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Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 72, NO. 49, 48 PAGES
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Week ahead

4 5 6 7 8 9 10
 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

THURSDAY, DEC. 8

◆ Grosse Pointe Concert Band holds a free concert at 8 p.m. at Parcels Middle School, 20600 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

FRIDAY, DEC. 9

◆ University Liggett Knights play the Michigan Sled Dogs in an ice sled game at 5 p.m. at McCann Arena, 1045 Cook, Grosse Pointe Woods. Freewill donations are accepted.
 ◆ The Grosse Pointe Art Center hosts an "Ugly Sweater Party" from 6 to 10 p.m. at 16900 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Attendees are to wear a holiday decorated sweater.

SUNDAY, DEC. 11

◆ The Assumption Cultural Center hosts Mel Stander's Gentlemen of Swing Christmas concert at 3 p.m. at the center, 21800 Marter, St. Clair Shores. The public can attend the free concert.
 ◆ The fifth annual "Nutcracker Experience," presented by the Turning Pointe Studio for the Performing Arts, is at 4 p.m. at Lakeview High School, 21100 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores. Adult admission is \$15 and children pay \$8. Proceeds benefit the Make-a-Wish

See WEEK AHEAD, page 10A

Water dispute muddy

By Brad Lindberg
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — This year's municipal audit doesn't mention a potential \$1 million payback for overbilled water sales dating back nearly a decade.

A member of the audit team said he knew of the billing dispute between Grosse Pointe Shores and its largest water customer, the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, but was told by city administrators it wasn't serious. "As of the date of our auditor's re-

port (June 30, 2011), (Shores) management's assertion was that the potential for any liability was neither probable nor reasonably estimable, and was therefore not required to be disclosed in notes to the financial statements," said Aaron Stevens, a CPA and partner in the Shores auditing firm, Abraham & Gaffney, in an e-mail Monday, Dec. 4.

Stevens sent his e-mail to Shores City Manager Brian Vick in response to questions the Grosse Pointe News posed on his office answering machine Wednesday, Nov. 30. Vick for-

warded Stevens' answers to the paper.

The club claims the Shores overbilled it up to \$1 million for water from 1997 to 2008.

Vick doubts merits of the claim, yet pared the maximum, would-be payback down to \$504,521.

Budget buster

The maximum liability represents more than 18 percent of the audit

See MUDDY, page 7A

Resident studies flooding

By Brad Lindberg
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Andy Dervan doesn't make conclusions by guesswork.

"I like being driven by data," he said. Dervan is using principles from his career as a chemist to determine why basements in Grosse Pointe Farms flooded with at least one inch of sewer water during a heavy rain storm in September.

Findings lead him to think it was caused by partially clogged sewer pipes.

"It doesn't take a lot of build-up to restrict flow," said Dervan, retired from DuPont.

The problem could be everything from leaf and lawn debris to tree roots infiltrating cracked pipes and more.

Dervan spent weeks this fall dropping off questionnaires and canvassing residents on five roads about flooded basements.

Investigation so far includes Fisher, McKinley, McMillan, Moran and Mount Vernon. All blocks are in the inland sewer district, north of Ridge.

Resulting data concerns water depth, water color, sump pumps, disconnected downspouts and more.

Dervan also examined catch basin restrictor plates, installed by public works personnel to limit runoff into drains, reducing the chance of sewers being overwhelmed and water backing into basements.

Numerous factors influence which residences are flood-prone and to what degree, according to Councilman Joe Leonard, a civil engineer and former Farms public services director.

Variables include elevation, sewer pipe diameter, outlet size, pipe hydraulic rates and more.

"The sewer line can be uniform, but ap-

See STUDIES, page 7A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Checking it twice

Santa's workshop has been relocated to the South cottage at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House. The workshop was inspired by those Henry and Clara Ford erected each year at their Dearborn house, Fair Lane. Santa is sitting at his desk checking the "nice" list twice. More photos on page 6A.

Durant gains momentum throughout state

By JOE WARNER
 Editor

The decision for Clark Durant wasn't his alone. It came during a family meeting late this past summer.

The four children of Grosse Pointe Farms residents Clark and Susan Durant were home for a wedding.

"My great children, with a wonderful daughter-in-law and wonderful son-in-law, we were gathered in a bedroom," Durant said. "We were having a lively conversation, bouncing thoughts from those sitting on the bed, the floor and around the room. I asked about a run for the U.S. Senate."

