really excited. I like the transition from winter to spring with all the flowers and I am going to Florida for spring break."
AUDREY HERRINGTON
Grosse Pointe Park



"Very excited. I am going to North Carolina and I love the fresh smell of spring when everything is blooming."
CAROL ANN MANOWN
City of Grosse Pointe



"I look forward to it and I love the spring clothes. Also, the end of school is fun because there's always a lot going on."
SALLY DIXON
Grosse Pointe Park



"I like it because it's warm and baseball starts."
NOAH MORRIS
Grosse Pointe Park

FYI By Ben Burns

Hawk-eyed columnist spots rare bird



Cooper's hawk swept down and snaffled a sparrow at my neighbor's bird feeder recently and then proceeded to pluck it and eat it while sitting on a porch rail outside our kitchen window. It has probably never read a warning about undercooked meat.

By the time I finished my soup and sandwich, the hawk had left a bony carcass in the clematis vines covering the rail. To confirm that it was a Cooper's hawk — supposedly fairly unusual in these parts — I e-mailed pictures of the bird to my brother, who is an amateur ornithologist in Portland, Ore., and has stalked birds all over the world.

Based on his analysis of my rather bad pictures, he said it

was too big to be a sharp-shinned hawk and possibly a northern goshawk, but after I explained that my pictures were unnaturally blue, he said I was probably correct.

(Hope they're right or they will both be eating crow. Ed.)

Signs of times

For 18 years — first in the afternoon and then in the morning — Emilia Berdayes faithfully delivered The Detroit News to our doorstep. Neither rain nor heat nor snow nor sleet stopped her from her appointed rounds. We never saw much of her because she came and went so early.

But downsizing and economic efficiency halted her in mid-January.

We got a sad note with our newspaper advising us all four of the daily newspapers that land on our doorstep have been consolidated in the hands of a single carrier for cost efficiency.

"May the New Year bring good things to all of you and good health," Emilia wrote in her farewell message.

Prescription

An elderly gent — that means somewhat older than my 66 years — stood in front of the cash register at CVS in the Village awaiting his prescription. The nice young woman at the counter checked and said that his health insurance carrier's computers were down so they couldn't confirm that they would pay for the prescriptions.

"How much is it? I'll pay for it," he said.

"It's \$397," she responded.

"Oh, I have to sit down," he said, sliding his wallet back into his pocket.

The concerned clerk then explained to him that he could purchase a portion of the prescription to tide him over until the insurance company got its computer problems straightened out.

Trash bin

Outside the Village CVS there is a notice posted on the trash bin warning customers not to dispose of prescription information in that receptacle as someone might retrieve it

for identity theft.

(And it probably violates HIPPA laws. Ed.)

Foot smart

Here's an interesting test from the Internet chatter that I have no way of explaining. While sitting, start rotating your right foot counter-clockwise.

Then with your right hand draw a number "6" in the air. For most of us, our foot will start rotating the other way. There are some folks who can beat the trick, particularly if you draw your 6's counter-clockwise.

The Internet friend who sent that to me said the reason for the reaction was because it is preprogrammed in our brains.

Others, including Geoff Lowe of the University of Hull in Canada, have more detailed explanations that appear on the Ask MetaFilter Web site.

Here is Lowe's: "This effect is partly due to the normal difference in height between hand and foot. That difference, in con-

junction with gravity and the Earth's rotation, is enough to affect the body's highly sensitive limb rotation mechanisms.

"If you eliminate this difference (for instance, by lying down and holding your right leg and arm at about the same height), your right foot will be unaffected.

"However, if you reverse this height difference (for instance, by positioning your right leg above your head and your right hand nearer the floor), the effect will be even more marked. This is probably because, with this posture, your head is in a silly position, too."

A related puzzle was provided by an R. Schram on the MetaFilter Web site:

"Try to simultaneously rotate the index fingers of both hands in the same direction (clockwise or anticlockwise). Do it slowly at first, then faster, and faster... Pretty soon, they're going in opposite directions. It was explained to me that this demonstrates a tendency for the brain to coordinate the

body in symmetrical ways.

"The foot/six combination on one side of the body is hard because it violates the brain's natural tendency to keep one side moving in the same way.

"The two fingers trick shows that opposite sides tend to move in opposite patterns.

"The person explaining this then expanded his point to suggest that the body has certain rhythms and patterns, templates for motion, if you will, that it likes to repeat and are very difficult to consciously overcome.

"In other words, while these orchestrated body motions are physically possible, they are "harder" to do because it is so ingrained in us to keep things moving in symmetrical patterns."

(Hope we're not putting our foot in our mouths. Ed.)

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

VIEWPOINT ON PUBLIC ISSUES

Is Michigan the best run or best protected?

Just before proposing the largest budget in the history of the state — and a new service excise tax of almost \$1.5 billion to pay for it — Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm wrote the following in a public letter to state employees:

"It is a bitter irony that many of the critics who say we aren't doing enough are the same ones to suggest we can continue to make cuts. They are wrong. If we are to maintain our standing as one of the best-run states in the nation, then a funded, effective, and committed team of public servants is absolutely essential."

The implicit assumption in this statement is that vital services will vanish if the overwhelmingly unionized government workforce were made smaller. The governor's remarks are part of a campaign to convince the public that state government has been "cut to the bone." In fact, it's barely been scratched, and many opportunities to realize huge savings have been ignored. Among these is the option to pay someone besides government employees to do the work.

For example, the corrections budget accounts for about 30 percent of state government workers. Privatized prisons

save money in other states, but they have never housed more than 1 percent of Michigan's inmates. The Rio Grande Foundation in New Mexico examined that state's prisons in 2001 and found that private guards were watching more than 45 percent of the inmates. New Mexico's annual cost per prisoner was 32 percent lower than the national median and \$9,600 per prisoner less than states with no prison privatization.

Numerous other studies have demonstrated that prison privatization nets savings of between 5 percent and 15 percent. Nearly \$1.3 billion has been appropriated for

Michigan's prison facility operations in 2007. Cutting that figure by just 5 percent through competitive contracting would save more than \$63 million annually (before a single felon is released under a plan proposed by the governor). Private prisons would pay tax dollars, like all other businesses, rather than spend them.

Outsourcing can yield significant savings even when a service is shifted to a less costly level of government, rather than to the private sector. When the city of Mount Clemens closed its 118-year-old police department and

See MICHIGAN, page 10A

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'Strategies for Bold Conservative Future'

Recently, more than 6,000 conservative activists from around the nation attended the annual Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington, D.C. Below is the text of the speech, "Strategies for a Bold Conservative Future," delivered by Richard A. Viguerie, author of "Conservatives Betrayed."

To have a successful future, it helps to understand the past. First, let's understand that conservatism and conservatism did not lose last November. The election loss was a direct result of the Republican Party and its leadership in the White House and Congress moving left.

The Republicans became that which they beheld. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, they beheld the corruption and abuse of power by the Democrats. But a few years after the voters threw the Democrats out of office, the Republicans became that which they beheld — the Republicans became corrupt and abused their power.

When most of the congressional Republicans first ran for office, they ran against the sewer that Washington had become. But after a few years in Washington most of them act like they've discovered that Washington isn't a sewer after all — it's a hot tub.

In other words, the Republicans' real message was: "We didn't want the Democrats spending the money, but now that we are totally in charge, let's blow the door off the bank vault, and let's spend and spend and spend our children and grandchildren's inheritance."

All for the sole immoral, corrupt purpose of holding onto power.

And how appropriate that it turned into ashes in their

mouth.

In January 2001, for all intents and purposes, the Republicans in the White House and Congress adopted a one-word strategy to govern. And that one word was BRIBERY.

In essence they said to the voters, "You've got votes; we've got money; let's talk; let's deal."

The illegal corruption of Duke Cunningham, Bob Ney, Jack Abramoff and Mark Foley is not a serious problem for us, our children or grandchildren's lives.

They've been caught and punished.

But far worse crimes have been committed by the politicians who are still sitting in their Capitol Hill offices. I'm talking about the legalized theft of trillions of dollars these politicians have stolen from the children of tomorrow — in order to buy votes to stay in office today.

Therefore, conservatives, our No. 1 need going forward is for new leaders.

Conservatives are like the biblical Jews who had to wander through the desert for 40 years until that generation of immoral corrupt leaders had passed away.

As conservatives, we're not going to get to the political Promised Land until we also get new, uncorrupt, principled leaders.

Dr. Phil, the TV psychiatrist, likes to say: "How's that working for you?"

And I say: How's that working for you, conservatives, to be an appendage of the Republican Party?

The voters spoke in November, and what was the first thing the Republicans did? They kept in power all the leaders who had led them over the cliff!

Obviously the initials GOP now stands for Go On Partying. Or Give up On Principles.

Well the Republican Party apparently has a death wish, but that doesn't mean we conservatives have to go along with it.

My strong recommendation is for conservatives to stop being an arm of the Republican Party and become a third force, but not a third party.

The left has had enormous success by building strong third-force groups and coalitions.

The left has hundreds of environmental groups, consumer groups, civil rights groups, feminist groups and homosexual groups, etc.

And these groups have their own agenda, their own members, their own money and, most importantly, they operate independent of the Democratic Party.

Conservatives must do the same.

No longer think of yourself as a Republican, but as a Reagan conservative.

Let's relaunch the conservative movement.

Let's act independently of the Republican Party and its failed big-government leadership.

Let's focus on the conservative movement, not the GOP.

We need to greatly increase the size and number of principled conservative organizations.

Let's launch a thousand new organizations reaching out to:

- 1) Small business owners, especially women, Hispanics and Asians.
- 2) America's youth, who know the current Social Security system just won't be there for them.
- 3) Independent voters, most of whom support a balanced budget, family values and fiscal restraint.
- 4) Values voters, who agree with us on same-sex marriage and the culture of life and promoting traditional moral values, not Hollywood values.
- 5) Young married couples,

who care about child tax credits and better schools.

6) Senior citizens, who want to stop the politicians' raid on the Social Security Trust Fund — and don't trust them to manage their health care, either.

7) Doctors, who are already being hamstrung by red tape and are scared to death of the prospect of socialized medicine.

8) And all the Americans in the "sensible center" who know deep down that conservatives really are "right." We're right on illegal immigration, right on taxes, right on health care, right on the economy, right on terrorism and right for America.

Let's withhold support from all Republican National Committees, because they spend our money in primaries to defeat conservatives.

Let's withhold support from most Republican elected officials, supporting only those few principled conservatives.

Let's challenge in primaries all establishment, big-government Republicans and Democrats at the national, state and local levels.

Let's run principled conservatives for local, state and national party offices.

I congratulate CPAC for not having the chairman of the Republican National Committee at CPAC for the first time in memory. And, conservatives, — this is important —

for the time being we should withhold our support from all of the top tier 2008 presidential wannabees.

Not a one of them deserves our support today.

They all fail the

Goldwater/Reagan test.

Goldwater became our hero when he and he alone in Washington stood up and criticized the Republicans for their big-government policies.

On the floor of the Senate in 1960, he said President Eisenhower was running a dime store New Deal.

He spoke truth to power.

Where is the Republican presidential candidate that has stood up publicly to the big government Republican leaders in the last six years?

And if they haven't stood up for conservative principles in the last six years, they won't start if they become president.

And Reagan regularly criticized Presidents Nixon and Ford.

And the second test is, tell me who you walk with, and I'll tell you who you are.

Reagan walked with conservatives — long before he ran for president in 1976; he was at our meetings, our receptions and our rallies.

And surrounding Reagan were conservative stars Lyn Nofziger, Marty Anderson, Dick Allen, Ed Meese, Judge Clark, Joe Coors and many others.

If conservatives have not been around a Republican presidential candidate before he began asking for our votes, I guarantee you conservatives will not be around him if he moves into the White House.

And I promise you; you will not have conservative policies or conservative programs without conservative personnel.

I don't know about you, but I'm angry, and I feel betrayed, but fortunately there are things

we conservatives can do to become a governing majority in America.

However, it's not likely to happen quickly, certainly not by 2008.

One of the strengths of the conservative movement is we've always approached politics as a marathon, not a sprint.

It may take six to 10 years for conservatives to be able to govern America. But first conservatives have to follow the advice that Kevin Costner got in the baseball movie "Field of Dreams." If you build it, they will come.

We have to build a whole new conservative movement, independent of the two major parties. And once we build a large, dynamic powerful conservative movement, the next Ronald Reagan will appear.

Remember the movie, "The Blues Brothers," with Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi. The idea in the movie was we're putting the band back together and we're on a mission from God.

Well conservatives, we're putting the conservative movement back together. And, hopefully, we're on a mission from God.

Richard A. Viguerie pioneered ideological and political direct mail and has been called "the funding father of the conservative movement" for his role in helping build dozens of conservative organizations. He is the author of the newly released "Conservatives Betrayed: How George W. Bush and Other Big Government Republicans Hijacked the Conservative Cause" (Bonus Books, 2006).

GUEST OPINION By Lee H. Hamilton

Shine a light on reform

Watching Congress tackle reform has been interesting and even uplifting, but in the end I'm disappointed. Our representatives on Capitol Hill seem to be missing an opportunity to bring real and lasting change there.

The more I look at the problems of recent years — the lackadaisical attitude toward ethics enforcement, the legislative shortcuts, the outsized influence of special interests, the secret earmarks, the terrible partisanship, the pernicious influence of mountains of cash — the more I am persuaded that one fundamental reform addresses many of them: Sunshine.

My thinking is simple. The more exposed members of Congress feel, the less likely it

is we will see the misconduct and institutional shortcomings that led to this year's reform effort. Congress belongs, in the end, to the American people, and behavior that can't stand the light of day has no place there.

Sure, some national security matters need to be handled in private, but there is much that should be made public. Campaign donations and lobbying expenses, for instance, should promptly be published online and made easily searchable, so that we know right away who is financing whom and to what end.

There is no legitimate reason for keeping the sponsors of earmarks or their intended beneficiaries under wraps. And shouldn't House and Senate meetings be viewable online as well?

Democracy is a process, not

a result; Americans need to see that process.

This change will not be easy. Members of Congress resist making their doings more public because it's more comfortable and easier for them out of the public eye. So if there is to be greater "transparency," it will come about largely because the American people demand it.

Powerful interests certainly let members of Congress know they're watching. The American people also should be able to.

So, next time you run into your representative, put the question to him or her bluntly, "Do you, or do you not, want to let the sunshine in?"

Lee Hamilton is director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

MICHIGAN: Reform needed; but where?

Continued from page 9A

hired the Macomb County Sheriff's Department to do the work, the city realized annual savings of 38 percent, or about \$1.4 million.

Likewise, the yearly cost of policing the state's highways could be reduced by more than \$60 million by switching state police patrol duties to local sheriff's deputies.

Motorists would scarcely notice that the color of the highway patrol's uniforms had changed; only the state employees union would.

The state police troopers union recently denounced this idea as "foolish" and predicted that it would be "extremely unpopular" with voters.

Public school districts should contract out costly noninstructional services, including transportation, food service and custodial work.

The decision by the Jackson Public Schools to switch to a private custodial company is expected to save the district

\$193 per pupil each year. Mackinac Center research shows savings from custodial outsourcing ranging between \$100 and \$200 per pupil for other schools that have taken this step, but only 63 of 552 school districts now report doing so.

Cutting annual noninstructional costs by just \$150 per pupil at all public schools would save \$255 million per year.

Why wouldn't one of the "best-run states in the nation" encourage — indeed, demand — this reform?

Part of the answer is suggested by Granholm's response when Michigan's largest public school employee union asked for her opinion on privatizing services:

"I have urged other units of government to think twice before they jump on the privatization bandwagon — the public sector can outperform the private sector with the right supports and management."

But no one is suggesting that government employees shouldn't be allowed to show they can "outperform" private contractors in a competitive contracting process.

If government workers submit the lowest price and provide quality service, they will

'The yearly cost of policing the state's highways could be reduced by more than \$60 million by switching state police patrol duties to local sheriff's deputies.'

KENNETH BRAUN,
Mackinac Center for Public Policy

win the contract — and taxpayers will win the best possible deal.

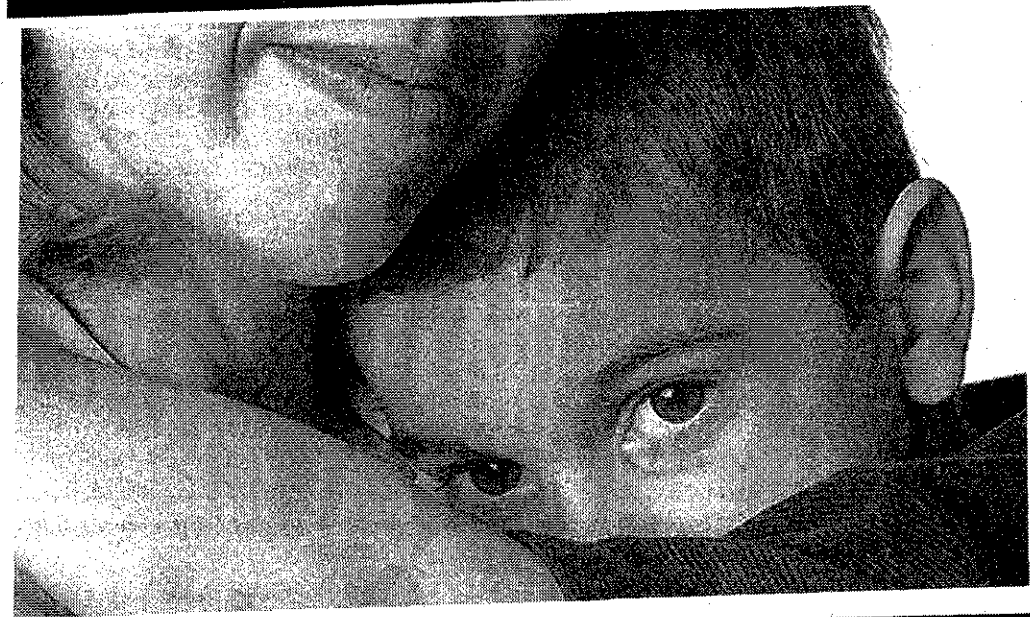
Given this, and given the successful record of privatization in Michigan and elsewhere, it's hard to agree with the governor's claims.

State policy should not set up government workers as a privileged class — especially when so many residents are struggling to keep their own jobs in a private sector economy that foots the bill for government spending.

Kenneth M. Braun is a policy analyst specializing in fiscal and budgetary issues for the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, a research and educational institute based in Midland.



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PEOPLE



MARY MASSARON ROSS, a Plunkett & Cooney, P.C., shareholder, was among the board members reelect-

ed at the firm's recent annual business meeting. The managing shareholder of the firm's Appellate Practice Group, Massaron Ross is one of Plunkett & Cooney's most accomplished appellate attorneys with more than 50 published decisions to her credit. She has won numerous victories before the Michigan Supreme Court for clients in both the public and private sectors, overturning multi-million dollar judgments and establishing new legal principles. She has also handled appellate matters before the Michigan Court of Appeals, the California Court of Appeals, the Ohio Supreme Court and federal circuit courts of appeal. She serves as chair of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Amicus Curiae Briefs, the five-member committee that oversees preparation of ABA briefs for filing in the United States Supreme Court and other courts. She is chair-elect of the ABA Council of Appellate Lawyers, a division of the Appellate Judges Conference, and was recently named a fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers. A summa cum laude graduate of Wayne State University Law School, Massaron Ross currently co-chairs the Michigan Appellate Bench Bar Conference Foundation. Massaron Ross is a Grosse Pointe Woods resident.

KAREN S. KIENBAUM was honored as the 2006 recipient of the National Association of

Women Business Owners "Words of Wisdom Award" March 15. Kienbaum, University of Michigan LSA/ED and University Detroit Mercy Law School, is an attorney who is the founder of two Detroit businesses, the law firm Karen Smith Kienbaum & Associates, P.C. and JustUs, an innovative compliance program to reduce fraud and legal exposure. She has more than 25 years of experience emphasizing ADR and employment law. Kienbaum resides in Grosse Pointe Park.

BARBARA CIARAMITARO, PH.D., has been named assistant professor of Business Information Technology at Walsh College after serving as an adjunct professor. She was recently with General Motors overseeing information and knowledge management initiatives. While with GM, Ciaramitaro invented and received patents for ways to electronically manage legal information and other documents. She has also directed information systems for Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone and for Plunkett & Cooney. Ciaramitaro has taught in the graduate school of Computer and Information Sciences at Nova Southeastern University in Ford Lauderdale and was an adjunct faculty member and mentor at the University of Phoenix. She holds a bachelor of arts degree from Wayne State University; a master of science degree in administration from Central Michigan University; and a doctoral degree in information systems from Nova Southeastern University. Ciaramitaro is a Grosse Pointe Woods resident.

Professionals 'brainstorm'

By Bob St. John
Staff Writer

A relatively unknown networking community, the East Side Business and Financial Forum, is taking root at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club the third Thursday of every month.

Grosse Pointer Tom Keating of Keating Law, PLC, spearheaded the group back in the late 1990s. He has tweaked the forum's agenda through the years to make it more applicable to a wider audience.

"The team concept works wonders and our group utilizes each person's talents for each other to gain knowledge from," Keating said. "Networking is a great concept and we like our forums."

Last week's forum was about asset protection, including what works. Attorney Charles Taunt was the guest speaker.

Taunt spoke to the group about creditor protection considerations involved with:

- ◆ Joint and entireties property
- ◆ Life insurance
- ◆ Retirement plans
- ◆ Education savings accounts
- ◆ Trusts and assets for children
- ◆ Lifetime trusts
- ◆ Fraudulent conveyance laws and the value of planning versus waiting to the last minute
- ◆ Asset protection in divorce
- ◆ Domestic asset protection trusts
- ◆ Corporations and limited liability companies as asset protection vehicles and the related concept of charging orders
- ◆ Offshore trusts

"While the forum certainly promotes the forging of contacts and alliances," the forum is absolutely not a "marketing event" as such," Keating said.

"We in the forum seek exchange of valuable business and financial planning 'take it to the bank' information in a relaxed and collegial setting."

Taunt spoke about the importance of asset protection, sharing his expertise on litigation deterrence, inducement for dispute resolution and minimizing other undesirable methods such as prenuptial agreements and ill advised gifting, protecting "nest egg" assets, supplemental liability insurance and minimizing exposure to commercial liabilities arising from guarantees and other commercial transactions.

"It's very important for people to have asset planning, along with other planning, which can help in case you are sued," Taunt said.

Taunt used an example of a husband and wife who own a company, a home and a cottage.

He broke the example down part by part, such as assets being put in trusts under the hus-



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Tom Keating, left, and fellow attorney John Donaldson add to Charles Taunt's discussion during a recent East Side Business and Financial Forum.

band's name, the wife's name and the children's names.

Every example had one common bond — planning is a must.

"You have to protect yourself and family in case something happens," Taunt said. "All of your assets have to be in

order because if you try to move an asset from point A to point B during a lawsuit, you will be in trouble for fraudulent transfer."

Taunt said the basic elements of fraudulent transfer are defined in the state's Uniform Fraudulent Transfers

Act.

"The burden of proof is always with the defending party," Taunt said. "It's easier to defend yourself if you plan ahead."

April's business forum will conclude the asset protection topic.

Chamber sets Club Crawl date

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Grosse Pointe Hunt Club, Crescent Sail Yacht Club, Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, Country Club of Detroit and Lochmoor Club, are hosting a Grosse Pointe Club Crawl from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, April 26.

This is an exclusive invitation and opportunity to learn about the private clubs in the area. This is not an invitation for membership; it is a chamber of commerce fundraiser and an informational opportunity.

"The idea for this event is two-fold. The private clubs are some of Grosse Pointe's largest businesses so the chamber wanted to do this as member value for them," Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Mary Huebner said. "Second, many Pointe residents have an interest in learning about the clubs

but don't receive many opportunities to do so."

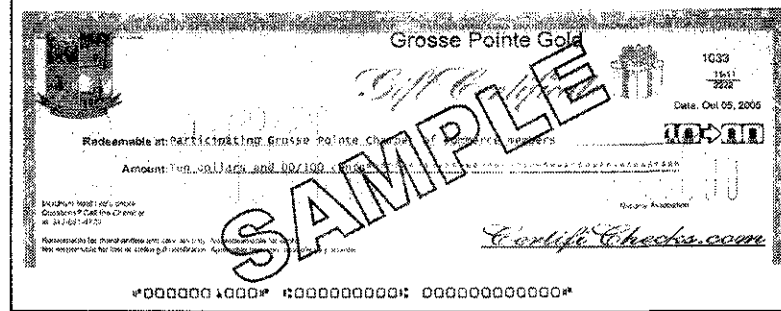
When making reservations, participants will be asked to rank the clubs in order of priority. They will be able to visit three of the five clubs they select.

