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# Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 72, NO. 38, 42 PAGES  
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SEPTEMBER 22, 2011  
 GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

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## Week ahead

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### THURSDAY, SEPT. 22

◆ Grosse Pointe Theatre's production of "The Music Man" begins at 8 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Tickets cost \$24 and can be reserved by calling (313) 881-4004.

### FRIDAY, SEPT. 23

*First day of autumn*  
 ◆ Eight local restaurants offer food at the North/South tail-gate party from 5 to 7 p.m. at Grosse Pointe South High School. Admission is free. Food tickets cost \$1.  
 ◆ The South versus North football game begins at 7 p.m. on South's football field. The cost is \$5.  
 ◆ Grosse Pointe Theatre's production of "The Music Man" begins at 8 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Tickets cost \$24 and can be reserved by calling (313) 881-4004.

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 24

◆ Grosse Pointe Theatre's production of "The Music Man" begins at 8 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Tickets cost \$24 and can be reserved by calling (313) 881-4004.  
 ◆ West Park Farmers Market, corners of Kercheval, Lakepointe and Beaconsfield, Grosse Pointe Park, is open

See WEEKAHEAD, page 11A



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## What a mess for the Farms

By Brad Lindberg  
 Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — The horrible hours Linda Jacobi spent cleaning her sewage-filled basement would have to be experienced to be appreciated.

And anyone would be a fool to do so if given the option of taking her word for it.

"It's a mess," said Jacobi, owner of a ranch house in the 400 block of Colonial Court. "I washed everything I could."

Things she couldn't disinfect, she carried outside for rubbish pickup.

An irregular mound of furniture, appliances, intended heirlooms — the stuff a family with two sons accumulates

More flood coverage, page 3A.

over 29 years in the same house — covered half her driveway and a portion of front lawn from the garage almost to the sidewalk.

Employees of a landscaping company trash-picked a folding, aluminum wheelchair before municipal sanitation crews arrived to haul away everything.

Not salvageable was a wooden, toy chest with a flip-up seat Jacobi's father handmade for her sons. Inside, a handmade

See MESS, page 7A

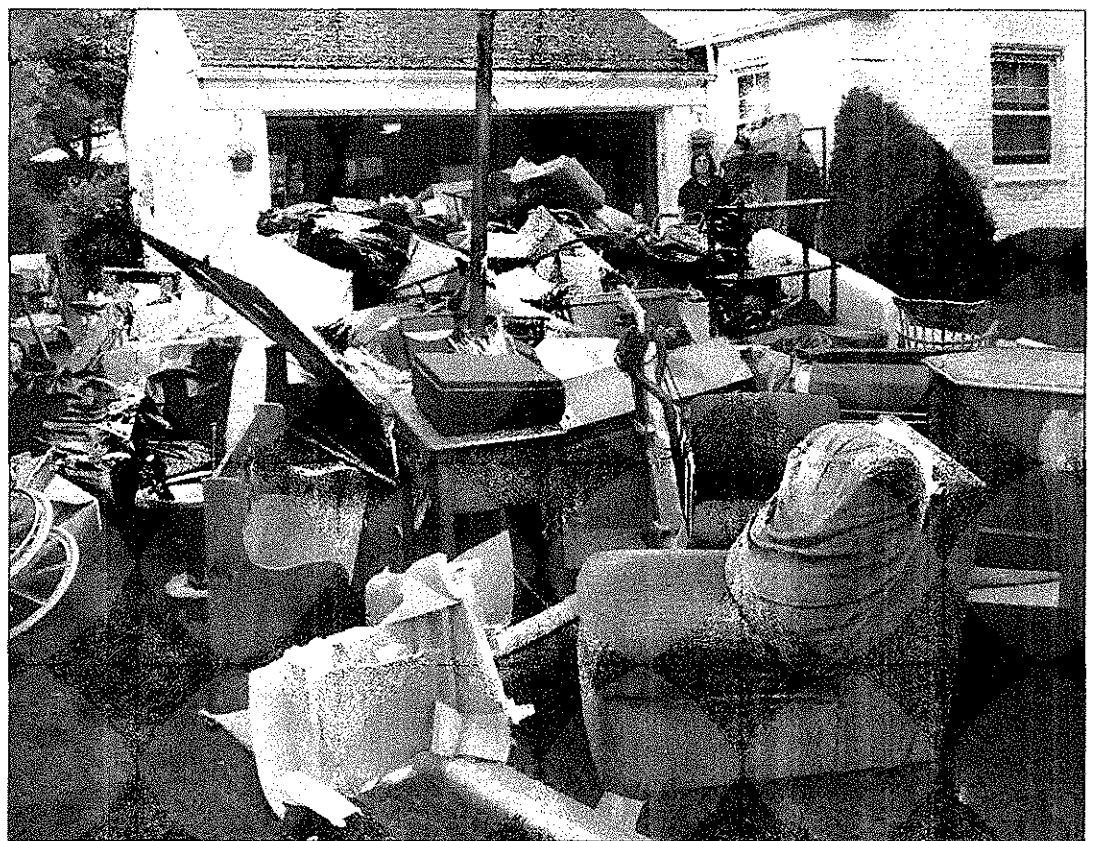


PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Linda Jacobi is dwarfed by flood-damaged possessions piled for rubbish pickup.

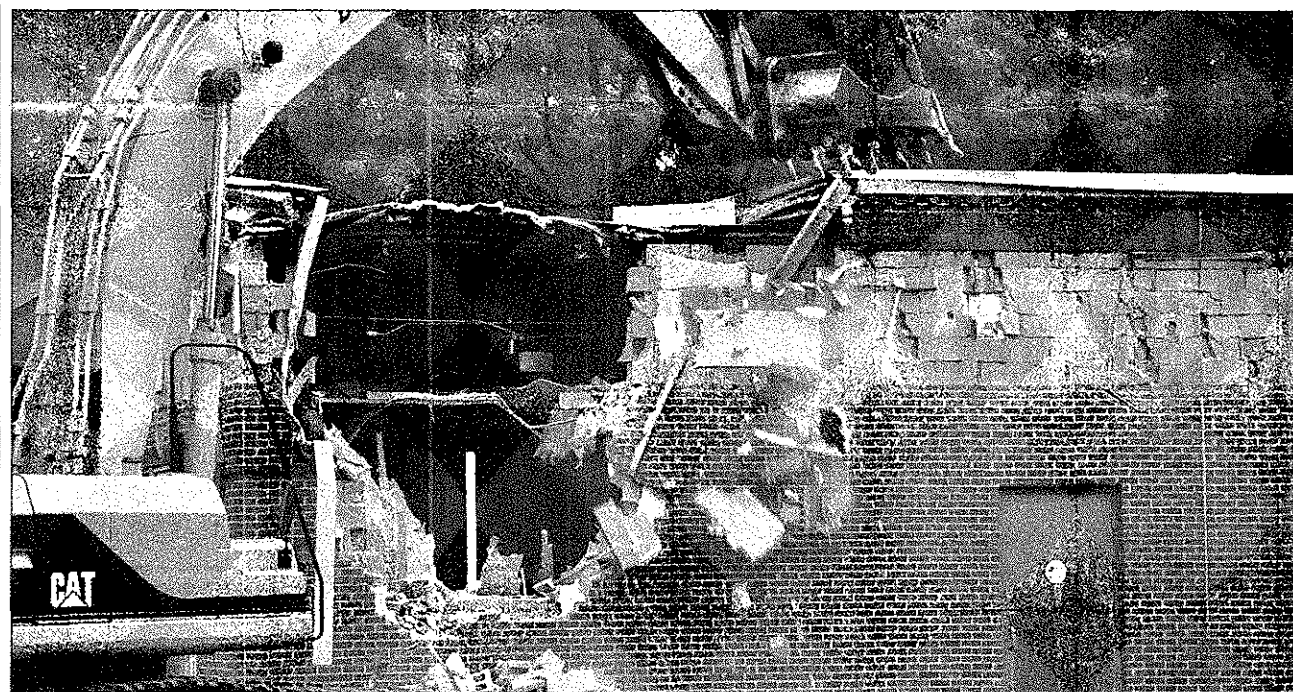


PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

## Making way for new club

By Brad Lindberg  
 Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — Demolition started Monday morning of this week on the Neighborhood Club.

By day's end, about one-third of the complex at the corner of Maumee and St. Clair was rubble.

Focus shifted Tuesday to organizing debris and toppling a tall tree standing in the way of a larger club to be constructed on the same site.

"Timber," called out a construction worker as the claw of an excavator pushed over the tree.

The date of reconstruction changes from day to day, but a rough estimate is about four months, according to Amy Roy, the club's marketing and communications director.

"They have a lot of cleanup to do," Roy said of workmen.

Club operations are shifted temporarily to Grosse Pointe Congregational Church on Chalfonte, near Brownell Middle School in the Farms.

The resale shop is in limbo. "We haven't found a place for it yet," said Roy, a Grosse Pointe Woods resident. "We want to find a permanent home for it."

She hopes the shop is "up and running" in a couple of months.

"It helps fund our programs," she said.

The promise of a new clubhouse seemed bittersweet to Roy as she watched the old one being ripped up and crushed.

"It's sad to see it go down," she said.

The forthcoming two-story replacement, a partnership with Beaumont Hospital Grosse Pointe, has a wellness center, exercise equipment and more space to offer increased services.

"We won't be in the new building for a couple of weeks before we'll be, like, what were we thinking? This is fantastic," Roy said.



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Demolition started this week on the Neighborhood Club in the City of Grosse Pointe. The site is being cleared for construction of a larger club and wellness center.

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# GP to state: beat it

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — Some of the toughest language against Gov. Rick Snyder's schools of choice proposal came this week as a resolution opposing state interference with local districts completed its rounds of Grosse Pointe city councils.

"It's ridiculous," said John Stempfle of the City of Grosse Pointe council, referring to opening the district to nonresident students.

Stempfle and his colleagues on Monday night wrapped up Pointe-wide approval of a reso-

lution protesting potential state mandates that public school districts accept students from outside their boundaries.

A bill introduced this month by state Sen. Phil Pavlov (R, St. Clair) requires, rather than allows, local districts to enroll nonresidents.

"It seems they're throwing out the concept of local control," Stempfle said of schools of choice proponents.

"The removal of geographic boundaries beyond the intermediate school district level would mean that students could enroll in areas not directly supported by the taxes levied and paid within the re-

*As the bill reads now, it provides wiggle room for school systems to refuse non-district admissions. All they have to do is say they don't have excess capacity for additional students.*

gion," according to an analysis of SB 624 by the Senate Fiscal Agency.

The prospect seemed especially onerous because Pointe residents fund their public schools beyond the levels of most districts.

"We spend thousands of dollars in taxes — to have some students come in who don't have any investment in the community?" Stempfle said. "It's repulsive to me. It's a horrible, horrible concept."

Support of the resolution links the City with "communities voicing opposition to the legislature, who seek to further insert themselves in matters that have traditionally been the domain of local governing bodies, like (city councils and) like school boards," said Brendan Walsh, a trustee of Grosse Pointe public schools.

Opposition seems to be having an impact in Lansing. Legislation introduced this month in the state senate proposing schools of choice also contains a loophole letting schools opt out.

"As someone who's watched this legislation develop since April, there's no doubt in my mind that the original intentions of Gov. Snyder and those that supported this legislation have backed down substantially from what was going to be a borderless school proposal,"

Walsh said.

"There's been a lot of people in our community contacting people in Lansing," said Rep. Tim Bledsoe, (D-City of Grosse Pointe). "I think they've been heard."

As the bill reads now, it provides wiggle room for school systems to refuse non-district admissions. All they have to do is say they don't have excess capacity for additional students.

"All we have to do is say we have no excess capacity and, therefore, there will be no non-residents," Bledsoe said. "In its current form, the bill allows us to determine capacity."

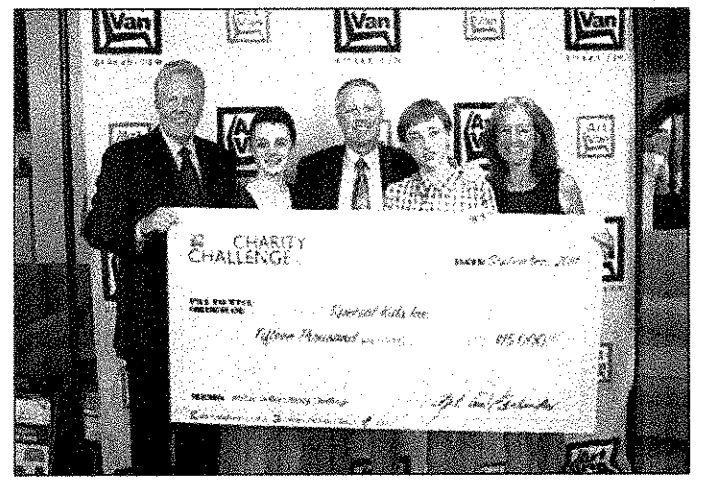
"Our school district, in this model, would say, thank you, we don't have capacity," Walsh said.

He and Grosse Pointe Superintendent Suzanne Klein intended to go to Lansing Tuesday, Sept. 20, and prosecute their argument with Snyder's representatives.

"We need to continue to bring this message to Lansing, as they look to further insert themselves into decisions that should be decided by local communities," Walsh said.

The bill is in the senate education committee.

"It can be amended in committee or on the floor of the House or Senate," Bledsoe said. "We've got to watch this bill very carefully every step of the way and ensure it is not changed in a fashion that could be harmful."



Gary Van Elslander, left, president of Art Van Furniture, presents a check to Special Kids Inc. founder Jeanne Lizza, right, and her family, Maria, Michael and Thomas Liddane.

## Special Kids, Inc. wins Art Van grant

By Kathy Ryan  
Staff Writer

Special Kids Inc., a non-profit organization based in Grosse Pointe Woods, received \$15,000 from the Art Van Million Dollar Charity Challenge.

Special Kids sponsors academic and athletic activities for children with developmental and physical disabilities. Founded in the fall of 2002 by Woods resident Jeanne Lizza, Special Kids' programs are funded primarily through the donations from individuals, corporations, and community organizations.

"Art Van has been a great supporter over the years," Lizza said. "Receiving the Art Van Challenge Grant will help provide us the necessary funds to continue our efforts to deliver reduced cost individual therapies to those in need. We are extremely grateful."

Special Kids Inc. was one of 50 local charities to be awarded grants this year. As

part of the challenge, these charities can compete for additional grants through the charity challenge.

"We want to continue to make the dollars go further, and we want to do it in a way that will create fun and excitement," Gary Van Elslander, president of Art Van Furniture, said in a release. "These awards will be granted to the top three charities that receive the most votes from the public."

The public is encouraged to vote for their favorite charity during a two week period, from Sept. 15 through Sept. 30 at [www.artvan.com](http://www.artvan.com). Additional grants of \$25,000, \$15,000 and \$10,000 will be awarded to the top three vote recipients.

"Of course we would appreciate those votes," Lizza said.

"But even if we don't win the bonus challenge, we are still grateful to be recognized. This award will allow us to continue our work of serving children with special needs."



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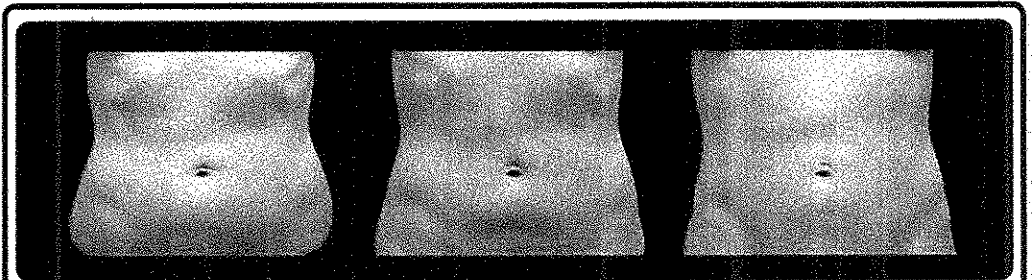


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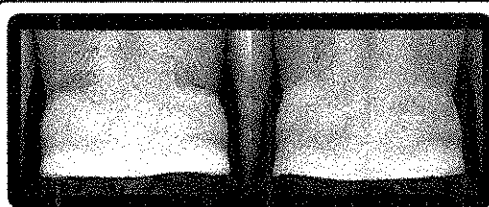
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**David S. Balle, M.D.**  
Dr. Balle is a nationally recognized and certified physician trainer for SculptraAesthetic. He has trained physicians throughout Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky. Dr. Balle is also a highly sought after speaker for Sanoft-Aventis throughout the mid-west and spoke at the most recent meeting of the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery. He is a staff member of St. John and Beaumont Grosse Pointe hospitals.

**Judith T. Lipinski, M.D.**

Dr. Lipinski graduated from Wayne State University School of Medicine and completed her residency in Dermatology at Wayne State University School of Medicine. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Dermatology. She is on staff at St. John and Beaumont Grosse Pointe hospitals, and is a Clinical Instructor at Wayne State University Medical School.



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# Following suit in the Farms

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — Daniel Salden doesn't like that his side of town hasn't had the multi-million dollar sewer separation that the other side had 15 years ago.

"I don't call that very fair," he said.

Sheldon lives on Bournemouth Circle, on the northern edge of the inland sewer district in Grosse Pointe Farms. Sewers on the opposite side of town, in the lakeside district, were separated during the late 1990s.

The project separated storm water from sewage networks, almost guaranteeing the end of sewer backups into lakeside district basements.

Lakeside district houses, mainly on the Lake St. Clair side of Ridge Road, where most of the large and iconic estates are located, didn't bear sewer water backups that inundated Sheldon's and more than 300 other inland property owners' basements during heavy rains May 25 and Sept. 10.

"Why does lakeside get \$20 million spent?" Sheldon said. "What got spent on the inland side? Zero? Is that the amount we're going to get spent? I don't call that very fair."

He spoke at a special city council meeting, Sept. 15, in the Grosse Pointe War Memorial ballroom about the flooding problem. More than 300 people crowded the room, some standing along the walls or in the lobby.

Sheldon's implication that the city favors large property owners raised an issue lawyers are sure to raise in a class action lawsuit on behalf of flood victims.

"What happened in Grosse Pointe Farms is they separated their sewage systems, except for the area that floods," said attorney Steven Little, handling a suit filed for the May 25 flood.

Little is about to file another suit for a repeat of flooding Sept. 10.

"My office already has hundreds of these Farms residents," Little said. "They'll be filed in one suit."

He said he's done thousands of cases about basement flooding.

"What's remarkably consistent," he said, "whether it's Detroit, Birmingham or Grosse Pointe — it's always the lesser economic spectrum where these things happen."

"Lesser economic spectrum" is relative.