The answer, Durant said, came in a hurry from the youngest son John.

"He said, 'we love you very much,'" Durant said. "Then he

pointed a finger at me. He said my generation, both Republicans and Democrats, have put our country at risk. He said it was a 30- to 40-year problem of being irresponsible. My family agreed it was time to help fix the problem. I learned at a young age if you make a mistake, you correct it."

With the support of his family first, Durant decided he would run for the position in the U.S. Senate held by Democrat Debbie Stabenow.

"The wonderful thing is we made the decision together," Durant said. "I've been married to Susan for 38 years. Having the support of my family is the only way I could do this."

Support quickly grew before an official announcement was made. Others had already en-



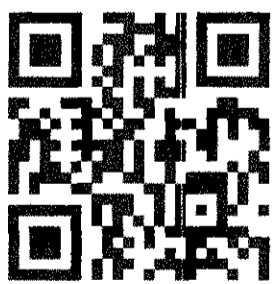
Clark Durant shakes hands with golfing legend Arnold Palmer as they exit a sandtrap at the Country Club of Detroit in 2004 during a charity event. For Palmer, it was a return to where he won the 1954 U.S. Amateur title.

tered the race, including former Congressman Pete Hoekstra, a Republican who

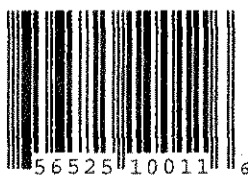
lost the bid for governor to eventual winner Rick Snyder. Hoekstra was seeking sup-

port from big names statewide, but Durant found success of

See DURANT, page 10A



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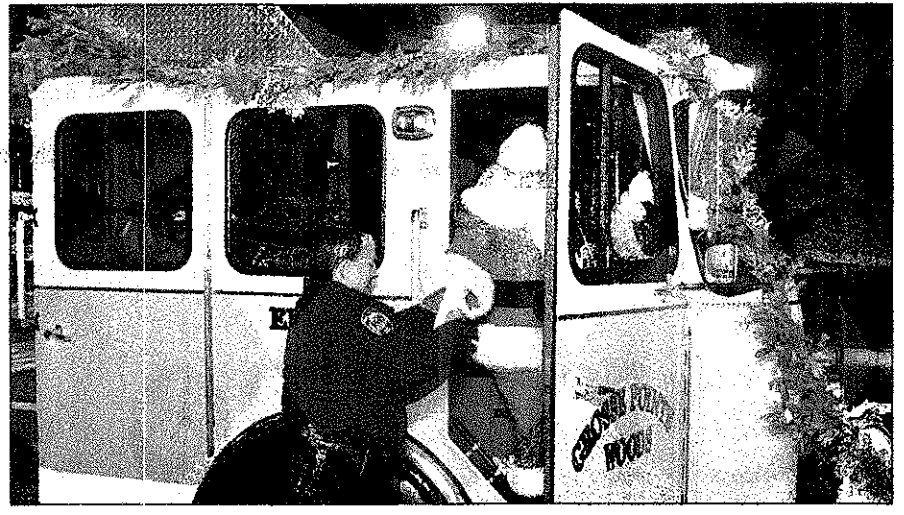
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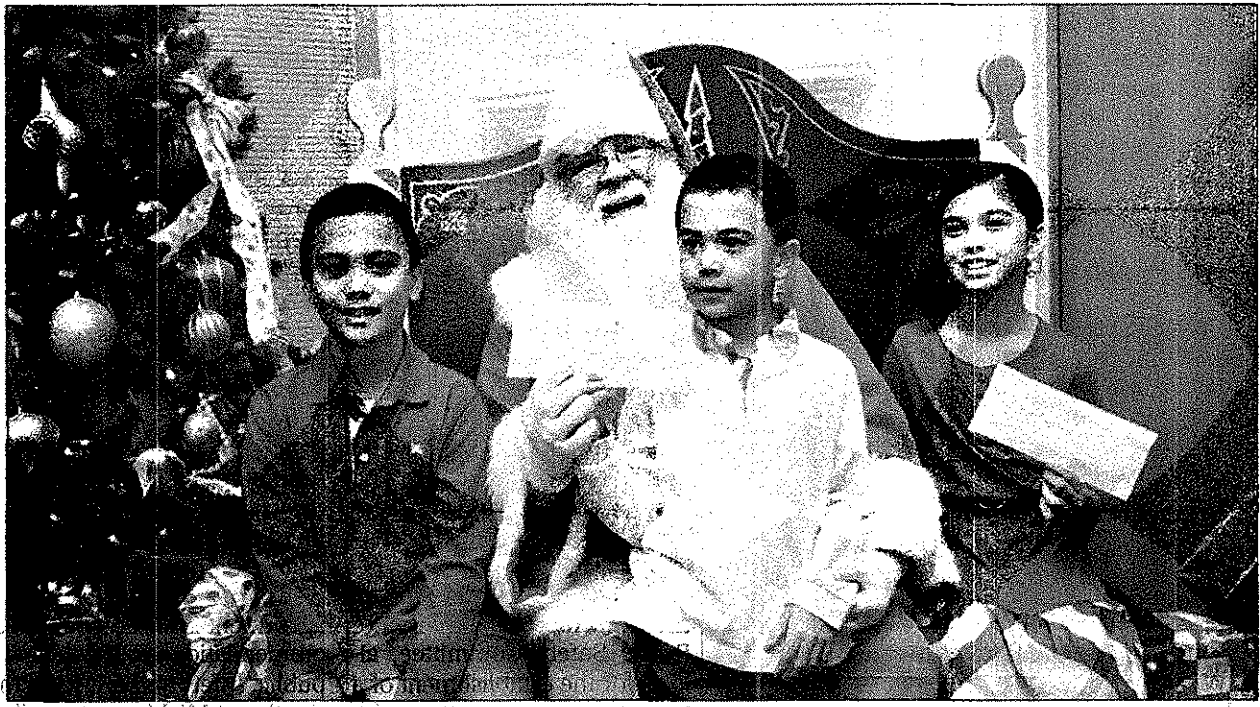


PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Festive in the Woods

Despite a heavy downpour, the Woods Aglow ceremony went off as planned with the help of children, Grosse Pointe Woods Department of Public Services Director Joe Ahee, Mayor Robert Novitke and Santa Claus. Top right, police chief Andrew Pazuchowski helps Santa from the fire truck to begin the ceremony. At right, Novitke presents Santa with the keys to the city.



At left, Martin, Maegan and David Daher handed their letters directly to Santa. Above, Grosse Pointe North High School choir members, from left, Ryan Waggoner, Tim Lumo and Logan Hart know they are not too old to visit Santa.

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Pump station study expected next month

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — An analysis of the Kerby Road Pumping Station could be ready in time for presentation at next month's city council meeting.

The station pumps sewage from Grosse Pointe Farms to Detroit for treatment.

Sewage that backed up into about 300 basements during heavy rains in May and September prompted Farms officials to review the facility for potential improvements.

Consulting engineers with the firm, Hubbell, Roth & Clark, may finish their report in time for presentation to

council at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 9, according to Shane Reeside, city manager.

"They're near completion," he said.

Engineers are preparing a two-part report.

◆ Part one concerns the station.

Farms officials are considering dovetailing station upgrades with possible improvements Wayne County may make to its pump station, also located at the corner of Chalfonte and Kerby, according to Reeside.

◆ Part two, which is more involved and won't be ready until February or March, evaluates the Inland Sewer District for full or partial sewer separation, Reeside said.

Separated sewers handle sewage and storm water in distinct systems, reducing chances of backups.

Neighborhoods in the Lakeside Sewer District, generally below Ridge Road, were separated during the mid 1990s. They didn't flood this year.

At the time of separation, the cost reached \$10 million.

Recent rains

Basements didn't flood during steady rains last week, Reeside said.

"Everything went well at the pump station," he said. "Rain fell over a sufficient length of time that the larger pumps weren't needed."

The biggest issue was street flooding.

Fallen leaves clogged catch basins, causing water to pool in some areas.

"Public works crews worked through the night clearing catch basins," Reeside said. "Otherwise, things went well."

Grosse Pointe News

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Wireless EKG protects lives

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Heart patients are a few beats closer to the emergency room because of wireless links medics have with St. John Hospital.

"We can diagnose myocardial infarctions in the field and transmit findings of a 12-lead electrocardiogram to the hospital so they can have the cath lab standing by," said Sgt. Scott Rohr, the Shores public safety department EMS coordinator and instructor.

Diagnoses and data trans-

mission represents a state-of-the-art upgrade provided by equipment purchased with a roughly \$8,500 grant from St. John, Rohr said.

The equipment sends streams of live data from the field to the hospital.

"They can see what is going on with the heart prior to our transporting the patient," Rohr said of hospital personnel. "They can have the cath team standing by."