Every attempt to accommodate ranking priority will be made, but there is no guarantee that all requests can be honored. If participants would like to view the clubs with a group of friends, they are asked to provide a list when making reservations.

Everyone must be 21 or older. Participants will be at each club for approximately 40 minutes, allowing travel time between tours. Appetizers and beverages will be provided as well as a map for convenience.

The charge is \$20 per person. Make reservations online at gpcc.cc or call the chamber of commerce at (313) 881-GPCC.

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- 23' Thompson -C. Austin
- 12' Kawasaki -A. Austin
- 12' Kawasaki -W. Fletcher
- 26' Bayliner -C. Covington
- 26' Bayliner -M. Cook
- 31' Chris Craft -T. Grimes
- 31' Chris Craft -R. Kazmit
- 27' Sea Ray -K. Gubachy
- 27' Sea Ray -S. Niva
- 26' Sea Ray -S. Landsberg
- 26' Sea Ray -S. Martin
- 25' Reinell -R. Legreair
- 30' Sea Ray -L. Thomas
- 28' Bayliner -A. Watkins

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Detroit, MI 48214
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G.P.N.: 03/22/07

CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 5, 2007

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Kenneth A. Poynter at 7:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL: All Councilpersons were present.

MOTIONS PASSED

- 1) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held on February 21, 2007, and furthermore, receive and file the minutes of the Library Board meetings held on January 18, 2007 and February 15, 2007 and the Planning Commission meeting held on February 28, 2007.
- 2) To open the Public Hearing on the proposed lot split at 19360 Harper and 20955 Bournemouth.
- 3) To close the Public Hearing on the proposed lot split at 19360 Harper and 20955 Bournemouth.
- 4) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

RESOLUTION PASSED

- 1) To approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: (1) Approve the Accounts Payable listing for Check Numbers 79741 through 79933 in the amount of \$631,366.25 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) Approve payment in the amount of \$44,572.46 to Wayne County for the Milk River Drain interest payment on the 1991, 1992 and 1993 Series Bonds. (3) Approve payment to the City of Grosse Pointe Farms in the amount of \$13,935.37 for Harper Woods' proportionate share of the Inter-municipal Radio System covering the period from July 1 through December 30, 2006.

Kenneth A. Poynter,
Mayor

Mickey D. Todd,
City Clerk

Published: G.P.N.: 03/22/2007

City of Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan

BOARD OF REVIEW

Meetings for the purpose of reviewing the 2007 Assessment Roll for the City of Grosse Pointe Farms, Wayne County, Michigan, will be held by the Board of Review on:

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2007
From 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

and
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2007
From 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

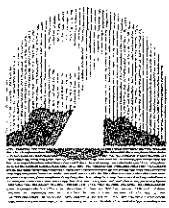
and
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

at City Hall, 90 Kerby Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236.

Hearings will be scheduled by appointment. Please contact City of Grosse Pointe Farms at (313) 640-1618. You may also petition the Board in writing through the mail if you cannot make the hearing dates. These letters HAVE TO BE IN THE OFFICE BY FRIDAY, MARCH 9th.

TIMOTHY E. O'DONNELL
City Assessor

GPN: 3/1/07; 3/8/07; 3/15/07; 3/22/07



THE GROSSE POINTE BOARD OF REALTORS® 20TH ANNUAL

HOME & GARDEN EXPO

EXHIBITORS

- A Southern Gardener
- Advanced Family Chiropractic
- Affordable Kitchen & Bath
- Aitken, Ormond & Shores
- American Discount Heating & Cooling
- American Pets Inn
- Antonelli Landscape
- Apex Builders
- Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc.
- Backer Landscaping, Inc.
- Bathtub Liner Co.
- Brick Art
- Camelot Tree & Shrub
- Closets Plus, Inc.
- Continental Building Co.
- Crawford Door Sales, Inc.
- Crowther Carpet & Rugs
- Culligan Water Conditioning
- Dusing Security & Surveillance
- Everdry Waterproofing
- Evola Music
- Famous Maintenance
- Ferguson Landscaping
- Flame Furnace Co.
- Four Season Sunrooms Southfield
- G.T. Concrete & Decorative Work
- Gilbert's Pro Hardware
- Girl Scout's of America
- Grosse Pointe Board of REALTORS®
- Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce
- Grosse Pointe Florists
- Grosse Pointe Historical Society
- Grosse Pointe Moving & Storage
- Healthy Homes, Inc.
- Holsbeke Construction, Inc.
- Homeowners Building & Remodeling/HBR Freedom
- HOUSEPROFessor Inspection
- J & J Roofing
- K & K Security
- Karm's Painting Service
- Lakeshore Optimist Club of GP
- Liberty Total Comfort Systems
- M&E Custom Builders
- Maple Roofing & Construction
- Mark Electronics
- Marshall Landscape Inc.
- National Landscaping
- N.C. Cement Contractors
- Precision Landscaping
- Proforce Paint Company
- Renewal by Andersen
- RJ Big, LLC
- Sanit-Air, Inc.
- Smart Home Moves
- Soulliere Landscaping & Garden Center
- Sparks & Sommers Insulation
- Squeaky Clean Ducts, Inc.
- Stealth Outdoor Lighting
- Stefek Estate Sales
- Strobles, LLC
- Supreme Heating & Supply
- Swany Construction, Inc.
- Tailor Made Window & Doors
- The Light House
- The Sterling of Grosse Pointe
- Three C's Landscaping
- Tom's Basement Waterproofing, Inc.
- Tri-County Home Maintenance
- Ufoodie.com
- Ultimate Basement Makeover
- Wild Irish Construction
- Williams Refrigeration & Heating
- Window Plus, Inc.

REALTORS® Home & Garden Expo is Saturday, March 24

The Grosse Pointe Board of REALTORS® will hold its 20th Annual Home & Garden Expo from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 24, at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. The event is free. Parking is free.

20 years. That's a long time. But for the Grosse Pointe Board of REALTORS®, they feel like they're just getting started. With that in mind, The Grosse Pointe Board of REALTORS® will showcase its link to the community with its 20th Annual Home & Garden Expo from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial Saturday, March 24.

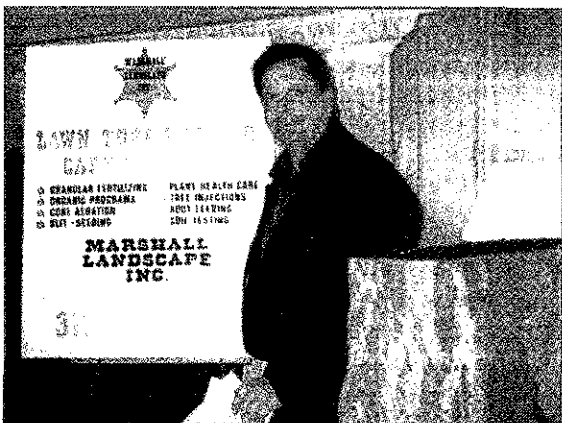
The free event will feature some 70 exhibitors specializing in every aspect related to your home. Experts include painters, remodelers, home inspectors, florists, landscapers, roofers and more. They will be happy to offer ideas and tips for home improvements you might have in mind this spring. "This is our way of getting local vendors together with the community (they serve)," said Sandy Nelson, Board president. "They have the answers people want when it comes to home improvements. "It's nice to be able to go to one location for assistance."

The Grosse Pointe Board of REALTORS® is celebrating its 22nd anniversary of servicing the Grosse Pointes. It was founded to ensure high ethical standards of practice among those engaged in the purchase or sale of real estate. It also fosters networking of its members on a professional basis. Members follow a Code of Ethics established by the National Association of REALTORS® in 1913, which insists its members uphold the professional standards of the industry.

The Expo typically draws over 1,000 people every year, said Bobbi Sexton, executive vice president of the Board. Not only does it get vendors together with the community, some proceeds from the event go to fund three \$1,000 scholarships to one student from Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University of Liggett high schools. "That is one of the most rewarding (aspects) of the Expo," Sexton said. "The scholarships go to students who otherwise wouldn't be eligible (for aid). These students are chosen because of their special circumstances. Maybe they had a rough time. But they're still plugging away."



Grosse Pointe Board of REALTORS® Executive Director Bobbi Sexton (center) pauses for a moment with Co-Chairs Pat Chasteen (left) and Kryz Schroeder (right).

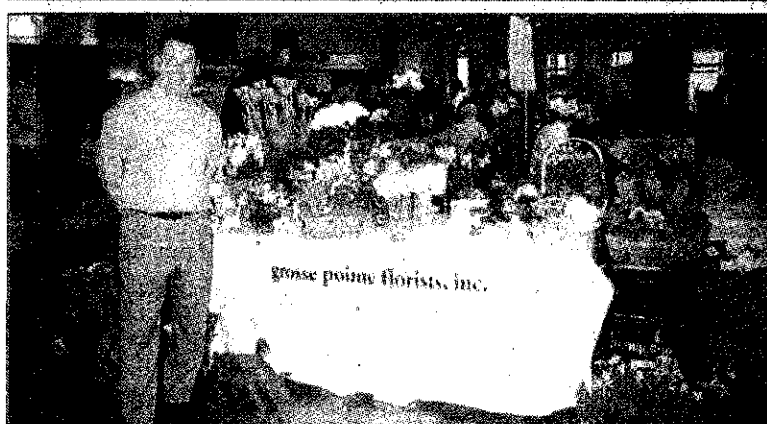


Sponsored by LaSalle Bank, The Sterling of Grosse Pointe and John Adams Mortgage Co., the Expo will have door prizes, drawings, demonstrations, handouts and much more. It is just one of several community involvement projects the Grosse Pointe Board of REALTORS® engages in. "We serve the community on a daily basis" Nelson said. "We work with financiers and assist homeowners by helping them to handle their (home issues)."

One thing the Board has been fighting for is a reduction in the "pop-up" tax that homebuyers encounter when they make a purchase. The Board is working with the state legislature to reduce the tax burden when buying a house. "It is an important issue with us," Nelson said. "We are focused on the education of our members and making sure that residents in the community are aware of what's happening."

Other civic contributions the Board makes to the community include the landscaping and maintenance of the corner where Warren meets Mack, giving Easter Baskets to families who are in need, a Toy Drive for the Children's Home of Detroit, a Christmas party for the Foundation for Exceptional Children and serving refreshments for the annual Multiple Sclerosis Walk.

The Board also helped the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce get started. "We're very visible (in the community)," Sexton said. The Home & Garden Expo is spearheaded by the Education Committee chairs which includes Alice Baetz and Kryz Schroeder. Kryz also co-chairs the event along with Pat Chasteen.



For more information about the 20th annual Home & Garden Expo visit the GPBR's Web site at www.gpbr.com

Proceeds from the Home & Garden Expo benefit Grosse Pointe Board of REALTORS® projects including the Scholarship fund. Each year the Grosse Pointe Board of REALTORS® gives out three \$1,000 scholarships to local students — one to a Grosse Pointe North High School student, one to a Grosse Pointe South High School student and one to a University Liggett School student. Scholarships are granted based on a student's ability to persevere in adverse situations.

NEWS II

PUBLIC SAFETY

Armed bike rider

Farms police patrolling Mack arrest man carrying a loaded revolver PAGE 16A

13-15A SCHOOLS | 20A OBITUARIES | 21A AUTOMOTIVE



ArtFest is now

Several hundred works of art are scheduled for viewing this month during the 26th Annual ArtFest at Grosse Pointe South High School.

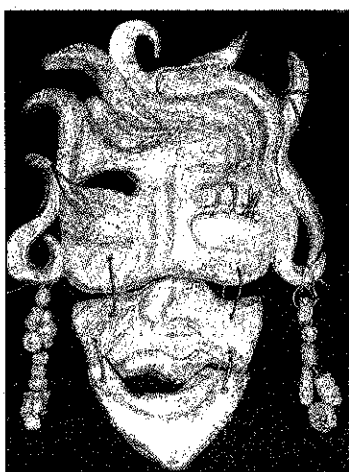
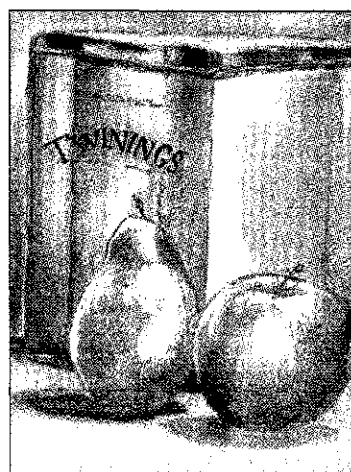
Students' works will be on public display in the school's Cleminson Hall on the following days and times:

- ◆ Tuesday, March 27, 7 to 9 p.m., with an awards ceremony at 8 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesday-Thursday, March 28-29, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.
- ◆ Friday, March 30, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- ◆ Saturday, March 31, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Admission is free. Media include paintings, drawings, photography, ceramics, sculptures, fibers, metals and more.

Four students represented in the show and going to art school next year are, above from left, senior Stephanie Semmler, Courtney Graham, Andrew Kastner and Patric Campbell.

Items being readied for the show include, top right clockwise, an acrylic painting by Alex McMillan, junior; and a ceramic mask by Katherine Corde.



Spanish one step closer

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

Elementary school students will learn the Spanish language baby-step style.

The emphasis will be on translating everyday phrases, simple facts and figures, favorite colors and type of pets — the stuff of childrens' lives — when classes are introduced next fall in fourth and fifth grades.

"We don't expect (students) to use complete sentences all the time," said Bob Abel, of the Grosse Pointe school district's 24-member Elementary Foreign Language Study Committee.

Yet, instruction will go beyond memorizing strings of individual words.

"We want (students) to be able to acquire language; to be able to use it," Abel said. "It's not just learning a list and being able to say cat is 'gato' and dog is 'perro.' Then, if they say, 'I have a dog or cat,' it's in a functional situation."

Grammar will yield to cultural awareness, at least until middle school, where Abel teaches foreign language at Brownell.

"(Elementary instruction) is helping them step into the next class, which would be introduction to Spanish," Abel said.

"We'll be working with the middle schools to make that connection stronger."

School board members last month approved Spanish instruction for grade school. Spanish was chosen because it's the second-most used language in the United States, according to Susan Allan, assistant superintendent for curriculum.

This month, school board members began studying a proposed curriculum drafted by the language committee.

If the curriculum is approved, classes would begin next fall. Instruction has been proposed for 45 minutes every fourth day in rotation with library media skills instruction.

Two full-time foreign language teachers would be hired at the expense of current staff.

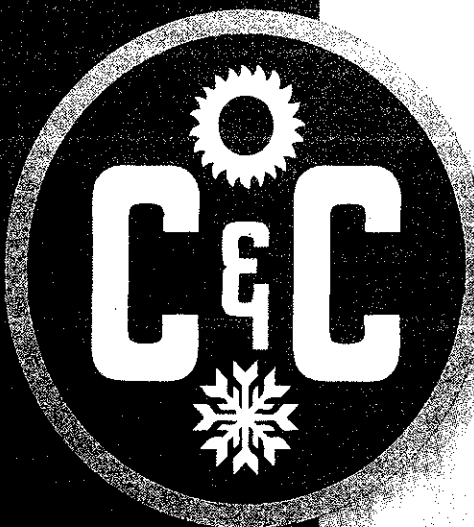
"No additional staffing costs are anticipated because of the commensurate reduction in library skill staffing," according to a committee report.

"(New) teachers should be certified in both elementary education and Spanish," said Kathy Satut, committee member and principal of Maire Elementary.

Hiring standards will be high.

See SPANISH, page 15A

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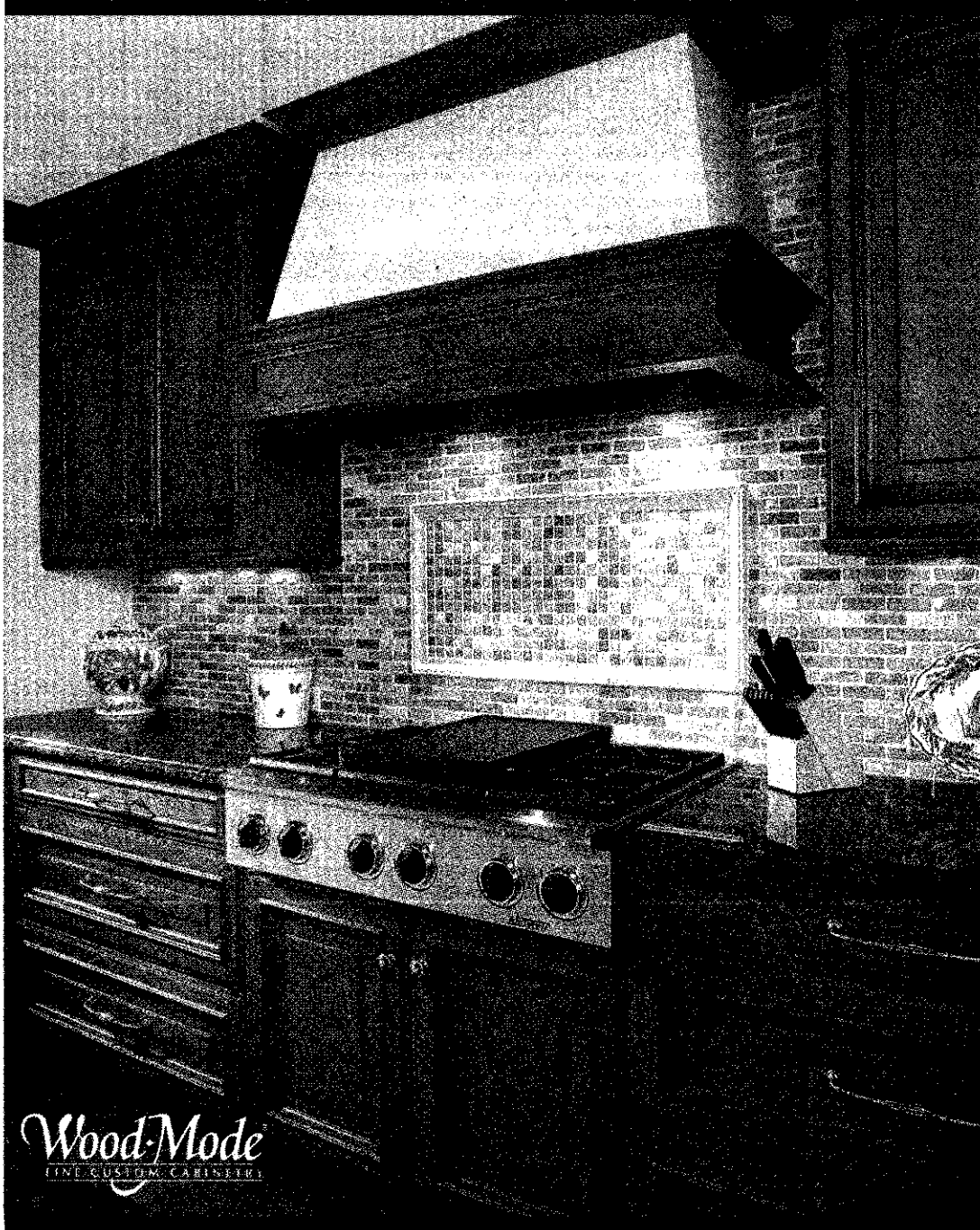


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Custodians fighting for their jobs

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

School leaders aren't saying why they backed out of accepting every concession demanded of the plant and cafeteria union.

Union members caved into everything the district wanted. They were warned when negotiations began last month to make compromises totaling \$440,000 or lose their jobs to outside contractors.

But district officials blindsided the membership by canceling a March 2 meeting where the tentative surrender was to be signed, according to the union president.

"We gave into them," said Tom Zaglaniczny, president of the 78-member Grosse Pointe Public Schools Plant and Cafeteria Association. "We were going to have our members vote on it, bring it back to the (school) board and have them sign off on it."

"It's accurate that the custodians have indicated their willingness to work with concessions — absolutely true," said Larry Lobert, Grosse Pointe public schools assistant superintendent of human resources.

Lobert is the board of education's lead labor negotiator. He deferred questions about why the meeting was canceled to school board President Brendan Walsh and assistant superintendent Chris Fenton, overseer of business affairs.

Neither Walsh nor Fenton responded last week to interview requests.

"In fairness to the board, no one has directed that negotiations are canceled," Lobert said. "They're trying to take a couple extra steps to make sure the facts are on the table. I know that's causing enormous amounts of anxiety, but it is the board's attempt to be as deliberate as possible."

Walsh was absent from the March 12 board meeting. In his place, Vice President Alice



Tom Zaglaniczny, union president.

Kosinski, said no conclusions have been reached to replace building engineers, skilled tradesmen and custodial staff with lower-cost contract workers. Kosinski also announced a special meeting March 19 at which two competing staffing agencies — Sodexho and Aramark — had been invited to pitch their services.

Lobert confirmed that union negotiators agreed to revise their three-year contract to save the district \$440,000.

"We got to that number in three steps: no pay raise, cheaper health insurance and retirement costs," Zaglaniczny said. "We got there and the meetings stopped."

Jay Jeffrey, head engineer at Grosse Pointe North and South high schools and member of the union's executive board, said healthcare concessions alone meant "a lot of families (would be) paying an extra \$2,000 a year for medical, plus co-pays."

In addition to the pay freeze, retirement terms called for wage reductions to offset increases the district must legally put into the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System.

Currently, the district is obligated to contribute 17.74 percent of employee wages to retirement accounts. That figure will increase to 18.5 percent next year, Lobert said, which

means the membership would pick up the additional .76 percent.

Institutional memory

Although Zaglaniczny's group is commonly referred to as the custodian union, more than half of its members are skilled and licensed tradesmen.

The roster includes engineers, plumbers, electricians, carpenters and a master plasterer to repair facilities built decades before the switch to drywall construction.

Together, members operate and maintain properties associated with the Pointes' 11 elementary schools, three middle schools, two high schools and the central office building. Most buildings are at least 50 years old. Some, such as South High, are state registered landmarks and are nearing the century mark.

Jeffrey, a 26-year district employee and second-generation graduate of South, anticipated that he and veteran employees would quit the district rather than accept corresponding employment from a staffing firm. He'd likely transfer his seniority to another district where state-wide union rules let him round out a 30-year career and compile full retirement benefits.

"I'm not going to give up my retirement," he said.

The resulting loss of institutional memory would leave the district in disrepair, Jeffrey said.

"You're going to have deterioration of the entire infrastructure," he said. "Grosse Pointe schools will end up looking like Walter Reed (Army) Hospital."

Waging war

Zaglaniczny said school board members have spent three years targeting his membership without making an economic case for privatization.

"Money savings wasn't there then and it's not here today," he said. "I think they're trying to bust the union. If they weren't union busting, why would they stop negotiating with us when we were so close to agreement?"

Zaglaniczny said board members who promote privatization have overstated his membership's cost while understating its value.

He characterized board claims that unskilled custodians make \$34.90 per hour, including benefits, as the stuff of dramatized scenarios that pile

on optional overtime expenses. In addition, Jeffrey said some overtime costs are recouped by the district through rental fees from outside organizations, such as the Neighborhood Club, to use school facilities.

"They (the school board) took the salary of everyone, added \$420,000 of overtime, medical, retirement, FICA costs and took an average," Jeffrey said.

Zaglaniczny provided the following pay scale per job:

◆ New contract custodians: \$12.20 per hour; \$29.51 with benefits and taxes.

◆ Senior custodians, due to be phased out through attrition: \$17.84 per hour; \$27.27 total.

◆ Licensed plumbers and electricians: starting pay of \$21.73 per hour; \$29.51 total.

Zaglaniczny said when 30 senior custodians retire and are replaced by workers earning lesser pay, savings over five years will total \$3,182,400.

"The board is only looking at savings privatizing can save today even though Sodexho (and) Aramark contract proposals are showing an annual

increase of 2 percent," Zaglaniczny said in an e-mail message. "Our cost is coming down as their cost is going up. Two percent on \$6 million equals \$120,000."

Zaglaniczny said some of his membership have worked for the district more than 20 years.

"They're honest, loyal, dependable and stressed out over this," he said. "These guys come in early and stay late and don't charge overtime. Some are in charge of hot chocolate for safety guards in the morning and do things for Cub Scouts. They give their own time because they want to. We are part of the community."

Jeffrey contends some school board members are out to make names for themselves as cost cutters.

"How many years have (past) board members worked to make this (district) sustainable?" he said. "Now you have two or three board members who don't want us."

He mapped out a scenario: "Privatization goes through, ruins everything and they move on. The problem goes to the community and the rest of us who are still here."

Plug pulled on subs

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

Substitute teachers could soon be marching to a different drummer.

Grosse Pointe school officials said \$150,000 could be saved each year by replacing the district's pool of substitutes with staff supplied through a private agency.

Trustee Angela Kennedy compared projected savings to the cost of hiring full-time classroom staff.