"In Birmingham, it flooded for years," Little said. "No, it



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

**Farms residents and municipal representatives jam the Grosse Pointe War Memorial ballroom Thursday, Sept. 15, for a meeting about basement flooding.**

wasn't a poverty neighborhood, but it was the lesser income part of Birmingham where they never fixed the sewers.

"In this instance," he said of the Farms, "it is a nice neighborhood compared with most neighborhoods. But, it's not as nice as the rest of parts of the Farms. They separated everybody else in Grosse Pointe Farms, but not that (inland) system. That goes to the issue of liability."

The 907-inland district is 18.5 feet lower than the 800-acre lakeside district, according to Shane Reeside, city manager.

"This area was historically known as the Black Marsh Creek," Reeside said.

"There may be opportunities as part of a longer term solution of doing a partial separation to divert some of that storm water out of the system (and) diverting it in to the streets. There are more things that can be, and need to be, done."

A 1997 study determined the feasibility and cost of separating inland sewers.

"Sewer separation could be accomplished if we take storm water from the inland district and pump it through the hill and send it to the lake," said Tom Biehl, executive vice president of Hubbell, Roth and Clark, the city's engineering consultants. "That prospect in

the 1997 report was about \$24 million."

"We're the forgotten few," Rebecca Edwards, an inland district homeowner and victim of flooding twice since May.

The Farms denied more than 300 claims from victims of the May 25 flood.

"The May 25 claim was denied because there was no defect with the (municipal sewer) system, either prior to or during this event," Reeside said.

City officials said a preliminary investigation of Sept. 10 flooding indicates problems with power feeds from DTE Energy and municipal switching equipment at the Kerby Road Pump Station.

"Because a class action lawsuit has been filed against the city, some questions may not be answered tonight," Mayor James Farquhar told the War Memorial audience. "We will schedule another meeting to keep you informed of further findings."

Edwards said she's part of the lawsuit.

"Now, numbers speak," she said, alluding to the lawsuit. "There's unity in numbers."

She said the latest backup in her basement reached knee-level.

"I don't believe it was a power failure," she said.

She also didn't like it when Farquhar said at this month's city council meeting that his basement also flooded, but did-

n't say it flooded with rain water through basement walls, not sewage through the drain.

"Flooding through the walls is not the same," Edwards said.

Little said flood victims have within 45 days of discovering the event to provide the city notice to file a lawsuit.

"People should document their claim with pictures or videos," he said. "If they throw things to the curb, take a picture at the curb."

If residents win, they'll be compensated according to their losses. Pain and suffering don't count.

"Everybody does not get the same amount of money," Little said. "They get a definite amount depending on damages."

Client upon client told Little about fixing their basements after the May flood, only to have them ruined in September.

"People were really angry about this last flood," he said.

"Since litigation has been filed, the city is not able to discuss individual compensation without legal counsel," Reeside said.

"But, we will consider all options."

The Farms doesn't have sewer backup insurance.

"The city policy does allow for a rider for a total aggregate of \$100,000 in coverage," Reeside said.

# Switch unit suspected

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — Basement flooding with sewer water during heavy rains Sept. 10 resulted from power interruptions to and equipment failure at the Kerby Road Pump Station, according to preliminary analysis by municipal officials and city engineers.

To defend homeowners from more failures, Grosse Pointe Farms officials arranged to:

- ◆ install a backup generator for two, high-volume storm pumps,

- ◆ staff the facility 24 hours per day in case automatic equipment doesn't work as designed,

- ◆ monitor the quality and consistency of electrical power provided by two, redundant primary lines from DTE Energy,

- ◆ conduct a comprehensive study of the plant, with or without funding from a state grant, by someone other than the current consulting engineers and

- ◆ work with DTE engineers to find out what went wrong and why.

Also, DTE crews are clearing two primary lines powering the station of tree limbs and branches that, if brushed against wires, can cause power fluctuations.

"We've got to figure out what happened, why it happened, and what went wrong — and determine if it's a capacity issue with the pumps, (or) electrical power coming into the plant," said Shane Reeside, Farms city manager. "Those are the types of things that will determine the ultimate course of action. In the meantime, with some of these uncertainties, we are going to have a third source of power until we can answer those questions."

Flooding started at about 12 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 10. Sewers backed up into more than 300 houses, mainly in the Chalfonte to Mack section of the inland sewer district.

"An interruption of power was experienced at the station on primary feed 32T from Detroit Edison," said Tom Biehl, executive vice president of Hubbell, Roth and Clark, the city's longtime engineering consultants.

"Due to an apparent failure of the pump station switch gear, the station electrical did not switch over to the other Detroit Edison primary electrical line and the pumps stopped."

"There is a dual feed to the facility," said Joe Sklarczyk, a DTE primary service staff engineer.

"One power line never saw any fluctuations. The (other) incoming line did see momentary interruption. It could have been a tree blowing across the line."

Water rising in the station's underground holding tank at the corner of Kerby and Chalfonte set off an alarm. A municipal employee went to the building, which isn't normally staffed overnight, and manually reset the system.

"By this time, high water caused basement flooding in the inland district," Biehl said.

The cause of switching equipment failure is under investigation, he added.

Meteorological circumstances and results of flooding Sept. 10 mimicked those of May 25.

Peak hourly rains on the respective days totaled 4.2 inches and 3.7 inches, Biehl said.

Yet, the causes of flooding were different, according to Reeside.

"In May, the system performed as designed," Reeside said. "It did not in September, due to an apparent station switch failure, the cause of which is unknown and is being investigated."

"The pump station experienced power fluctuations from Detroit Edison feed 32T," Biehl said of May 25 flooding, naming the same line as in the Sept. 10 incident.

"As a result, the pumps were temporarily shut down and sequentially restarted as they were designed to do."

Pump motors don't stop and start on a dime. They need time to spin down and restart sequentially.

"Assuming everything worked properly, it would take several minutes (10 to 15) to bring them up to speed," said Marv Olane, also of HRC. "They keep the amperage down, so you don't overload the line."

"Detroit Edison indicated that a downed tree prompted fluctuations during (the May 25) event," Biehl said.

# Kerby station

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — The Kerby Road Pump Station has been in continuous operation since the Great Depression.

Constructed in 1929 at the corner of Chalfonte and Kerby in Grosse Pointe Farms, the historically stalwart station's six pumps handled everything coming their way through World War II and into the Cold War.

Subsequent high-volume water conditions required reinforcements. Two additional pumps, Nos. 7 and 8, were added. They're the biggest of the brood.

They were installed "to alleviate basement flooding in the inland district, which occurred in 1947 and 1955," said Tom Biehl, executive vice president of Hubbell, Roth and Clark, the Farms' engineering consultants.

"Six pumps can handle normal operations," Biehl said. "Two large storm pumps (Nos. 7 and 8) are for extreme rain events."

Two separate primary electrical lines from DTE Energy power the building.

"The station can handle 358 million gallons of sewage and storm water per day, or nearly 15 million gallons per hour," Biehl said.

Low-volume pumps Nos. 1, 2 and 3, were replaced during the 1960s. Electrical upgrades followed.

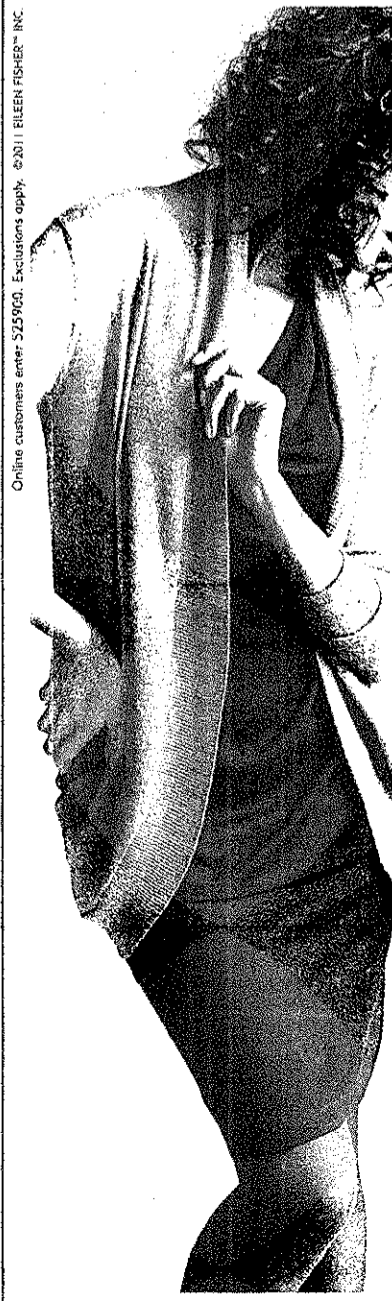
A multi-state power blackout in 2003 prompted installation of an emergency backup generator for pumps Nos. 1 through 3.

Because of sewage backups into basements during heavy rains Sept. 10 — the second in four months — city officials ordered the installation of a temporary backup generator for pumps 7 and 8. The generator is to remain onsite until whatever allowed recent flooding is found out and repaired.

Pumps 7 and 8 "are designed to take the full storm when they're working properly," Biehl said. "Until this year, since they were put in, there hasn't been an issue. Those storm pumps have been able to keep up with the flow."

They're also rarely needed. Their combined usage totals 50 hours, Reeside said. But, the two pumps have been used

See KERBY, page 7A



**EILEEN FISHER**

*Fall Event*

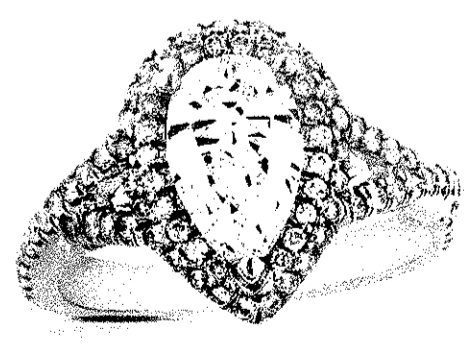
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POINTER OF INTEREST

# Senior delivers big on gridiron

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

University Liggett senior Patrick Monahan is ready to deliver a great final year of high school.

The 17-year-old Grosse Pointe Farms resident prepared for his last hurrah by spending six weeks in the People's Republic of China, learning the culture and perfecting the language in a classroom setting.

"I had a blast and I learned a lot during my time in China," Monahan said. "I also had the pleasure of spending the final couple of weeks with my parents, which was a great way to end my time in China."

Monahan spent the first three weeks in Beijing and later with his parents in Shanghai and Hong Kong. He arrived in the United States just days before the Knights' football team began its season.

Monahan is a starting outside linebacker and one of the Knights' top defensive players. He is listed at 5-feet, 8-inches and 155 pounds, but hits opposing players like a Mack truck.

"I love playing football and playing linebacker," Monahan

said. "I'm ready for a great senior year. It's my job as a senior to be a leader on the field and help us defend our division title and make it back to the state playoffs for a second straight season."

Last year, Monahan had 50 tackles and 31 assists.

"Patrick had a great year," Liggett's former football head coach Dan Cimini said. "He is a leader and wants to be the best player he can be. He is around the ball all the time."

Monahan is now playing for new football head coach Lou Ray. Monahan began his football career in elementary school, playing for Ray in the Red Barons program.

"I've been playing football for several years and I love the sport," Monahan said. "I learned a lot in the Red Barons and I'm glad Liggett brought back football."

Liggett dissolved its football program a few years ago, but reinstated it in 2009 when Monahan was a sophomore.

He earned a lot of playing time, which helped him make a mark last fall as a junior. He is looking for bigger and better things this year.

Monahan earned All-MIAC First Team last year and this

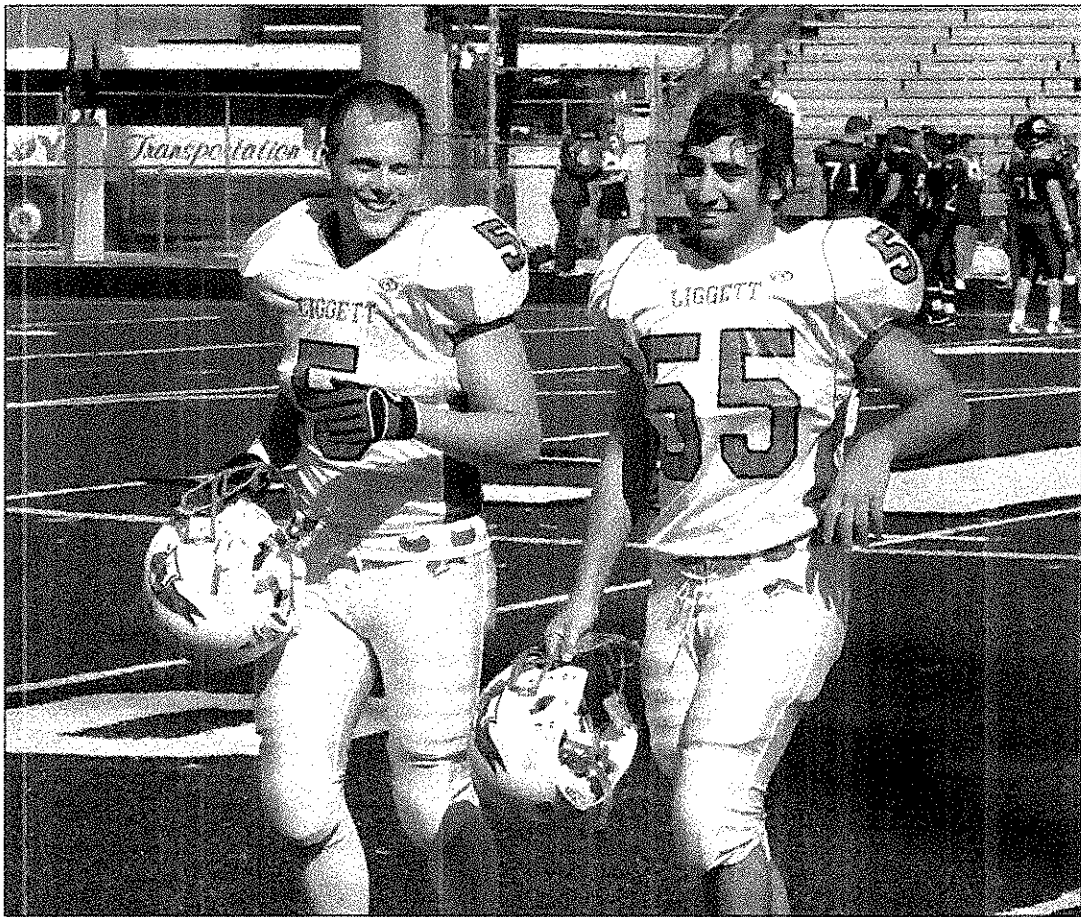


PHOTO BY RENATO JAMETT

Liggett senior Patrick Monahan, left, and teammate Stavros Bricolas, form a lethal one-two punch from their linebacker positions.

year could earn All-State accolades.

This could be the end of the road for his football career.

However, Monahan is thinking about applying for the Naval

Academy and walking onto the Midshipmen's gridiron or Hamilton College in New York and play for the Division 3 program.

"I'm not sure what I will do next year, but I know I will be in college, most likely out-of-state," Monahan said.

He excels in the classroom and scheduled a curriculum loaded with tough classes. Monahan said he's sending applications to dozens of colleges because Navy and Hamilton aren't slam-dunk choices.

"I think I will go to college out-of-state," he said. "I enjoyed living with my host family in China and being on my own is something I am comfortable with."

"I'm not thinking about that because my goal is getting off to a great start in school and playing well on the football team."

Monahan grew up in the Pointes and attended Liggett from third to eighth grade. He went to U-D Jesuit High School for his freshman year, but transferred back to Liggett.

"I like Liggett and I have made some fantastic friends," Monahan said. "I plan on making my final year of high school a very productive one."

## Librarians available to conduct research

By Ann L. Fouty  
Features Editor

The Grosse Pointe Public Library is still the place for information.

In this case, the answers sought are how to meet expenses and challenges when a family member encounters a

health issue.

What happens when a loved one is stricken with cancer and the household is running on one salary? There are more bills than money. What can be done? And where does a parent turn for information when dealing with special needs children?

The librarians can find the answers because, as library director Vickey Bloom said, librarians do what they do best — research.

"Librarians are expert researchers. They find private foundations for those who don't meet poverty guidelines," she said.

When one of their own staff had a family member with cancer, librarians discovered foundations that give gas cards, for example, for those driving to and from the hospitals, clinics and treatment centers.

They also uncovered foundations that help pay for prescriptions, rent, household expenses, medical equipment, telephone bills, food, house cleaning, transportation and in some cases, temporary housing near a hospital.

Rolling out the new service Oct. 3, Bloom said patrons must call Central Library at (313) 343-2074, ext. 222 for an appointment. It takes the librarians about a week to re-

search available avenues. Librarians will not fill out the forms for financial aid.

"We have a pretty good database," Bloom said. "There is quite a bit out there, especially in the cancer area."

"There is a lot of help for women with cancer but children and men with cancer fare less well, but they are taken care of."

There is also assistance available for those with diabetes and children with special needs.

However, financial assistance tends to favor cancer patients, Bloom said.

The library's database of nationwide services for children

with special needs includes, among others, early childhood intervention, parental support, speech therapy, communication and social awareness.

It is the intention of the library staff to offer research material and not medical advice or treatment options.

Additionally, the library offers a medical section in which patrons can learn more about an illness diagnosed by doctors.

Quoting statistics from the American Cancer Society, Bloom said, with 1.4 million new cases of cancer being diagnosed this year, she sees a need for this new library service.

As part of National Suicide Prevention Month (September) and National Depression Awareness Month (October)

## The Family Center

presents in partnership with members of the  
**Beaumont Health Coalition**  
a 4-week awareness series for youth, parents and professionals.

Attend one or all sessions, no fee!