Upon medics' arriving at the hospital, the patient is rushed directly to catheterization, ac-

See WIRELESS, page 3A



Season of good feelings

Grosse Pointe Park Mayor Palmer Heenan presented Santa Claus "the key to the hearts of boys and girls of the city" during the annual tree lighting ceremony last week. Above, twins Megan and Logan MacLean check out the city's Christmas tree. At left, Devon Clark gives Santa a hug.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Dogs help Park police take a bite out of crime

By Kathy Ryan
Staff Writer

Man's best friend helped Grosse Pointe Park police put an end to a series of larceny from auto incidents that plagued the city most of November.

At approximately 5:45 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, a Buckingham Road resident returned home from walking her dogs to find a stranger in her attached garage. While her dogs held the intruder at bay, the resident called 911 and responding officers took the suspect, a 15-year-old Detroit resident, into custody.

Under questioning by police, the young man admitted to entering the house on Buckingham and stealing money and a cell phone, as well as entering several unlocked cars in the area and removing money and cell phones.

The young man's 16-year-old cousin was recently arrested by Park police in connection to another series of auto larcenies.

At the time of his arrest at 5:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 20, he was found in possession of a large amount of change.

Under questioning by police, the suspects admitted to several crimes, including larceny from autos, bike theft and home invasion. In all, police were able to clear 10 open cases with the arrest of the two cousins.

"This again is a classic example of the community and police working together," said Park police chief David Hiller in a written statement. "Our residents are our best eyes and ears. They know what does and does not belong in the neighborhood."

At the same time, we want to remind everyone that we can help reduce crimes such as these by taking a few extra minutes to lock our cars and take our valuables in the house."

The two are being held by Wayne County Juvenile officials pending charges being filed by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

Woods inks fire agreement

By Kathy Ryan
Staff Writer

Grosse Pointe Woods has signed on to the Fire Safety Interlocal Agreement, paving the way for consolidation of some fire services with the other Grosse Pointes and taking the current mutual aid pact to an even higher cooperative level.

The agreement, a product of the ad hoc Grosse Pointe Public Safety Committee, allows for the establishment of a fire services committee with representatives of the participating Grosse Pointes, and will serve to coordinate purchases,

consolidate training and redefine the current mutual aid pact.

"This will allow us to pursue unified training and establish standard operating procedure measures among the participating departments," city administrator Skip Fincham told the council. "It will also allow us to purchase equipment on a community-wide basis."

According to Fincham, the agreement is based on the recommendations of Ray Riggs, a public safety expert with the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. Riggs conducted

See FIRE, page 6A

Rotary donations still paying off

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — A heat-sensing camera allowed a family to wake up last week to alarm clocks rather than a fire alarm.

Officers using a thermal imaging camera revealed flames budding within walls and between floors of a house in the area of Ridgemont and Ridge.

"If those people had gone to bed without that being found, it could have been a tragedy,"

said Lt. Jack Patterson. "If someone had been asleep and all of a sudden that came through, smoke probably would have got them."

Officers deployed to the house during late afternoon Tuesday, Nov. 29. A family member reported smelling smoke.

"A power line was down in the area," Patterson said. The house had a power surge.

"It caused power lines in the house to overheat, as well as water pipes grounded to lines," Patterson said.

A DTE Energy crew cut electricity to the house while Farms officers with a camera traced the source of smoke.

Thermal imaging cameras detect heat.

"They found burning wires in the wall behind the dish washer and a smoldering floor joist between the first and second floors," Patterson said. "We had to cut open a beautiful hardwood floor. However, it kept the house from burning down."

Officers doused hot spots with splashes of water. Both of

the department's fire trucks were deployed.

"We had lines pulled into the house off of the engine as precaution in case something took off when we broke everything open," Patterson said.

Thermal cameras have paid off multiple times since the five Pointes bought them more than 10 years ago, in large part with donations from the Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe.

"It paid about 10 times on that house alone, not to mention the life safety," Patterson said.

WIRELESS: Services extended into field

Continued from page 2A

cording to Rohr.

"You don't have to wait or be checked in," he said. "This reduces the time between initial contact and catheterization done. Every minute, your heart tissue dies a little when not getting oxygen."

Rohr, a paramedic, also serves with hospital representatives on the Detroit East Medical Control Authority Board.

He said the new technology lets the hospital "extend its services further into the field, so they can see what's going on and be prepared for you upon arrival."