"That's three entry level teachers' total compensation package," she said.

Subs would come with warranties.

"Personnel shall be qualified, certified and competent to perform the services assigned to them," according to a proposal by Professional Education Services Group (PESG), a Grand Rapids company.

District officials are trying to save money and subs are ripe for plucking off the payroll.

"Typically, substitutes are in a transitional period in their careers and are typically not long duration employees," said Larry Lobert, assistant superintendent for human resources and labor relations. "While we

deeply appreciate the services of our substitutes, we see this as the most natural group to work with a service of this nature."

The rub concerns job benefits. As school system employees, substitute teachers are due retirement accounts funded by a mandated formula. This year, district contributions equal 17.74 percent of employee salaries.

"That number is going to go to 18.5 (percent) next year," Lobert said. "When we (add) Social Security, unemployment and other taxes, that number gets to a little over 27 percent on every dollar (of salary)."

He said the staffing company promises roughly 10 percent savings of the district's \$1.5 million payroll for substitute teachers.

"We (also) have between \$300,000 and \$400,000 of support service substitute payroll we also intend to put through this process," Lobert said.

If that latter job category were privatized, Lobert said total annual savings could approach \$200,000.

"We are trying to leave no stone unturned in trying to get budget reductions," Lobert said.

The same reasoning was used two years ago to privatize cafeteria employees. The same argument is being used now to weigh the advantages of privatizing building engineers and custodial staff.

The trend will likely extend to other job classifications.

"We're looking at other opportunities and I'm not quite ready to say yet," Lobert said.

The services group has offered a three-year contract with the right to increase its administrative fees 2.5 percent in the second and third years. The proposal could be acted upon at the March 26 school board meeting. If approved, substitutes could switch to the company.

The firm would perform employee background checks and supply personnel based on district preferences.

"The placement (and) selection (of) who we choose to have in our school district won't be significantly different from the way it is now," Lobert said.

He said the company offers employees a self-paid health benefit option and 401(k) retirement investment plan.

"References have been very positive," Lobert said.

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Show benefits cancer research

Four members of Pointe Players present "Girls in the Theater," a pair of one-act plays at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 23, in the Grosse Pointe South High School auditorium. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to breast cancer research, organizers said. Shows include John Kirkpatrick's "Men are Scarce" and Alice Gerstenberg's "Overtones." South students, from left, Lauren LoGrasso (senior), Colleen Berendt (senior), Erica Peplin (junior) and Samantha Grobbel (senior) came up with the idea. They are doing their own directing, producing and performing aided by juniors Rachel Fentin and Ariel Harris. Tickets cost \$5 and are available at the door and at Posterity: A Gallery in the Village.

New texts to broaden views

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

A greater selection of multicultural literature will be added to lower and middle-grade curriculums.

"The idea is to have a variety of voices that the children are hearing from a variety of cultures and a variety of voices," said Christine Kaiser, Grosse Pointe public schools language arts curriculum specialist.

Kaiser said the district is in "good stead" with state expectations for kindergarten through eighth-grade multicultural language arts curriculum. Nevertheless, district officials needed to amend the list of textbooks to keep in line with new state rules.

"There are a few grade levels where we have to find some things to make sure they have a multicultural curriculum," she said. "We will have to buy some multicultural texts. At this time we don't know what grade levels need it (or) what that cost would be."

She said the cost of acquiring

the books and related material will be announced as they are determined.

Kaiser serves on a 27-member English Language Arts Curriculum Committee that, among other things, interprets state education standards and recommends action accordingly.

She said the committee has existed for many years and "is called back to action whenever a new item comes from the state."

New multicultural texts are being bought in accord with updated Michigan Board of Education curriculum expectations.

Most changes were technical but wide-ranging, as with establishing a curriculum flowchart from kindergarten through high school.

"They need to change a word here and here and here," Kaiser said.

Some state guidelines needed clarification.

Kaiser cited instructions that appeared to suggest, rather than require, third grade stu-

dents be able to identify text patterns, such as descriptive, sequential, enumerative, compare and contrast.

"The state wanted to make sure you couldn't choose among that list, but that you had to do all of those things," Kaiser said. "That's the way we had interpreted it when we got the list, so we're in good shape there."

In addition to going beyond the norm with multicultural studies, committee members exceeded beyond state standards to recommend that Pointe students learn two additional language arts skills:

◆ Finding evidence in comprehension.

If approved, this would apply to kindergarten through grade two.

"That means when children have read a text and are talking about it, they should refer back to the text to find evidence of their reaction," Kaiser said. "This puts that in line with state tests that children do from grades three through eight."

◆ Identify the author's pur-

pose in comprehension across the grade levels.

"The intent of that is to try to figure out why the author is writing what they're writing," Kaiser said. "Are they writing to inform, to persuade, to inspire, to entertain? We want children to do that with what they read, so they can take that tone in their writing and, in turn, entertain or inform or persuade."

Studio move

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

Bond money will be used to clear the way for a new swimming complex at Grosse Pointe South High School.

Starting this spring, the school's television studio and communication technology facilities, located in the basement of the Industrial Arts annex off Fisher, will be moved into the main building.

"This needs to be done before the pool project can move forward," said Chris Fenton, assistant superintendent of business affairs.

School board trustees this week awarded the job to The Monahan Co.

Monahan's low bid of \$265,000 beat seven rival firms offering to do the work for between \$272,479 and \$397,200.

Payments will come from a bond passed in 2002 to pay for capital improvements. The bond's \$48 million balance was refinanced recently for interest savings of \$2.1 million.

"We have not done work with The Monahan Company in the past but have checked their references and are confident they can complete the work as specified," Fenton said.

A new TV studio will be set up in what is now a storage area that had been used at various times for wrestling matches and indoor baseball practice.

Fenton said the pie-shaped room has poor ventilation. He said two roof-mounted air conditioning units will need to be installed to cool studio electrical equipment.

"We are starting from scratch with this room," Fenton said. "Work includes moving all production equipment, lights and cameras, and building four separate rooms. Rooms consist of an editing room, TV studio classroom, lighting control room and the

studio."

With an additional \$24,000 in architectural fees, permits and other fees totaling \$17,400 plus a reserve of \$13,250, total project cost comes to \$319,650.

Construction of a \$10.7 million, 12-lane swimming pool and related athletic facilities is scheduled to begin this spring with completion targeted for August 2008.

"We're ready to move on this," Fenton said. "We have a very tight schedule."

School custodians are being tapped to help move studio furniture.

Site toured

District officials escorted potential contractors to Grosse Pointe South High School last week.

Contractors wanted to view the site where a swimming pool, gymnasium and related athletic facilities will replace the communications technology building on Fisher near St. Paul.

An estimated 15 to 20 firms are expected to submit bids this month for work as subcontractors, according to Chris Fenton, assistant superintendent of business affairs.

Bids will be reviewed in April during at least two meetings of the school board.

District officials plan on selecting a demolition firm to raze the communications building in time for breaking ground on the 12-lane pool this May.

Fenton said plans are being made for a grand opening in late August or early September 2008.

—Brad Lindberg

North & South rated even

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

Academic comparison between North and South high school students has been judged a statistical dead heat.

"There is not a significant difference in scores between the two high schools," said Susan Allan, Grosse Pointe assistant superintendent of curriculum.

According to last year's Michigan Educational Assessment Program test results, 11th graders at the two schools achieved identical

"The schools are becoming more similar."

math results of 71 percent; South outscored North by three points in writing, and four points in both science and social studies. North outscored South by two points in reading and by one point in language arts. Figures came in a state-mandated annual summary of student learning performance.

Fred Minturn, a school board member and North graduate, said, "One of the rare negatives in the report is the ongoing difference in test scores between the two high schools."

Allan disagreed. "The schools are becoming more similar, not less so," she said. "One or two percentage points differences (are) statistically nonexistent. Anything less than about 5 (points) is a statistically nonsignificant difference."

On the Michigan state report card of high schools, North's score of 89 rated a B while South's 90 earned an A. Grades didn't include plus or minuses.

"We're energetically addressing student performance at both schools," Allan said.

During the 2005-06 academ-

ic year, 362 North students took advance placement (AP) tests compared with 438 students from South. North test results averaged 77 percent passing while South averaged 80 percent. Both figures represented improved performance from 2004-05.

"In terms of advance placement participation and test taking, North has had a smaller number of students doing it," Allan said.

But last year's number of North students taking AP tests increased by 59 from the prior year.

Last year, 273 North students won merit scholarships compared with 312 from South. The \$2,500 scholarships are given to students who take all high school MEAP tests and pass the reading, writing, math and science portions.

Merit scholarships were created by legislation sponsored by former three-term Grosse Pointe State Representative Andrew Richner, R-Grosse Pointe Park, now a University of Michigan regent.

North seniors taking the ACT college entrance examination scored a composite average of 23.2 compared with 24.3 from South.

North SAT scores averaged 572 for critical reading and 592 for math. South students scored 581 and 586, respectively.

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SPANISH: Classes start next year

Continued from page 13A

"We want people who have advanced proficiency in Spanish," Satut said. "It's important for children to have good role models with accents, grammar and vocabulary to get them started on the right path."

Satut is ready for the board's decision.

"We would like to interview (teacher) candidates as soon as possible," she said.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Grosse Pointe Park

Item stolen

Overnight on Friday, March 16, an unlocked vehicle parked in a lot in the Wayburn and Kercheval area of Grosse Pointe Park was entered and an iPod and cassette tape adapter were stolen.

Burglary

Between Friday, March 16, at 5 p.m., and Saturday, March 17, at 8:30 a.m., a business in the 15000 block of Jefferson in Grosse Pointe Park was broken into.

A Dell notebook computer was taken and the office safe was damaged in an attempt to gain entry.

Caravan stolen

Overnight on Thursday, March 15, a parked and locked 2003 Dodge Grand Caravan was stolen from in front of a home in the 1200 block of Bedford in Grosse Pointe Park.

Busted

On Saturday, March 17, at 11:51 p.m., Grosse Pointe Park police officers responded to a noise complaint and found an open house party with underage drinking at a home in the 1200 block of Lakepointe.

Alcohol was confiscated and three Grosse Pointe Park residents were charged with having an open house party. Seventeen minors from Grosse Pointe, Harper Woods, St. Clair Shores, New Baltimore and Macomb Township were charged with minor in possession.

—Bob St. John
Those with information on

these or any crimes should call the Grosse Pointe Park police department at (313) 822-7400.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Criminal warrant arrest

On Tuesday, March 13, at 12:35 a.m., a 20-year-old Detroit woman driving a red 1979 Chevrolet two-door was stopped on Harper and Woodmont for having a broken tail light.

The woman did not have her driver license and told the police officer she purchased the car earlier the day prior.

A LEIN (Law Enforcement Information Network) check revealed she had a criminal warrant out of the Third Circuit Court in Detroit for malicious destruction of police and fire equipment with no

bond and statewide call to pick her up.

The woman was arrested and posted a \$100 bond for the Grosse Pointe Woods offense. She was later picked up by a Detroit police officer.

Another warrant arrest

On Monday, March 19, at 1:07 a.m., a 22-year-old Detroit man driving a red 1995 Chevrolet four-door was stopped at Harper and Parkcrest after a LEIN check revealed he had six warrants out of Detroit for his arrest.

A Grosse Pointe Woods police officer on patrol ran the vehicle's license plate. The LEIN check also revealed the man had 14 current driver license suspensions.

He was arrested. The man was released after posting a \$100 bond.

A wrong turn

On Wednesday, March 14, at 5:01 p.m., a Grosse Pointe Woods police officer observed a 58-year-old Harper Woods man disregard the traffic sign on Harper and Allard.

The man continued straight onto Allard, which is not allowed between 3 and 6 p.m.

He produced a Michigan Identification Card, a proof of insurance and registration.

A LEIN check revealed the man had three misdemeanor warrants out of Detroit for failure to appear in court. He was advised of the Detroit warrants and arrested for driving on a suspended license.

He paid a \$100 bond and was released.

Plate expired

On Wednesday, March 14, at 12:35 a.m., a 37-year-old Detroit woman driving a red 1998 Pontiac Grand Am was pulled over after a Grosse Pointe Woods police officer learned her license plate tab was expired while performing a LEIN check.

She also had seven driver license suspensions (license plate confiscation is required) and civil warrants out of the Macomb County Sheriff's Department and Bloomfield Township for failure to appear in court.

The driver was arrested. She paid \$752 in bonds, covering the Grosse Pointe Woods citation, the two warrants and the warrant processing fee before being released.

Picked up

On Wednesday, March 14, at 12:46 a.m., a Grosse Pointe Woods police officer picked up a 31-year-old St. Clair Shores man from a City of Grosse Pointe public safety officer after an arrest.

A LEIN check revealed the driver had a warrant out of the Woods for failure to appear in court.

The man posted a \$232 bond and was released.

—Bob St. John

Those with information on these or any crimes should call the Grosse Pointe Woods police department at (313) 343-2400.

Grosse Pointe Shores

What a drift

A 25-year-old Grosse Pointe Park woman was arrested for drunken driving following a traffic stop on Lakeshore at 1:17 a.m. Sunday, March 18.

Police stopped the vehicle after observing it drifting from lane to lane. When questioning the driver, police noticed a strong odor of intoxicants coming from her facial area. The woman failed several field sobriety tests and registered a .20 on a breath test.

She was arrested and taken into police custody.

Drunken driving

Police arrested a 29-year-old St. Clair Shores man for drunken driving following a traffic stop on Lakeshore near Fontana at 1:34 a.m. Thursday, March 15.

Police stopped the vehicle after observing it driving erratically. When questioning the driver, police noticed a strong odor of intoxicants coming from his facial area. The man failed field sobriety tests and registered a .13 on a breath test.

Because the driver is a repeat offender, police faxed a request to the Wayne County prosecutor's office to have his vehicle forfeited.

A few too many

A 59-year-old Detroit man was arrested for drunken driving after a traffic stop on Lakeshore at 4:32 p.m. Wednesday, March 14.

Police stopped the vehicle for reckless driving. When questioning the driver, police noticed a strong odor of intoxicants coming from his facial area.

The man failed field sobriety tests and registered a .19 on a breath test.

The man was arrested and his vehicle impounded.

—By John Lundberg

Those with information on

these or any crimes should call the Grosse Pointe Shores police department at (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Farms

Lots of issues

A 39-year-old Detroit woman was arrested following a traffic stop on Mack and Lafontaine at 11:40 a.m. Saturday, March 17.

Police stopped the vehicle after observing it displaying a fraudulent license tag in its rear window and having no working brake lights. A LEIN (Law Enforcement Information Network) check revealed the driver had 15 license suspensions and a warrant out of St. Clair Shores.

The woman was arrested and cited with driving without a license, having no insurance and driving with an improper license plate. Her vehicle was impounded.

Pot possessor

Police arrested a 21-year-old St. Clair Shores man after stopping him while he was walking on Kerby at 2:31 a.m. Saturday, March 17.

Police said the man explained that he was walking home when first questioned. After he was released, a LEIN check revealed the man was wanted on a warrant in Harper Woods. Police caught up with the man and verified his identity. When he was searched, police discovered two bags of suspected marijuana in his pockets.

The man was arrested for drug possession.

High tech theft

Police are investigating the theft of several gift cards and electronics worth several hundred dollars from a house in the 100 block of McKinley reported at 4:33 p.m. Friday, March 16.

Police said the victim left the house at 9:05 a.m. that morning and reported the theft when she returned home. There were no signs of forced entry, but police noticed several windows were unlocked.

Among the electronics stolen were a digital camera and an iPod Nano.

Concealed weapon

A 32-year-old Detroit man was arrested for carrying a loaded concealed weapon after police stopped him as he rode his bicycle at Mack and Moran at 12:34 p.m. Wednesday, March 14.

Police stopped the man because they noticed he was carrying what resembled a purse. The man said he was on his way to an area pharmacy to have his grandmother's prescription filled, police said. He also appeared very nervous. Police searched his bag and discovered a loaded revolver. The man was arrested and charged with carrying a concealed weapon.

—By John Lundberg

Those with information on these or any crimes should call the Grosse Pointe Farms police department at (313) 885-2100.

City of Grosse Pointe

Warrant arrest

A 46-year-old St. Clair Shores man was taken into custody after police were notified by Grosse Pointe Farms law enforcement he was wanted on a City warrant at 4:15 p.m. Wednesday, March 14.

The man was picked up at the Farms police station and placed into custody.

Held for pick up

Police took into custody a 32-year-old St. Clair Shores man following a traffic stop on Chalfonte near Fisher at 12:15 a.m. Wednesday, March 14.

Police stopped the vehicle after a LEIN check of its license plate revealed the owner was wanted on a warrant out of Grosse Pointe Woods.

The man was taken into custody and held for pick up by Woods police. The vehicle was legally parked.

See POLICE, page 17A



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POLICE: Keeping the public safe

Continued from page 16A

Stolen car recovered

Police arrested a 20-year-old man for possession of a stolen vehicle following a traffic stop on Cadieux just north of East Warren at 9:55 p.m. Tuesday, March 13.

Police stopped the vehicle after a LEIN (Law Enforcement Information Network) check of its license plate revealed it was stolen from Clinton Township. The driver said that he had borrowed the car from his nephew the day before.

The driver was arrested and the vehicle impounded. Two passengers were questioned and released.

—By John Lundberg
Those with information on these or any crimes should call the City of Grosse Pointe police department at (313) 886-3200.

Coast Guard advice

Michigan's 25,000 watercraft owners are being alerted to ways they can help protect the state's waters through the America's Waterway Watch campaign.

Information has been included with all March watercraft registration renewal notices and is available at Secretary of State offices.

This is the third year the Department of State has joined with the U.S. Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary and U.S. Power Squadrons in promoting the campaign which encourages residents to become the "eyes and ears" of the country by watching over coasts, bridges, tunnels, ports, ships and other marine sources.

"Much like a Neighborhood Watch program, the America's Waterway Watch campaign calls on the state's boating communities to monitor their local marinas and waterways for any unusual activity," Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land said.

Joining Land to promote greater safety throughout the Great Lakes are Capt. Patrick Brennan, commander, Sector Detroit, Capt. Quain Kahler, commander, Sector Sault Ste. Marie and Capt. Bruce Jones, commander, Sector Lake Michigan.

"With the outstanding assistance of Land's office for the third straight year, the Coast Guard has been able to reach the vast majority of Michigan's boaters with the important message," Brennan said.

Under the campaign, residents are asked to report:

- ◆ Any suspicious person who misuses boats or seems strangely unfamiliar with them.
- ◆ Any person or watercraft that appears to be loitering or have no specific reason for being in the area.

- ◆ Anyone trying to access a boat by using force.
- ◆ Unattended vessels in odd locations.
- ◆ Unusual night operations.
- ◆ Lights flashing between boats.
- ◆ Anyone recovering or tossing items into waterways or on-to the shoreline.

Residents are cautioned not to approach or challenge anyone acting suspiciously. Any concerns should be called into the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802 or (877) 24WATCH.

Life-threatening emergencies and serious threats to property should be reported to 911 or called into the Coast Guard on Marine Channel VHF 16.

The Coast Guard and U.S. Department of Homeland Security sponsor America's Waterway Watch nationwide. For information about the initiative, visit americaswaterway-watch.org.

GROSSE POINTE PARK

Public safety director honors residents

By Bob St. John
Staff Writer

Grosse Pointe Park residents Sarah Mather and Brett Read were awarded for their willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty.

Park Department of Public

Safety Director Dave Hiller presented Mather and Read civilian commendations for their acts of bravery in 2006.

On Sept. 13 and Sept. 18, Mather reported two break-ins at her residence where there were no signs of forced entry.

She did a little detective work and purchased a video camera to record any misdeeds.

What she caught on tape was a 17-year-old neighbor jimmying a window to gain access into the home.

Later that night, Park police

caught the thief, still wearing the clothes he had on when videotaped, and made an arrest.

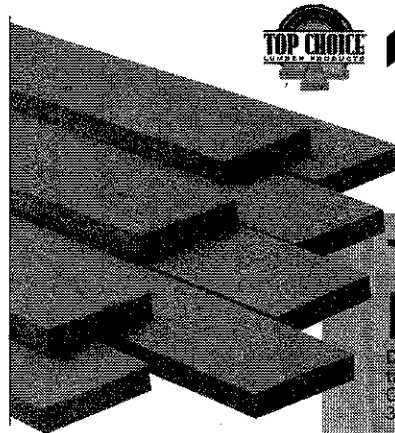
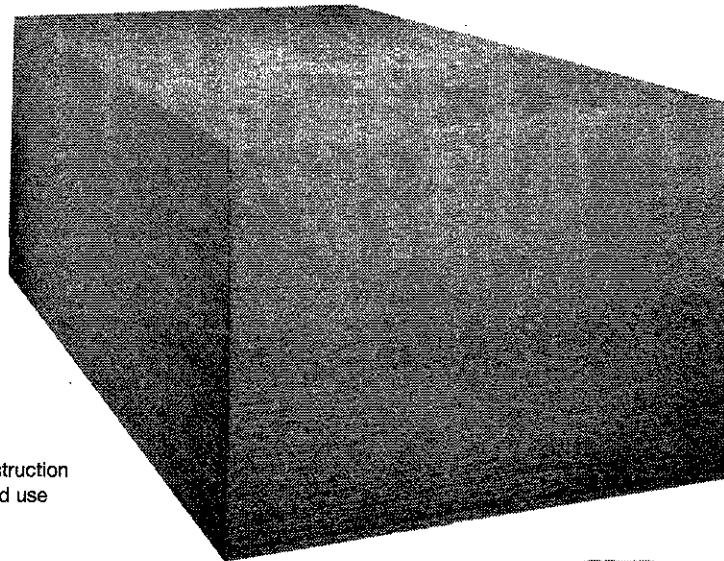
"It is with great pride we award this commendation to Sarah Mather for her role in helping us solve a crime," Hiller said.

Read saved the life of a young child on Aug. 23 during one of his shifts as a lifeguard at Windmill Pointe Park pool.

He dove into the water, brought the child onto the pool deck and performed life-saving techniques to get the girl to begin breathing again.

SPECIAL VALUE!
now
\$5.23

7/16" x 4' x 8' OSB
•Use for roof and wall construction
•Recommended for covered use
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TOP CHOICE LUMBER

Discount off listed price taken at register. Offer valid 3/22/07 through 3/26/07. See store for details.

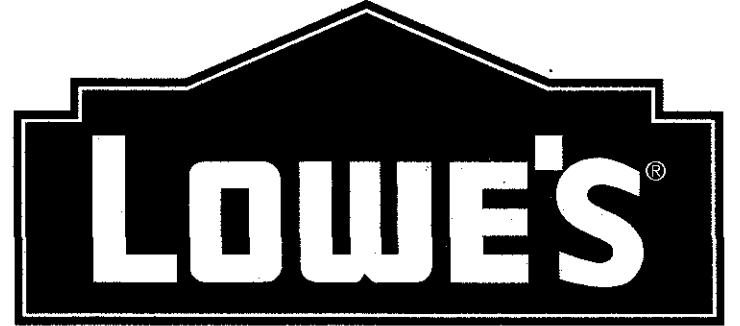
	4'	6'	8'	10'	12'
1 x 4"	#938	#939	#940	#941	#942
	\$1.66	\$2.25	\$2.77	\$3.55	\$3.99
1 x 6"	#949	#950	#951	#952	#953
	\$2.88	\$3.48	\$4.84	\$5.80	\$6.39
1 x 8"	#960	#961	#962	#963	#964
	\$3.52	\$5.49	\$6.75	\$8.39	\$9.79
1 x 10"	#971	#972	#973	#974	#975
	\$5.98	\$6.98	\$9.25	\$10.88	\$13.49
1 x 12"	#982	#983	#984	#985	#986
	\$5.65	\$8.99	\$10.97	\$13.88	\$15.48



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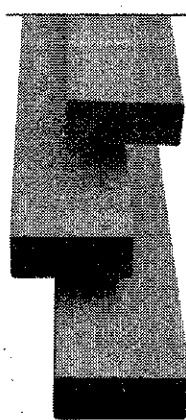


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Adjustable sill with caulking surface for proper installation
32" or 36" 6-Panel Steel Entry Door Unit
•Weatherstripping for a tight seal •Ready for lockset and deadbolt
•Primed and ready to paint •Hardware sold separately
•Fits rough opening: 34-1/2"W or 38-1/2"W x 82-1/4"H

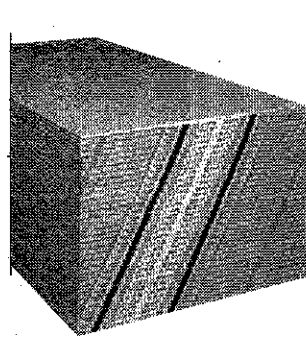
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\$8.09 sheet

1/2" x 4' x 8' Gypsum
•Use to finish walls or ceilings •Non-warping
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60 LB. BAG QUIKRETE

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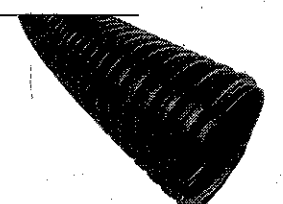
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\$25 GIFT CARD

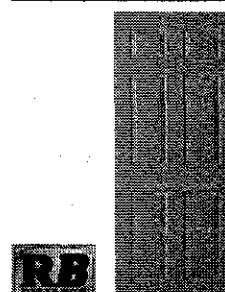
via mail-in rebate with purchase of any Werner product \$25 or more. Offer valid 3/22/07 through 3/26/07. See store for details.