**In the Voice of Our Teens: A Dialogue Supporting Resiliency**  
WED. SEPTEMBER 28, 7pm, Grosse Pointe Congregational Church (240 Chalfonte Ave., Grosse Pointe Farms)  
Part I: A panel of local high school students and parents discuss the challenges facing today's teenagers. In our disconnected culture, this discussion provides a unique opportunity to listen to our community youth about what really matters to them, the obstacles they face in their daily life and what support they need from parents, schools and the community.  
RSVP: Anne Nearhood, CARE of Southeastern Michigan 313.332.0972, register on-line www.careofsem.com

**Are Your Teens at Risk? Responding to Youth and Parents**  
WED. OCTOBER 5, 7pm, Grosse Pointe Congregational Church (240 Chalfonte Ave., Grosse Pointe Farms)  
Part II: A panel of experts will facilitate a discussion in response to the concerns voiced by our community teens and parents. By pro-actively attending to the issues raised, we empower adolescents to access their strengths and competencies, effectively access their support system, enhance coping and promote resilient adolescents and families.  
RSVP: The Family Center 313.432.3832 or register on-line www.familycenterweb.org

**Volunteerism: Building a Stronger Sense of Self**  
WED. OCTOBER 12, 7pm, Beaumont Hospital, Connelly Auditorium (468 Cadieux Rd., Grosse Pointe)  
A panel of non-profits and teen charitable clubs along with guest speaker Bill Wenzell, Volunteer Director for Focus Hope, present the positive aspects of helping others. Giving back is a powerful way to engage others, establish meaningful connections within our community, develop gratitude, instill passion, and enhance self-confidence. Learn more about opportunities to nurture these core strengths in our community's adolescents.  
RSVP: Betsy Schulte, Beaumont Hospital 313.473.1737

**Community Education in Healthcare: A Growing Need**  
WED. OCTOBER 19, 7pm, WCCCD-University Square (19305 Vernier Rd., Harper Woods)  
Wayne County Community College District presents educational opportunities in health and wellness and explores options to address critical health issues of the 21st century. Learn more about the growing need and how to be part of this dynamic team.  
RSVP: Kim Townsend, WCCCD 313.579.6917 or ktownse1@wcccd.edu

Presented by in partnership with

members of the Beaumont Health Coalition,  
CARE of Southeastern Michigan, SERVE of GPPSS and WCCCD.  
Special appreciation to Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, Grosse Pointe North Parents Club,  
and the Mother's Club of Grosse Pointe South.

[www.familycenterweb.org](http://www.familycenterweb.org)

## Movie night Sept. 24

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

The inaugural all-Pointes outdoor movie night is rescheduled for this weekend.

"Despicable Me," a cartoon comedy, is shown at dusk (about 8 p.m.) Saturday, Sept. 24, on the Grosse Pointe South High School football field. Fisher Road gates open at 7 p.m.

Admission is free. Entry is by showing a pass to one of the

Grosse Pointe municipal parks. Pass-holders can bring one guest.

Movie night is a joint production of the five Pointe recreation departments and Grosse Pointe Public School System.

"We're hoping for a nice evening for families to sit on the football field and watch a nice movie," said Dick Huhn, Farms recreation director.

Moviegoers must conform to school system policies.

"There's no alcohol or tobacco products consumed on school property," Huhn said.

Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs with bar supports.

"We don't encourage lawn chairs with pointed legs," Huhn said. "They could dam-

age the field."

School boosters are scheduled to operate a concession stand, he added.

"Despicable Me" is 93 minutes long. The plot surrounds a criminal who tries to tangle three orphans in a scheme, but learns better through their love. Voices include Steve Carell, Jason Segel, Russell Brand, Julie Andrews and Will Arnett.

An August showing was canceled due to stormy weather.

This is the second joint program this year by the cities and schools.

"The first was the daddy-daughter dance in March, also at South," Huhn said. "This is something we're trying to see if we can expand upon."

**Grosse Pointe News**  
USPS 230-400  
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY  
POINTE NEWS GROUP LLC  
96 KERCHEVAL AVE. GROSSE POINTE FARMS, MI 48236  
PHONE: (313) 882-6900

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID at Detroit, Michigan and additional mailing offices.  
SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$37.50 per year via mail in the Metro area, \$65 outside.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Grosse Pointe News, 96 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

The deadline for news copy is 3 p.m. Monday to ensure insertion.

ADVERTISING COPY FOR SECTION B must be in the advertising department by 10:30 a.m. Monday.

ADVERTISING COPY FOR SECTIONS A AND C must be in the advertising department by 3 p.m. Monday.

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City of **Grosse Pointe Farms**, Michigan

### NOTICE OF CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

The City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe Farms currently has one vacant seat as a consequence of the death of Councilman Charles "Terry" S. Davis, III. Pursuant to applicable law, such vacancy may be filled by appointment approved by the City Council, and the person appointed would serve the balance of Mr. Davis' term (through the regular City Election in November 2013).

Qualified residents of Grosse Pointe Farms interested in being considered for such appointment should, not later than September 22, 2011, submit in writing an expression of interest and a current resume. Such materials must be submitted to the City Clerk, 90 Kerby Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236.

All timely expressions of interest from qualified residents will be considered, but the City Council retains the discretion, under applicable law, to appoint any qualified person to fill the vacancy, whether or not such person has filed a timely expression of interest.

GPN: 09/22/2011

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# PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

## City of Grosse Pointe

### Phone missing

At 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11, a City woman reported her \$600 Verizon Blackberry cellular telephone missing from an unattended shopping cart at Kroger in the Village.

### Car stolen

A red 2003 Jeep Wrangler with a soft, black top was stolen between 1 and 3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16, while parked in the driveway of a house in the 900 block of Washington.

"The vehicle was un-locked," said a patrolman.

### Smashed hand

During the late morning of Wednesday, Sept. 14, a City public safety officer was injured while providing Grosse Pointe Park mutual aid at a fire in the 900 block of Nottingham.

The injury resulted from the officer closing the door of a fire engine on his right hand. Medics took him to a hospital for treatment of suspected fractures.

### Nine suspensions

A 26-year-old man from Warren was arrested at 9:15 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, for violating nine driving suspensions.

An officer monitoring traffic in the area of Cadieux and Mack pulled over the man for operating a vehicle with a defective brake light.

### Credit fraud

A bank representative notified a City woman last week that someone used her credit card to buy \$275 worth of computer equipment online.

The woman said the transaction, plus another for \$40, were fraudulent. She canceled her credit card.

—Brad Lindberg

If you have any information about these or other crimes, call the City of Grosse Pointe public safety department at (313) 886-3200.

## Grosse Pointe Farms

### Known suspect

Police think the person responsible for five larcenies from parked cars during the night of Saturday, Sept. 17, lives nearby.

Break-ins were reported in the 200 blocks of Kenwood Court, Lewiston, Moran and McMillan.

Stolen items included loose change, a black Fuji camera, Samsung cellular telephone, TomTom global positioning system and a silver-colored iPod.

### Jewelry missing

Up to \$70,000 in jewelry was reported stolen this week from the house of a resident living in the northern sector of the city.

Items include three heavy gold charm bracelets. They're missing from a jewelry box hidden under a bed.

### Fisticuffs

Shortly before 11 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, a 44-year-old Macomb Township man is

alleged to have hit a 59-year-old Macomb Township man three times in the chest outside the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

### 2.5 times over limit

Despite registering a .21 percent blood alcohol level, which is more than 2.5 times the legal limit in Michigan to operate a motor vehicle, a 31-year-old Harrison Township woman said she drank only one beer before being pulled over at 10:07 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 13.

Police said she was driving a black 2006 Chevrolet HHR erratically and above the 35 mph speed limit on northbound Lakeshore near North Edgewood.

### Stray dog

Shortly before 5:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 12, a patrolman took to headquarters a "yellow mutt" found running stray in the first block of Lochmoor.

Another officer recognized the dog from similar incidents. The owner was notified.

—Brad Lindberg

If you have any information about these or other crimes, call the Grosse Pointe Shores public safety department at (313) 881-5500.

### Cuts tree down

A resident of the 300 block of Hillcrest reported during the morning of Friday, Sept. 16, his mulberry bush was cut down by a neighbor without permission.

The neighbor defended himself against accusations of vandalism. He said branches were hanging over his side of a fence.

### 20 suspensions

A 29-year-old Detroit man was arrested at 8:37 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 13, for violating 20 driving suspensions.

An officer discovered the alleged offenses while investigating the man for jumping a green light from East Warren to eastbound Mack.

### Bike theft

A red Trek 970 men's bicycle was stolen between July 1 and Aug. 28, from a garage on Harbor Hill.

### Two with drugs

A 32-year-old man and a 20-year-old woman, both of Tawas, were arrested on drug charges resulting from a traffic stop at 1:13 a.m. Monday, Sept. 12, on eastbound Lakeshore near Kerby.

The man possessed a marijuana cigarette and was wanted on two warrants, including one from Mecosta County for child neglect, police said.

The woman had two marijuana cigarettes, three syringes and 10 methadone pills, police said. She also was charged with possession of a baggie of heroine found in the glove box of the man's Chrysler four-door.

### Two knives

Police said they found two knives in the jacket of a 32-year-old Detroit man being investigated at 10:01 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16, for "harassing" people at Mack and Moross.

The man was arrested for possession of concealed weapons.

His criminal record included a \$3,000 warrant from Warren for violating parole. Farms police charged him and turned him over to Warren authorities.

—Brad Lindberg

If you have any information about these or other crimes, call the Grosse Pointe Farms public safety department at (313) 885-2100.

## Grosse Pointe Woods

### Purses taken

Several soccer fans parked in the Grosse Pointe North High School teachers' lot at 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, found their car windows smashed and purses missing.

Also missing were jewelry, iPods and credit cards. Police are reviewing surveillance cameras for leads.

### Art departs

Three oil paintings valued at \$1,800 each were reported missing from the art wing at University Liggett School Wednesday, Sept. 14.

According to police, a teacher reported the paintings by local artist Joanna Tlok missing when he came into school that morning. The custodial staff reported nothing out of the ordinary as they worked in the building the night before.

Police plan to review tapes from the school's surveillance cameras.

—Kathy Ryan

If you have information on these or any other crimes, call Grosse Pointe Woods police at (313) 343-2400.

## Grosse Pointe Park

### Fire run

A fire started by a candle falling on a bottle of nail polish remover destroyed a bedroom in an upper flat on Nottingham the afternoon of Saturday, Sept. 17.

### Copper theft

Copper piping was removed from a vacant house in the 800 block of Westchester; exactly when is unknown.

### Larceny

A 49-year-old Detroit man is in custody, charged with two counts of larceny from an automobile after an alert citizen flagged down police at 12:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 14, and pointed out the suspect breaking into a van.

Police said the man was in possession of items taken from another vehicle.

### Catalytic converter theft

A catalytic converter was removed from a 2000 Pontiac Montana sometime during the afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 18. The vehicle was parked at Mack and Beaconsfield.

—Kathy Ryan

If you have information on these or any other crimes, call Grosse Pointe Park police at (313) 822-7400.



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# Shores shook off rainstorm

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE SHORES** — As one of the first cities on the eastside to modernize its sewer system, Grosse Pointe Shores goes with the flow.

This seeming contradiction actually reveals complementary components of the municipal sewer system.

The network of drains, stand pipes, catch basins, footing drains, household feeds, junctions, mains, pump stations, outflows and an interceptor did its planners proud during heavy rains the night of Friday, Sept. 9-10.

"The Shores received 2 1/4 inches of rain in less than 12 hours," said Brett Smith, director of public works. "We had no flooded basements in this storm."

In 1997, the Shores separated its sewers, putting it in league with the City of Grosse Pointe, which was designed with partial sewer separation.

Until separation, Shores sewage and storm water formerly drained into one network of pipes. Now, sewage and storm water flows through separate systems.

"This eliminates rain water that goes in catch basins to get into our sanitary system," Smith said.

Storm water runoff is released into Lake St. Clair.

Sewage is collected and transported in separate pipes. Every street and subdivision ties into a large main pipe underneath Lakeshore.

"We have one big, old pipe that runs from the north end of our city to the south end," Smith said. "Our big pipe is called an interceptor."

The interceptor has two lift stations. One in the north end is at Crestwood. One in the south end, called the Cook Road Pump Station, isn't located on Cook Road, but between Woodland Shores and South Deeplands.

Each station has electric pumps fed by two primary power sources.

"If one system starts acting up, it automatically transfers to the other," Smith said.

Pumps at lift stations raise water from one section of pipe into a subsequent, higher section that runs down grade. Water lifted from one section to another flows by gravity down to the next station.

"Cities that are miles and miles long may have a number of lift stations," Smith said. "Grosse Pointe Shores only has two. After our Cook Road station, our sewage is pumped down Chalfonte to Detroit for treatment."

Shores pumps were installed in 1954.

"We have no reason to believe they may be on their last legs," Smith said.

Sewers were separated to save money. Before separation, Shores residents paid the Detroit Water and Sewerage

Department to purify sewage mixed with rain water. Now, with rain runoff separated from the sanitary system, bills are for sewage only.

"It took a big load off of our system," Smith said of eliminating rain water.

Storms Sept. 9-10 came after four days of rain.

"Our ground was saturated," Smith said. "Our system was already being taxed by all the footing drains coming into our system. And, then it rained again. In this case, everything held up well (and) operated great."

## MESS: About 300 houses flood

Continued from page 1A

wooden toy train. Also wedged in the pile was her sons' wooden baby bed.

"I wanted that," Jacobi said. "For grandchildren."

It had to go. Four days earlier, about half past 12 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, backed-up sewer water soiled everything it soaked.

"It was stinky sewer water," Jacobi said. "It was over the whole basement."

Jacobi knew how to deal with dirty water. A greater challenge was finding someone to remove damaged asbestos basement tile.

"In places, it's broken up," she said. "Once it's broken, it's airborne."

Three companies declined the job, she said.

"They won't touch it," she said.

"Another company is coming out tomorrow."

She hopes \$2,500 from her insurance company is enough to cover removal costs.

"They have to take up that tile," Jacobi said.

Charlotte Adamaszek, a Lexington homeowner, summarized her anger, its source and her distrust of preliminary findings by municipal representatives that problems with a DTE Energy power line contributed to sewage backups into the basements of about 300 Grosse Pointe Farms houses.

"It's a bunch of crap," said Adamaszek. Her basement flooded this month, just as during heavy rains May 25, she said.

Both floods came during heavy rains.

"Thirty years of nothing," Adamaszek said. "All of a sudden, in less than four months, a monsoon? No way. I smell a rat. I smell a lot of rats."

## KERBY: Volume was high

Continued from page 3A

more this year than in a generation, he added.

"This has been an amazing year in terms of pump usage on 7 and 8," said Shane Reeside, Farms city manager. "We have logged hours on those pumps. You'd have to go back decades in time collectively to see that kind of volume going through that station."

A holding tank, or wet well, at the pump station collects heavy flows before being pumped down a pipe under Chalfonte to Detroit for treatment. The Chalfonte pipe is large enough to drive a truck through.

"The city has 10, 20, 30-year employees who, in their careers here, have never seen a situation where all eight pumps were running simultaneously and the well levels at the pump station were still rising," Reeside said.



Learn before you leap.



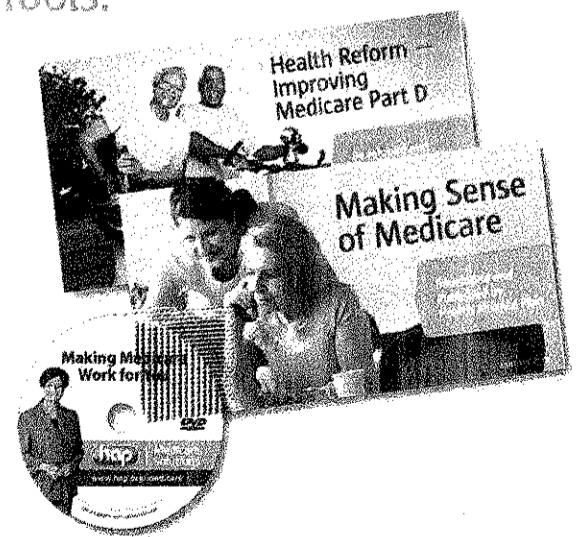
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## Business brief

Grosse Pointe Farms resident Brian Black is the new senior lender, head of commercial banking for Fifth Third Bank.

Black leads all commercial banking and credit functions and is a member of the bank's executive team in eastern Michigan.

Black has more than 22 years experience in the financial services industry. He was president of retail banking at Republic Bank in Lansing and spent 12 years at Michigan National Bank.

Black earned a Bachelor of Administration degree in financial administration from Michigan State University, a Master of Business Administration from Dartmouth College and attended the Stonier Graduate School of Banking.





I SAY By Kathy Ryan

# Getting back to school attendance



Is there a mother worth her apron strings who didn't have Tuesday, Sept. 6, not only circled on her calendar with a permanent marker, but also etched in her maternal memory file?

Come on, mom, no one will think any less of you if you also admit Friday, June 17, you knew exactly how many days there were until Sept. 6. (It was 80, but who's counting?)

On the maternal calendar of life, these significant dates

mark the beginning of summer vacation and the start of a new school year. And while most mothers greet the beginning of summer with a huge sigh of relief knowing it brings the end of strict schedules, homework and projects, those same mothers greet the start of school with a huge sigh of relief knowing that it brings the end to disorganized days, a car-full of wet towels and stale French fries and children who sleep til noon.

And no matter how a child feels about school, whether they love it, hate it or merely look upon it as a place to spend time with friends between weekends when they can spend time with friends, there's always an air of anticipation that first day.

I know middle schoolers and their high school-age siblings roll their eyes at the thought, but there has always been a sense of holiday on that first day of school. Of course, it's often downhill from there.

So between a mother's relief she will know where her children are between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. and the child's relief from not having to hear, "If you're that bored, why don't you clean your room" one more time, the first day of school is a happy day indeed.

Which is why I was surprised to read Detroit Public Schools administrators have problems getting parents to send their children to school on the first day. And the second, the third and the fourth.

It's not actually until the 10th day, according to the article, that attendance reaches 75 percent as opposed to 50 percent for the first 10 days or so.

So it's not until mid-September that mothers realize school has started and they should send their children?

These mothers didn't notice Labor Day had long since passed, the traditional start of school?

Or wonder about the bombardment of back to school ads and sales?

It's difficult to address this kind of mentality.

What kind of a mother doesn't send her children to school? I've cast a bit of a humorous tone as to why mothers look forward to that first

day of school, but most mothers also see the start of a new school year as a great adventure for her child, one that will educate, enrich and entertain, instill a sense of pride and help equip the child with the skills necessary to travel along that long bumpy road called life.

From September to June, school is the focal point of a family's life. Calendars are filled with back to school nights, parent teacher conferences, sports and concerts. Milestones are marked as grades are completed.

And it starts on that first day of school.

Last Tuesday, sidewalks leading to Grosse Pointe's elementary schools were packed with mothers, fathers,

younger siblings, family dogs and even some grandparents sharing the excitement of a new school year. Pictures were taken, old teachers were greeted with hugs and smiles, new teachers with a more restrained introduction.

Middle and high school students, loathe to be seen with parents, greeted old friends, shared new schedules and made a mental note of what not to wear.

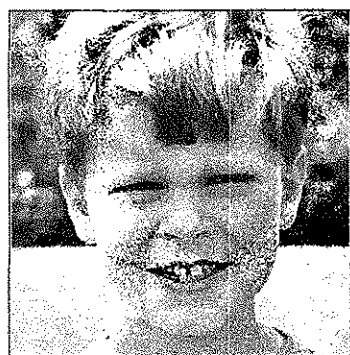
I'm going out on a limb here, but after 27 consecutive years with a child attending a Grosse Pointe school, I'm guessing attendance was 99.9 percent, as it was on the second, third and fourth day as well.