Editor's note:

A letter to the editor by Diane Karabetsos thanking her supporters in the recent school board election should have identified her as a candidate.

The error printed in the Nov. 17 edition was the fault of the Grosse Pointe News and not Ms. Karabetsos.



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NEWS

POINTER OF INTEREST

A night at the opera (house)

By A.J. Hakim
Staff Writer

As a child disinterested in music and theater despite growing up in a musically cultured household, Terry Shea was oftentimes involuntarily subjected to his great aunt's piano playing.

But unbeknownst to him at the time, the moments spent with his great aunt, who taught music and sang opera at the local theater during the pre-movie, vaudevillian-type performance acts, proved the start to future endeavors.

"I didn't particularly like it back then, but I think it kind of planted the seed," said Shea, a

City of Grosse Pointe resident and vice president of Comerica Bank's Midtown Detroit Banking Center. "The symphony had young people concerts, so I went to those and we always had a lot of music, so I heard a lot of that type of thing. All of the sudden a bell went off and I all the sudden started liking opera."

His attitude changing from aversion to adoration, Shea eventually performed in Catholic Central High School's glee club and sang in the Michigan Opera Theatre's chorus group. As an adult, he became treasurer of the theater's volunteer association and, in July, was appointed association

president.

As president, Shea conducts bi-monthly meetings, during which the association's multiple subcommittees — ushers, young professionals, ambassadors, boutique, dance council, divas and divos, education and outreach and other opportunities — report their weekly progress and activities.

But, Shea said, the most important aspect of his job is marketing the theater, drawing more people into each show — the theater hosts two fall and a spring performances — and creating more fundraising opportunities.

Theater subcommittees currently host potluck dinners;

meet and greets with a show's cast members; coordinate Detroit Opera House tours, during which spectators learn the theater's history and behind-the-scenes operations; and sell theater merchandise, among other opportunities.

"We definitely want people more involved in the opera," said Shea, who's also involved in Comerica's Asian-Indian Business Initiative, president of the bank's employee events committee and treasurer for the Chalfonte Foundation, a non-profit raising money for children with cystic fibrosis.

"Our organization, in addition to making sure people are having a good time when they

come to the shows and enriching their performance, is to try to do things where I can make money to try to help the company. Any little part I can do to try to help that out, that's my motivation."

During his limited spare time, Shea reads, listens to music, travels across the world and frequently visits family in Chicago.

Though, no matter the location, he makes a point to visit the theater.

"(Theater) is different from going to a movie," Shea said. "It's so awesome that one person can stand on stage and their voice can fill the theater. And it's not mic'ed.

"It's really like a sport. You've got these scores with the high notes and it's, 'can that person make it?' It's really a kind of an athletic-type experience to me."