20% off

SELECT PIPE

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YOUR CHOICE SPECIAL VALUE!
now
\$52

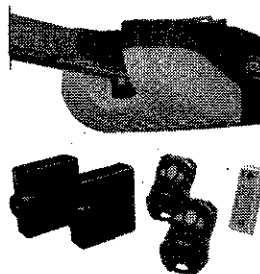
All In-Stock Pre-Hung Hollow-Core Molded Interior Door Units
Selection varies by store.

SPECIAL VALUE!
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55¢ per linear ft.*

2-1/4"W Casing Contractor Pack
•Solid oak

now 62¢ per linear ft.*

2-3/4"W Base Moulding Contractor Pack
•Solid oak



SPECIAL VALUE!
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1/2-HP DirectLift Garage Door Opener with Intellicode®
•Screw drive system #251768



Honeywell

\$20 MAIL-IN REBATE

•\$30 everyday low price
•\$20 mail-in rebate
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good through 3/26/07

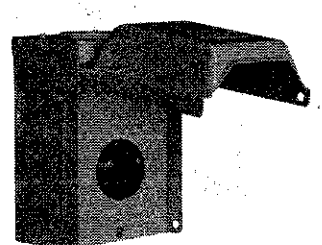
7-Day Universal Programmable Thermostat
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20% OFF listed price
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50' 12/3 Yellow Jacket Commercial Grade Cord
#71662, 242027
Discount taken at register. Offer valid 3/22/07 through 3/26/07. See store for details.



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30-Amp Power Outlet
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Prices may vary after March 26, 2007 if there are market variations. *Was prices in this advertisement were in effect on March 15, 2007, and may vary based on Lowe's Every Day Low Price policy. See store for details regarding product warranties. We reserve the right to limit quantities. ©2007 by Lowe's. All rights reserved. Lowe's and the gable design are registered trademarks of LF, LLC. 070393

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SAVINGS: -7,961

SALE PRICE \$17,834*

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*Plus 6% sales tax, license, title, doc fee and destination charges. All rebates and incentives to dealer. **Plus 6% monthly use tax, license, title, doc fee. Must qualify for Lease Loyalty and GMS owner loyalty. Lease pull ahead call for details. Prices subject to change without notice.

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Model #05717
*Includes College Graduate Rebate.

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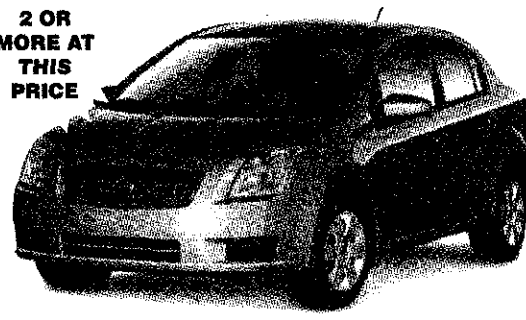
Auto transmission, air conditioning, cruise control, pwr windows, pwr locks, dual airbags, keyless entry, AM/FM/CD, 18" alloy wheels, ABS brakes, curtain airbags and much more!

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Auto transmission, air conditioning, cruise control, pwr windows, pwr locks, dual airbags, keyless entry, AM/FM/CD and much more!

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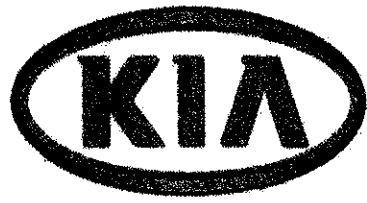
*Includes College Graduate Rebate.

Lease 2007 for 24 months as low as... **\$119** per mo.** \$2,999 total due at lease inception

*Plus 6% sales tax, license, title and destination charge. All rebates and incentives to dealer. **Plus 6% monthly use tax, license, title, doc fee. All rebates and incentives to dealer. *Includes College Graduate Rebate.

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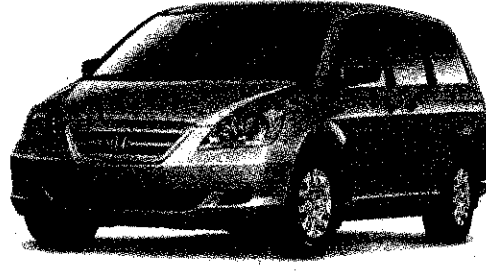


4-cylinder
Sedan LX, Automatic,
Special AHFC
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Power windows, power locks, tilt steering, cruise control, Blue Tooth Handsfree Phone, DVD Audio 8 speaker ELS sound system and much more!

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Luxury loaded with power heated leather w/memory, CD, dual climate controls, all power options and alloy wheels! #127360A

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CMA Certified! Nicely equipped with full power options, CD, alloys and 4x4 safety! Spacious comfort and like new! #P10893

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Only 55k miles and loaded w/CD, AC, all power options, park, air and alloy wheels! #PL10870A

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OBITUARIES

Obituary notices are purchased and often prewritten by family or friends. While we try to run obituaries as submitted, we nevertheless reserve the right to edit for accuracy, style and length.

Joan Elizabeth Curtis

Joan E. Curtis, 76, of Bellevue, Wash., died Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2007.

Mrs. Curtis was born Nov. 10, 1930, in West Palm Beach, Fla., to George and Agnes Richart. She and her family moved to Detroit in 1945.

She graduated from Blessed Sacrament High School in 1947 and attended Marygrove College and Wayne State University where she earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish in 1951. She also studied at the University of Mexico in Mexico City.

She met her future husband, Donald Curtis, in the Newman Club at Wayne State. They were married Sept. 3, 1955, in Detroit.

After graduation, she worked for Northwest Airlines in reservations, specializing in Spanish communications. After her marriage, she became a full-time wife, mother and homemaker.

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis settled in the Detroit area living in Dearborn until 1964 and Grosse Pointe until 1978 when Mr. Curtis's work took the family to Summit, N.J. Following his retirement in 1995, they moved to the Magnolia District of Seattle. In 2003, Mrs. Curtis moved to Bellevue following the death of her husband.

In her leisure time, she enjoyed reading, cooking, speaking Spanish, traveling to Mexico and spending time with her family.

Her family remembers her as a loving wife, mother and grandmother who was extremely intelligent and funny. She was an independent woman with a strong faith in God. She will be deeply missed.

Mrs. Curtis is survived by her children, Ann Curtis of London, England, Mark (Becky) Curtis of Issaquah, Wash., Judy (Rick) Golden of Haslett, Claire Curtis (Chris) McQueen of Bellevue, Wash., Scott (Heather) Curtis of Seattle, and Lynn Curtis of Seattle; brothers, Bill (Mary) Richart and Tom (Carol) Richart; sister, Judy (Miles) Muhata; and 10 grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Monday, Feb. 26. Interment is at Upper Hillside Cemetery in Issaquah.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 728 - 134th St. NW, Suite 101, Everett, WA 98204 or call (800) 227-2348.

To share memories and sign the family's online guestbook visit www.flintofts.com.

Henriette Feikens

Henriette "Henis" Feikens, 91, of Grosse Pointe Park, died Tuesday, March 13, 2007.

She was born Sept. 18, 1915, in Oak Park, Ill., to John and Edith Schulthouse. She attended Northwestern University and Calvin College.

Mrs. Feikens was a lifelong homemaker, raising a family of five in a series of homes in Grosse Pointe while her husband built a law practice and was active in Republican politics.

One of her favorite stories from those years was about dancing with Gen. Omar Bradley at Dwight D. Eisenhower's Inaugural Ball.

She was a volunteer for the Wayne County Juvenile Court in the 1960s, was active in the University of Michigan Women's League, and was a deacon and volunteer at her church. She was active until the end of her life with the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church sewing circle, donating many hand-knit items to charitable causes.

Mrs. Feikens had a sharp intellect, a quick wit and an unselfish, practical and caring nature. She was passionate about crossword puzzles, knitting and collecting dolls and miniatures.

Her life was dedicated to family. Mrs. Feikens had a gold bracelet comprised of charms engraved with the name and birth date of each of her five children, 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Milestones, such as her 80th and 90th birthdays, and 60th wedding anniversary, were celebrated with memorable trips for the entire family to special places.

She is survived by her husband, U.S. District Judge John Feikens; children, Jon (Beth) Feikens, Susan (Norm) Sevensma, Barbara (Luke) Reinsma, Julie (Ric) VanderHaagen and Robert (Beverly) Feikens; grandchildren, Jeffrey Feikens, David (Eileen) Feikens, Kristin (Jason) Jorgensen, Karlin (Mike Tyson) Sevensma, Annelise (Mike) Kastelin, Nathaniel Reinsma, Marika Reinsma, Sara (Chris Verkaik) VanderHaagen, Laura (Sam) Gustafson, Kimberly (James) Stephens, Eric Feikens and Julie Feikens; great-grandchildren, Emma, Julia and Jack Feikens, and Nadia and Autumn Tyson; and sister, Dorothy Bel.

Michael J. Healey

Michael J. Healey, 42, of Port Huron, formerly of St. Clair Shores, Grosse Pointe and Clarkston died Wednesday, March 14, 2007, in his home.

He was born July 16, 1964 in Grosse Pointe to Maureen and the late James Healey.

Mr. Healey was self-employed in the construction and landscaping business. He was known for his artistic abilities with his masonry work. He enjoyed photography, reading and writing.

He is survived by his mother and stepfather, Maureen Feely and Cyril Grobbel; two brothers, James F. (Catherine) Healey of Birmingham, and Larry (Ruth-Ellen) Healey of Midland; sister, Mary (Tom Stoughton) Healey of Birmingham; seven nieces and nephews, Claudia, Andrew, Nicholas, Sean, Charles, Corey and David; and uncle and aunt, William (Patricia) Kemp.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Monday, March 19, at St. Christopher Catholic Church. Interment is at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Detroit.

Memorial contributions may be made to Heartland Hospice.

To send condolences and messages of sympathy, visit marysvillefuneralhome.com.

Mary Adelaide Hester

Mary Adelaide Hester, 76, of Tryon, N.C., died Sunday, March 11, 2007, in Spartanburg, N.C.

Miss Hester was born in Atlanta to the late Julian and the late Adelaide Canfield Hester. She was a lifelong resident of Tryon and a patron of the arts, having supported scholarships for numerous students at Brevard Music Center in North Carolina.

She will be fondly remembered by the many musicians she befriended and supported over the years.

Miss Hester is survived by many cousins in North Carolina, Michigan and elsewhere.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday, March 22, in the chapel of Elmwood Cemetery, 1200 Elmwood, Detroit.

Memorials may be made to the Detroit Public Library Friends Foundation, 5201 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202 or the Brevard Music Center Association, P.O. Box 312, Brevard, NC 28712.

Ronald Henry Houle

Ronald Henry Houle, of Grosse Pointe Woods, 100, died Sunday, Jan. 21, 2007.

He was born Oct. 9, 1906, and was one of 10 children. He graduated from St. Ambrose High School in Detroit and had two years of college courses. He lived in Detroit until 1954 when he and his family moved to Grosse Pointe Woods.

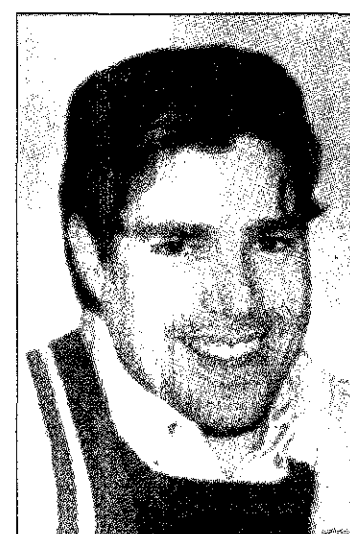
Mr. Houle worked in the banking field for many years and then joined the Veterans Administration where he worked until his retirement.



Joan Elizabeth Curtis



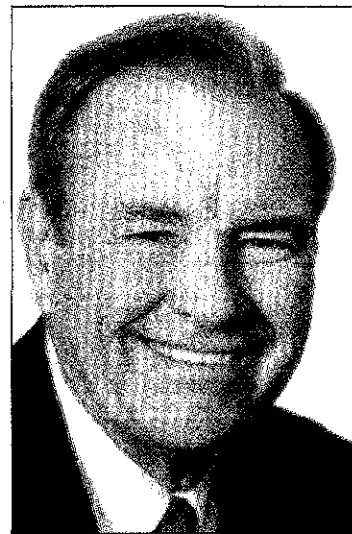
Henriette Feikens



Michael J. Healey



Ronald Henry Houle



John Francis Monahan



Patricia Sheehy

Shortly after retiring, he joined the Grosse Pointe Men's Club and was an active member until 2001 when he had serious surgery.

His hobbies included playing bridge, golfing, fishing, bowling and gardening. He and his wife enjoyed traveling to many places including Ireland, Germany, England, Italy and France. They owned a small cottage north of Port Huron where they happily spent 63 summers.

Mr. and Mrs. Houle were members of Our Lady Star of the Sea parish from its early years.

His family writes, "He will be missed and lovingly remembered by all his family, relatives and friends."

He is survived by his daughter, Marilyn J. Lewis; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Thursday, Jan. 25, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church. Interment is at the family plot at Mount Olivet Cemetery.

John Francis Monahan

John F. "Jack" Monahan died Thursday, March 15, 2007, at his home in Grosse Pointe Shores with his family by his side.

He was born Nov. 9, 1924, in Detroit to Edward V. and Helen Monahan, the oldest of six children.

He graduated from De La Salle Collegiate High School and served in World War II in the 15th Army Air Corps in Italy. He later attended the University of Detroit where he met his wife, Barbara.

Mr. Monahan joined his father's general contracting firm in 1946, eventually serving as president and chairman of the board of Edward V. Monahan, Inc. and The Monahan Co. Through his strong leadership, the company successfully managed hundreds of construction and development projects in the Detroit area.

The firm had a strong relationship with the Archdiocese of Detroit, managing more than 100 projects, including St. Clare of Montefalco, Our Lady Star of the Sea, St. Jude and St. Joan of Arc churches. The company was also involved in construction projects for Bon Secours Hospital, St. John Hospital, Cottage Hospital, St. John-Bon Secours Continuing Care Center, the Punch and Judy building and the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

Mr. Monahan was elected president in 1970 and served on the board of directors of the Builder's Exchange of Detroit and Michigan.

Mr. Monahan faithfully served his community as a councilman and planning commissioner for the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores from 1989 through 1998 acting as mayor pro tem for several years during this term.

He served as president of the Grosse Pointe War Memorial in 1977-78 and was on its board for many years. He served as president of the Friends of Bon Secours Hospital. He was a member of the board of directors for Surety Federal Savings and Loan for eight years.

Mr. Monahan was deeply devoted to his family and friends. He was proud to have spent his career working with his three brothers, his sons and his nephews. He enjoyed traveling and was a student of history and geography.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Barbara; children, Michael (Jackie), Barbara (Patrick) Barrett, Patricia, Mary Beth (Peter Costello) Monahan, John, Katie (Carl) Tomaszycycki and Tim (Laura); 17 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and siblings, Ann (Gerald) O'Meara, Bill (Peggy), Patricia (Pol) Raynal, Ted (Marilyn) and Dan (Lorraine).

He was predeceased by his son, John Patrick.

Memorial contributions may be made to Bon Secours Hospice or The Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

Patricia Sheehy

Harper Woods resident Patricia "Pat" Sheehy, 75, died Sunday, March 11, 2007.

She was born March 23, 1931, at St. Joseph Hospital in Detroit, to Bernice and Eugene Sheehy. Miss Sheehy earned an associate's degree from the University of Detroit.

She worked as a secretary for the engineering department at Wayne State University from which she retired after 41 years of employment.

She was an avid reader whose other interests included traveling.

Miss Sheehy is survived by her nephews, Kevin (Amy), Brian (Carol) and Michael (Laura); grandnephews, Max, Alex, Ben and Jackson; grandniece, Shannon; brother, Robert J. (Judy) Sheehy; and cousin, James (Maureen) and their daughter, Margaret.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, March 14. Interment is at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Detroit.

Memorial contributions may be made to Crossroads, 4800 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48201.

Helen Tipton

Former Grosse Pointe Woods resident Helen Tipton, 80, of Clinton Township, died Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2007, at St. Joseph's Health Care in Clinton Township.

She was born Feb. 28, 1926, in Detroit to Joseph and Elsa Hitsch. She was raised in Detroit and graduated from Denby High School. Mrs. Tipton was a longtime resident



Thomas J. Verbiest Sr.

of Grosse Pointe.

She earned her diploma as a registered nurse from Evangelical Deaconess Hospital in Detroit in 1947. She worked at Deaconess Hospital as an emergency room nurse until 1966.

She is survived by her husband, Lewis Tipton; daughters, Lynne (Charlie) Munro and Suzi (Matt) Preston; and grandchildren, Meighan, Savannah, Tripp and Henry.

She was predeceased by her daughter, Gail Elizabeth.

Thomas J. Verbiest Sr.

Grosse Pointe Park resident Thomas J. Verbiest Sr., 77, died Sunday, March 18, 2007.

He was born July 21, 1929, in Detroit, to Christopher M. and Grace E. Verbiest.

He earned a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Notre Dame in 1952. He was a sergeant in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

Mr. Verbiest was the owner of the Verbiest Insurance Agency.

He was the past president of the Notre Dame Club of Detroit, past commodore of the St. Clair Yacht Club and past commander of the American Legion B&P Post No. 372.

He was an avid boater and tennis player. He enjoyed building model boats for his grandchildren.

Mr. Verbiest is survived by his wife, Suzanne R. (nee Miesch); children, Thomas J. Jr. (Mary Anne), Christopher R. (Bethleen), Mark G., Bethann (Jeff) Kirk and Jon P. (Stacy); grandchildren, Dana, Cheryl, Torrie, Bryan, Jennifer, Luke, Jon, Andrew, Ryan, Justin, Trevor and Megan; sisters, Nancy Becigneul and Beth (Tom) Gibney; and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his sister, Mary Devine-Rayl.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m., Friday, March 23, at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Park.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church or the University of Detroit Jesuit High School.

Not all chapters in life are easy.

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TEST DRIVE By Greg Zyla

The 2007 Nissan Pathfinder SE Off-Road is the roomiest, most adaptable, most prepared Pathfinder ever. It features fold-flat second and third rows and an available 'Easy Clean' cargo area.

'07 Pathfinder SE Off-Road: A classic



If you like vehicles that have a "go-anywhere" attitude, this week's test drive is for you. We're behind the wheel of Nissan's popular '07 Pathfinder SE-OR, the "OR" standing for Off-Road — base price: \$31,650; price as tested: \$38,090.

Introduced in 1986 as the lone SUV in Nissan's lineup, Pathfinder today shares SUV sales with siblings Armada, Xterra and Murano. Pathfinder, however, is still the adventurer of the bunch, and looks the part.

With enhanced off-road capabilities, large V6 engine, 4-wheel independent suspension and boxed, all-steel frame, Pathfinder is a winner in the outlands or the mall parking lots.

Redesigned in 2005, Pathfinder tweaks style just a

bit without hurting its classic approach. The large hood and headlights, strut-style grille, firm shoulder line, built-in fender flares, and angled C-pillar with high-mounted rear door handles copy the original design.

Notable is Pathfinder's long wheelbase of 112.2 inches, which aids in highway ride comfort. Additionally, thanks to short front and rear overhangs, Pathfinder is manageable in all situations, including city driving and parallel parking. As for payload, front passenger, second and third row seats fold down to provide up to 64 different seating/cargo settings.

Powering Pathfinder is a 4.0-liter DOHC V6 rated at 266 horsepower and 288 pound-feet of torque. Although larger than the 3.5 engine found in the 350Z, Maxima, Altima, Murano and Quest, the 4.0 is similar and specifically built for SUV and truck use.

Transferring power to the 4WD "shift on the fly" is a 5 speed automatic transmission featuring a wider gear ratio for better acceleration. Maximum



2007 Nissan Pathfinder SE Off-Road

towing capacity (when properly equipped) is rated at 6,000 pounds and an integrated tow hitch is now standard for 2007.

The standard Hill Start Assist allows drivers to stop on a slope, release the brake pedal and not roll back for up to two seconds. This is nice, but not truly necessary with an automatic transmission. As for a manual transmission, it's not

available on the Pathfinder. Notable is 4-wheel ABS disc brakes with Electronic Brake Force Distribution and traction control. Nice 16-inch off-road style aluminum-alloy wheels and BF Goodrich Rugged Trail tires help highlight Pathfinder's aesthetic qualities, which are many.

Safety features include Zone Body construction with front

and rear crumple zones and dual-stage front supplemental air bags. Front side air bags and curtain side air bags are part of a \$700 option package that is highly recommended for enhancing protection in all three rows. We'd like to see Nissan add these optional air bags as standard fare in the future.

Pathfinder comes in four designs and starts at \$25,600. Every model comes complete with standard three-row seating, although we don't feel a forced third row is truly "off-road rugged" in theory. As for room, the third row is tight, and the second row is not as roomy as expected.

On the road, expect to be impressed. Pathfinder is agile and powerful, although the full box frame is Titan pickup-bred and won't dish up a Maxima style ride. It's when consumers hit the trails that Pathfinder's brawny box frame turns into an advantage. The big engine is noisy when pushed, and can be a bit thirsty if you have a heavy right foot.

In addition to a multitude of standard features, the Off-

Road model adds painted front springs, Rancho performance shocks, unique blue seat fabric, Hill Descent Control, skid plates, dual-zone air, rear air controller, adjustable pedals, digital compass, outside temperature gauge, leather steering wheel and shift knob, silver painted center cluster and Off-Road badge.

A \$1,600 DVD entertainment system, \$1,700 SE Premium package, and a \$1,500 leather package pushed our tester's final price to more than \$38,000.

Important numbers include 4,771 pound curb weight, 9.2-inch ground clearance, 21.1 gallon fuel tank, 16 city and 21 highway EPA numbers, and up to 79 cubic-feet of cargo space.

We really like Nissan's Pathfinder, and rate it a 8.5 on a scale of 1 to 10.

Likes: Power, looks, great off-road capabilities, cargo space.

Dislikes: Sensitive keyless "panic" button, noisy engine, somewhat tight second row.

Greg Zyla is a syndicated auto columnist.

SHOP TALK By Greg Zyla

Brake fluid collects moisture, needs changing

Brake fluid is perhaps the most important fluid of all in a vehicle, because without it, we couldn't stop. It's also one of the most neglected vehicle fluids, ranking right up there with anti-freeze.

Master mechanics recommend that brake fluid be changed when it becomes contaminated by moisture, which lowers its boiling point to a dangerous level and thus decreases brake efficiency.

To be safe, we recommend changing brake fluid at least every three years. If you travel more miles than the average driver or use your vehicle mostly in stop-and-go traffic, changing fluid every two years is recommended.

Every time you use your brakes, the fluid absorbs just a wee bit of moisture. After a year, the brake fluid in the average vehicle may contain as much as 2 percent water. After several years of service, it's not unusual to find brake fluid that contains as much as 8 percent water.

This effectively lowers the fluid's boiling point, increasing the danger of a brake failure because vapor pockets form if the fluid gets too hot. Vapor thus replaces fluid in actuating the brake lining against a drum or disc, so that when brakes are applied, the pedal may go "soft" or, in a worst-case scenario, go all the way to the floor.

In ending, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) found that brake fluid in 20

percent of 1,720 vehicles tested recently contained 5 percent or more water. This finding should convince motorists to have their mechanic check the brake fluid on a regular basis, and change it every second or third year, regardless.

NHTSA also recommends storing brake fluid only in its original container, and making sure the cap is tight, which prevents absorption of moisture.

Q. Greg, I have a 2002 Dodge Grand Caravan that for the past two years has a surging and stalling problem that the dealer and DaimlerChrysler can't seem to find a way to correct. Every few months the van will produce this surging and stalling when coming to a stop. However, it has no problem on the open road.

It seems that maybe the engine and transmission are not synchronized when coming to a stop because I can hear and feel rough downshifting, and when it surges you need both feet on the brake. Dodge has replaced the computer module, which seemed to minimize the problem, but it will keep coming back and last for days.