Are you listening, Gov. Snyder?

STREETWISE By Renee Landuyt

## If you could only watch one TV show what would it be?

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



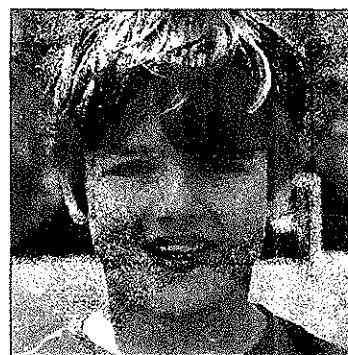
"Phineas and Ferb" because I like creating and they build stuff like rocket ships and ice cream.  
JOEY SABELLA  
Grosse Pointe Woods



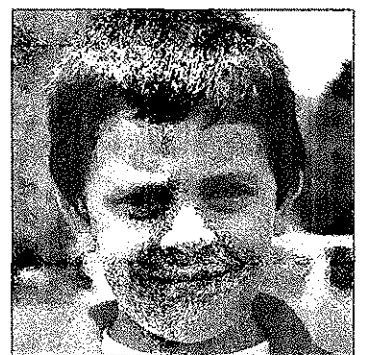
"iCarly" because they do funny things and they are really funny.  
EMMA SLOTKA  
Grosse Pointe Woods



"Victorious" because I like singing and they sing a lot.  
NATALIA DRAGOVIC  
Grosse Pointe Woods



"The sports channel because I love all kinds of sports."  
MITCHELL MILLS  
Grosse Pointe Woods



"Sponge Bob" because they go on really great adventures.  
JOSE VILLEGAS  
Grosse Pointe Woods

GUEST OPINION By Tom Gantert

## Top spending school districts

Gov. Rick Snyder supports a proposal requiring all school districts to participate in a schools of choice program, but many members of the Michigan Senate GOP caucus oppose it, according to the Michigan Information & Research Service.

Are some of the Republican concerns based upon incorrect perceptions?

Sen. Mike Kowall, R-White Lake, told MIRS he was con-

cerned about a disparity between "wealthy districts" bordering districts that aren't wealthy.

"I'm concerned about having districts that are very wealthy back up districts that aren't," Kowall told MIRS. "If parents start pulling out all kids out of, say, the Pontiac district and putting them in the Bloomfield Hills district, what happens to the Pontiac school district that's suffering anyway?"

The Pontiac School District

*Loss of GOP support for Gov. Rick Snyder's school choice proposal may be based on misperceptions about where high spending schools are located.*

spent \$15,344 per student in 2010. That's considerably more than most of the nearby Oakland County school districts Kowall represents. For example: Grosse Pointe Public Schools System spent 13,117.79 in 2010; West

Bloomfield spent \$12,265; Huron Valley spent \$9,931; Walled Lake spent \$11,811; South Lyon spent \$9,074 and Novi spent \$12,253.

Bloomfield Hills — which is not in Kowall's Senate district — spent \$18,261 per student in

2010.

Comparisons and data for all districts are available at the Mackinac Center's education database, [mackinac.org/depts/epi/fiscal.aspx](http://mackinac.org/depts/epi/fiscal.aspx).

"Just because a particular area is economically depressed doesn't necessarily mean its local school district is also economically depressed," said Michael Van Beek, education policy director for the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, in an e-mail. "This mis-

taken idea is based in part on how schools were funded historically, where revenues were largely based on local property taxes on homeowners. This is no longer the case. In fact, based on qualifications for some state and federal revenues, the poorer the area in which a district operates the more money it actually gets."

Tom Gantert is senior capitol correspondent for Michigan Capitol Confidential, a daily news site of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy.

GUEST OPINION By Joseph G. Lehman

## Public schools must control

State Rep. Timothy Bledsoe, D-Grosse Pointe, said he's worried a statewide, mandatory schools of choice program would be the "death blow" to local control of schools.

Every time you hear "public schools have to accept all children," remember these words from Bledsoe: "If your school

board cannot control its boundaries and who is allowed to attend your schools, there just isn't much left that Lansing can't determine," Bledsoe told The Associated Press.

That's right. Parents' freedom to choose a better school for their children is a "death blow" to public schools that can't "control ... who is allowed to attend...."

I wonder if Bledsoe thinks a child suffers a "death blow," or perhaps something less severe, when he or she is assigned to a failing school, and the people who run the better public school down the street stand in the schoolhouse door to keep that child out.

Joseph G. Lehman is president of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy.

## LETTERS: Sewer backup

Continued from page 8A

### Basements flooded in Farms

To the Editor:

After attending the meeting last week regarding the May, July and September sewer backup incidents, I realized the following:

Since the city administration has no clue whatsoever as to what is causing these backups to occur, they are unable to predict or prevent these backups from occurring again. We could experience another backup at any time,

without warning.

Every house in Grosse Pointe Farms is at risk, not just those that flooded previously.

If the problem is "something at the pumping station," as the current explanation stands, this means every Grosse Pointe Farms property is at risk of having a sewer backup.

All of the pumps responsible for all of the sewage in Grosse Pointe Farms are housed in the same facility on Kerby and Chalfonte.

And all are dependent on power from DTE, that may or may not have something to do with the previous pump failures.

To those homeowners who have not yet experienced a sewer backup into their basement, I advise the following measures:

First, call now and add sew-

er backup coverage to your homeowner's insurance policy. Discuss with your agent in detail what the policy will and will not cover.

Also, keep as much as you can high off the floor in your basement and as far from the drains as possible — once sewage touches it, it will most likely be ruined.

If you have a sewer backup, you are obligated to declare it when you sell your house.

Finally, for the good of all in our fine community, let's join forces and work together to see an immediate resolution to this outrageous situation.

Add your voice to the fight to keep the solution of this disgraceful problem first and foremost on the "To-Do" list of our Grosse Pointe Farms city administrators and elected officials.

TERI FIELDS  
Grosse Pointe Farms

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Oysterfest happens from 5 to 9 p.m. under the tent at 15215 Kercheval between Lakepointe and Beaconsfield in Grosse Pointe Park.

Tickets will be on sale at the entrance for \$25 per person - \$12.<sup>50</sup> for children under twelve.

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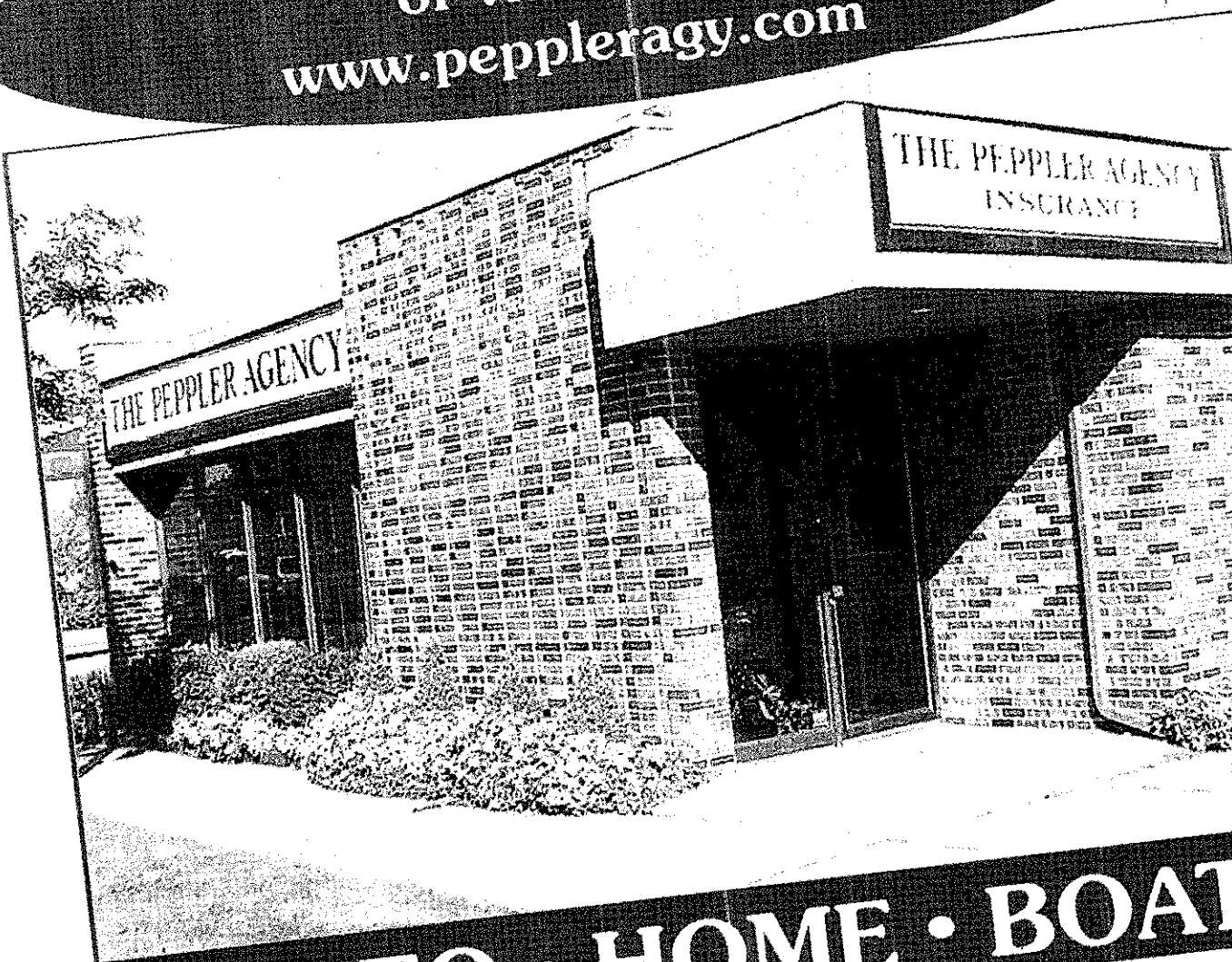
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*As you know, Grosse Pointe Farms has been greatly affected by recent weather and power failures. Our finished basement suffered major damage.*

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# Lake St. Clair has lots of life left

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

Water flowing out of Lake Huron is so blue a bridge in Port Huron is named for it.

As current churns down the St. Clair River, it turns earthy with silt, much of which drops out in the broad expanse of Lake St. Clair.

Over time — a lot of time — the lake will clog with silt and cease to be.

"Lake St. Clair is a sedimentation basin," said Eugene Stakhiv, director of the Great Lakes study at the United States Army Corps of Engineers Institute for Water Resources.

Averaging only 10 feet deep and technically just a link in the connection between bonafide Great Lakes Huron and Erie, heart-shaped Lake St. Clair is slowly filling with silt the way cholesterol cakes the arteries of junk food junkies.

Stakhiv's prognosis gives the lake 10,000 years.

"All the sand running from Lake Huron settles here," he said. "I expect the lake will fill up. There will be no Lake St. Clair."

A symptom is the birdfoot delta at the head of the lake. It's marshes and wetlands are part of the largest delta in the Great Lakes.

"The delta is going to encroach further and further into the lake," Stakhiv said.

Stakhiv is co-chair of the United States and Canadian International Joint

Commission's International Upper Great Lakes Study of lake water levels.

He's familiar with sediment buildup on parts of the lake's 130-mile shoreline, including a 1/2-mile stretch above Lakeshore in Grosse Pointe Shores.

"It is filling in mainly because of construction of the marina, where they cut off the flow," said Stakhiv, alluding to the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club and municipal park.

Flow-throughs for inshore currents were closed or reduced during club and park expansion.

Although the lake won't live forever, vestiges are expected to survive as a navigable channel.

"Lake St. Clair eventually will be a wetland with a river running through it," said James Selegean, of the Corps Detroit District Great Lakes hydraulics and hydrology office.

"Water will continue to run through, just like it's running through the upper St. Clair River," Stakhiv said.

Selegean is giving the lake a second opinion. He figures it has more than 10,000 years left.

"It's taken about 10,000 years to build the delta out there now," he said. "It was a little after the glaciers receded that the Port Huron outlet opened."

The river drops five feet on a 39-mile run from Port Huron to

Lake St. Clair.

Mean flow is 188,000 cubic feet per second. Average speeds range from 3.3 mph in rapids under the Blue Water Bridge to 1.6 mph in the upper delta off Algonac.

Velocity is enough to carry coarse sand, according to "The St. Clair River Delta, a Unique Lake Delta," a 1982 study by Eastern Michigan University geography professors, C. Nicholas Raphael and Eugene Jaworski.

The river's estimated sediment load is 20,000 cubic yards per year, much of which passes through the delta into the lake, according to the study.

Currents slow and dissipate entering Lake St. Clair, which holds about one cubic mile of

water. The retention time is nine days, meaning a drop of water takes that long to flow through the lake into the Detroit River. Maximum natural depth is 19 feet. The Corps maintains an 18.5-mile shipping channel 27 feet deep.

Dredged material is a "fine, mucky mess," Selegean said. "Just about as much material is being deposited on the flood plain."

Scudder Mackey, a colleague of Stakhiv's and project manager of the study board's ecosystems technical working group, agreed that the lake is starting to fill in. Yet, he said its fate may be brighter if the shipping channel continues being maintained.

"Under natural conditions,

Eugene is probably right," Mackey said. "But, since we have modified the system, those forces are no longer really functional."

Dredging began more than 100 years ago.

"They've, in essence, deepened and stabilized the channel," Mackey said. "Sediment that would normally come down and expand the delta and start filling the lake is now being removed and disposed of at a different location."

Dredged spoil is no longer dumped on the Canadian side of the shipping channel a few degrees upstream from the Farms municipal park. The area is so shallow, navigation buoys and charts warn pleasure boaters to steer clear.

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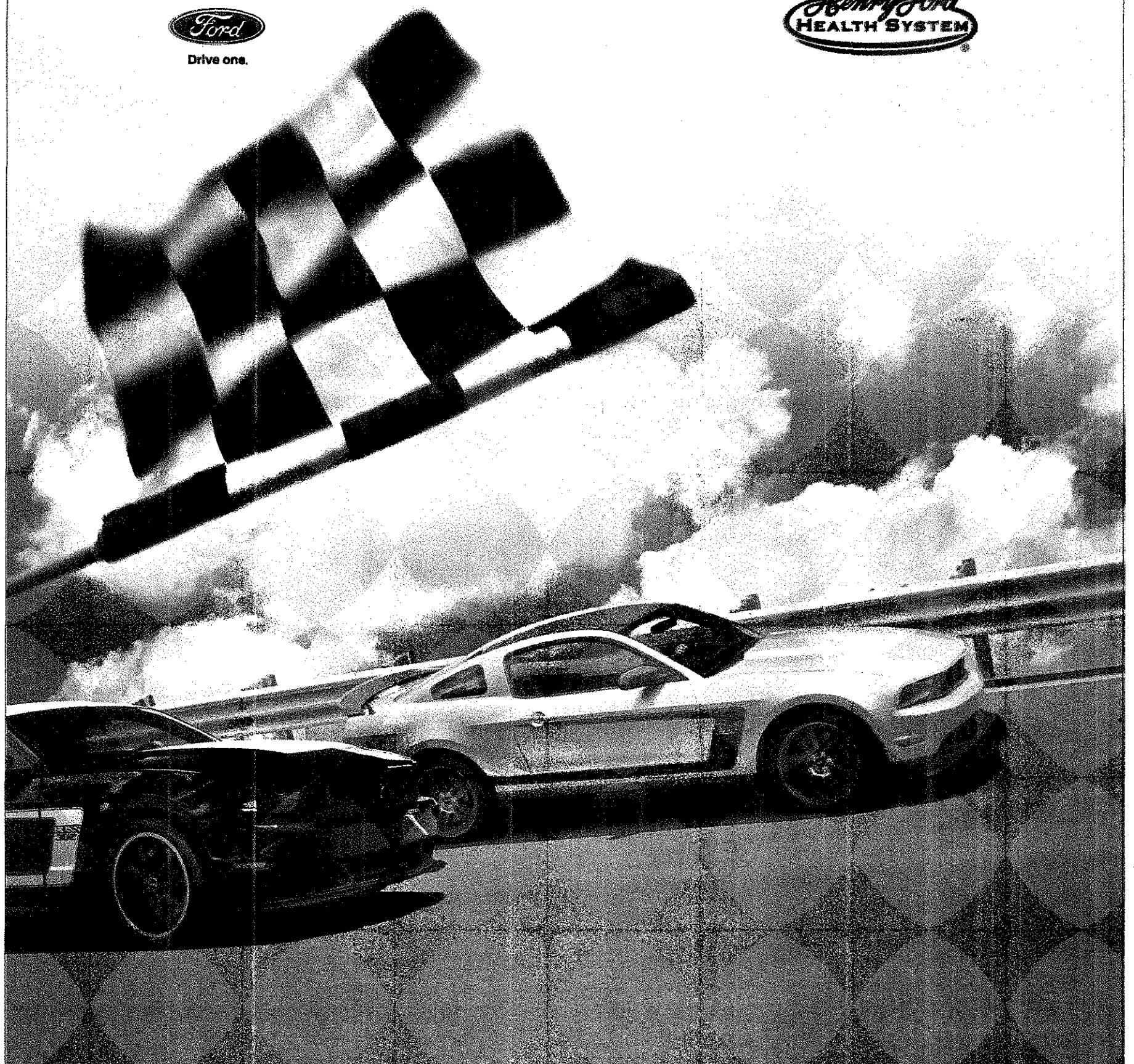
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## WEEK AHEAD:

SATURDAY, SEPT. 24

Continued from page 1A

from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
◆ Eastside Farmers Market is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parking lot of Alter Square, 14820 Mack, Detroit.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 25

◆ Grosse Pointe Theatre's production of "The Music Man" begins at 2 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Tickets cost \$24 and can be reserved by calling (313) 881-4004.

◆ European and American classic cars are on display from noon to 3 p.m. at Grosse Pointe Pier Park during the fourth annual Concours d'Elegance.

◆ Free trolley rides, guided by Grosse Pointe Historical Society members, are offered from 1 to 2 p.m. and 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Pick-up is in Grosse Pointe South High School's J-Lot on Fisher Road.

◆ Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors holds open houses from 2 to 5 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPT. 26

◆ The Grosse Pointe Library Board meets at 7 p.m. at the Ewald branch, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

The agenda is available at [gp.lib.mi.us](http://gp.lib.mi.us) and at each library.

◆ Grosse Pointe Park city council meets at 7 p.m. in council chambers, 15115 E. Jefferson.

◆ Grosse Pointe Board of Education meets at 8 p.m. in Grosse Pointe South High School's Wicking Library.