His last vacation, visiting

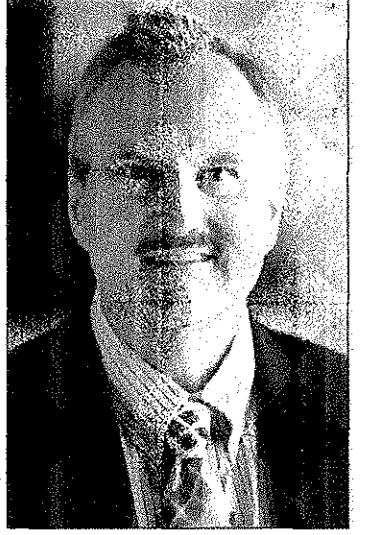


PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRY SHEA

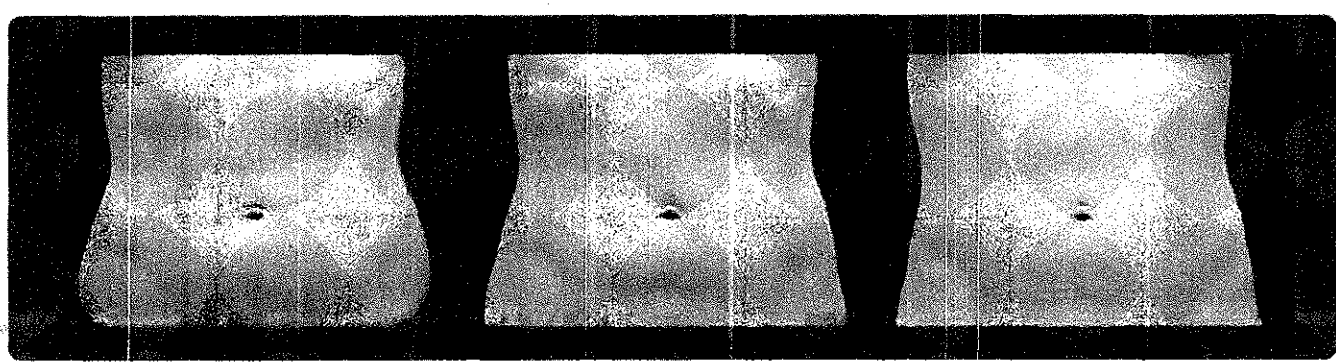
Terry Shea

family for a week during Thanksgiving, he attended the opera twice and Chicago Symphony Orchestra once; a far cry from his days as a child listening disinterestedly to his great aunt playing the piano.

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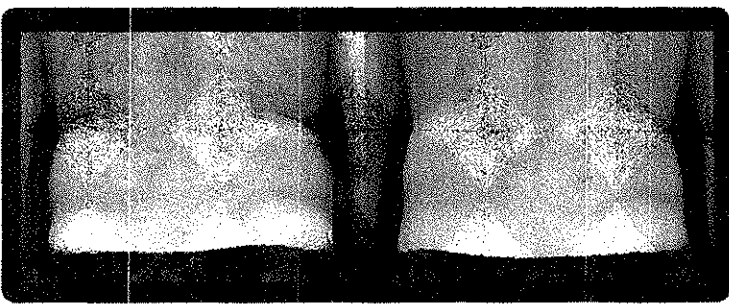


Before

90 Days After

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Before

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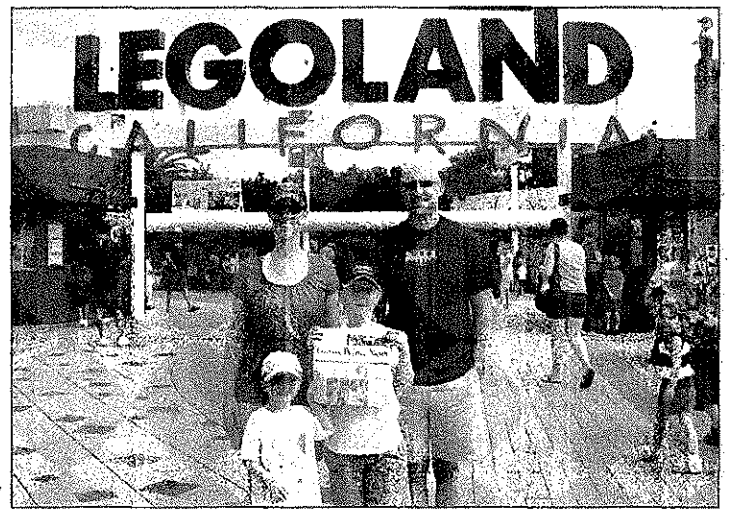
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OUR NEWS WILL TRAVEL



The Czerkis family, of Grosse Pointe Woods, visited LEGOLAND in San Diego, Calif.



In front of the glockenspiel in the city center of Marienplatz in Munich, Germany, are Judy and Jay Flowers of the City of Grosse Pointe, Russ and Cindy Hill of Grosse Pointe Farms, Ursula and Larry Donaldson of Grosse Pointe Park, Barry Leonard and Sharon Tusa of Grosse Pointe Woods and Dave and Polly Williams of Rochester.



Alex Kelly, of Grosse Pointe Farms, at the Pantheon in Rome, Italy. When you travel, take along a copy of the Grosse Pointe News and have a photo taken of yourself in front of a local landmark. Send the picture, along with a few words to: The Grosse Pointe News Reader, 96 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236; or e-mail to editor@grossepointenews.com. Your picture will appear in an upcoming issue.