A. Frank, as for the hesitating and surging, have the throttle body cleaned, and for the starting/stalling, the fuel pump may be the culprit. Also, has the dealer replaced the oxygen sensor? This less than \$50 part could be the cause of all the problems, so start with the sensor.

As for the transmission

problem, I doubt anything in the transmission is causing the Caravan to stall. When a vehicle stalls or is misfiring, it may mimic a transmission problem, but it's usually not the case. If by chance something in the transmission is the culprit, I'd look first to the converter, which is the "power delivery" apparatus between the engine and transmission.

Let's hope it's the oxygen sensor first, then the throttle body and/or the fuel pump.

Q. Greg, is there a device that will allow me to check my engine's trouble messages so I don't have to take my car to the garage whenever the check-engine light comes on?

A. Yes, Pete, there is. Your car's engine and transmission management system is what controls your car engine, transmission and emissions systems, and it's called a Powertrain Control Module. When the PCM detects a malfunction in the monitoring system, the "Service Engine Soon" light comes on.

A computer scanner can read the trouble codes to inform you on the particular sensor that has failed. The most frequent is the "O2 sensor" (oxygen sensor), which is an item that looks like a clothespin with wires and should be replaced every 60,000 to 90,000 miles.

If you would like, you can scan your On Board Diagnostics system for fault codes with an engine scanner from PocketScan (\$69.95 at eAutoElectronics.com). This

handheld scanner pinpoints information in the malfunctioning system to help you correctly replace the sensor or valve needed for the repair, and eliminate any "hit and miss" do-it-yourself repair.

This device enables the user to read OBD II diagnostic trouble codes from the on-board computers of 1996 and newer cars and light trucks to quickly determine the cause of the "Check Engine" light coming

on. Once repairs are made, the PocketScan permits the user to clear the trouble codes and turn off the light. Check it out on the Web or call (800) 889-8675 for more information.

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22A | AUTOMOTIVE

TEST DRIVE By Greg Zyla

The 2007 GMC Yukon XL - 2WD is a capable vehicle with towing and hauling ability matched by only a few other vehicles in a stylishly handsome body and newfound fuel economy.

'07 Yukon XL - 2WD is mighty yet agile



Moving near three tons takes power, and Yukon delivers with a 5.3 liter V8 producing 320 horses on gas and 310 with Flex85 fuel. The engine mates to a four-speed automatic transmission that features a tow-haul mode. Yukon can haul up to 8,200 pounds, covering just about any recreational equipment you can snap onto the hitch.

Despite Yukon's size and power, it's important to note that full-size SUVs of the 21st century don't handle like trucks of the past. The premium smooth ride suspension package took away any type of push or rolling feel with our Yukon tester, even during somewhat hard cornering and heavy braking.

And, there are plenty of features that make operating the Yukon simple enough without the assistance of a brawny farm hand:

- ◆ The large, heavy liftgate features a power system that eliminates any strain; a simple push of a button fully opens or closes the door.

- ◆ Third-row seats pull out with the flip of a lever. They're not light, but are fairly simple to disengage and drag out the back.

- ◆ Hate the thought of backing up in such a massive vehicle? GMC addresses that with a rearview camera system and rear parking assist. Between the clear view from the rear bumper displayed on the dash-mounted LCD screen and the warning "beeps" if you're getting too close to an object, you don't have to twist and turn and triple-check mirrors to



2007 GMC Yukon XL - 2WD

safely move in reverse.

These features make large seem small with Yukon, although interior amenities let you know you're riding in big-time style, particularly with the \$4,135 SLT-2 decor package included on our tester. Featured are front leather-appointed bucket seats; 12-way power, heated driver's side and front passenger seats (the driver's also featuring memory positioning); leather-appointed second-row captain seats; tri-zone automatic air conditioning; power adjustable pedals; remote vehicle starter; AM/FM stereo with MPC-compatible six-disc CD changer; XM satel-

lite radio (first three months included); outside power folding mirrors with auto dimming and turn signals; the aforementioned rear parking assist and more.

Another \$2,145 added a navigation system to the stereo setup, and for \$1,795, the standard 17-inch aluminum wheels were replaced with 20-inch polished aluminum wheels, further stabilizing the ride while enhancing its presence.

Among the many other options that add more than \$12,000 to the base price are \$1,295 for a rear seat entertain-

ment center; \$995 for a sunroof; \$425 for second-row seat power release (recommended for easy access to the third row); \$350 for a power liftgate and \$195 for the rearview camera.

Safety features include dual frontal air bags with passenger sensing system; four-wheel, anti-lock disc brakes; Stabilitrak stability control, driver lockout prevention and tire pressure monitor. Head curtain side air bags in all seating rows come with the decor package.

Other important numbers include a 26 gallon fuel tank

130-inch wheelbase, three-row seating and 10.5-inch ground clearance.

There's plenty to like with Yukon, and we give it a big 9 on a scale of 1 to 10.

Likes: So big, yet so sensitive to driver needs; E85 option; versatility, looks.

Dislikes: Captain seats in second row relegate our tester to a six passenger vehicle, should be bench seat; six-speed automatic would improve miles per gallon even more.

Greg Zyla is a syndicated automotive columnist.

AUTOWIRE.NET By Derek Price

Infiniti M35: Balanced power over brute force

When I first drove the Infiniti M sedan late last year, I got the brutal M45 with a big, brawny V8 under the hood. That car was a monster. It felt almost like an American muscle car, with a heavy, deliberate driving feel and a relatively soft suspension. It was a great car, but it was more of a Grand Tourer than a true sports sedan.

Fast forward to this week, and I'm behind the wheel of another Infiniti M that costs thousands less than the last one, which would ordinarily mean it's less fun and less extravagant. Oddly enough, now I think the less expensive M is the better M.

Called the M35, this V6-powered sports sedan feels light, nimble and balanced, all things that the pricey M45 lacks. Where the heavier M45 plows through corners like a big NFL lineman, the zippy M35 cuts with the speed, grace and precision of a wide receiver.

I'm usually a vocal member of the "more power" crowd, but in this case I'd actually rather have the less powerful car because it's a heck of a lot more fun to drive.

One of the reasons is that the M35 I recently drove had a

very different suspension from the M45. My latest drive in the M came with the benefit of rear active steer, which uses computers and electric motors to constantly adjust the rear suspension geometry according to steering input and vehicle speed. The difference is amazing, making the driver feel like they're controlling an X-Acto knife rather than a chainsaw.

Another reason for the extra fun is that the V6 engine is a better match for the M than the bigger V8. I called the V8 "frighteningly powerful" last year because it was easy to lose control of the car with 325 horsepower under foot. In contrast, the V6 still makes plenty of power — 275 horses — but is much easier to control because it responds faster and keeps the car's weight more evenly balanced through corners.

Both versions of the M can come well equipped with the latest gadgets to coddle you. The M35, which cost nearly \$52,000 as tested, came with a navigation system, heated and cooled front seats, a rear view video camera to help you back up, and the high-tech rear suspension. It's an expensive car, sure, but you get a lot of bang for the buck.

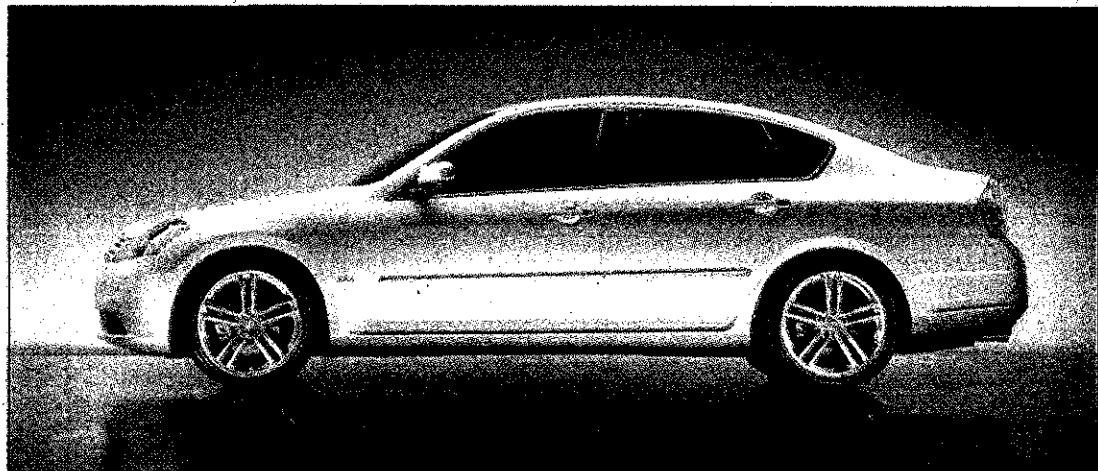
There are only a couple of

downsides to this car. For one, its cabin isn't as quiet as its competitor at Lexus — the new GS — and the fit and finish don't quite match Lexus' lofty standards. It also doesn't come with the same brand cachet as, say, an Audi, which can be a good or bad thing depending on why you're buying a luxury car. In any case, do yourself a favor and save a few thousand bucks. The M35 is definitely a better car than its more powerful twin.

What was tested? The 2007 Infiniti M35 Sport with a base price of \$44,250. Options: Advanced technology package, \$2,500; body kit, \$1,590; and technology package, \$2,950. Price as tested, including \$650 destination charge: \$51,940.

Why avoid it? It will take some time to get used to all the buttons on the M35's dash. All its high-tech features are impressive once you learn how to use them and it doesn't have the cachet of a Lexus or an Audi.

Why buy it? It's a very precise, well-balanced sports sedan. It's more fun to drive than the more expensive, V8-powered M45. And the sleek, sporty shape makes the Infiniti M35 an eye-catching luxury car that heaps up performance and comfort in equal doses.



The 2007 Infiniti M35 Sport

PHOTO BY INFINITI INTERNET MEDIA

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AUTOS By Jenny King

Arizona: Getting there half the fun



number. In fact, it was a \$10 charge we discovered when checking out. That was to cover the cost of vacuuming any excess hair from Maryland, a rare Beaufield terrier and a steadfast travel companion on her first cross-country car trip.

We were interested in a receipt and also in the promise of that "free hot breakfast." The lobby looked to hold no more than a half-dozen people at one time. It was difficult to imagine how and where the staff would lay out a sumptuous early morning feast.

And there it was, in the predawn hours: a carton containing packets of maple-flavored instant oatmeal (no bowls); silver-dollar-size prewrapped sausage biscuits atop a small microwave; hot water for tea or oatmeal; some containers of dry cereal; a bakery box of not-too-fresh glazed donuts, and coffee so dark it could only have been prepared the day before.

We fled before dawn with watered-down coffee and a couple of the donuts. We also had our yellow receipt, handed

over by a desk person who suddenly emerged from behind a door, squinting, with bed hair, and cross at having been awakened.

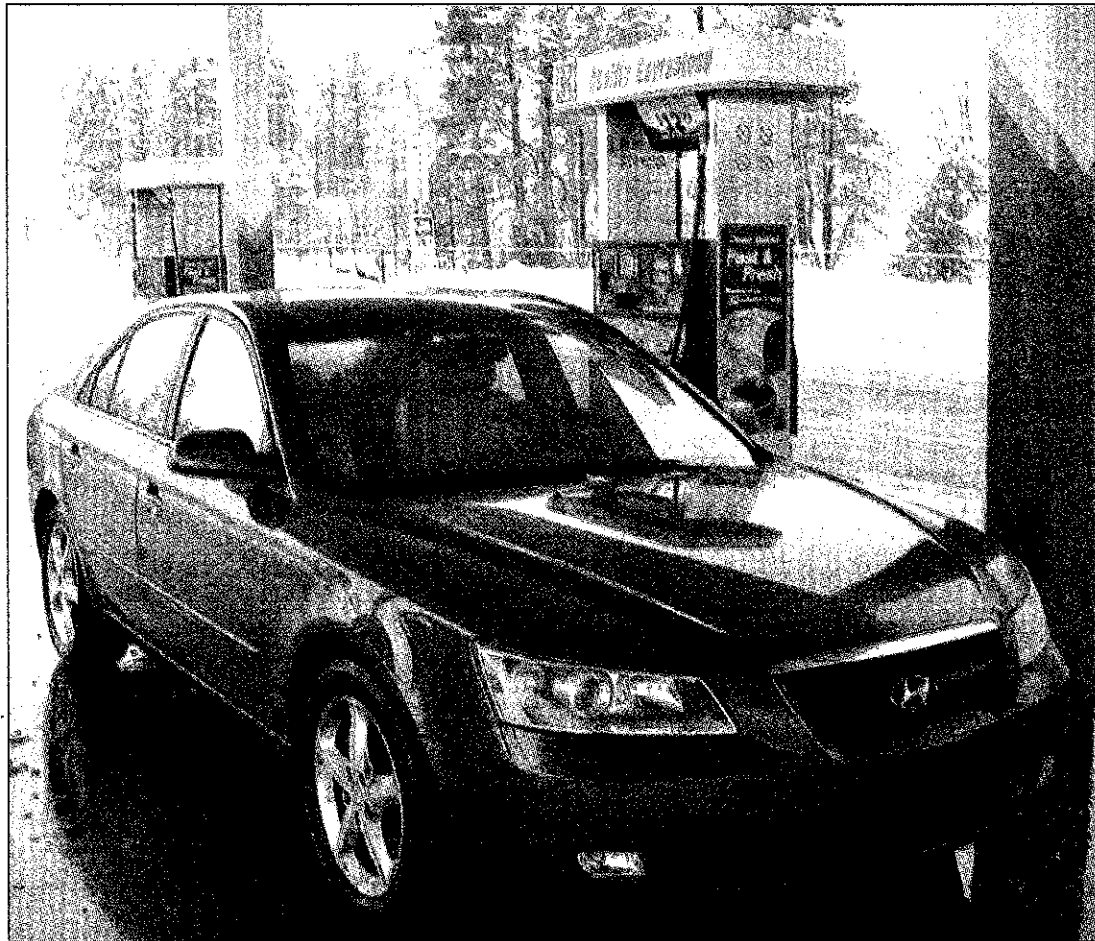
By the time the sun was above the horizon, we were into the eastern Texas panhandle, stopping for gas in a small town on old Route 66, which runs alongside Interstate 40 much of the way. A brief excursion into town took us to the famed 66 and an art deco Conoco filling station.

There were no special vehicles in sight, so we headed on in our Hyundai Sonata, an "upgrade" we were told when picking it up at a Budget Rent-A-Car facility in Roseville. The mid-size sedan may well have been larger than our reservation suggestion, but it had not enjoyed an upgraded existence. With only 16,000 miles on the odometer, the Sonata definitely deserved better treatment than rental customers had provided. The light-colored leather seating surfaces were quite worn. There was a pink nail polish-like stain on the carpeting. The exterior — or what we could see of it through the accumulated dirt and slush — was scratched.

Nevertheless, it was ours for a while and, when all was said and done, it provided excellent transportation to and from Phoenix. The anti-lock brakes were called into action on a snowy morning only two hours into the 2,000-mile trip westward. The driver's seat was, for the most part, comfortable hour after hour. The CD player took us through several recorded books. Perhaps we missed a changer? We put discs in one at a time. Our overall fuel economy was just above 28 miles per gallon, and the Sonata was eager to keep up with any and all traffic, including states in which highway speed seemed of no consequence.

The trunk easily held our cargo: a violin; a Styrofoam cooler; three soft, duffie-style bags in small, medium and large; almost enough Purina Dog Chow to last five weeks; an older laptop computer; towels for wiping down Maryland, and a paper sack with items like peanut butter and apples.

If you were to check out brand-new Hyundai Sonatas, you would find that the 2007 comes in a GLS, SE and Limited models. The base engine is a 162-horsepower 2.4-liter in-line four that gets up to 33 miles per gallon in highway driving. The GLS with the smaller engine starts at \$17,195. The more expensive SE and Limited sedans can be

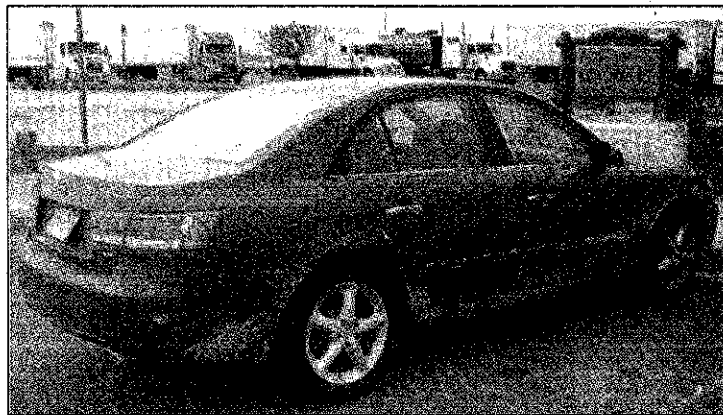


Welcome to Arizona and four fresh inches of wet snow in mile-high Show Low.

equipped with a 3.3-liter V-6 with a 234-horsepower rating. They start at \$20,995 and \$22,995 respectively.

Back to Interstate 40, which on the third day of our excursion took us past Amarillo, Texas and through Albuquerque, N.M. and on to our state of destination: Arizona. And snow.

Welcome to the Grand Canyon State. Lots of falling wet snow greeted us as we pressed on to the town of Holbrook. The last morning of the trip it snowed and/or rained all the way south on US 89/Arizona 70 from Holbrook to Globe, where the clouds finally parted, hinting at what would lie ahead in the Valley of the Sun. By the way, we found



The Hyundai Sonata knew no fear in keeping up with the heavy trucks doing 80 mph on Interstate 40.

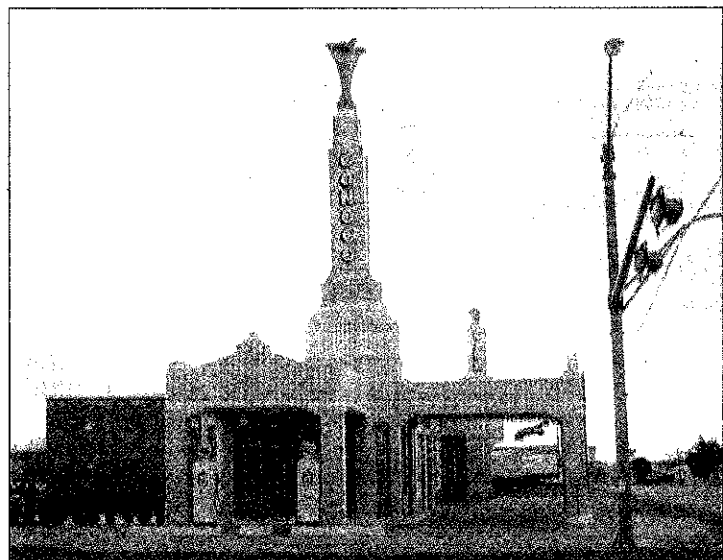
the mountains and valleys of the Tonto National Forest area north of Globe almost as breathtaking as the Grand Canyon, and figure this beautiful area needs a better publicist

when great destinations are being determined.

For the greatest enjoyment, however, it's best not to be behind the wheel doing the hairpin turns in a snow shower.



The Econolodge kept its "hot breakfast" promise: there was instant oatmeal and heat-'em-up sausage biscuits.



Towns along historic U.S. Route 66 welcome visitors to scenes from the past, like this art deco Conoco filling station in Texas.

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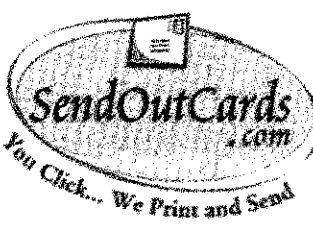
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FEATURES

ENTERTAINMENT

Spring time food

A La Annie shares her easy chicken salad recipe. PAGE 8B

4B HEALTH | 5B SENIORS | 6B CHURCHES | 7-8B ENTERTAINMENT

Whether or not you agree the Central branch library is worth saving, you can't deny that its architect, **Marcel Breuer**, is a giant in the world of modern design.

The Central genius

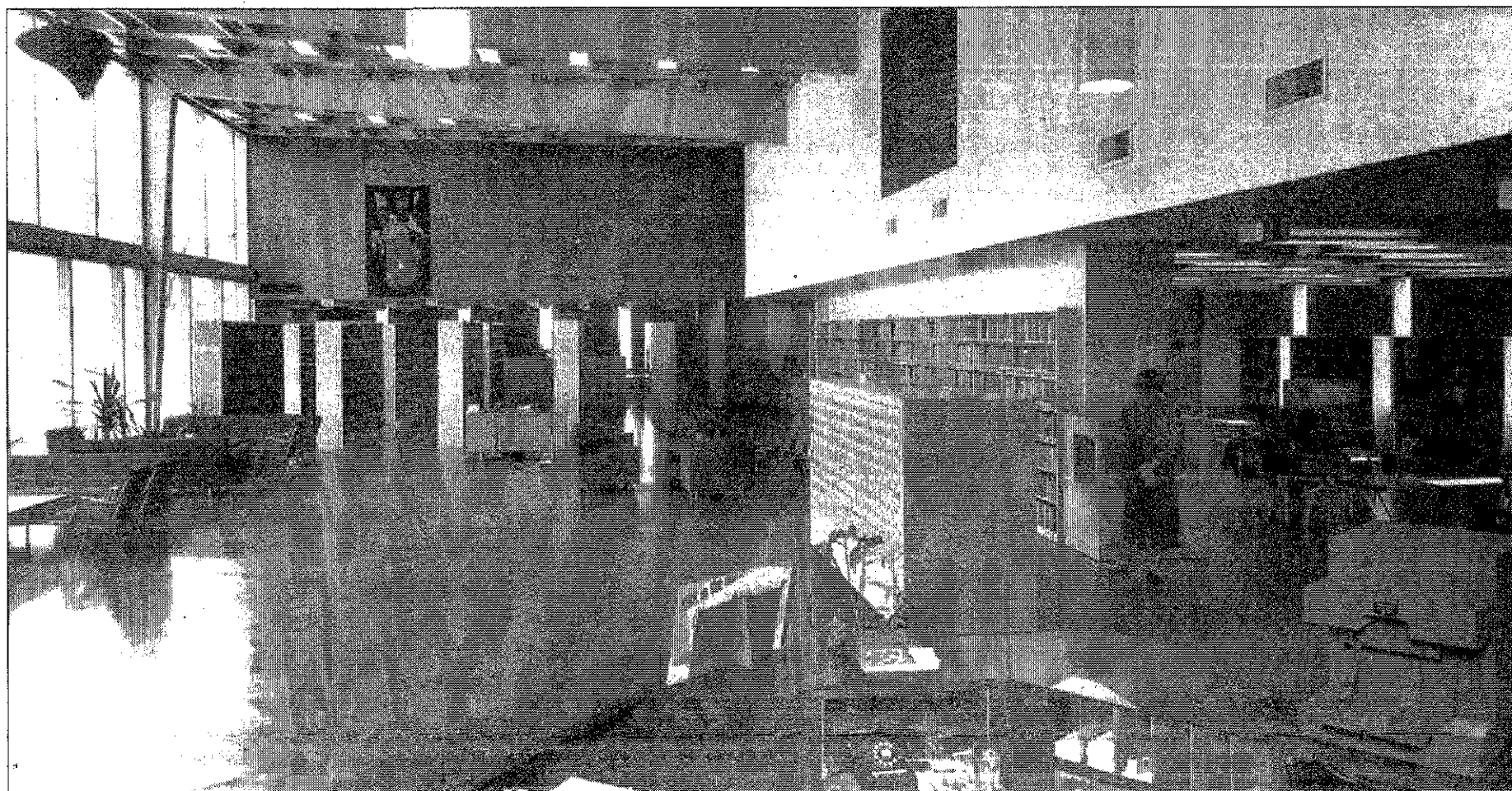
By Beth Quinn
Staff Writer

You might be thinking: What's the big deal over Central's architecture? Who the heck is Marcel Breuer? If he was so world renowned, how did he end up designing Grosse Pointe's library?

Breuer was a Hungarian-born architect and designer who is considered to be one of the fathers of Modernism. Known among his peers as an innovator, he showed a great interest in modular construction and simple forms.

Grosse Pointe W. Hawkins Ferry, an architect, art historian and collector of modern art, got Breuer involved in the Grosse Pointe Public Library project in 1951. The two met at the Harvard University School of Architecture where Breuer taught and Ferry studied.

Ferry was also a major art benefactor whose legacy continues to support the Detroit art scene today. There is the W. Hawkins Ferry Collection at



See ARCHITECT, page 2B Marcel Breuer's modern architecture and furniture gave the Grosse Pointe Public Library Central Branch's reading room an open and airy feeling.

THE DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

GREAT ART NEW START

We're in the home stretch of our renovation, but while we're working to give great art a new start, there's still plenty for you to enjoy in the galleries this weekend.