◆ The 21st annual Oysterfest is from 5 to 7 p.m. at 15215 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park. Admission is \$25 and children's tickets cost \$12.50. For tickets, call (313) 822-2814. Proceeds benefit St. Ambrose Catholic Church.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 28

◆ The first of a four-part series on teen depression, "In the Voices of Our Teens: A Dialogue Supporting Resiliency," begins at 7 p.m. at Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, 240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms. Admission is free. To register, call (313) 332-0372.

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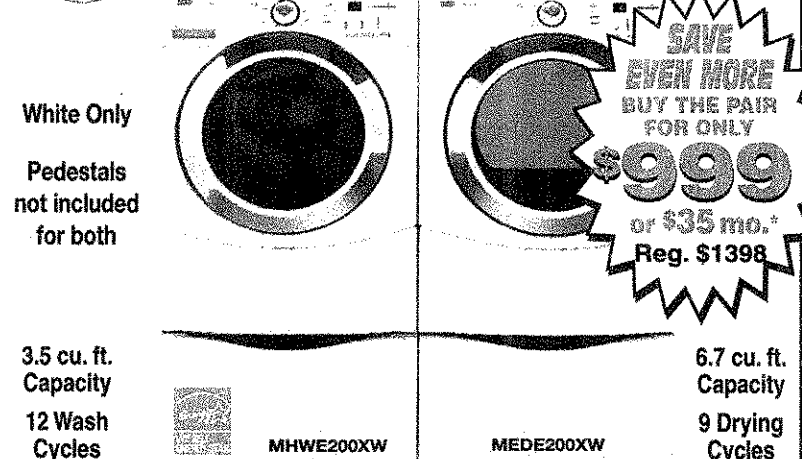
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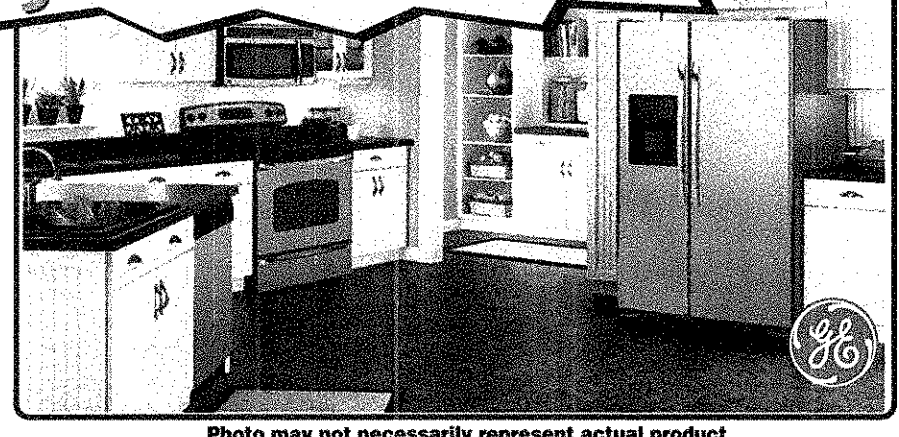


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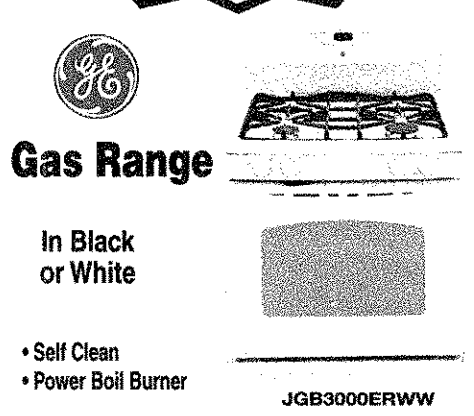
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1-24 II SCHOOLS | 2-6A II FALL HOME IMPROVEMENT | 7A II OBITUARIES

## Teacher, student meet with education officials

By A.J. Hakim  
Staff Writer

It started with a blog and a Twitter account.

And before long, Grosse Pointe South American Literature teacher and The Tower Pulse adviser Nicholas Provenzano and South senior and The Tower co-editor-in-chief, Ted Berkowski, were traveling on United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan's tour bus.

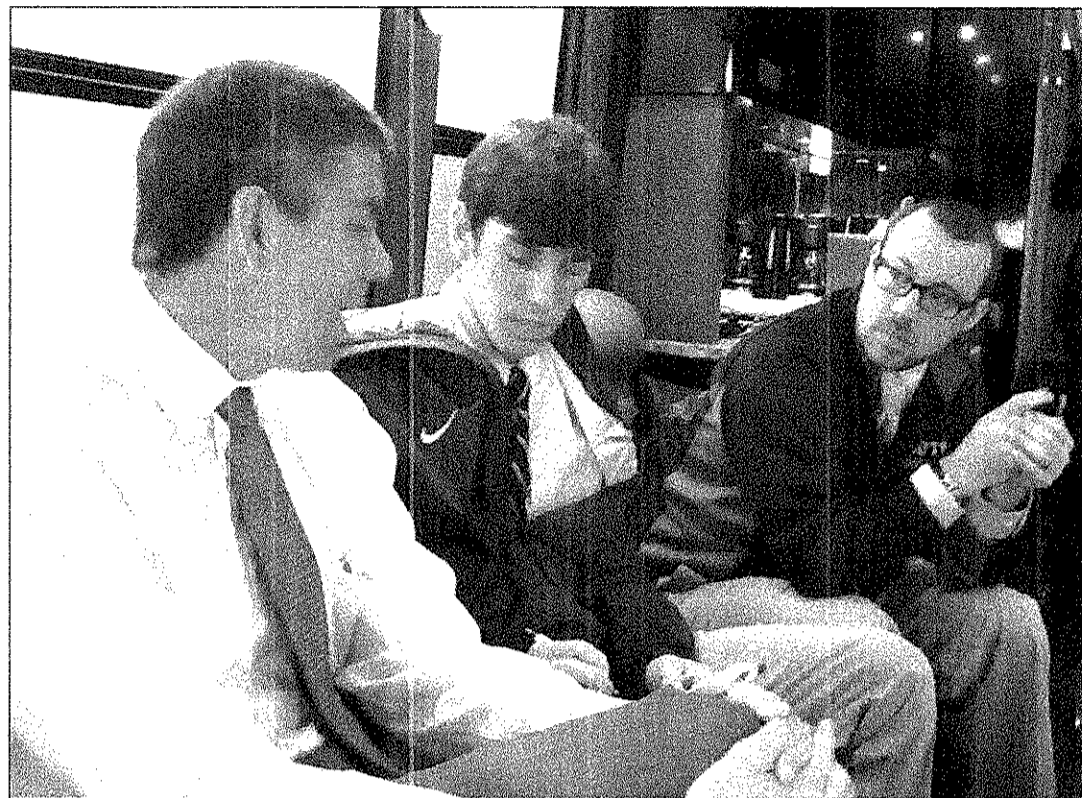
"It's kind of amazing how it all happened so quickly, all basically through Mr. Provenzano's Twitter account," Berkowski said. "And all of the sudden, I was interviewing the secretary of education."

Provenzano, whose blog and Twitter account started as a social media experiment corresponding with his educational technology master's degree program, amassed a presence in nearly two years of blogging and tweeting.

That presence connects him to educators and education software developers around the world.

It also networked him to department of education press secretary, Justin Hamilton, and manager of the education department's New Media Outreach section, Cameron Brenchley, who invited Provenzano on the bus and was integral in allowing Berkowski aboard.

"As a teacher, one of the



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NICHOLAS PROVENZANO  
Grosse Pointe South senior and The Tower co-editor-in-chief Ted Berkowski, middle, and South teacher Nicholas Provenzano, right, met and conducted a 15-minute interview with United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

things I'd really like to emphasize is real world learning experiences," Provenzano said. "I thought, if I could get a student from The Tower to interview the secretary (of education), I'm like, 'how great of an experience is that for a student?'"

"It was about me getting a student to have this real life experience, to interview the secretary of education, to meet the governor of Michigan, the may-

or of Detroit. These types of things he'll remember."

The duo first met Gov. Rick Snyder, Detroit Mayor Dave Bing and Michigan Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan at the U.S. Department of Education's Education and the Economy event at Charles H. Wright Academy of Arts and Science in Detroit, before boarding the bus to Ann Arbor

with Duncan.

"I was a little bit nervous because there were all these camera people running around and I just had a little Flip video camera," Berkowski said of the experience. "So, it was a little intimidating at first and a little hectic. After a while, I kind of forgot about everything around me and just kind of focused on what he was saying."

In his 15-minute interview

with Duncan on the bus, Berkowski asked questions about technology, the achievement gap and the role of teachers in improving schools.

He intends to write a series of editorials for The Tower based on Duncan's responses which, to Berkowski's surprise, were relatively detailed. He said Duncan gave specific examples and ideas for implementing his plans, rather than generic responses.

"It gives me more confidence in doing interviews and reminds me of the importance of asking the important questions and making sure they explain everything they say, that they

go into detail," Berkowski said.

Added Provenzano: "This was a really positive story, I think, for the district, for the teachers, for South. It allows us to move on this year; it allows us to focus on what's important — the students and learning. I was really happy when I was able to get a student this opportunity."

He also spoke of the district's willingness, given a week's notice, to forgo administrative practice and allow Berkowski to attend.

"That's what's so great, especially about this district, is the trust in the teachers, and the impact on the students."



Along with Arne Duncan, Ted Berkowski, left, met Gov. Rick Snyder, Detroit Mayor Dave Bing and Michigan Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan.

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# Harvesting community connections

By A.J. Hakim  
Staff Writer

Garrett Bollenbacher looked up from a bed of harvested basil, his eyes wide with excitement.

"Hey, Ms. Stevens, this is just like in the book," he said before continuing his work digging out weeds and turning up soil.

Bollenbacher, along with the rest of University Liggett School's sixth-grade class, spent last Friday at the Georgia Street Community Garden as part of a grade-wide project relating their own urban gardening experiences to those of Paul Fleischman's character's in his novel, "Seedfolks."

"It's our own version, 'Liggettfolks,'" sixth-grade teacher Stevie Stevens said of the project in which the students draw a picture and write a story relating to their experience.

"As teachers, we wanted to have one book they read, and they come in and we're able to do all these projects and some writing and art."



PHOTO BY A.J. HAKIM

University Liggett School sixth-graders worked with Georgia Street Community Collective founder Mark Covington, helping him harvest vegetables and, pictured, prepare soil beds for the fall season.

"Seedfolks" is a collection from a different character's perspective — focusing on the characters' connections to and positive emotional trans-

formations from helping cultivate a community garden in an urban neighborhood in Cleveland, Oh.

"We've decided to mimic what 'Seedfolks' did, with all these characters coming together," Stevens said. "As sixth graders, some of them are new to the middle school, so it's a coming together, a community coming together."

The students spent the morning at the garden located at the cross-section of Georgia and Vinton streets in Detroit, helping Georgia Street Community Collective founder Mark Covington and a representative from The Greening of Detroit.

Covington, similar to the first character in the novel who initiated planting the garden, was inspired upon witnessing the gradual decaying of community, both physically and philosophically, in his neighborhood.

"I saw a bunch of garbage and stuff that people had dumped on these lots, and it was something I'd never seen before in our neighborhood," Covington said. "So, I wanted

to clean them up. In the process of cleaning them up, I decided to grow a couple of plants. I wasn't really into the food system or growing all vegetables until people came out telling me growing vegetables would be good for the people."

With help from DetroitYes!, volunteers, urban gardening organizations and the United Kingdom trance music band, Above and Beyond, Covington turned lots near his house into a small playground, a family market garden, a youth market garden and three community gardens.

The students worked on the community gardens, harvesting vegetables and preparing soil beds for the fall season, living out their own version of "Seedfolks."

"This was a different experience for a lot of them," Stevens said. "This was a chance to work in the garden and connect with what the characters were going through and to build stronger connections with the community of Detroit."

## Documentary shines light on education pressures

By A.J. Hakim  
Staff Writer

As the 21st Century education system strives to create young professionals driven by a synthetic desire for academic competition and achievement, it furthers the gap between children and childhood, inspired

learning and disengaged competitiveness.

The result — according to Vicki Abeles, co-director of the documentary, "Race to Nowhere: The Dark Side of America's Achievement Culture (2009)" — is a "generation of unhealthy, disengaged, unprepared youth trying to

manage as best they can."

Through the film, Abeles delves into the pressures students and teachers face in trying to develop and meet the needs of a global economy.

The film, presented by The Family Center, in partnership with the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education and the Grosse Pointe Public School System, screens at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 27, in Grosse Pointe South's auditorium.

An open panel discussion featuring social workers Mary Beth Garvey and Sean Hogan Downey and counselor Carla Palfy follows the screening designed for adults and open to high school students accompanied by a parent.

Abeles, a first-time filmmaker, was inspired to action when her 12-year-old daughter was diagnosed with a stress-induced condition caused mainly by persistent stress and strain associated with the pressures of school, homework, tutoring and extracurricular activities. Adding to Abeles' inspiration and urgency to complete the film, several months into filming, a 13-year-old girl in her community committed suicide after getting a poor grade on a math test.

"In trying to understand what was driving those pressures, I began speaking to experts," Abeles said in the "Race to Nowhere" filmmaker's notes.

"I was stunned to learn of the soaring rates of youth depression, suicide, cheating, and dropping out in all types of communities. I spoke with students and their families and teachers across the country and realized how widespread the problems were, crossing economic and geographic lines — and how powerless they felt in the face of current education policies focused on high-stakes tests and competitive college admissions."

The film poses the question of preparedness, and whether present-day students, progressing through the 21st-Century education system, are prepared to successfully step into their future as employees and employers.

Abeles, along with co-director Jessica Congdon, interviewed students and teachers, at both private and public schools, college professors, doctors and business leaders, all of whom said they feel and fear the burden of the achievement-obsessed culture.

"We cannot wait for large institutions or the government to make changes our kids need today, and political and corporate interests should not drive education," Abeles said. "There's too much evidence that this system isn't working for any of our kids. Layers of changes are needed, starting from the ground up."

For tickets, visit familycenterweb.org or contact the Family Center at (313) 432-3832 or via e-mail, info@familycenterweb.org.

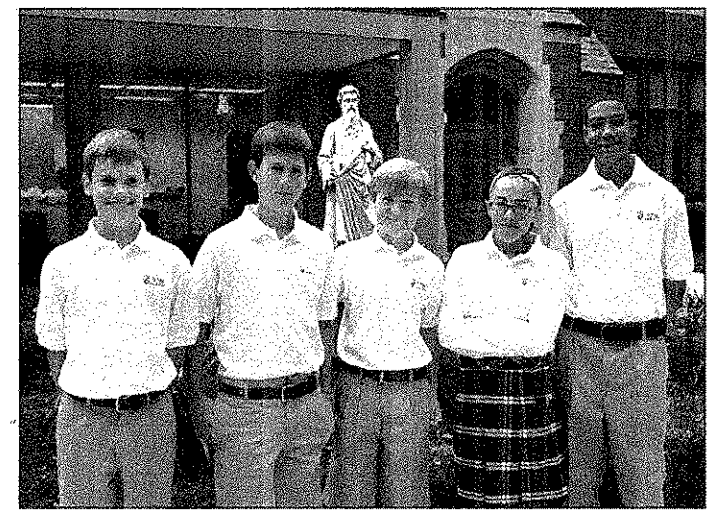


PHOTO COURTESY OF PATTI THEROS

## St. Paul unveils new school logo

St. Paul on the Lake middle school students, from left, Julian Karustis, Michael Leshia, Chris Elliot, Caroline Breen and Kobe Burkes don polo shirts featuring the school's new red logo.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS SIPPL

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City of **Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan**  
**SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES**  
September 12, 2011

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present on Roll: Call: Mayor Farquhar; Councilmembers, Joseph, West, Theros, Leonard & Waldmeir.  
Those Absent Were: None.  
Also Present: Messrs. Burgess, City Attorney; Reeside, City Manager; Tepper, Assistant City Manager; Lamerato, City Controller/Treasurer; Jensen, Director Public Safety; Hutchins, Deputy Director of Public Safety; Pamela Baker, Deputy City Clerk.

Mayor Farquhar Presided at the Meeting.  
A Moment of Silence was held honoring the victims of September 11th.  
A Moment of Silence was held honoring the passing on August 14, 2011 of The Honorable Charles S. "Terry" Davis III.

The Mayor presented Certificates of Appreciation to the Grosse Pointe South High School State Championship Girl's Track Team and their Coaches.  
The Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 8, 2011, were approved as submitted.  
The Minutes of the Closed Session held on August 8, 2011, were approved as submitted.

The Council heard questions from the Public concerning the recent flooding prior to a Special Meeting that will be held solely dedicated to the flooding issue on Thursday, September 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the War Memorial.

The Council approved the appointment of Mr. Kevin Broderick to the City's Retirement Systems Commission, whose terms will expire in May, 2012.

The Council approved the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores Municipal Court Proposed Subdivision, subject to certain conditions.

The Council adopted the Resolution regarding School of Choice, as amended by Councilman Theros.

The Council adopted a resolution ratifying the contract from the Police Officers Labor Council.

The Public Safety Report for August 2011 was received by the Council & ordered placed on file.

The Council adopted a resolution that immediately following adjournment of the Regular Meeting, a Closed Session shall be held for the purpose of discussing Real Estate and Litigation matters.

Upon proper motion made, supported and carried, the Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 90 KERBY ROAD, GROSSE POINTE FARMS, MICHIGAN 48236. THE MEETING IS PUBLIC, INTERESTED PROPERTY OWNERS AND RESIDENTS OF THE CITY ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. YOU MAY ALSO VIEW THE AGENDA AND MINUTES ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE: www.ci.grossepointe-farms.mi.us/

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## G.P. North pep band performs

The Grosse Pointe North pep band drum line performed at the 32nd annual Grosse Pointe Fun Run last weekend. They marched down the Lakeshore median, performing for the runners and walkers throughout the event and prior to the awards ceremony.

## Teachers of the week nominations needed

With classes in session, it's time again for students to nominate their favorite teachers for teacher of the week. Send nominations to A.J. Hakim via e-mail at ajhakim@grossepointenews.com or by phone, (313) 343-5592.

# Fall HOME IMPROVEMENT

## Tips for the garage this season

The garage is more than a place to store the car. For many it serves as the hub of seasonal activity for families — storing lawn care and sporting equipment, tools, patio furniture and more.

New research indicates more than 70 percent of homeowners use their garage door as the primary entrance into their houses.

With the garage door serving as front door to the house, many family members no

longer carry house keys.

Many homeowners describe their garages as chaotic messes.

There are many easy things to do this season to get the garage in better shape.

### Back It Up

With many homeowners using their garage door as front door, it's important to ensure it's reliable.