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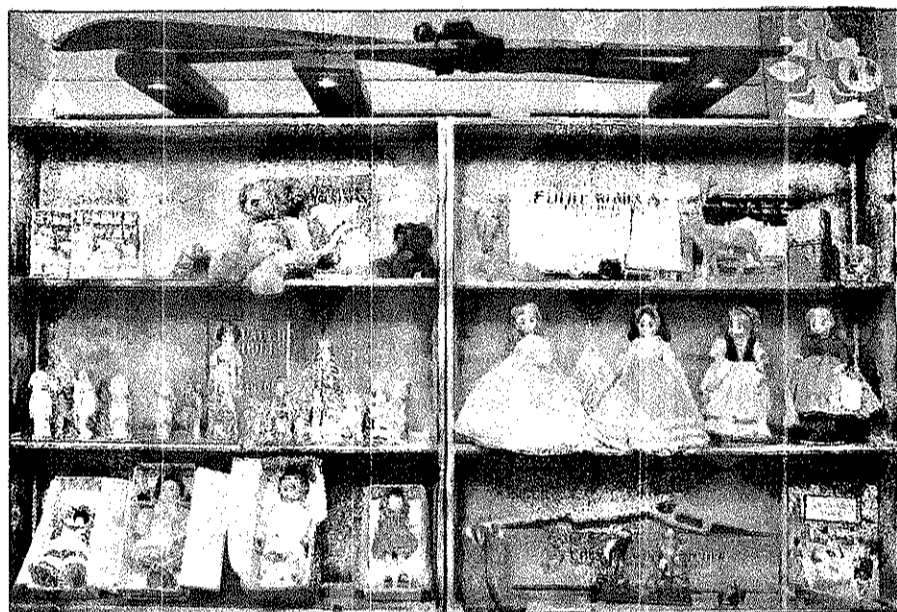
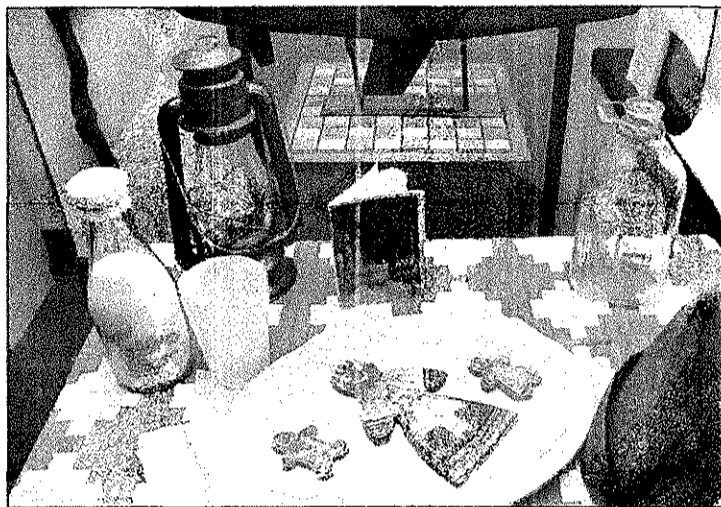
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NEWS



Santa's workshop

During crunch time, Santa helps build toys using antique tools. The bench is a replica of Henry Ford's. Visitors to the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House can bring a new, unwrapped toy to be donated to The Children's Center in Detroit.



Milk from a glass bottle and intricately decorated gingerbread cookies awaited Santa Claus decades ago. Dolls, teddy bears, books, wooden guns, blocks, Tiddlywinks and wooden skis are lined up on Santa's workshop shelf waiting to be delivered on Christmas Eve.

PHOTOS BY RENE LANDUYT

Clairview sewer relining

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — The cost of repairing Clairview sewer pipes is significantly less than replacing the system.

A technique called cured-in-place-pipe, or CIPP, is designed to put old pipes in first-rate shape.

The Clairview project is not to cost more than \$42,651.

"To replace (the pipe) costs two or three times as much," said Brian Vick, city manager.

Work involves lining 950 feet of 12-inch sanitary pipe with a resin material. Upon completion, the pipe is sealed and strengthened with smoother inner walls.

About 100 feet of Clairview sewer was replaced this summer.

"Now that the most serious section of pipe has been replaced, (we've) been working with our engineering consultants to obtain bids for cured-in-place-pipe," Vick said.

The city council this month awarded the job to low-bidder, Lanzo Lining Services.

The company beat three competitors for the contract.

The company lined Shores sewers in 2006.

"Lanzo Lining has provided satisfactory municipal references for lining projects, including in Ypsilanti, Lansing, Grand Rapids," according to a memo to Vick from Edward Zmich, project engineer for Hubbell, Roth & Clark, consulting engineers.

"CIPP lining is a more cost-effective alternative to replacing deteriorating pipelines," Vick said.

The method involves injecting felt tubing, impregnated with resin, into the pipe.

"When installed, hydrostatic pressure inverts the resin-filled tube, which conforms to the walls of the existing pipe to create a structurally sound, jointless pipe," Vick said. "Water is then heated and circulated throughout the installed length until the tube is cured in place."