THIS WEEK'S GREAT ART

Friday, March 23

Fourth Friday

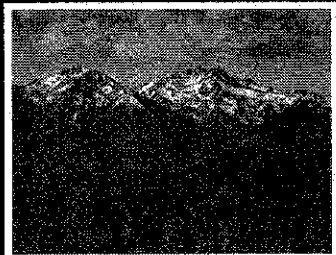
Feel the Afro-Latin beat with performances by the Roland Vazquez Quintet. While you're here, create a Chinese slat book or take a guided tour.

Saturday, March 24

Check out an artist demonstration by painter Sally Schluter Tardella.

Sunday, March 25

Percussionist Judy Piazza weaves a soundscape of voice, flute and drums in the family performance "Rhythm Songs from Around the World."



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2B | FEATURES

**ARCHITECT:
Designs for
your enjoyment**

Continued from page 1B

the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) and the W. Hawkins Ferry Chair of Modern and Contemporary Art at Wayne State University. The W. Hawkins Ferry Fund purchases and donates art to museum collections at the University of Michigan and the DIA.

While the Central branch is smaller than most of Breuer's public buildings, many of the library's features reflect his other designs. It is a simple linear structure accented with a series of tall windows to allow a seamless transition of exterior and interior spaces.

Breuer diverged from having the library made of his favorite building material, concrete, for brick as a nod to a common building material in Grosse Pointe.

The Ferry family was also responsible for Breuer's involvement in the Dexter Ferry Cooperative, a women's dormitory at Vassar College which was completed in 1951. W. Hawkins Ferry's Grosse Pointe house was designed by William Kessler, a Detroit architect who studied under Breuer.

According to the Modern Architecture Protection Agency (MAPA), Breuer "is probably better known for two key projects, the Wassily Chair, at the start of his career, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, in 1963-66, towards the end of his career."

In 1920, Breuer, at age 18, became a student at the Bauhaus, an art and architecture school in Weimar, Germany. When the Bauhaus moved to Dessau, Germany, four years later, he became a master in its furniture workshop.

When he moved to Dessau, he bought his first bicycle to



Marcel Breuer

get around town. He became impressed by its light weight and strength.

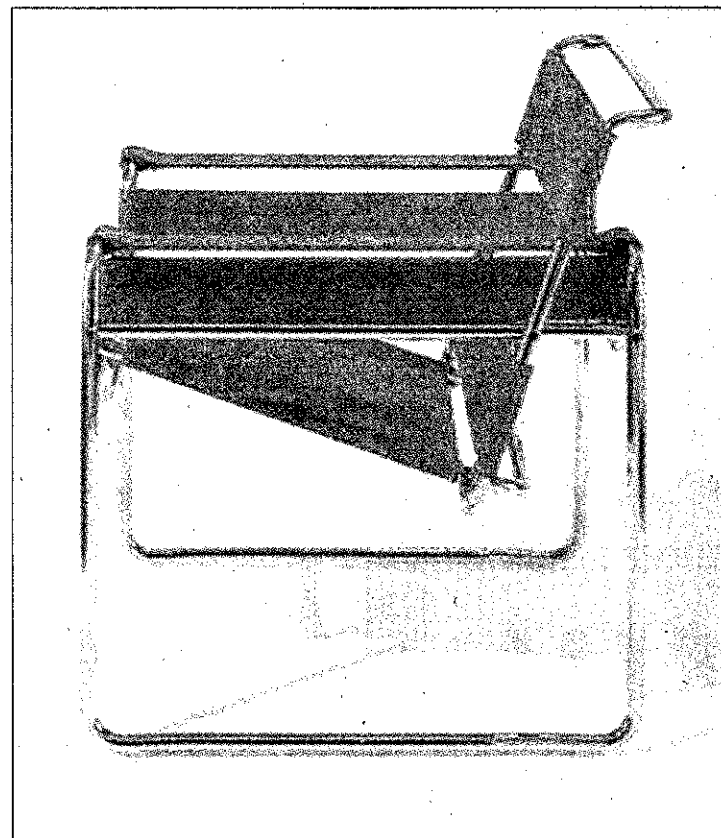
Breuer was fascinated by the tubular steel which formed the handlebars. He saw that the material could be bent into different shapes and could easily support the weight of one or two riders. He started drawing designs of furniture made out of the material.

Breuer approached the Adler Co., the bicycle's manufacturer, with the idea of producing tubular steel furniture, but the company rejected the plan.

Undeterred, he started working on his design at the Bauhaus's workshops. He purchased the steel directly from the manufacturer and hired a plumber who helped him weld the steel tubes together.

After much trial and error, Breuer constructed his first tubular armchair. Its frame is a complex structure of bent tubing with a stretched canvas seat, back and armrest. The chair, now known as the Wassily lounge chair is considered a classic of the modernist movement.

While working on designing office and school furniture, Breuer saw the need for chairs that were lightweight and could easily be pushed and pulled along the floor. He started working on furniture that utilized a runner or a sled design rather than four separate



Two of Breuer's chairs, the Wassily, at right, and the Cesca, are considered classics of modern furniture. The ubiquitous Cesca is one of the most copied chairs ever produced.

legs. While another designer, Mart Stam, is accredited with producing the first cantilevered chairs in 1927, the Breuer Cesca Chair produced a year later proved to have the most staying power.

The Cesca with its highly polished steel tubing, and caned seat and back is one of the most famous and copied chairs ever produced.

Breuer's architectural accomplishments included designing avant-garde private homes and modernist public buildings. His big break came in 1953 when he was commissioned to design the UNESCO building in Paris. The curvy sculptural building stands out in stark contrast to the traditionally romantic architecture of the surrounding Parisian neighborhood.

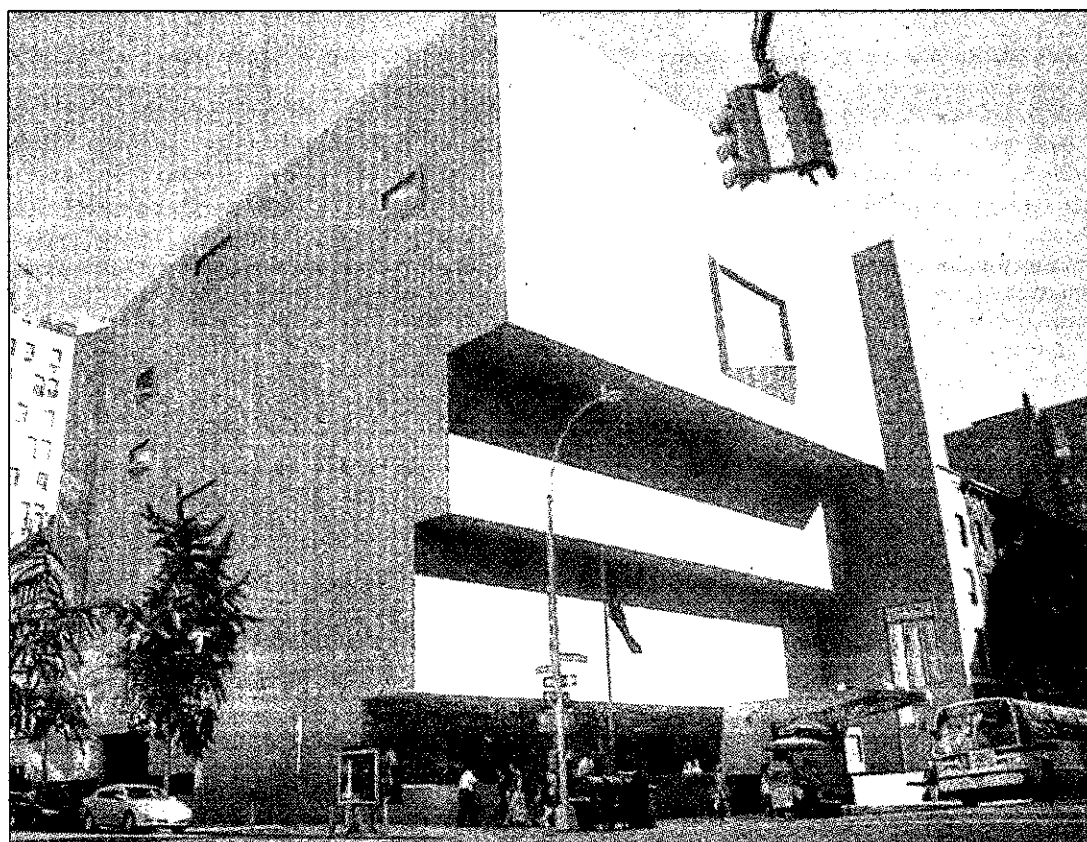
One of Breuer's more controversial designs was the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City. Once again, he created a strong, modernist building jutting out

over a neighborhood of traditional brownstone and brick row houses. In 1966, critics considered it to be "somber, heavy and even brutal," now it is recognized as being "daring, strong and innovative." The

museum now has landmark status insuring Breuer's designs will continue to stand guard over the corner of Madison Avenue and 75th Street.

In recognition for his contri-

bution to the world of architecture and design, Breuer was awarded the American Institute of Architect Gold Medal in 1968. He died in 1981 in New York City at the age of 78.



Breuer's design for the Whitney Museum of Modern Art in New York City was widely criticized when it opened in 1966. Today, it's heralded as a gem of modern architecture and has landmark status.

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The cost is \$14 for adults; \$12 for seniors; \$10 for children aged 6 to 10; children 5 and under eat free. Carry-out service available by calling (313) 822-1594.

The ARK is located at the intersection of Wayburn and Hampton next to St. Ambrose Church in Grosse Pointe Park.

COMING EVENTS

St. Clare auction

The St. Clare PTO Auction 2007 is set for Saturday, March 31, in the St. Clare of Montefalco Church Social Hall to observe its 80th birthday, Roaring '20s style.

Doors open at 6 p.m. with dinner and desserts until 8:30 p.m. A silent auction takes place from 6 to 9 p.m. with the live auction at 9 p.m., featuring auctioneers Jim Williams and Margaret Roache.

More than 300 items will be auctioned, including Detroit Tiger tickets, a Mackinac Island Grand Hotel get-away package, an overnight stay at the University Cultural Center area's historic Ferry Street Inn, dinner at The Woodward and a vacation to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Painter Robert Maniscalco will be on site to complete an oil painting.

Tickets include a strolling supper, beer, wine and set-ups. The cost is \$35 until March 22; \$40 from March 23 through 30 and \$45 at the door.

The auction's proceeds benefit St. Clare School's enrichment and scholarship programs. For more information or to donate an auction item, call Lisa Brancato Mauck at (313) 885-0901.

Tau Beta market

Tau Beta Association hosts its fourth annual Spring Market, Thursday, April 19 through Saturday, April 21, at The Grosse Pointe Club, 6 Berkshire Place, Grosse Pointe Farms.

The Spring Market brings together shopkeepers and specialty boutiques from Michigan and across the United States, offering jewelry, clothing, linens, garden specialties and home accessories.

One vendor is Clara Williams, founder of a jewelry line called Clara Belle

Collections. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Dartmouth College and a Master of Business Administration from Harvard Business School.

Her initial line was launched in 2003. Williams developed a patent-pending magnetic clasp system which enables her pieces to be embellished by and combined with others in her line.

Each of her pieces is unique and includes gemstone rings and semi-precious and precious stone necklaces.

The event benefits The Children's Center. Additionally, Tau Beta members will staff the resource center during business hours, helping with homework to job searches.

1987 Class reunion

A 20th reunion for the 1987 Class of Grosse Pointe South is in the planning stages. Alumni should contact Tim Nugent at timnugent@gmail.com, or via regular mail to Tim Nugent, 1726 Walnut Ave., Wilmette, Ill. 60091.

Wigs 4 Kids

A shopping fundraiser to benefit Wigs 4 Kids of Michigan will be held from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, March 23, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 24, at Chico's, 16910 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe.

Chico's will donate 10 percent of the pretax purchase to Wigs for Kids, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. It assists young people, ages 4 to 17, with hair loss from cancer treatments, alopecia and other medical conditions by providing age-appropriate, custom fit wigs at no cost.

Recorder Society

The Metropolitan Detroit Recorder Society presents a 1:30 p.m., Saturday, March 24, free concert in the program room of the Grosse Pointe Woods Library.

Music from the Renaissance, Baroque and 20th century will be played. It will feature fifth-graders from Rochester, and a select group of middle school and high school players.

The concert is in honor of the American Recorder's 15th annual National Play the Recorder Month. For more information, call Jeannie Davis at (313) 886-8510.

Quilt show

The Quilt Guild of Metro Detroit hosts "Quilts from the Heart" from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 24, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 25, at Assumption Cultural Center, 21800 Marter, St. Clair Shores.

Mary Lou Hallenbeck will present workshops on Celtic letter wall hangings from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, March 23, and a lily bell pull from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 24.

A lecture and trunk show will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 25.

Admission is \$3 and no strollers are allowed.

There will be quilts on display, vendors, raffle prizes and lunch.



Friends luncheon

The Friends and Neighbors Club holds its monthly luncheon meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thursday, March 29, at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Jim

Farquar Jr. of Grosse Pointe Florist will be the featured speaker. Babysitting is available. Pictured,

from left are Farquar, Racelle Armada, Kathy Keating and Kelley Vreeken. For membership information, call Vreeken at (313) 884-8705 or visit the Web site gpfnc.com.

Acoustic Neuroma

The Acoustic Neuroma Association meets from 1 to 3 p.m. in the West Bloomfield Township Public Library, 4600 Walnut Lake. The topic is "New Roads to Recovery, Coping with the Emotional Impact of an Acoustic Neuroma" by Barbara Hyatt, social worker.

For more information, call Jim or Monica Notarnicola at (313) 274-2675.

Retirement seminar

The date for the retirement seminar by Nationwide hosted by Dave Lenda, financial consultant at Citizens Bank has been changed. It will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 12, at Blossom Heath Inn, 24800 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores.

Space is limited for this free event and reservations must be made by Monday, April 9, by calling Dave Lenda at (248) 497-2775.

Grade school reunites

Assumption Grotto Grade School holds a noon, Saturday, Aug. 11, reunion for all classes and members of the neighborhood in Dodge Park, 40620 Utica, Sterling Heights.

It is optional to bring a dish to pass.

For more information, call Ron at (586) 939-4584 after 5 p.m. or Cindy at (586) 247-2854 after 5 p.m. or e-mail grotto20052006@hotmail.com.



PHOTO BY KENT COMMER

Supporting children

Deborah Moffat (right), executive director of the Foundation for Exceptional Children in Grosse Pointe Farms, receives a certificate of appreciation from Jeff vonSchwarz, president of the Lakeshore Optimist Club of Grosse Pointe, which has financially contributed to the FEC for over 20 years. Moffat recently updated the Optimists at a club meeting held at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

PRIDE OF THE POINTES

Katie Sine of Grosse Pointe has been named to the dean's list at Aquinas College.

Tory Valenti of Grosse Pointe Farms has been named to the dean's list at Aquinas College.

Dane Wilborn of Grosse Pointe Woods has been named to the dean's list at Arizona State University. He is the son of Giles and Jackie Wilborn and has completed his first semester.

Vicki Weiss of Grosse Pointe was named to the fall dean's list at DePaul University. She is pursuing a sociology major.

Michael Wemhoff of Grosse Pointe Farms, who is a physical education major at DePaul University, was named to the fall dean's list.

Lauren Valle of Grosse Pointe Farms, who is pursuing a physical education major at

DePaul University, was named to the fall dean's list.

Michael Peter Kostiuik Jr. of Grosse Pointe Farms was named to the fall dean's list at The Florida State University. He is a senior, the son of Michael and Barbara Kostiuik and a Grosse Pointe South High School graduate.

Julie McCurdy of Grosse Pointe earned a Master of Science in taxation from Walsh College.

Molly Vogler of Grosse Pointe earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from Walsh College.

Steven Champoff of Grosse Pointe earned a Master of Business Administration from Walsh College.

Marcia A. Todhunter on the dean's list at Western Michigan University.



Honoring presidents

The Grosse Pointe Woman's Club's annual February "Presidents' Tea" recognized former presidents for their dedication and support of the club. In front row, front left, Beverley Pack, 2001-03; Maryhelen Feighner, 1995-97; Joyce Cook, 1979-81; Ann Gerow, 1985-87; in back row from left, Jean Buhler, 1997-99; Mary Ann Schwartz, 1992-93; and Fran Ahee, 1991-92. Since the club's inception in October, 1950, 15 former presidents are still members of the club. New members are welcome and can call Pack at (313) 882-5397 for more information.



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4B | HEALTH

HEALTH COLUMN By Dr. Darla Granger

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under the direction of Dr. Abdelkader Hawasli, has successfully removed more than 200 kidneys.

The laparoscopic technique allows the kidney to be removed through small incisions and the donor is able to return to a normal routine in a couple of weeks. Because of this short recovery time, we are seeing more donors come forward, including those who are donating a kidney to an anonymous recipient.

Recently I had a young man who wanted to donate his kidney to his aunt. Unfortunately, he wasn't a match, but that didn't stop him from deciding to donate his kidney to another recipient, who is doing very well.

St. John is also a leader in treating transplant recipients without using steroids, which decreases the typical side ef-

fects with this surgery like weight gain, "chubby cheeks," and high blood sugar levels. We are also one of only four transplant centers in the state offering pancreas transplants, which is the only way to "cure" diabetes.

Recognized leader

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently awarded the center with the Organ Donation Medal of Honor for achieving outstanding organ donation rates offered in conjunction with Gift of Life Michigan.

St. John Hospital was one of only 16 hospitals in Michigan to receive the prestigious award.

The award signifies St. John has converted at least 75 percent of potential donors to actual organ donors. In 2006, these 17 donors saved the lives

of 41 people. The hospital's organ donation success is due to a tremendous amount of teamwork. Nurses and doctors exhaust all life-saving measures before considering a patient as a potential donor. Intensivists tirelessly work to preserve the organs of the donor. And last but not least, the Gift of Life representative makes contact with the family in a sensitive way that recognizes the patient's dignity.

Many years ago, I was in Kentucky during the Paducah school shootings and met with a family whose child was shot during the tragic event.

That family decided to donate their daughter's organs because the hospital's nursing staff treated their daughter with dignity.

Though she had suffered brain death, the nurses worked so gently with the girl, and

talked to her in a comforting way as though she could hear. The family felt comfortable donating because of the care their daughter received. They knew everything possible was done to save her.

Nurses and physicians also treat patients in an equally caring way, so when the Gift of Life representative talks to the families, they are open to the idea of their loved one's organs saving the life of another.

Creating awareness

April is Organ Donor Awareness month, and Gift of Life Michigan, along with the Secretary of State, are encouraging Michigan residents to sign up on the Michigan Organ Donor Registry. Visit giftoflifemichigan.org and click on the "Be a Hero - Show us Your Heart" link. When you register, you'll be sent a heart

sticker to place on your driver license, making your wishes known. Even if you're already a registered donor, you're encouraged to obtain the sticker.

Last year in Michigan, 905 organs were transplanted. So far this year, the generosity of Michigan donors has led to 150 transplants and saved numerous lives.

For those of you considering becoming an organ donor, I strongly encourage you to have a conversation with your family about your decision. Sometimes families are not aware of their loved one's wishes and that makes the family's approval of organ donation upon their death even more difficult.

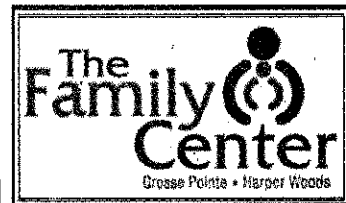
Dr. Darla Granger is director of the Pancreas Transplantation Program at St. John Hospital and Medical Center.

ASK THE EXPERTS By Mary Ellen Brayton

Answers to parents questions about infants and toddlers

We get questions from new parents and parents of preschoolers asking what programs are available for

their little ones. Here is a sample of the programs we are offering in the next month:



The Family Center currently has three programs for new parents.

1) Focus Parenthood is a program offered in partnership with Bon Secours Cottage Health Services and The War Memorial that provides an opportunity for parents and soon-to-be parents of infants and toddlers to meet and to learn from professionals about early childhood development and the challenges of the first years of life.

These classes are offered the third Wednesday of each month at 9 to 11 a.m. and

again from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial on the following topics:

◆ April 18: Sleep: Help for exhausted parents! A good night's sleep is necessary for optimal functioning, both in the child and the parent. Learn strategies to achieve healthy sleep in infants. Angela Tzelepis, Ph.D. of the Sleep Disorders Clinic of Children's Hospital.

◆ May 16: Nutrition: Proper nutrition in childhood can reinforce lifelong eating habits. Learn tips on how to eat healthy from a registered dietitian. Susan Ryskamp, M.S., R.D., Director of Nutrition Services, Bon Secours Cottage Health Services.

The fee is \$10 per class and preregistration is requested due to space limitations.

Childcare is available by calling The Family Center three days in advance of the class (no extra fee).

To register download a registration form from our Web site and mail with your check to the address below.

2) Fun Around the World: A Month of the Young Child Celebration: Visit four continents with your child. Learn how to dance from Polish dancers, make a Chilean rain stick, play a game in China, experience a Mexican dance performance, enjoy an Irish snack and listen to Chautauqua Express. Prizes will be awarded.


The cost is \$5 per family and no preregistration is necessary for this event from 12:30 to 3 p.m., Sunday, April 1, at Beacon Elementary School.

Visit The Family Center's Web site for a flyer and details.

3) Play Central is a weekly open play group for children and their parents, grandparents or caregivers. It is offered three times per week at the Neighborhood Club upstairs gym on Tuesdays, and the First English Lutheran gym on Wednesdays.

Both run from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and at Beacon Elementary School on Wednesdays from 1 to 2:30 p.m. No preregistration is needed and the cost is \$3 per visit.

E-mail your questions to: Info@familycenterweb.org; or write to Mary Ellen Brayton, program director, The Family Center, 20090 Morningside, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236; or call (313) 432-3832.




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Hear free talk on colon cancer

Excluding skin cancers, colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer diagnosed in men and women in the United States. The good news is that the number of deaths from colorectal cancer has been dropping for the past 15 years.

One probable reason is that polyps are being found by screening and removed before they can develop into cancers.


Hear an important and informative talk on colon cancer and ways to prevent and treat it from Bon Secours Cottage colorectal surgeon Michael Henein, M.D., during a free "bring-your-lunch-and-learn" presentation from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 28, in the Bon Secours Hospital Connolly Auditorium, 428 Cadieux, City of Grosse Pointe.

St. John Riverview offers classes

"Second annual Nutrition Summit — 100 percent fad free" from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 29, at the St. John Detroit Riverview Hospital Medical Pavilion II, Lower Level Conf. Rm. A -C, 7733 East Jefferson, Detroit. This free event sponsored by St. John Detroit Riverview Hospital, Spiritual Leadership Council (SLC), and Sodexho this summit showcases cuisine

and tips for a healthy lifestyle. To register, call 888-440-7325.

◆ Gestational diabetes class from 9 a.m. to noon every Monday at St. John Detroit Riverview Hospital Riverview Medical Offices Building, 7815 East Jefferson Suite 3A, Detroit. This free class is for pregnant women diagnosed with gestational diabetes. For more information, call (313) 499-4869.



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But what impressed him most was our passion for healing the body and the spirit. We took the time to answer questions, comfort his family and even make an angel. He walked away from that chapter of his life with a stronger heart.

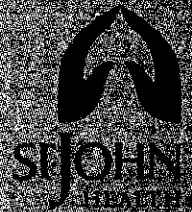
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A Passion for Health

AARP report presents seniors sound advice

Brand name prescription drug prices continue to rise at about twice the rate of inflation, according to the latest AARP Watchdog Report.

The report found that 10 of the brand name drugs it tracks increased in price at least four times the rate of general inflation during 2006.

Ambien led the pack with a 29.7 percent increase in manufacturer price, followed by Combivent at 18.3 percent and Atrovent Inhaler at 16.9 percent.

"The report highlights that drug prices continue to skyrocket," said David Sloane, senior managing director, Government Relations &

Advocacy. "Over time, escalating drug prices will make Medicare drug plans unaffordable for older Americans.

One way to address high drug prices is to take full advantage of Medicare's bargaining power and allow Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices."

Bob Elliott, a 75-year-old retiree from Kentucky, enrolled in a Medicare drug plan in 2006 after losing retiree prescription drug coverage from his former employer.

He takes six prescriptions daily and by July 2006, he reached the coverage gap, also known as the "donut hole."

Then he began paying full

price for his medications. Only two of his medications are available in a generic version.

"I was in sticker shock," said Elliott. "I went from paying a co-payment to full price. My out-of-pocket expenses on drugs alone in six months reached \$2,000.

Prescription drug prices are too high and hit older Americans' wallets the hardest."

As brand name drug prices continue to rise, more and more Americans can expect a similar fate.