This is especially crucial during storm season from June through November, when

storms and power outages are most frequent.

Consider a unit with a built-in battery-powered backup system, such as a LiftMaster Garage Door Opener with battery backup. These garage door openers continue to open and close the door for up to two days during a power failure.

### Seal It

Properly sealing a concrete floor protects it from corrosive elements and stains, making it

easier to sweep. Epoxy resin and urethane sealants last longer than acrylic. Always sweep and apply a concrete cleaner and etcher to remove debris and stains before sealing.

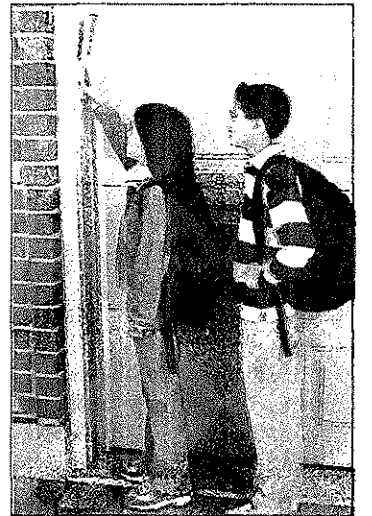
### Organize It

Keep the garage clear of oily and greasy rags, as they are easily flammable and can ignite spontaneously. To keep dust at bay, try sprinkling fresh lawn clippings on the garage floor then sweeping it clean.

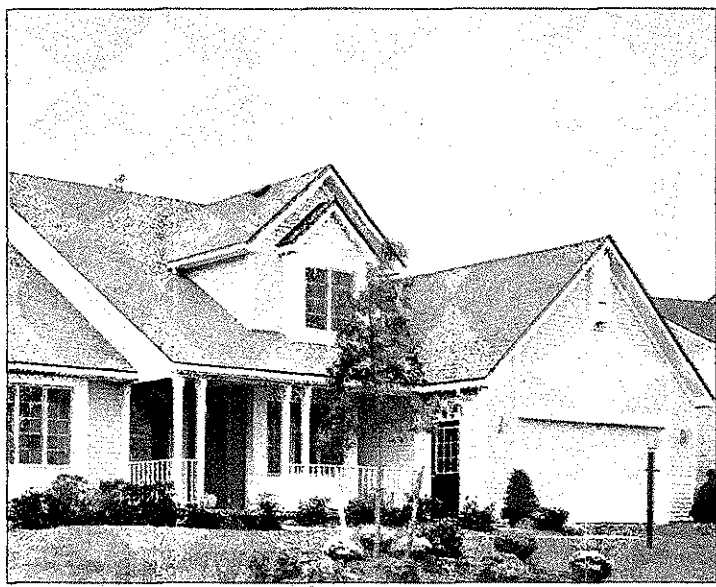
Install shelves and hooks to lift lawn equipment, sporting goods and bicycles off the floor and maintain order. Get in the habit of putting things back where they belong after use and regularly sweeping up.

Keep the garage door parts clean and lubricated, including the rollers. Lubricate weather stripping to maintain pliability.

A few small steps create a reliable, orderly garage worthy of being an entrance to the house.



Most families use the garage as their house's primary entrance.



Seasonal upgrades can give a house a timely facelift.

## Improve your home's curb appeal

Even if you aren't considering selling anytime soon, it's always a good idea to keep the house looking great.

Seasonal upgrades can help improve curb appeal. Now is a great time to give it a facelift — from landscaping to remodeling to increase energy efficiency.

There are several ways to improve the exterior of a house:

### Details Matter

Simple weekend jobs, such as replacing or painting the front door in an eye-popping color, can give the house an in-

stant update. If painting, look for a warm, inviting color that complements existing materials such as the siding, trim and accessories.

Don't be afraid to pick a bold color for the door. For example, rich red colors work well and a gloss or semi-gloss exterior paint works best.

### Crystal Clear

The easiest way to give a house a quick facelift is to clean the windows.

The glass can be rinsed with plain water and cleaned with regular or ammonia-based

glass cleaners. Use some elbow grease to make them sparkle. Clean the vinyl frame with a solution of mild soap and water.

Consider replacing the windows with energy-efficient ones to help save on energy bills.

### Landscaping Design

Landscaping is a great way to enhance the house's external appearance for a reasonable price and with minimum bother.

Consider adding planters to both sides of the entranceway.

Use flowering plants and trees or low maintenance native perennials. Clear broken branches, twigs or leaves from the yard. Trim shrubs and trees.

### Green The House

Many homeowners are familiar with Energy Star ratings on appliances, but are surprised to learn insulated siding can also improve energy performance, as it creates a blanket around the house.

Get started today on making the house more beautiful and energy-efficient.

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**FALL HOME IMPROVEMENT**

# Easy tips to upgrade the house

As the weather turns cooler, many homeowners look to upgrade high-traffic areas, such as the living room, bedroom and bathroom.

Though big projects can be burdensome on the pocket-book, one doesn't have to go big to upgrade.

"Home renovations don't have to result in complete overhauls of the living spaces — and they don't have to create major dents in your bank accounts," said David Shove-Brown, a member of the American Institute of Architects' Small Project Practitioners Committee.

"Thinking through how you

live in those particular rooms is key to making fall improvement projects manageable. From there, a natural game plan will emerge."

To help get started, Shove-Brown offers some advice:

**Think Flexible Spaces**

Whether a newly-married couple hoping to start a family or a senior citizen looking to age in place, consider creating open, flexible spaces that grow or evolve based on needs. For example, connecting the kitchen and living room into a single, large live-and-play area can help a family spend time together, even if engaged in separate activities. For older

citizens, one large living area makes it easy to get around if mobility becomes limited.

**Create An Oasis**

Some define bliss as time spent reading a book or getting a spa treatment. Consider small changes to key rooms to create a new hangout space to unwind and relax.

For example, switching out the standard showerhead for a more powerful one and adding flex lighting can transform a bathroom into a more relaxing, meditative environment. Or install some bookshelves in the bedroom and add a cushioned window nook or comfortable couch to make the space cozy.

**Step By Step**

One of the most difficult obstacles homeowners face when renovating is the desire to do everything at once. By working with an architect, homeowners can create a plan for completing the work with one's timeline and budget.

There are many small projects homeowners can do themselves before bringing in a professional to finish the job. For example, buy raw materials, such as tiles or light fixtures and have a professional install them. Shove-Brown says an architect can help map out what homeowners can do on their own to ensure the job



Wide open spaces can evolve with one's needs over time.

gets completed the right way. To find an architect, visit [architectfinder.aia.org](http://architectfinder.aia.org).

Relax, get creative and enjoy the overall process of dreaming up renovations.

# Save time and money in your next kitchen remodel

House remodeling projects can be daunting, especially in the kitchen.

Most house remodeling veterans agree the biggest frustrations during a kitchen renovation

are the unexpected delays.

Defray this time lost by choosing products made to work together seamlessly, such as cabinets and countertops.

Here's some advice for a

smooth kitchen makeover:

"No matter how extensive your research and planning are before you begin your remodeling projects, you need to expect delays," said Danny

Lipford, home improvement expert and host of "Today's Homeowner with Danny Lipford." "That's why, for my biggest project yet, I chose to go with a cabinet/countertop partnership that helped make the kitchen renovation run smoothly and avoid those delays."

Lipford's latest project was a top to bottom renovation of an old tudor-style house in Mobile, Ala., which he calls the Koppersmith project. This project was documented in a 13-part series on "Today's Homeowner with Danny Lipford." Through this project, Lipford showed viewers realistic approaches to remodeling.

One practical approach was the partnership between Merillat cabinetry and DeNova countertops. This partnership integrates the design, selection and installation of cabinets and countertops, making the process of remodeling a kitchen much more seamless.

"Even though the Koppersmith house was a huge undertaking, Merillat and DeNova's integration made for quick and easy installation and



PHOTO COURTESY OF DANNY LIPFORD MEDIA

The kitchen can show off one's good taste with less fuss and expense if the cabinets and countertops are made to go together.

was perfect for the project," Lipford said. "We were able to utilize this partnership all over the house, including the bathrooms, dining room and living room, to help simplify the re-

model while making each room beautiful and functional."

The integration of cabinets and countertops in a remodeling or new construction project has many benefits:

- One point of contact. Selecting the cabinetry and the countertops together helps ensure optimal color and style matching.

- Flawless templating. New template processes use precise, laser technology to accurately measure countertop surfaces. This replaces traditional paper, cardboard or plywood templating.

The new process allows the cabinets and countertops to fit flawlessly together and can significantly reduce the installation cycle time and ensures just the right fit.

- Efficient scheduling. Scheduling of the installation is easier because in most cases the cabinetry, countertops and sinks are delivered to the job site simultaneously, and one crew handles the installation — saving time and money.

Be prepared for unexpected setbacks. But if taking advantage of a process like the above to make the project more seamless, many will find their remodeling experience much more enjoyable.

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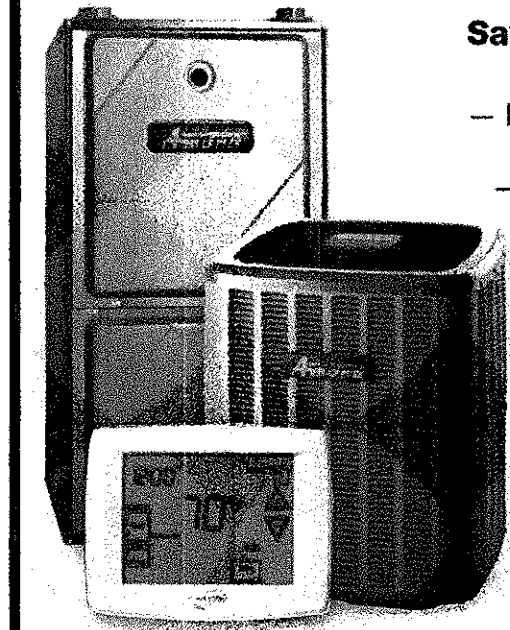
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# Easy ways to brighten-up the house

There are many easy, cost-effective ways to brighten the appearance of a house — cheering up its occupants in the process.

From coats of paint to lighting schemes to window treatments, small changes can have a big impact on a house. And some projects can be tackled in one weekend.

### Window Treatments

By letting more light into the house, the days can be made more cheerful. Try replacing heavy drapes or dark colored shades with translucent curtains or blinds.

Other ways to invite natural light into the house include adding internal windows within rooms to let light flow from one space to another, or installing skylights.

### Energy-Efficient Accents

The lighting scheme can set different moods in different rooms. To make a room cheerful and efficient, use three different types of lighting: ambient, task and accent lighting. New options for background lighting abound, such as pendants, chandeliers, ceiling-

mounted lights and fixtures that can be hung in multiple ways. LED lighting is perfect to illuminate places for reading, food preparation, dressing or other tasks.

With a long lifespan, such lights may never need to be replaced and can save homeowners money on electricity bills because they are brighter with lower wattage.

The latest in accent lighting includes strings of thin LED light pods that can bend around corners and fit into small spaces.

This type of modern lighting adds drama when entertaining, while also lowering electricity costs.

"Accent LED light pods use little energy so they can stay on all night, an added plus for houses with small children or when overnight guests visit," said Jeff Dross, Kichler Lighting's corporate director of education and industry trends. "No two houses are alike and their lighting shouldn't be either."

### Warmth And Color

Liven up rooms by selecting



a bright color scheme. Paint sets the basic tone, so choose a light color, such as yellows or

pastels. Dark colors can absorb light and make rooms darker. An entire room or just

one wall can be painted a bright color. Add warmth as well as color by adding pillows.

For more info, visit the American Society of Interior Designers at [asid.org](http://asid.org).



Pruning trees now will protect the house in winter.

## Easy fall lawn and landscaping tips

Don't neglect the lawn just because the summer garden party season is over.

Autumn is a critical time to get the landscaping ready for winter and spring. Working the garden and landscaping now will save time and effort next spring.

Here are some ways to ensure the yard is prepped for next year:

### Fertilize

Fertilizing is a must to strengthen the lawn's root system and store nutrients needed in the winter months ahead. Pay attention to areas worn down by foot traffic and outdoor entertaining.

Replenish the nutrients depleted in the summer months.

For even distribution, spreaders offer a quick and convenient fertilizing solution. Spreaders are available for lawns of every size, in both push and tow-behind tractor models.

### Prune

Cutting dead or weakened tree branches keep them from falling and damaging the property, especially as winter weather sets in. Garden shears are fine for light pruning or trimming hedges, but heavier work, such as storm cleanup, often requires a chainsaw.

When using a chainsaw, make sure the chain is sharp. Dull chainsaws make work more difficult. Simple add-ons can increase efficiency. For ex-

ample, a chainsaw sharpening system lets chainsaw users sharpen the chain in seconds.

### Rake and reseed

When raking fallen leaves, opt for a lightweight plastic rake which glides more easily on grass than metal ones. An open tarp for collecting leaves works better than dragging plastic bags across the yard.

Clear plant beds of dead foliage, which can smother budding greenery and foster disease. By reseeding the lawn, you'll help guard against dead patches in the spring. Stay off any reseeded lawn for at least two weeks.

Preparing the yard now leaves more time to enjoy the fruits of your labor.

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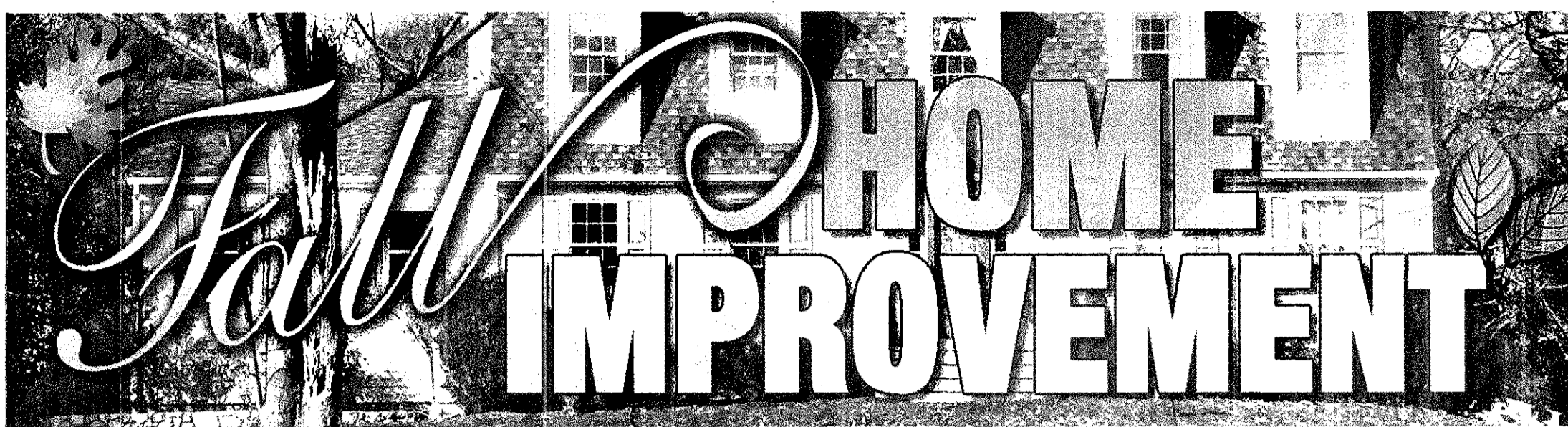
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**FALL HOME IMPROVEMENT**



# Prepare the house for cooler weather

There's nothing worse than being in a drafty house during the cooler months. In addition to the continuous discomfort, drafts can lead to unnecessarily high heating bills.

"American homeowners know as the weather gets cooler, it's time to prepare their houses for the season," said Robert Dischner, marketing director at Lennox Hearth Products. "Preparing your house will not only save you money, but keep your family safe during severe weather."

Heating and cooling accounts for two-thirds of a house's energy consumption. This adds up to 44 percent of all carbon dioxide emissions in

the United States, more than the transportation and manufacturing industries combined, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Here are some tips to prepare for cooler weather:

- Conduct an annual review. Windows are best sealed using weather stripping or caulking. Doors should be replaced if they don't seal properly. Check the foot of the door and install a draft stopper if there isn't one. Have a heating professional check the heating system annually, making sure it's energy-efficient and meets all safety standards.

- Clean out the chimney. Annual cleanings reduce the

risk of fires and carbon monoxide poisonings due to creosote buildup or obstructions in the chimneys. They also let the fireplace burn more efficiently.

- Green the fireplace. Gas-burning fireplace inserts offer high efficiency levels to heat houses in a more cost-effective manner and are convenient and clean burning.

- Check emergency supplies. Buy rock salt or sand before it sells out at the local hardware store. Change the batteries in any and all carbon monoxide and smoke detectors at least once a year. Stock the pantry with dry goods and other sundries, in case forced to spend a day or two indoors because of inclement weather.

"By preparing your house,



An efficient fireplace can save homeowners money.

you can keep more heat inside, and less energy is lost through the chimney, doors and other openings, keeping overall environmental emissions to a minimum," Dischner said.

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## Save money on home energy costs

A house may be one's castle, but it can also be a money pit, due to repairs and the rising cost of fuel, food and electricity.

"Americans have a lot more power than they think when it comes to reducing their energy costs," said Dave Llorens, CEO of One Block Off the Grid solar energy panel manufacturer. "State level incentives can go a long way toward reducing the cost of money-saving items, such as solar panels and electric cars. Call

your local government office to find out if incentives are available to you."

Here are some ways to reduce energy costs:

- Setting the air conditioner to 78 degrees — or the warmest setting tolerable, —

saves money because many homeowners forget to adjust it down when the weather cools.

Also, the microwave is one of a household's most energy efficient appliances, so use it instead of an oven to reduce costs and keep the house cooler in summer months.

The washer and dryer are two of the biggest energy hogs. Doing laundry at night when electricity rates are lower and line drying during the day can save a lot.

- Install solar panels. It used to take a long time for solar panels to show a positive return on investment, but new green companies are finding ways to reduce that payback period.

One Block Off the Grid, for example, organizes group deals on solar panels based on how many residents are interested, then connects them with reliable local installers for free. This lets consumers buy solar panels at an average of 15 percent below market rate.

- Consider an electric car. Consumers who spend a lot of money on gas every month should run the numbers and see how much money going electric would save. It usually costs \$25 to \$40 a month to charge electric cars. Plus, solar panels can be used in conjunction with electric cars to reduce monthly fuel costs to zero.

For more information, visit [energy.gov/solar](http://energy.gov/solar).

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# FEATURES

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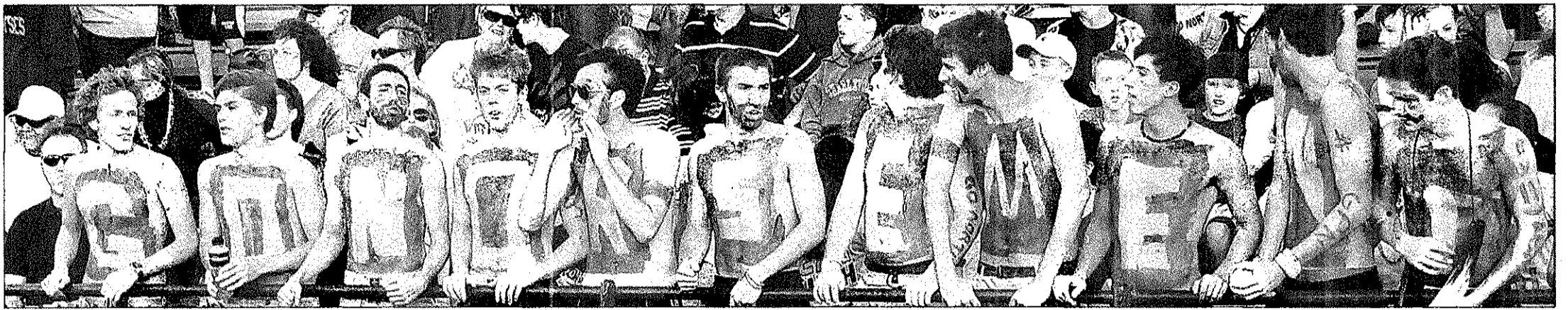


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## Celebrating Grosse Pointe

By Ann L. Fouty  
Features Editor

The invitations are out. The welcome mat is on the door steps of the five Grosse Pointes.

It's time for the Live. Play. Stay. A weekend in Grosse Pointe.

Once known as Victory in the Pointes, revolving around the

rivalry between Grosse Pointe North and South high schools football game, the three days are now community-wide events featuring athletics, food, history, children's events, a movie, a kitchen tour, cultural activities and open houses.

"We decided to create a community event celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Grosse Pointe Public School System,"

said Jenny Boettcher, Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce executive director. "We are doing a community event and getting people out to enjoy different events and activities in a community so rich in arts and culture."

The event is reaching to outside communities and inviting them in, she added.

Boettcher wants more resi-

dents, and guests, to learn of Grosse Pointes' variety, including Run the Pointe Saturday morning and free trolley rides with Grosse Pointe Historical Society members aboard pointing out historical houses.

"This is the first time the run has been incorporated. It was already going on so it fell into place," Boettcher said. "We reached out to organizations

and businesses to see if anything was going on and one after another came out."

It is this kind of cooperation that Boettcher sees pushing the event to grow bigger and better each year.

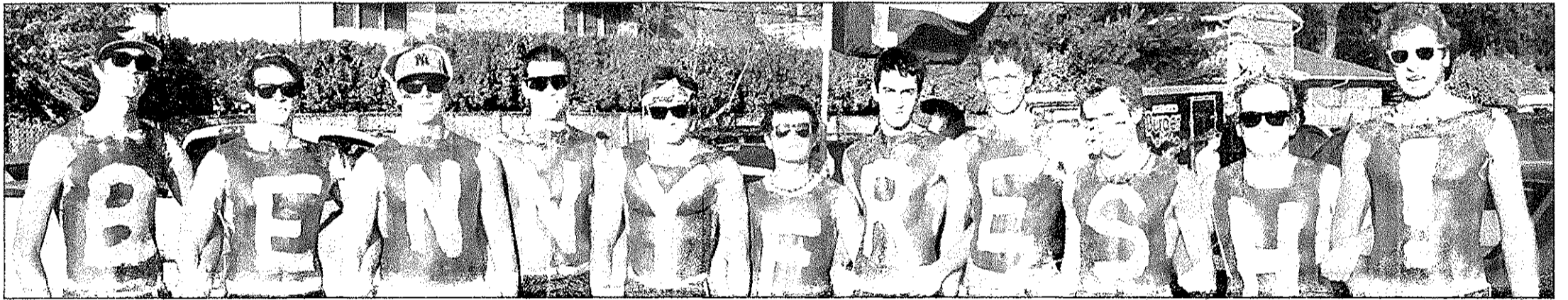
The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House came onboard with a bird walk and a behind-the-scenes tour; the Grosse Pointe Art Center offers a special fam-

ily event; a family movie is shown on South's football field; the fourth annual Concours d' Elegance happens this weekend; and the Cottage Auxiliary Kitchen Tour joins the list of events.

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 23**

Photographers roam the

See WEEKEND, page 8B



FILE PHOTOS

"How beautiful a day can be when kindness touches it!"  
— George Elliston

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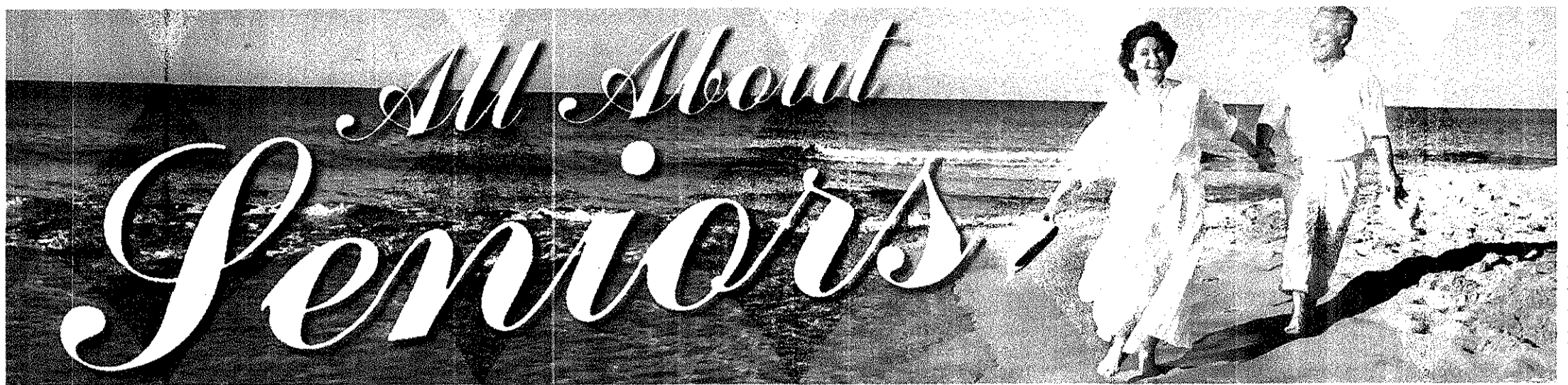
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SENIOR SCENE By Ruth Cain

# Increase of seniors may mean more jobs

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It's estimated in 20 years, 70 million people in our country will be 65 years of age or older, representing about 20 percent of the population.

Currently there are some 37 million seniors, accounting for 12 percent of the population. The national senior care industry this year alone is expected to add more than 100,000 new in-home senior caregiver jobs. With Baby Boomers just beginning to reach the magic age, jobs are expected to increase even more.

Today, there are some 43 million people in the United States providing care for an elderly family member or friend. But,

as the country's birth rate declines, taking care of the elderly will increasingly be taken over by paid providers. Jobs may also become available in nursing homes.

The Obama Health Care Bill anticipates this and notes the need for more caregiver training, paid or not, and calls for salary increases for these workers.

A job that does not provide a living wage is of no value to the individual or the nation's financial health.

I think the aging of Baby Boomers and their influence on society will also result in another important trend — an increase in daily newspaper delivery.

Going online to read the news has always struck me as uncomfortable and not a pleasant chore. So I was delighted to read Jack Shafer on Slate.com say he canceled his New York Times subscription several years ago because he found it more convenient to get his news from the newspaper's website.

"But less than a year after my

Times cancellation, I was paying for home delivery of the newspaper again," Shafer said. "Despite spending ample time on the website, I failed to notice many worthy stories."

"I also found I couldn't recall much of what I'd read."

His experience was backed by a study conducted by Oregon University researchers. It found readers of the Times print edition remembered significantly more stories, facts and ideas than online news readers.

Apparently the print edition better enables editors to perform an "agenda-setting function" — the use of placement, prominence and type size to signal what's more important.

Shafer's experience reading the news online was the frequent interruption of intrusive ads and the need to click through to second and third pages.

My experience is my computer chair is not designed for comfortable long-term sitting. When I scrolled down to read, I occasionally put more pressure on the mouse and the material

rapidly disappeared, leaving me to laboriously scroll back or up to find where I left off.

Baby Boomers have been responsible for many new and better trends. I truly believe they will want to recapture the experience of sitting in a comfortable chair, with good lighting and a cup of coffee while reading the newspaper.

Moreover, you can quickly identify what news has no interest to you and what does without the irritation of scrolling. It's also wonderful to clip something you want to file away. I know this can be done on a computer, but you have to remember what file you put it in and it lies hidden unlike a clipping which grabs your attention.

As Shafer says, "I like the web and the iPad, but for real reading satisfaction I still reach for the print edition."

Reach Cain at [ruthcain@comcast.net](mailto:ruthcain@comcast.net).

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## Enjoying fall color season

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Experience a view of the season from up above by reserving a fall color balloon ride.

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See COLORS, page 5B

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# All About Seniors

## Travel tips for senior citizens

### Planning the vacation

Instead of venturing alone, it is always good to contact a travel agent. Various tour operators have special packages for senior citizens. You can also consult the tour operators for the best destinations and the requisite items to carry. Make sure tour operators have emergency medical facilities for any requirement during the trip.

### Budget

Planning the budget is of utmost importance. Even your selection of the destination should depend on the extent and flexibility of the budget. Always plan the budget keeping in mind sudden expenses and make it as flexible as possible.

sible.

Don't carry too much cash. Instead, take credit cards. Always keep these in your wallet and bags.

### Documents

Carry all the appropriate documents like identity cards, passports, visas, driving license, proof of residence, etc. Most travelers face hassles for not carrying the proper documents.

Make photocopies of all the documents and keep a set at home. Take out the original documents when absolutely necessary.

Ensure all your documents are valid. Keep all the documents in a separate bag for

easy access.

### Check your health

Before the trip, get a thorough medical checkup. Travel only if you are fit.

Traveling is more fun if you don't have to bring a team of doctors along with you. Consult with your doctor if any climatic and diet changes will have any harmful effect on your existing medical condition.

Get a vaccination if required.

Take enough medication so you don't have to search for it, in another country. Your doctor may also refer you to a doctor in that country, so always keep that contact information with

you.

### Mode of travel

If you don't want to engage a travel agent, then you can plan the entire trip yourself.

Decide if you want to travel by train, bus, or flight. It's better to fly if the destination is far and time is short. Also traveling with friends or in a group is excellent. It is fun, cost effective, and safe.

### Packing tips

Pack only what you need. Don't burden yourself with excess luggage to facilitate mobility.

Find out what the climate is like where you are visiting and then pack accordingly. Take into account the climatic change.

Keep all the day-to-day essentials in a separate bag so that you don't have to unpack the whole luggage every day. Pack all medicines in cellophane sheets and put them in a handy bag.

Don't take any expensive jewelry with you. Carry a cell phone so that you are in touch with your immediate family members.

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## COLORS: They are around every corner

Continued from page 4B

The Wicker Basket Balloon Center in Wixom is perfect for southeastern Michigan residents and visitors to go aloft through November, weather permitting.

Serving the tri-city area of Saginaw, Bay City and Midland, Sky Dancer Balloon Rides is another choice to rise above it all and enjoy an autumn sunrise or sunset.

Take a northern sky-high adventure with Grand Traverse Balloon, voted one of the top 10 Traverse City adventures.

Sit back and relax after board one of Michigan's fall color trains.

The Michigan Steam Railroading Institute's Fall Color Train makes day trips between Ithaca and Cadillac Oct. 1 and Owosso and Alma Oct. 15. Ride the rails with the Southern

Michigan Railroad in Tecumseh on select dates Oct. 15-30, or choose a September or October date for the Pumpkin Train engineered by the Coopersville & Marne Railway in Coopersville, southwest of Muskegon.

Head for the Upper Peninsula and make a reservation for the Tahquamenon Falls Wilderness Excursion that begins at Soo Junction 15 miles east of Newberry.

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Thomas Jefferson



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Hosted by: Patrick M. Simasko of Simasko Law Office

### MEDICAID GUIDELINES HAVE CHANGED—WHO NEEDS TO ATTEND WORKSHOP

- State can NOW take your home—learn how to protect it
- Anyone with a loved one currently in a nursing home or worried about going into a nursing home
  - Anyone wanting to learn how to protect their assets and have peace of mind
- Anyone wanting to learn about benefits available to them or to their family members

<p><b>Date:</b> Wednesday, October 12, 2011 <b>Time:</b> 6:00 p.m. —7:30 p.m. <b>Where:</b> Windemere Park Senior Comm. 31800 Van Dyke Avenue Warren, MI 48093</p>	<p><b>Date:</b> Thursday, October 20, 2011 <b>Time:</b> 6:30 p.m. —8:00 p.m. <b>Where:</b> Best Western – Concorde Inn 44315 N. Gratiot Avenue Clinton Twp., MI 4803</p>
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**RSVP: (586) 468-6793 (seating limited) REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED**

SENIORS/HEALTH

# SOC location moved to hospital

Services for Older Citizens has moved to its new, temporary location at the Henry Ford Medical Center-Cottage, 159 Kercheval, third floor, Grosse Pointe Farms.

The phone number remains unchanged, (313) 882-9600.

Parking is available in the parking structure, in the city lot and with a valet. Half-price parking structure passes are available at SOC.

The entrance on Muir or Kercheval, follow the pink SOC signs to the third floor, or ask the lobby receptionist for directions.

Parking for the party will be in the city lot behind the church. Enter through the double doors facing the lot. The parking ticket will be stamped at the party.

Joan Thornton's seated exercise classes are at 10 a.m. Wednesdays and Fridays at St. James Lutheran Church. Parking arrangements are in the city lot behind the church. Enter through the double doors facing the lot.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Three August birthday celebrants, from left, Roger Skully, Sebastian Friedrich and Diane Bezy were given quilts made by the Quilt Guild of Metro Detroit. Services for Older Citizens programs and lunches continue on the regular schedule. The phone number is (313) 882-9600. SOC volunteer Pauline Hemmen prepares the 11:30 a.m. lunch.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

## Senior picnic

The annual Grosse Pointe Woods annual senior citizen picnic was filled with bingo, lunch, music and a visit from the Detroit Tigers mascot, PAWS, who liked the idea Herb Gast was wearing a Detroit Tigers shirt. Right, bingo winners were Peter Reyes and Mary Lou Wholihan. Reyes took home \$5 in prize money and Wholihan, \$2.



ASK THE EXPERTS By Carla Palfy, Sean Hogan-Downey and Mary Beth Garvey

# Cultivate healthy definitions of achievement



tions of achievement within our homes, our schools and our community-at-large. What can we do?

### What parents/guardians can do:

- ◆ Discuss what success means to your family. Do your family's actions reflect your values?
- ◆ Reduce performance pressure.
- ◆ Avoid over-scheduling.
- ◆ Allow time for play, family, friends, downtime, reflection and sleep.
- ◆ Ask children how they are feeling.
- ◆ Allow children to make mistakes and learn from them.
- ◆ Have conversations with children about their experiences in school.
- ◆ Know the signs of childhood depression.

### Save the date

The Race to Nowhere  
The dark side of America's achievement culture  
Presented by The Family Center in partnership with the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education and the Grosse Pointe Public School System.  
◆ 6:30 p.m.  
◆ Tuesday, Sept. 27  
◆ Grosse Pointe South High School  
◆ Admission is free  
◆ Reservations are required and can be made at familycenterweb.org  
◆ For more information, call The Family Center at (313) 432-3832.

- ◆ Attend school board meetings and other venues where education is discussed and policies are established and reinforced.
- ◆ Organize other parents. As

a group, talk to your children's teachers, school administrators and attend school board meetings.

- ◆ Discuss with your child what path he/she may want to pursue after high school.
- ◆ Make the college search about finding the "right fit" rather than finding the "best" college. Finding the "right fit" will ensure college success and retention.
- ◆ Allow high school children to make independent choices on course selection.
- ◆ Follow your instincts.

### What students can do:

- ◆ Speak to the adults in your life about how you are feeling.
- ◆ Make sure you get plenty of sleep.
- ◆ Unplug, slow down and reflect on the important things in life.
- ◆ Make time for things you

enjoy.

- ◆ Limit advanced placement classes to subjects you enjoy.
- ◆ Limit extra-curricular activities.
- ◆ Seek colleges that use a comprehensive approach to looking at applicants.
- ◆ Learn about the long-term impact of stimulants and performance-enhancing medications.
- ◆ Create alliances with students at your school who desire a mindset that values the individuality of every student and moves away from a one-size-fits-all approach to education. Seek the support of one or more faculty members.

Palfy, M.A., M.Ed., LPC is a school counselor at Parcels Middle School and founder of College Prep Rx. Hogan-Downey, LMSW, LMFT is a licensed master social worker and licensed marriage and

family therapist. Garvey, LM-SW, is a clinical therapist and works with children, adolescents and adults.

The Family Center, a 501(c)3, non-profit organization, serves as the community's centralized hub for information, resources and referral for families and professionals.

To view more Ask The Experts articles, visit familycenterweb.org. E-mail questions to info@familycenterweb.org. To volunteer or contribute, visit familycenterweb.org or call (313) 432-3832.



HEALTH POINT By Paula Schreck, M.D.

# What to know about breast feeding

Pregnancy announcements are an exciting time for families. With the gifts of outfits, stuffed animals and diapers

often comes a lot of advice for the new mom.

I believe the most important piece of advice to share is to consider breast feeding. Overall, breast feeding is best

for babies.

Breast milk has loads of good nutrition and special infection fighters to help babies stay well. And, not only is breast feeding good for the baby, it's good for the mother, too!

Here are some facts about breast feeding:

- Babies who breast-feed are healthier. They have fewer ear infections and allergies and fewer problems with gas and colic.
- Children who were breast fed have less asthma, diabetes and high blood pressure.
- Babies who breast-feed are less likely to be overweight as adults.
- Moms who choose breast feeding lose weight more quickly and have fewer problems after delivery with anemia and postpartum depression.
- Breast feeding decreases breast and ovarian cancer.
- Moms who breast feed save money and miss less work because their babies are healthier.

Breast feeding does not have to be painful!

- Family and friends can still help out if mom is breast feeding.
- Moms can return to work, school and play on schedule if they choose to breast feed.
- Moms are more likely to be successful at breast feeding if they have their family's support.

St. John Hospital recently received a \$1.2 million grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation to implement the St. John Mother Nurture Project. This comprehensive breast feeding program provides direct health services and community-based programming, along with the development of best practices and a "Baby Friendly" designation for St. John Hospital. The funds also support research evaluating the effectiveness of the St. John Mother Nurture Project.