AARP strongly supports several legislative measures to put downward pressure on prescription drug prices, repre-

sentatives said. Initiatives AARP supports include urging Congress to act this year to allow Medicare to negotiate drug prices, legalizing the safe importation of prescription drugs from abroad and permitting generic versions of biologic drugs to be brought to market.

"We need to send a loud and clear message to the pharmaceutical industry that Americans cannot afford to continue to pay the highest

prices for prescription drugs in the world," said Sloane.

The Watchdog Report shows that nearly 200 of the most commonly used brand name drugs for older adults rose 6.2 percent in 2006, nearly twice the general rate of inflation, which was 3.2 percent. Last year also marked the first year that the new Medicare drug benefit was in effect.

In contrast, manufacturer list prices in 2006 for 75 generic drugs tracked by AARP's

Watchdog Report fell by 2.0 percent.

This continues a downward trend for manufacturer price increases for already lower-priced generic drugs that began in 2003.

The Watchdog Report and analysis is developed by AARP's Public Policy Institute. For the complete Watchdog Report go to aarp.org/research/health/drugs/aresearch-import-869-2004-06-1B69.html.

Weight training is good medicine

Why bother lifting weights into middle age?

The American College of Sports Medicine recommends weight training for all people over age 50.

Muscles weakened with age and this decline can eventually rob seniors of their active, in-

dependent lifestyles.

Lifting hand-held weights two to three times a week can improve muscles and bones and help prevent osteoporosis.

Bon Secours Cottage Community Health Promotion is offering a Women & Weights class from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, through April 5, at the Bon Brae Center gym, 22300 Bon Brae, St. Clair Shores.

This class is \$36 and geared toward the mid-lifer and senior populations. For more information or to register, call (586) 779-7900.

SENIOR NEWS LINE By Matilda Charles

Are you getting enough sleep?

A Northwestern University study revealed that 19 percent of the time, doctors do not make notes about patient sleep problems.

Yet a follow-up visit by social workers showed that 69 percent of patients had at least one problem with sleeping.

The doctors, unfortunately, seemed to follow the standard belief, which is that all seniors have problems sleeping, and it's to be expected as a normal part of aging.

Not so. If you have problems sleeping, there are treatments.

We need seven to nine hours of sleep each night for optimum health.

When we have problems sleeping, it can affect mental and physical health in some serious ways: Cardiovascular problems can develop, risk of breast cancer is increased, and even sensitivity to pain is increased.

Here are some ideas for getting a better night's sleep:

- ◆ Make your bedroom a comfy, dark place at night. Only use the bedroom for sleeping, so your body will associate the room with winding down and sleeping.

- ◆ Stay on a regular schedule. Get up and go to bed at the same time every day, even on the weekends.

- ◆ Limit daytime naps, as that can impact the quality of your night sleep.

- ◆ Get regular exercise, especially late in the day.

- ◆ Limit drinks with caffeine, especially late in the day.

If you've been in bed for 10 to 15 minutes and haven't fallen asleep, get up.

Don't worry too much, because that adds stress that makes it more difficult to sleep. Go back to bed later,

when you're tired.

When to see a doctor about sleep problems: If you haven't been on a good sleep schedule for a few weeks, and it's affecting your daytime functioning.

Make sure your doctor listens and addresses your concerns. We all deserve a good night's sleep.

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

Glimpses of suffering, hope in Kenya via Friends of Mercy

Sometimes the sheer magnitude of human suffering throughout the world makes it difficult to focus on specific areas and circumstances where we can offer help.

The Friends of Mercy, a relief organization devoted to showing "the greatest possible generosity to the needy, domestically and internationally," will discuss Kenyan missions at Christ the King Lutheran Church at 7 p.m., Monday, March 26, in the church library on the first floor.

The Rev. Mark Sell, The Friends of Mercy's executive director, traveled to Africa in October to meet with Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya officials. His goal was to identify the areas of deepest need and ways in which churches and individuals in the U.S. helped.

His talk at Christ the King will center on two of The Friends of Mercy's key projects: rescuing Kenya's AIDS orphans and saving girls of the Massai Tribe from the practice of female genital mutilation.

Sell says 14 percent of Kenya's population of 31 million is infected with HIV or AIDS; an estimated 500 die every day, leaving their children unprotected and friendless.

AIDS orphans now number in the millions, while the Kenyan government turns a blind eye to their plight. The fortunate are taken in by families who already may be caring for as many as 10 orphans. The unfortunate, left to fend for themselves, sometimes form "sibling families," in which children parent younger brothers and sisters. Others simply end up on the street, where they starve to death or are murdered.

Genital mutilation among the female Massai has been equally devastating. It is a cultural initiation rite whose victims range from pre-pubescent girls to infants a few days or weeks old. In all cases, it's done without anesthetic and is catastrophically unhygienic. Consequences are hemorrhag-

ing, inflammation, tetanus, sepsis, HIV, AIDS and often death.

The Friends of Mercy has plans to build and equip homes and schools for AIDS orphans and sanctuaries for Massai girls fleeing their tribes. To turn the plan into reality, they're calling on individuals and groups to give cash donations, "adopt" an AIDS orphan, have churches commit a certain amount of their budget to the project and send their pastor to Kenya, or participate in "Mercy Expeditions" where individuals do hands-on work.

Artist Tom DuBois will donate all profits from every purchase of "Blessed is He" prints to The Friends of Mercy's work in Kenya. For further information visit The Friends of Mercy's Web site at thefriendsofmercy.org or DuBois at trineart.org.

The program is free. Light refreshments will be available.

For more information, contact the church office at (313) 884-5090.



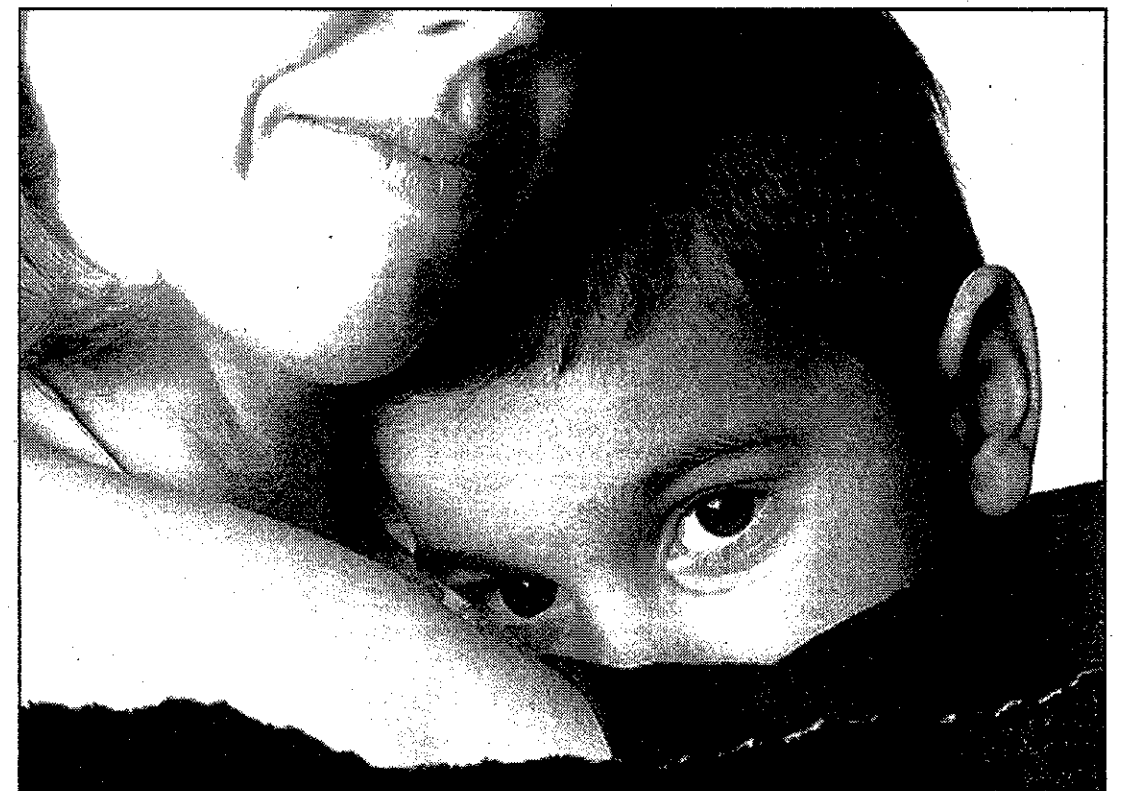
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6B | CHURCHES

CHURCH EVENTS

Memorial Church

Grosse Pointe Memorial Church offers a variety of education and worship activities for all ages from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 28. There will be a homemade soup and bread supper, a time for guided meditation, a seminar on the background and practice of Christian worship, a time for worship and a labyrinth walk. Additionally, children gather for age-appropriate activities and learning.

Purple Perspective

Julia Dempz, the rector of Nativity Episcopal Church in Bloomfield Township, will be the 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, speaker at The Purple Perspective at Christ Church, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd. She received a Master of Divinity degree from the University of Toronto and a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit. She has served area churches for 18 years and was the coordinator of the volunteer and bereavement service for Cottage Hospice in Grosse Pointe.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (313) 885-4841.

Concert

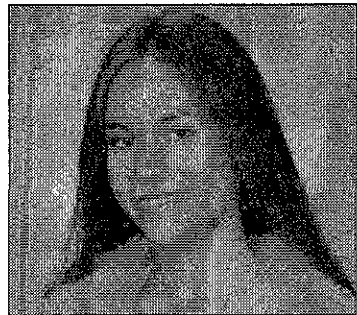
Kenneth Sweetman will perform the music of Bach and Howells at 12:35 p.m. Thursday, March 29, at Mariners Church, 170 East Jefferson, Detroit.

The concert, as well as the 12:10 p.m. Lenten service is open to the public.

Sweetman has been the organist and choirmaster at Mariners' since 1982.

Assumption Grotto

As part of its 175th jubilee observance, Assumption



Violetta Todorova

Grotto Church, 13770 Gratiot, Detroit, presents a historical slide show at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 25. The show will be given by Ken Schramm and it will depict scenes of the Detroit Street Railway, Detroit Urban Railway, Interurban and electric rail cars.

Pianist performs

Brazilian pianist Fonaldo Rolim plays works by Schumann, Chopin and Schubert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 25, at the Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church, 19950 Mack. A free will offering will be taken to benefit the Mu Phi Epsilon Music scholarships.

Russian concert

Russian violinist Violetta Todorova performs at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 25, at Christ Church, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms. She will play Bach's "Sonata No. 1," the Sibelius "Violin Concerto in D Minor," "Caprice" by Paganini, "Violin Concerto No. 4" by Mozart, "Banjo and Fiddle" by Kroll

and the "Sarasate Romana Andaluza." She will be accompanied by Susan Snyder Nunn. Todorova met a group of Christ Church choristers during their 1998 visit to St.

Petersburg and impressed them so much that one of the members sponsored her to study at Interlochen Summer Music Camp. She will graduate from Interlochen Arts

Academy in May. While there, she was concertmistress of the World Youth Symphony Orchestra for three years. The recital is free but a collection will be taken.

PASTOR'S CORNER By Rev. John Corrado

Campaigning off balance

Obscene: ... 2. *abhorrent to morality or virtue.* — Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary

I want to talk about obscenity in the news.

No, this isn't about matters lewd and lascivious. That's minor league.

I want to talk about something which is both far more venal and, unlike the war in Iraq, apparently far more acceptable to the American public.

The obscenity I'm thinking about is the obscenity of the already started 2008 presidential campaign — and how we are being served by it.

No, I'm not going to tell about the way the patience of the American public is being taxed by a ridiculously long period of promises and self-promotion. Good old Yankee ingenuity has helped us out of some

serious scrapes, so I believe it will help us survive this latest onslaught. Neither will I moralize about how taxpayers in some states will be getting less work out of the public servants who will be campaigning on work time (Thank goodness that Michigan, already troubled, does not have that kind of "servant problem!").

My moralizing has to do with some matters of need and proportion that seem all out of kilter.

If the estimates of bean-counting political pundits are correct, a year of campaigning will require each candidate to raise \$25 million — and that will just take her or him to the beginning of 2008!

Some \$25 million for, uh, what reason? Multiply that figure by the number of candidates — an ever-increasing number — and think of what we're all going to get out of it (from our "servants").

Now think of the needs of the war wounded and the disgraceful conditions at Walter Reed Hospital.

Or, if you're more peace-oriented, think of the crying needs of American schools or the safety of our children (Detroit, anyone?).

And this is not to mention the wake of Katrina or health care needs.

So, as the detective Mr. Monk says, "Here's the thing." A bunch of public servants who have spoken about the needs of our cities, and our schools, and our wounded veterans, and — how about this irony? — campaign reform, are out soliciting funds to batter our ears almost two years before the day on which they hope to get elected to "serve" all of us. What's right with this picture?

The Rev. John Corrado serves the congregation of the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church.

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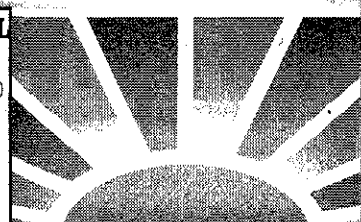
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7:30 a.m. Friday Ecumenical Men's Breakfast
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9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services
The Rev. Peter Henry, preaching
Maunder Thursday
The Rev. David Noble, preaching
5:30 p.m. Meal & Worship for families with children
7:00 p.m. Meal & Worship
Good Friday
7:30 a.m. Friday Ecumenical Men's Breakfast
Noon - 3:00 p.m. Personal Meditation in Sanctuary
7:30 p.m. Tenebrae Service with Prayers Around the Cross
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Wednesday - Amazing Grace Seniors every second Wednesday at The Tompkins Center at Windmill Pointe Park 11:00 - 3:00
COME JOIN US
Pastor: Marguerite (Margo) Allen

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Sunday: 8:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m. (Latin - Choir)
12:00 p.m.
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Monday - Saturday at 12:15 p.m.
Confessions 20 minutes before every Mass

Ford House Tea Room — a well kept secret

Free tasting kicks off April reopening

It may be one of the best kept secrets on the east side, but those who are "in the know" are anxiously awaiting the reopening of the Tea Room at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House.

With new menu items, a free tasting and special recipes from the Ford family housekeeper, the Tea Room is gearing up for a new season that begins Sunday, April 1.

What began as an amenity for visitors touring the estate has become a destination spot for locals who enjoy the quaint, sun-filled room that resembles a greenhouse. Serving soups, salads, quiche, sandwiches and daily specials, the Tea Room is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

For those unfamiliar with the Tea Room, a free Tea Room Tasting will be held from noon to 2 p.m., Saturday, March 31.

Samples from some of the favorite menu items, along with some new offerings, desserts and featured teas will be available free of charge.

"We have some great new items on the menu, such as a salmon cake salad and grilled chicken quesadilla as well as the regulars favorites like the signature chicken salad and Tea Room Taster," said Chris Antoniotti, the Tea Room chef.

Tea Room diners do not need to purchase a tour ticket, but those who have time to walk the beautiful grounds and visit the outer buildings and exhibits may do so at no additional cost.

A new addition this year comes from the past. Ford House recently acquired a cookbook written by Vivette, the longtime housekeeper for the Fords. While some "old time" recipes that are in the

cookbook, like liver salad and hassenpfeffer are hardly standard fare in 2007, Chef Chris will be reviewing and selecting recipes to feature in the Tea Room throughout the year.

"Vivette's cookbook is a blast from the past," explained Antoniotti. "We can really see how people's diets have changed over the years and it's amazing to see what was popular. While most of the others wouldn't appeal to many people today, we're excited about finding some great traditional items like breads, sauces, dressings and desserts to test in the kitchen and offer in the Tea Room."

Edsel & Eleanor Ford House is located at 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores. For more information, visit fordhouse.org or call (313) 884-4222.



Recipes from a cookbook written by Vivette, a longtime housekeeper at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford Estate, will be incorporated into the tea room's menu.

Great Lakes museum reopens

After a successful 10-week renovation and grand re-opening of the Detroit Historical Museum last fall, the society has turned its attention to the Dossin Great Lakes Museum.

The Belle Isle attraction, dedicated to the maritime history of southeastern Michigan, the Detroit River and the Great Lakes, has been closed since December for an upgrade of exhibits and facilities. The "Dossin Makeover" culminates with a free grand re-opening celebration from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 24, and Sunday, March 25.

More than \$100,000 in upgrades include the addition of two new exhibits and improvements to several others. They are:

◆ "Era of Elegance: Cruising on the Lakes" brings together

artifacts, photos and stories of the time when luxurious steamers sailed the Great Lakes.

◆ "Maritime Marvels" displays a treasury of Great Lakes artifacts from the museum's collection.

◆ "Bob-Lo: Entertainment Island" brings back the memories and magic of the iconic amusement park.

◆ "Great Lakes Signal Flags" demonstrates how sailors in the region communicated using colorful banners. Visitors will have the chance to send their own messages.

◆ "City on the Straits" examines three centuries of the history and ecology of the Detroit River.

◆ "City of Detroit II" and its gothic-style smoking lounge will be refreshed to more powerfully evoke the feeling of

cruising down the Detroit River.

Other improvements to the building and grounds include new exterior and interior signs; new lighting in and around the museum; new landscaping; and new paint, carpet and flooring.

"This makeover project at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum gives us the opportunity to continue our mission of preserving and portraying our region's history in a new and exciting way," said Detroit Historical Society Executive Director Bob Bury. "We're looking forward to reintroducing metro Detroit to our gem on Belle Isle."

For more information, call (313) 821-2661 or visit detroithistorical.org.

Hockey legend spouts about new brew

Former Detroit Red Wing Igor Larionov will pop the cork on his new wine making enterprise at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 29, at the Renaissance Club.

During the "Wine Not Thursday" wine tasting event, which is open to the public, Larionov will discuss his former career in the NHL and his passion as a producer of wine.

He has partnered with Mike Davis, a local wine specialist of 25 years, to establish an enterprise titled IL Triple Overtime.

The label currently features blends from both California and Australia with names such as Hat Trick, Triple Overtime and Slap Shot that will be available for tasting and pur-

chasing.

In addition, a silent auction of local sports memorabilia to benefit The Igor Larionov Charitable Trust is planned. The trust acts as an ambas-

sador for youth hockey throughout the world.

Tickets are \$50. For more information and to make a reservation, call (313) 259-4700.

English Gardens is offering free gardening seminars

English Gardens is celebrating National Gardening Month with free gardening presentations, landscape advice, a visit from the Easter Bunny and a look at what's new for 2007.

Among the featured speakers are Roger Swain, former host of PBS' "The Victory Garden," Paul Tukey, co-host of HGTV's "People, Places & Plants," Janet Macunovich, professional gardener and writer; and experts from English Gardens.

Presentations include:

◆ "The Thrills & Spills of Container Gardening" by Roger Swain at 4 p.m. Saturday, March 31 in Clinton Township.

◆ "Organic Lawn Care" by Paul Tukey at 10 a.m. in Eastpointe and 4 p.m. in Clinton Township, Saturday, March 31.

◆ "Continuous Color in the Garden" by Janet Macunovich at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 1, in Eastpointe.

◆ "Native Plants in the Garden" By Nancy Szerlag, Detroit News gardening columnist, at noon, Sunday, April 1, in Clinton Township.

◆ "Rose Care Made Easy" at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 31, in Eastpointe.

◆ "Spring Lawn Care: What Do I Do Now?" at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 1, in Eastpointe.

◆ "Tips for Planting Summer Flowering Bulbs" at noon Sunday, April 1, in Eastpointe.

◆ "Water Gardening 101" at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 31, in Clinton Township

◆ "Vegetable Gardening ... in Containers, Too" at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 31, in Eastpointe.

◆ Representatives from English Gardens Landscape Company will be offering free landscape advice from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 1, in Clinton Township.

Presentations on landscape design include:

◆ "Tips for Creating an Outdoor Room" at 4 p.m. Saturday, March 31, in Eastpointe and 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 1, in Clinton Township.

◆ "Top 10 Design Mistakes & How to Avoid Them" at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 31, in

Clinton Township.

Presentations on "Indoor Gardening & Decorating" include:

◆ "Arranging Fresh Cut

Flowers" at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 31, in Clinton Township.

For more information, visit englishgardens.com.

Grosse Pointe War Memorial's

WMTV5

24hr
Television
for the
Whole
Community

March 26 to April 1

Featured Guests

8:30 am Vitality Plus (Aerobics)

9:00 am Young View Pointes

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 Out of the Ordinary

11:30 am Tech Pointes

12:00 pm Economic Club of Detroit

1:00 pm The SOC Show

1:30 pm Great Lakes Log

2:00 pm The John Prost Show

2:30 pm The Legal Insider

3:00 pm Things to do at the War Memorial

3:30 pm Watercolor Workshop

4:00 pm Vitality Plus (Tone)

4:30 pm Young View Pointes

5:00 pm Positively Positive

5:30 pm The SOC Show

6:00 pm The Legal Insider

6:30 pm Who's in the Kitchen

7:00 pm Vitality Plus (Step/Kick Boxing)

7:30 pm Things to do at the War Memorial

8:00 pm Positively Positive

8:30 pm Tech Pointes

9:00 pm Watercolor Workshop

9:30 pm Pointes of Horticulture

10:00 pm The John Prost Show

10:30 pm Great Lakes Log

11:00 pm Out of the Ordinary

11:30 pm Tech Pointes

Midnight Economic Club of Detroit

1:00 am The SOC Show

1:30 am Great Lakes Log

2:00 am The John Prost Show

2:30 am Tech Pointes

3:00 am Watercolor Workshop

3:30 am Pointes of Horticulture

4:00 am The John Prost Show

4:30 am Great Lakes Log

5:00 am Out of the Ordinary

5:30 am The Legal Insider

6:00 am Things to do at the War Memorial

6:30 am Watercolor Workshop

7:00 am Vitality Plus (Tone)

7:30 am Young View Pointes

8:00 am Positively Positive

Who's in the Kitchen?

Rose Pochmara - Chicken Picatta

Things to do at the War Memorial

Boating Skills, Wine Class & Cardio Mix

Out of the Ordinary

Caroline Maun - "The Sleeping"

Tech Pointes

How the Internet Works

Economic Club of Detroit

Anthony Earley, Jr., Chairman & CEO, DTE Energy, "The Nuclear Renaissance; Is It Real?"

The SOC Show

Lori Adamek & Wanda Smith - Visual Rehabilitation

Great Lakes Log

Phillip M. Lyon - 2007 Mackinac Race

The John Prost Show

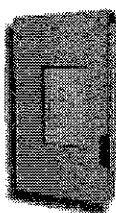
David Lewis - Detroit Law Firm

The Legal Insider

Peter Lark, Michigan Public Service

Watercolor Workshop

Stargazers - Part 1



A copy of any WMTV5 program can be obtained for \$15 on VHS tape or \$20 for a DVD!

Schedule subject to change without notice. For further information call, 313.881.7511.

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8B | ENTERTAINMENT

'Tablescapes' fundraiser planned for April 26

Summer-themed tablescapes created by area designers and shops will be on display at The Alger House beginning with a preview party Thursday, April 26.

"Prelude to Summer: Tablescapes at the Alger House," the annual Detroit Symphony Orchestra Volunteer Council fundraiser, benefits the Detroit Symphony Orchestra education and outreach programs.

Festivities begin with a preview gala and auction featuring DSO musicians, a live auction of DSO experiences, a raffle drawing, a house tour, wine and hors d'oeuvres from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Thursday, April 26, at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

A breakfast and a designer presentation, which includes a tour, are planned for 9 a.m., Friday, April 27. The tablescapes tours are slated from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday April 27 and Saturday, April 28. Author and syndicated columnist Mary Carol Garrity will be on hand to sign her books.

Tickets range from \$175 to \$325 per person for the preview gala; \$60 for the breakfast event; and \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door for the tours and are available at the DSO Box Office and the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

For more information, contact the volunteer council office at (313) 576-5154.

The event is chaired by Marie DeLuca of Grosse Pointe Farms.

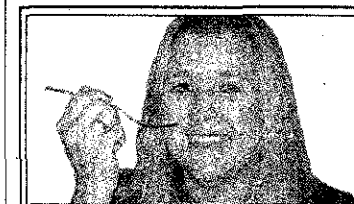


Sunset at the zoo

Margie Ogden of Grosse Pointe has been named one of five co-chairs for the Detroit Zoological Society's annual fundraiser, "Sunset at the Zoo." This year's event will be from 7 to 11:30 p.m. Friday, June 15, at the zoo. The evening features a strolling supper from 40 area restaurants, zoo-themed martinis, live and silent auctions, live entertainment by the Jerry Ross Band and access to the zoo's exhibits. More than 1,500 are expected to attend. Tickets range from \$125 to \$500 per person and are available by calling (248) 541-5717, extension 3750.