The grant allows St. John to help moms that want to breast feed, but are either unaware of how to start or have misconceptions about it.



Before the baby is born, St. John offers breast feeding classes. Lactation consultants (nurse breast feeding specialists) also work in select St. John OB clinics, offering advice and information. Call 866-501-DOCS to sign up.

After the baby is born, nurses and lactation consultants in the birthing center can help with breast feeding while mothers are in the hospital.

If the baby is in the neonatal intensive care unit, the lactation consultants are there, too...five days a week.

After mother and baby go home, they can become members of the St. John Mother Nurture Club, a weekly post-discharge support group run by a breast feeding peer coun-

selor. Call to sign up at (313) 343-3146.

And if problems arise, mother and baby can be seen at the St. John Outpatient Breast feeding Clinic by a doctor and lactation consultant. The visit is covered by most insurances. There's also clinic for babies discharged from the NICU. Call (313) 343-3146.

For those moms who need supplies, St. John has a full service breast feeding store in the hospital called The Nurturing Nook. It is located on the Birthing Center. Call 313-343-3146 for hours of operation.

I recommend that all expectant parents consider breast-feeding. Do some reading. Talk to a trusted family member. Talk to your physician. And St. John Hospital is always ready to help babies to start life with the best first nutrition...breast milk.

Schreck is a pediatrician and medical director of the St. John Providence Outpatient Breastfeeding Clinic.

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Accepting New Patients

## What's ahead

Among the many activities planned by the Grosse Pointe War Memorial is a day trip to a botanical garden, a formal tea in the Alger House and a flea market.

To register for these and other programs at the community resource, call (313) 881-7511.

Here's what's ahead:

**Quick & Easy Weeknight Meals** — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 22. Instructor Pam Gustairs leads this hands-on class with a menu including chicken enchiladas with jalapeño rice, grilled flank steak with garlic-roasted potatoes and penne pasta with sautéed vegetables and fresh tomato sauce. The cost is \$46.

**Come Dine With Us** — 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 29; Fridays, Sept. 23 and 30; and Saturdays, Sept. 24 and Oct. 1. Dinner is served both buffet and table side service. Reservations are required by noon of the requested day. The cost is \$17.95 and a child's meal costs \$8.95.

**Wheel 'n' Deal** — 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24. This free, outdoor flea market is a showcase for gently-used fashions, furnishings and house wares. Also available are books, DVDs, CDs, electronics gear and sporting equipment. Takes place, rain or shine.

**Making Time for Me** — 7 to 8 p.m. Mondays, Sept. 26 - Oct. 17. In this interactive program, Ro LoVasco Coury, a certified life coach, provides the tools and practical take-home skills to find time for one's self. The cost is \$108.

**Mah Jongg** — 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 27 - Oct. 18. Learn China's ancient game of skill, strategy and luck. The emphasis is on the American version, using official standards, hands and rules from the National Mah Jongg League. The cost is \$53 for four weeks plus \$7 materials fee.

**Harmonica 101** — 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 27 - Oct. 25. This hands-on workshop teaches basic techniques and

explores the blues, country and folk music styles. The cost is \$75 for five weeks plus \$25 materials fee, which includes the harmonica, instruction book, CD and DVD.

**Harmonica 102** — 7:45 to 9:15 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 27 - Oct. 25. Students learn tongue blocking techniques and accurate note bending on pitch to add extra notes. Materials fee covers the cost of harmonicas in two keys and instruction book with CD. The cost is \$75 for five weeks plus \$35 materials fee.

**Schedel Arboretum & Gardens** — 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28. Bring a camera and wear walking shoes for this trip to Elmore, Ohio. The grounds are filled with 20,000 annuals, perennial beds, an extensive bonsai collection, tropical plants, art, artifacts and rare objects. The \$66 cost includes the tour, lunch and bus transportation.

**Cabernet: The King** — 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28. Spend an evening exploring cabernet sauvignon. Led by master sommelier Claudia Tyagi, the program includes sampling six wines from around the world. The cost is \$65 and attendees must be 21 years of age.

**An Invitation to Tea** — 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 4. Traditional European tea is served with scones, miniature pastries and English finger sandwiches. The cost is \$32 and reservations are required.

**Cooking with Cordier** — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 6. Master Chef Doug Cordier shares his secrets for creating appetizers, hors d'oeuvres, antipasti and tapas.

During the program, an assorted antipasti platter and rustic bread with salsa verde dipping sauce and authentic Italian regional wines is served. The cost is \$48 and attendees must be 21 years of age.

To register, call (313) 881-7511. Prices listed reflect early registration. Most programs and classes require \$5 extra for late registration.

**A LA ANNIE** By Annie Rouleau-Scheriff

## Corny cakes for breakfast or hot from the oven



PHOTO BY VIRGINIA O. MCCOY

Making muffins with fresh corn beats those made with a box mix.

I love the taste of fresh corn this time of year. It just seems to fit with the changing of the season.

I baked some corn muffins this week, pulling fresh corn straight from the cob. There's just a bit of work in these made from scratch muffins but the finished project is worth your effort. Really.

### Savory corn muffins

- 1 tablespoon each butter and olive oil
- 1 cup fresh (uncooked) corn, cut from the cob
- 1/2 cup diced onion
- 1 cup flour
- 1 1/4 cups ground polenta (corn grits)
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup shredded extra sharp cheddar cheese
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1/2 cup milk
- 6 Tablespoons butter, melt-

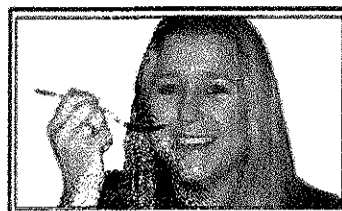
ed

In a medium skillet, melt 1 tablespoon butter with 1 tablespoon olive oil over medium heat.

Add corn and onion and saute for about 10 minutes, until corn and onions begin to brown. Set aside.

In a large bowl, combine flour, polenta, baking powder, salt and cheddar cheese. In a small bowl, whisk eggs together with buttermilk and milk.

Stir into dry mixture, then



add cooked corn and melted butter. Stir until well combined.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Generously grease 12 muffin (cupcake) cups with softened butter. Divide batter into cups (they will be filled to

the brim).

Bake for 30 minutes, until golden brown.

Serve these savory corn muffins alongside a steaming bowl of chili or enjoy a muffin straight from the oven with a smear of jam or honey.

The fresh corn stands out in these muffins with a lighter texture than most corn muffins (the kind made from a box mix).

I enjoyed the corny cakes with my morning eggs. (Surprised?)

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## Outstanding

Editor's note: This column highlights Grosse Pointe residents who are outstanding in their professions and achievements. Information should be e-mailed to [afouty@grossepointenews.com](mailto:afouty@grossepointenews.com).

Pictures can accompany the information and should be in jpg form. The column runs as space permits.

### Featured

Lori Zurvalec, of the City of Grosse Pointe, is a featured artist in the "From Our Perspectives" exhibit at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus.

Her piece is titled "A Fairy Tale: In the Forest of Beginning."

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Sunday shows start at 2 p.m. | Evening shows start at 8 p.m. | Tickets: \$24 each

Grosse Pointe News

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**8E | FEATURES**

**WEEKEND:  
Live. Play. Stay.**

Continued from page 1B

schools capturing "a day in the life." The photos, Boettcher said, will be turned into a coffee table book available around Christmas.

**Tailgate**

These same photographers will be on hand for the tailgate from 5 to 7 p.m. on South's front lawn featuring food from Burger Pointe, Chocolate Bar Cafe, City Kitchen, Cold Stone Creamery, Dylan's Raw Bar & Grille, Fresh Farms Market, Hydrangea Kitchen and the Hill Seafood & Chop House.

Those attending are encouraged to wear either North's colors of green and yellow or South's colors of blue and yellow.

Participants buy tickets for \$1 and food costs range from \$2 to \$5. Proceeds benefit the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education.

Face painting is available during the evening. A performance by South's pep band is slated, as is a 50/50 raffle.

The Mother's Club of Grosse Pointe South High School and Bob Maxey Lincoln Mercury partner to provide a free "ride and drive" experience during the tailgate party. Ford donates \$20 for each person more than 18 years of age to test drive a new Ford.

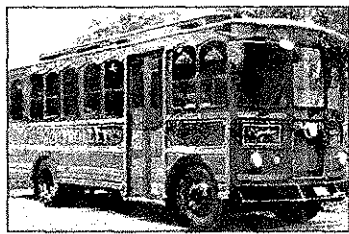
The cars are located in front of the rock on Fisher Road.

Football tickets cost \$5 and the game begins at 7 p.m.

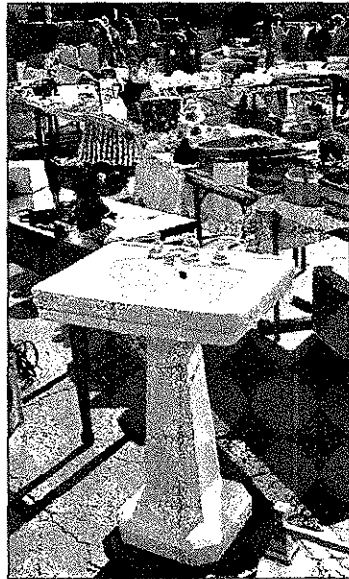
The Fifth-Quarter Youth Event begins at 10 p.m. at Grosse Pointe Congregational Church. Here students can listen to live music and have pizza and pop. The cost is \$5 with a valid school ID.

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 24**

The day begins with Grosse Pointe South Athletic Booster Club's "Run the Pointe" 5K and 10K races or two mile fun walk



Tour Grosse Pointe on a trolley. A 45-minute tour is hosted by a Grosse Pointe Historical Society member.



There are treasures and trinkets and possibly a sink at the annual Wheel 'n' Deal flea market Saturday, Sept. 24.

at 9 a.m. Registration is at 8 a.m., costs \$20 and takes place on the track infield. For more information, visit [gpsathleticboosters.com](http://gpsathleticboosters.com). Proceeds support South's athletic teams.

**Ford House**

Between 8 and 10:30 a.m., The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House hosts a bird walk.

"Staff Life," a behind-the-scenes tour at the Ford House, begins at 11 a.m.

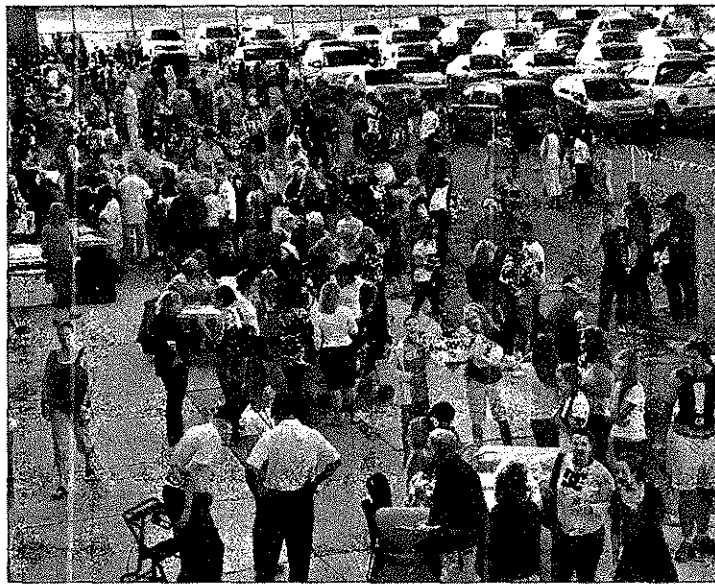
To make reservations, call (313) 884-4222.

**Farmers market**

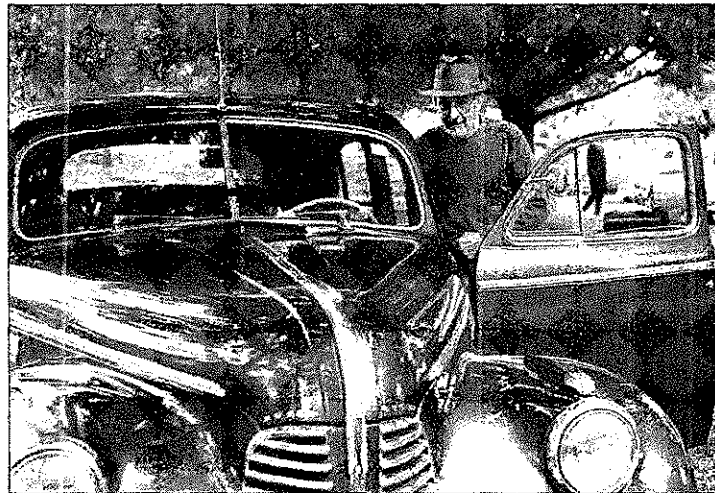
The West Park Farmers Market is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Grosse Pointe Park.

**War Memorial**

The Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, holds its



Eight local restaurants provide the tailgate food prior to the North versus South football game on South's field.



Dick Rybinski stands by his 1940 Buick at the 2010 Concours d'Elegance.

annual Wheel 'n' Deal flea market from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Defer**

Defer Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization sponsors the school's largest community event, the Defer Fall Family Fun Festival from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in front of Defer and Pierce Middle School on Kercheval. The event includes bounce houses, carnival games, prizes, a hermit crab race, food, a cake walk and a DJ.

**Tour**

South's Mother's Club offers a "History of South," a preser-

vation tour at South at 10:30 a.m.

**Art center**

A sidewalk chalk family day is from noon to 6 p.m. near the Grosse Pointe Art Center in the City.

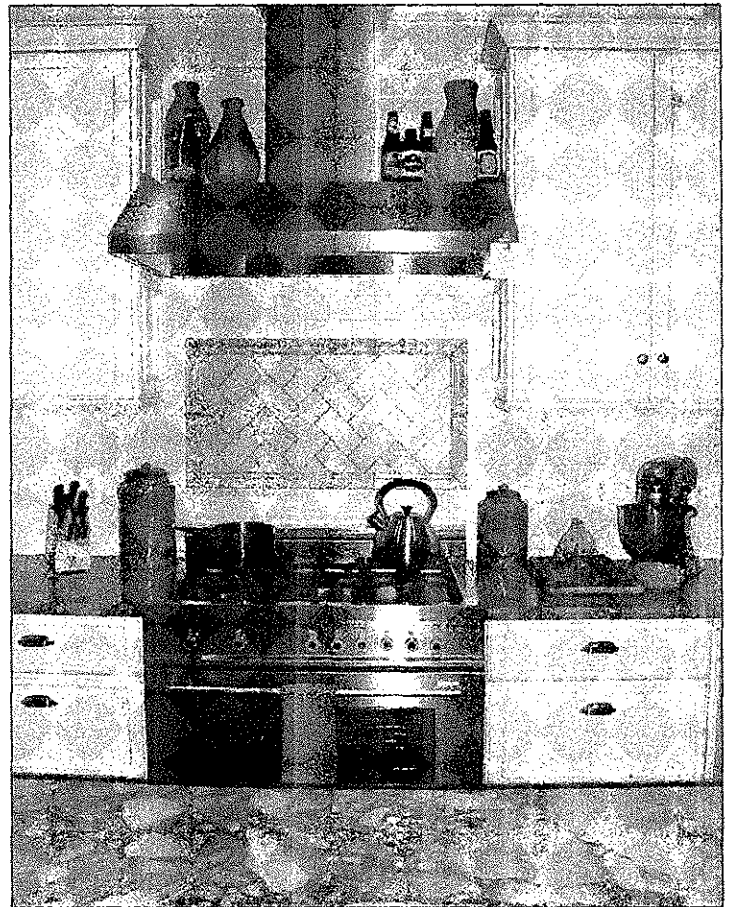
**Restaurants**

Area restaurants, salons and stores are promoting their wares. For a list of promotions, visit [grossepointechamber.com](http://grossepointechamber.com).

**Kitchen Tour**

The annual Cottage Auxiliary Kitchen tour fits right in with living in Grosse Pointe. Residents looking to update their kitchens can get up close and personal with eight recently remodeled Grosse Pointe kitchens at the annual Henry Ford Medical Center - Cottage Auxiliary Kitchen Tour from noon to 5 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 25.

Those wanting to add a taste of fun to the tour can take part in the Kitchen Tour



The countertops of the Edgemont Park kitchen are Brazilian quartz polished to look like marble. The father and son who live here brew beer in the basement that is available from dual beer taps in the corner of the kitchen. The house was formerly owned by the Hickey family.

Preview Party from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24, which includes a tour of the eight kitchens plus hors d'oeuvres, wine and cheese, a light strolling supper and desserts served at select houses.

Ticket-holders can talk to owners about their kitchens and designers, architects and builders who created each kitchen.

Preview party patron tickets cost \$35, benefactor tickets cost \$50 and advance general admission tickets cost \$15; tickets on the day of the event are \$20. Tickets are on sale at the Cottage Gift Shop; Wild Birds Unlimited on Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods; the League Shop on the Hill; and Posterity: A Gallery on Kercheval in the Village.

Purchase tickets the day of the tour at 877 Edgemont Park, Grosse Pointe Park; or 27 Hawthorne, Grosse Pointe Shores.

No cameras or baby strollers are allowed on the tour.

For more information, call (313) 885-0604 or (313) 881-6784.

**Movie**

The film, "Despicable Me," is shown at dusk on South's foot-

ball field. Bring lawn chairs, blankets and popcorn.

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 25**

European and American classic cars are on display from noon to 3 p.m. at Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park, preceded by an 11:30 a.m. parade of cars down Kercheval in the fourth annual Concours d'Elegance.

**Trolley rides**

Free trolley rides, guided by members of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, are from 1 to 2 p.m. and 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Pick-up is in Grosse Pointe South's J-Lot on Fisher Road. The ride is from Windmill Pointe to the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club and each participant receives a goodie bag.

**For sale**

The Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors holds open houses from 2 to 5 p.m. for viewers to see the diversity of houses for sale in the Pointes.

"Fall is a very special time in Grosse Pointe," Boettcher said, "and it is our hope that these events will not only bring area residents out to celebrate the change of season, but that others from surrounding communities and cities will join in the fun as well."

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**The SOC Show**  
Robert Ramsey  
Estate Appraisal

**Great Lakes Log**  
Eugene Stakhiv and Scudder Mackey  
International Upper Great Lakes Study

**The John Prost Show**  
William Hulsker, Joseph Striplin, Marty Bufalini and Ron Bernas  
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Foreclosure

**Art & Design**  
Daniel Ames  
Poet

**In a Heartbeat**  
James D. Sawyer  
Society of Manufacturing Engineers

**A DVD Copy of any WMTV program can be obtained for \$20**

Schedule subject to change without notice. For further information call, 313-881-7511