A LA ANNIE By Annie Rouleau-Scheriff

A spring chicken



In honor of the first ever early Daylight Savings Time adjustment, I am sharing my best ever chicken salad recipe. Packed with fresh herbs and other tasty morsels, this salad starts with chicken from a pre-cooked roaster.

Spring (forward!) Chicken Salad

- 5 cups shredded cooked chicken, both white and dark meat
 - 1 cup mayonnaise (regular, reduced-fat, or a combination of both)
 - 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
 - 2 tablespoons finely chopped chives
 - 1/3 cup chopped fresh parsley
 - 2/3 cup dried cranberries, coarsely chopped
 - 2/3 cup broken pecan pieces (or coarsely chopped)
 - cracked black pepper to taste
- Combine all ingredients in a

large bowl and toss well, mixing until all are thoroughly incorporated. Serve this flavorful chicken salad on hearty bread, open-faced or wrapped inside a big leaf of lettuce.

The secret to keeping this process simple is to pull the chicken off the bones while it's still warm. I try to get as much meat as I can (both white and dark meat) while avoiding the skin and the fatty, tough meat that tends to be on the back of the bird. You can use all white meat if you wish but you'll need a second chicken to yield 5 cups. There is naturally more white meat than dark on a chicken. I think the dark meat adds flavor and moisture to this salad. I shred the meat easily with my food processor. My new favorite dried cranberry is the Craisin. You'll find them anywhere.

Don't like pecans? Substitute with your preference or leave them out altogether. That's the beauty of chicken salad. You can put anything you like into it. You'll enjoy this full bodied chicken salad where the flavor of the pecans and cranberries bounce off each other and the fresh herbs come shining through.

Go get yourself a chicken and spring it forward.

Cat Fanciers show this weekend

Mid-Michigan Cat Fanciers holds its "March Madness Cat Show from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 24, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 25, at the Gibraltar Trade Center in Mount Clemens.

The featured breed at the 285th CFA Cat Show will be the Maine Coon.

More than 300 cats and kittens will be on site. There will be American cats, British cats and Russian cats.

The cost is \$6 for adults and \$5 for children 5 to 12 years. Proceeds support Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society, The Morris Animal Foundation and the CFA Winn Foundation.

Wigglesworth is featured conductor

Guest conductor Mark Wigglesworth returns to lead the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in a series of performances in March.

"Symphony No. 6," the most popular work by Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Anton Webern's "In the Summer Wind" and Franz Joseph Haydn's "Piano

Concerto in D."

The concerts take place at the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall at 8 p.m. Thursday, March 22; 10:45 and 8 p.m. Friday, March 23; and 8:30 p.m. Saturday, March 24.

Tickets range in price from \$15 to \$69 with a limited number of box seats available from \$61 to \$117.

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Choreography by Septime Wahren, Artistic Director for the Washington Ballet

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SPORTS

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Tourney split

ULS splits its two state district tournament games PAGE 2C

2C TORONTO CHAMPS | 4C CLASSIFIED

GROSSE POINTE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Bulldogs win Pee Wee A title



Grosse Pointe Bulldogs players and coaches celebrate winning the state Pee Wee A championship last weekend.

Nip Flint 5-4 for State Cup

By Chuck Klonke
Sports Editor

Doug Rahaim is a coach who believes in well-rounded athletes.

And if that means losing a few early-season hockey games while his players are participating in football, that's not the worst thing.

What matters is being ready at the end of the season.

Rahaim's philosophy got a huge boost last weekend, when his Grosse Pointe Hockey Association Pee Wee A Bulldogs won the state championship with a come-from-behind 5-4 victory against Flint in the final game at the Lapeer Polar Palace.

"Our winning shocked a lot of people," Rahaim said. "There were teams with better records than ours (32-17-2) but our team came together toward the end of the season."

"A lot of our kids are football players, so we didn't get a lot of practice time until the beginning of November. I want kids to do other things, not just play hockey."

The championship game was a seesaw battle. Tournament MVP Brandin Thelen scored a shorthanded goal to give Grosse Pointe an early lead, but Flint, which beat the Bulldogs 5-2 in pool play, came back to take a 2-1 lead.

Goals by Frank Saputo and Vinnie Scarpaci sent the Bulldogs into the third period with a 3-2 lead. Flint tied the game with about nine minutes remaining, but Thelen and Saputo each scored their second goals of the contest to put Grosse Pointe ahead 5-3.

Flint pulled its goalie for an extra attacker and scored with 40 seconds remaining to create a furious finish.

"We held off their pressure," Rahaim said. "(Goalie) Joey Lopez came up with some huge saves. He came up big in the first period, too."

The Bulldogs' biggest shock of the weekend came in the semifinal round of the state tournament when the Grosse Pointe squad scored twice in the last 3:13 of the third period to beat defending state champion Kensington Valley 5-4.

"Kensington Valley was everybody's favorite to win again this year, so when we beat them, people were really shocked," Rahaim said.

Kensington was clinging to a 4-3 lead when Jack Stander tied the game with 3:13 left, assisted by Saputo. A minute and five seconds later, Ryley Maher scored the winning goal with Thelen picking up the assist.

Thelen had two goals in the game, while Scarpaci had one.

Nearly every game in the tournament was a close one for the Bulldogs, who played in the Little Caesars Ranked Division and made it to the quarterfinals of the league tournament.

The road to the state championship started with a 2-0 victory against Traverse City in the first game of round-robin pool play.

The game was scoreless until Thelen scored twice in the third period.

Andrew Wright turned away 20 shots in recording the shutout. He had strong support from the Bulldogs' defense corps of Stander, Jeff Herron, Anthony Allemon, Trent Johnson, Zak Harrison and Nick Rahaim.

Grosse Pointe's 2-1 victory against Grand Rapids was an-

See CHAMPS, page 2C

Seniors important in South's run

By Chuck Klonke
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe South's state championship hockey team had something in common with nearly every other high school squad that has hoisted the trophy that signifies state supremacy.

That common trait is a solid group of seniors.

Those seniors not only have to be talented, but they have to be leaders.

It was that mix that carried the Blue Devils to the Division II state championship and an overall season record of 24-4-1.

Some might have received more postseason recognition than others.

Some might have seen more ice time.

However, each of the nine seniors played an important role in South's success.

"Every one of them contributed," said coach Bob Bopp. "They weren't all stars, but we needed them all to

win."

Here's a look at the seniors, listed alphabetically, who went out on top with the 4-3 overtime victory against Muskegon Mona Shores.

RYAN ABRAHAM: Abraham led the Michigan Metro High School Hockey League in scoring and finished with 21 goals and 26 assists. He scored a goal in South's semifinal victory against Alpena, and tallied again in the title game.

"The kid's a winner," Bopp said. "He doesn't have the greatest shot but he finds a way to score. The bigger the game, the bigger he plays. He finished with 109 points for his career, and just shattered the school record."

PETER ALTSHULER: Part of Altshuler's value to the team was his versatility. He was a fixture on the line with Alex Marshall and Joel Patterson, which was the Blue Devils' checking unit, but Altshuler could also play defense in a

pinch.

"He really stepped up for us this year," Bopp said. "He's so unselfish. He'll do whatever he can to help the team."

JOHN CHANCEY: Chancey played one year for the Blue Devils and saw spot duty as a forward.

"He's a success story," Bopp said. "Three times he tried out for the team and got cut. A lot of kids wouldn't try a fourth time, but he did and he made it this year. He's a good skater and could fill in at forward when we needed him. He was a hard worker, who played a key role on the team."

TAYLOR FLASKA: Flaska finished with nine goals and 11 assists, including a pair of goals in the pre-regional victory against De La Salle and three goals in an overtime win against Grosse Pointe North. He also scored in the championship game.

"He was a key to our winning (the championship) this season," Bopp said. "He's a

tough kid with a lot of skills. He thought he struggled this year because he didn't score as much as he thought he should, but he played well. He was an important player in our playoff run because he had a lot of big goals. He's hard to knock off his skates. He was one of our leaders."

TREVOR JOHN: John set a team scoring record for defensemen with 12 goals and 28 assists. He had a goal in each of the last two games, both coming on end-to-end rushes. He was also steady on defense, combining with Arthur Griem to give the Blue Devils the best defensive tandem in the league, and maybe the state.

"I don't think there was a better defenseman in high school hockey than Trevor," Bopp said. "He's one of the best players we've had at South. He's such a great player, on and off the ice. His vision is tremendous. He's not only talented, but he's a great leader."

SCOTT MAXWELL: Scott is

the third Maxwell brother to play for South, following in the footsteps of Jeff and Steve. Maxwell had two goals and nine assists, but his value to the team was as a top-four defenseman.

"He can do it all," Bopp said. "He's tough for a small guy. He's a great skater and has a tremendous shot. All he cares about is whether the team wins, not about any personal glory. We've had Maxwells win 10 letters for South hockey, and his brothers were outstanding players but I think they saved the best one for last."

GEOFF OSGOOD: Osgood finished with six goals and 15 assists while playing on the line with Flaska and Lance Lucas. Twice this season he scored an overtime goal to beat Wyandotte Roosevelt, including South's quarterfinal win against the Bears. Osgood was one of the top penalty killers

See SOUTH, page 2C

Woods skater wins gold medal

Andrew Astalos's speedskating career has been golden.

The 12-year-old Grosse Pointe Shores resident won his second gold medallion for overall champion in the Midget Class last weekend in the North American Short Track Speedskating Championships in Midland.

In the Midget Men's 500, Astalos led from start to finish to win in 51.66. He then added a first-place finish in the Midget Men's 666 final with a time of 1:09.873.

Skaters from around the

United States and Canada competed in the event.

Astalos took up speedskating five years ago after watching Apolo Anton Ohno compete for the United States in the 2002 Winter Olympics. Until then, he had been a successful travel hockey player.

Astalos won his first North American championship in the Pony Class in the 2005 North American Short Track Championships in Milwaukee.

Andrew is an honor roll student in the seventh grade at Our Lady Star of the Sea.



Andrew Astalos was the Midget Men's overall champion at last weekend's North American Short Track Speedskating Championships in Midland.

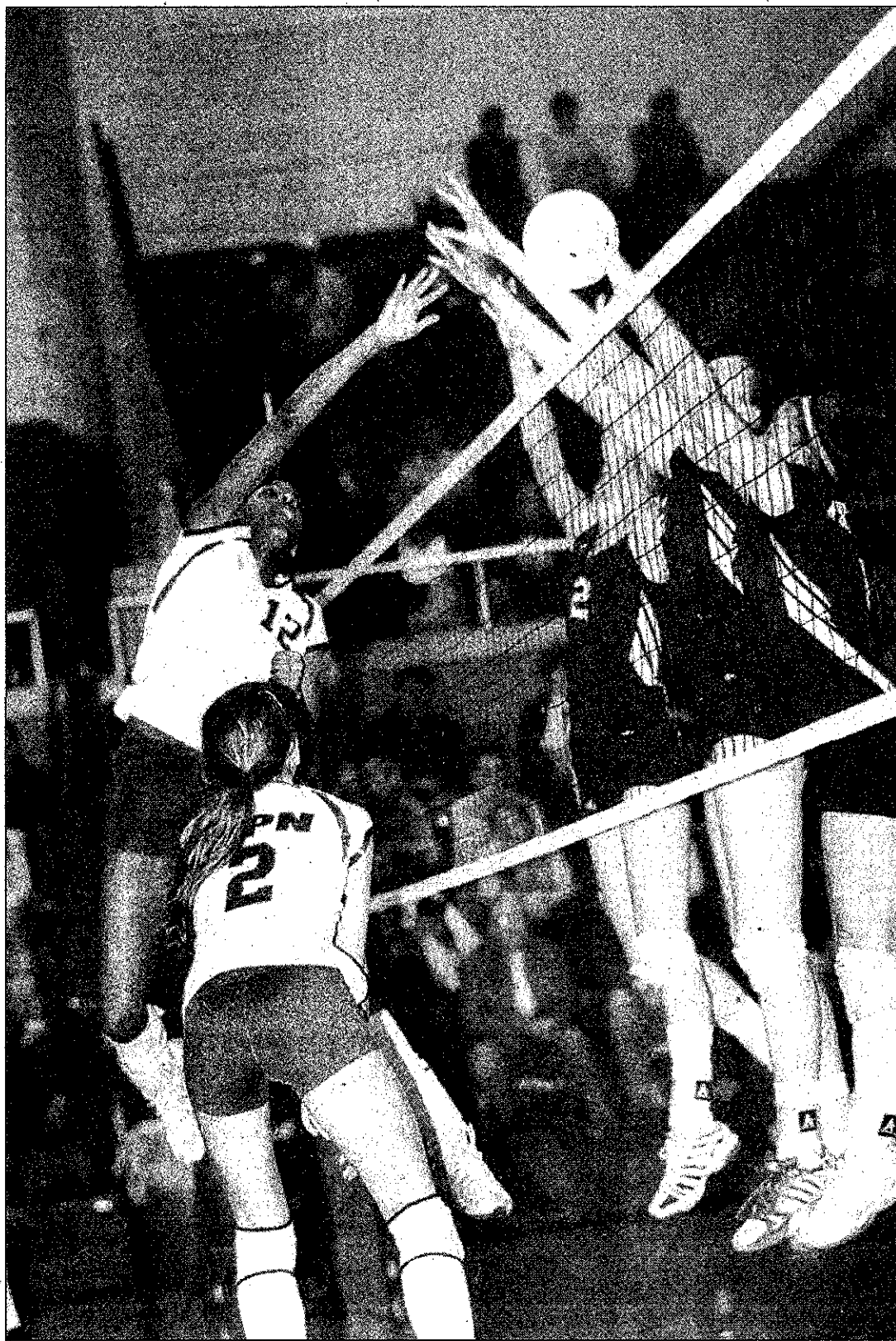


PHOTO BY DR. J. RICHARD DUNLAP

End of the line

Grosse Pointe North's volleyball team ran into a familiar foe in its state Class A regional championship match. The Norsemen lost 25-23, 25-22, 25-17 to Fraser. The Norsemen and Ramblers both play in the Macomb Area Conference Red Division. Fraser advanced to the state semifinals before losing to North Branch. North beat Cass Tech in the regional semifinal. In the photo above, North's Ariel Braker spikes the ball past Fraser defenders after getting a set from Lizzie Rewalt (2).

RedHawks schedule fundraiser

The Grosse Pointe RedHawks Baseball Club is holding a Texas Hold'em party and silent auction on Friday, March 30, to help defray expenses for the 2007 season.

The party will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Lakeshore Manor, 26211 Harper, St. Clair Shores.

First prize in the Hold'em game is \$500. Second through fifth prizes range from \$400 to

\$100.

Guests will also have the opportunity to bid on auction items, including Red Wings and Tigers tickets, sports memorabilia and boat trips.

Tickets are \$75 for dinner, the auction and the Texas Hold'em game. Tickets for the dinner and auction only are \$25. A cash bar will be available.

For tickets, call (313) 882-5157 or (313) 884-7369.

All proceeds from the event will directly support the team of 13- and 14-year-olds.

The RedHawks play in the Macomb Amateur Baseball Federation. Last year's 13-year-old team earned a berth in the American Amateur Baseball Congress World Series.

Knights split tournament games

By Chuck Klonke
Sports Editor

"Wanted: 6-foot-9 basketball player for University Liggett School.

"Could you put that ad in the paper for me?" Knights coach Andy Dold, said with a laugh, after ending his first season with ULS by splitting a pair of games in the Class D district tournament at Marine City Cardinal Mooney.

A lack of height was one of the shortcomings of this year's ULS team.

ULS beat Charlotte Forten Academy 69-60 in its state tournament opener, but the Knights lost their next game 79-53 to eventual district champion Allen Academy.

"The Charlotte Forten game was one of our best games of the season," Dold said. "They made a run at the end but we hit some big free throws down the stretch."

Carlton Snyder, who led the

Knights with 21 points, made four of six free throws in the fourth quarter and Aaron Heaney scored seven of his 11 points in the period.

"Aaron got a couple of big offensive rebounds off missed free throws," Dold said. Heaney was 3-for-4 from the line in the final quarter.

ULS also got 17 points from Patrick Gustine, who made four three-point baskets.

Allen Academy took the Knights out of the game early.

The Wildcats jumped out to a 16-7 lead after the first quarter and continued to pull away in the second quarter.

"They're a good team," Dold said. "We scouted them, and we probably shouldn't have, because they couldn't hit a thing in that game. Then they came out against us and started hitting three-pointers from all over."

Gustine led ULS with 20 points, including four more triples, while Snyder closed out

his high school career with 10 points.

"I'm looking forward to next year," Dold said. "We have three starters returning in Jeremiah Manning, D.J. Henderson and Patrick Gustine, and a total of seven returning players. The kids who are coming back will know what to expect. This year was a learning curve for both the players and the coaches."

Dold said that he'll miss the four seniors who are graduating, including starters Snyder and Joe Conway.

The other two seniors are Alex Flemming and Jon Nicholl.

"Carlton was our MVP this year," Dold said. "He, along with Joe, was kind of a liaison between the players and the coaches."

Flemming was selected as the Knights' Most Improved Player.

ULS finished the season with a 5-16 record.

GROSSE POINTE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Bulldogs '97 hold on to win in Toronto

The Grosse Pointe Hockey Association Bulldogs '97 killed off a late power play and held on for a 2-1 victory against the Vaughn (Ontario) Rangers in the championship game of the Penguins' Winter Hockey Tournament in Toronto.

The Bulldogs squad, which is comprised of 8-, 9- and 10-year-olds, was the only team from the United States in their division that included seven Canadian teams.

The tournament gave the Bulldogs their first chance to compete in games where checking is allowed.

The Bulldogs also got a chance to meet former NHL player Tie Domi, who visited their locker room before the title game.

Domi gave the Bulldogs some tips on checking and handling the pressure of an important game.

"This was a difficult tournament with a tough schedule

and tough teams," said Bulldogs coach Dan Piepszowski.

"The boys held up really well in their first experience with checking. I know we can carry this momentum into districts and the playoffs."

The first period of the game against Vaughn, which came into the contest with a 27-1-1 record, was scoreless. The Bulldogs outskated the Rangers, but the Canadian team was strong in its end.

Defenseman Nick Azar got the Bulldogs their first goal in the second period when he scored on a slap shot from the right circle, however, the Rangers quickly made it 1-1 with a goal of their own.

Midway through the second period, a Rangers player was given an elbowing penalty. When the Rangers players and coaches protested too vociferously, the Vaughn team was given two five-minute bench

penalties and a 10-minute misconduct.

That gave the Bulldogs a 5-on-3 advantage for five minutes and they didn't waste the opportunity as Richie Fillipeli scored off a beautiful feed across the crease to snap the 1-1 deadlock.

With 2:07 left in the game, the Bulldogs got a penalty. The Rangers pulled their goalie for an extra attacker, but Grosse Pointe goalie Andy Jakub and his teammates held Vaughn scoreless for the 2-1 victory.

Each of the Bulldogs players received trophies. Azar was named MVP for the championship game.

Dick Borland, the father of one of the Bulldogs players, promised the boys that he would shave his head if they won the tournament.

Making good on his promise, Borland let the players celebrate while giving his head a clean shave.

SOUTH: Nine ended with title

Continued from page 1C

on the team and was especially strong when the Blue Devils were down two skaters.

"He's a very skilled player, and maybe the fastest skater on the team," Bopp said. "He has a tremendous attitude. He's all over the ice, and never takes a shift off."

JOEL PATTERSON: Patterson finished with three goals and six assists, but his value to the team went far beyond the score sheet.

"He's like some of the other seniors; if you had 20 of them you'd be successful as a coach," Bopp said. "He's a hard worker and does whatever you ask. You always need players like that."

PAUL SOKOLIK: Sokolik didn't see a lot of action as a backup defenseman because the Blue Devils' blue line corps was so strong, but he filled in when needed and was a key player in practices.

"He didn't play a lot but he was so well-liked and respected by the other players on the team," Bopp said. "He practiced as hard as anyone, even though he knew he probably wouldn't see a lot of ice time. I'm glad he decided to play for us and be a part of winning the championship."



PHOTO BY DR. J. RICHARD DUNLAP

Senior captains, from left, Ryan Abraham, Trevor John and Scott Maxwell, celebrate winning the state Division II championship with head coach Bob Bopp, right, and assistant coaches Artt Scrimenti, left, and Greg Obrycki.

CHAMPS: Beat favorite in semifinals

Continued from page 1C

other defensive struggle.

The teams traded second-period goals with Thelen scoring for the Bulldogs. Maher broke the tie with about four minutes remaining in regulation. Herron assisted on the game-winning goal. Lopez turned in a strong performance in goal.

Saputo and Vince Scarfone scored the Grosse Pointe goals in the loss to Flint. Thelen, Johnson and Peter McMahon collected the assists.

"Our line of Charlie Keane, Jim Chapman and Peter McMahon played well defensively," Rahaim said. "And Ellis Fried played great all weekend. He didn't score like he usually does, but he did so many other things well."

Rahaim gave credit to his assistant coaches, including long-time aide Robb McIntyre.

"Robb was with me when we won state championships on teams that my oldest son (Doug) played on," Rahaim said. "He's really good at teaching the kids to play as a team."

Rounding out the coaching staff were Steve Scarpaci, Bob Scarfone and Mike Linenberg.

"I'm just so proud of all the boys and how hard they worked this weekend and all season," Rahaim said.

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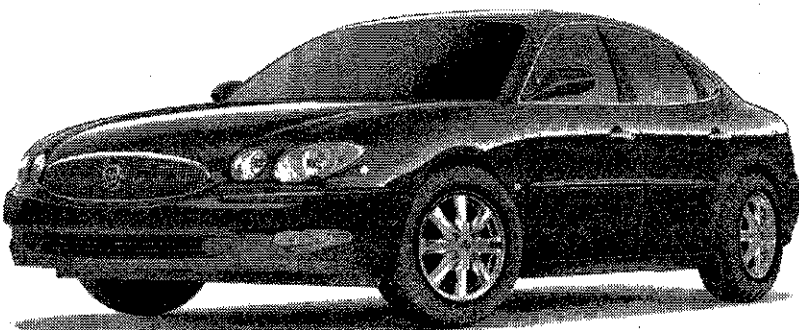
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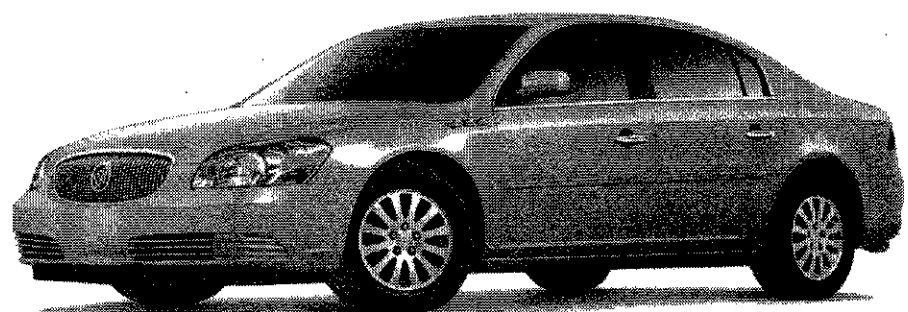
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MOVING Sale, Grosse Pointe Farms, 97 Handry Road, Saturday only 8:00am-2:00pm furniture, household items, big screen T.V. couches, antiques.

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H-4 Thursday 03-22-07

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.

H-3 SOLUTION 03-15-07

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For further information, call the Michigan Department of Civil Rights at 800-482-3604; the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 800-683-9777 or your local Fair Housing Agency.

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20601 Wedgewood, Grosse Pointe Woods, private court, 2,000 sq. ft. 4 bedroom 2 1/2 bath, \$1,800/ month. (248)763-5934

696 Neff, Grosse Pointe corner of Waterloo. Lower flat, 2 bedroom, new oak floors, water, lawn, snow, full appliances, garage, \$1,100. (313)885-3749

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GROSSE Pointe Woods, beautiful 3 bedroom bungalow \$975. Kathy Lenz/ Johnstone & Johnstone (313)402-4515

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DOUBLE SHUFFLE
RULES: Reshuffle six letters to form a new word. If a word is given, find an anagram of that word. Place letters in boxes next to shuffled letters. After all six words are solved, find new 6-letter words shuffled in the six columns or two diagonals.
HINT: There might be more than one answer hidden in the six columns or two diagonals. Can you find **FOUR** words? Happy Hunting!

C	N	O	R	S	A						
P	T	S	O	R	O						
M	E	D	G	A	A						
D	T	N	C	I	I						
S	S	R	A	Y	G						
D	L	N	E	O	O						

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Col. 1: STURDY
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Col. 3: LETTER
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Y	E	L	L	E	D
T	U	R	B	A	N
D	R	E	N	C	H
R	A	T	I	O	N
S	T	E	A	M	Y
U	N	T	O	L	D

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