The injection method doesn't require excavating the length of the pipe.

Similar repairs took place this summer in the City of Grosse Pointe.

FIRE: Agreement waits for other Pointes

Continued from page 3A

ed a review of fire services in the Pointes and offered recommendations on how to be more cost effective in delivering those services to residents.

Fincham stressed that the agreement is not directly about consolidation of fire departments, but rather about consolidation of purchasing and training. It is also the result of a state mandate that requires cities to study ways to share services in order to receive state aid.

"It doesn't make sense in this economy for every department to go it alone when buying equipment," he said. As an example, both Fincham and public safety director Andrew Pazuchowski pointed to the breathing apparatuses used by the departments.

"Some use a Scott system, while others use Mine Safety apparatuses," Pazuchowski said. "This way, we will have all departments using the same system, which will allow us to interchange parts and have central refilling stations instead of each department having its own."

The agreement will also allow the Pointes to "share" fire numbers, which will help the Pointes when applying for grants from the state or federal government. Fincham explained that a department that handles 100 fires a year stands a better chance of receiving a grant than one that handles 10.

Fincham told the council that he expects the agreement to go into effect as soon as all the cities sign on, though participation by all the Pointes is not necessary.

"We'll go with what we have," he said.

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Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him. John 7:38

MUDDY: Numbers unreported

Continued from page 1A

year's general fund revenue. The potential liability also is more than twice the city's rainy day fund, which, although a three-fold increase from the prior year, is less than half what auditors recommend.

The idea of such a potential liability not being disclosed in a regularly-scheduled audit, which resulted in the city receiving a clean rating, has newly-elected Shores Mayor Ted Kedzierski "almost speechless," he said.

"If I were an auditor and the city said its biggest customer alleged an overcharge over a period of years in a material amount of money, I would want to know," said

Kedzierski, a CPA and attorney.

Kedzierski, a former first-term city councilman, last month unseated 12-year incumbent Mayor James Cooper.

During Kedzierski's term on the council, he chaired the finance committee. About halfway through his term, he said he "started hearing rumors" about a water billing problems dating back more than a decade before he started his campaign.

Hearsay became hardcopy in a July 2010 memo Vick wrote informing council members of the club's assertion.

"The memo seemed to indicate the (club's claim) was without merit," Kedzierski

said. He said he tried in September of this year to determine the status of the audit prior to its presentation at the November council meeting.

"I wanted to know if we were going to end 2011 with a surplus or a deficit, so we could determine what our rainy day fund would be," Kedzierski said.

Also in September, he asked a member of the auditing team about club allegations, Kedzierski said.

"I asked Steve Adair, our field auditor from our CPA firm, if he was informed of the alleged water overbilling issue," Kedzierski said. "He said, 'No.'"

Kedzierski said Adair planned to look into the potential liability, which also went unnoted in the prior year's audit.

"Adair said clearly that it would be material and he was going to contact the city attorney to see why it wasn't mentioned the previous year," Kedzierski said.

Adair referred questions by

the Grosse Pointe News to Stevens.

"It is policy that partners are the only members of the firm to talk to the press," Adair said.

Auditors appear to have been informed of the club's allegations without the knowledge of some Shores officeholders.

"During our audit fieldwork, we were informed that the city and yacht club were having discussions regarding potential overcharges," Stevens said in his e-mail.

His source was the Shores city attorney.

"The attorney letter was sent to the auditor," Vick said in an e-mail accompanying Stevens' answers.

Whether discussions between the city and club were material, from an auditing perspective, depended on the "likelihood that a future event will confirm that a gain or loss had occurred and on the ability to make a reasonable estimate of the outcome," Stevens wrote.

Councilman Dan Schulte, the only incumbent other than

Kedzierski to make it through the November election, was unaware what the auditors knew.

"The first time I knew (they) had knowledge of it was when John Booth (a resident) asked them at the (November) council meeting," Schulte said. "Prior to that, I don't know if they knew or not. Nobody on the previous council gave me any information."

"When we did learn about it," Kedzierski said, "the former mayor and current (municipal) legal counsel said it was privileged."

Secret agreement

Kedzierski also was surprised to learn that Vick's lone signature on a March 15, 2010, document bound the city to a tolling agreement with the club. The agreement suspended the statute of limitations, giving parties time to resolve the dispute without feeling rushed into court by the statute's expiration.

"How could the tolling agreement be entered into without the entire council dis-

cussing it?" Kedzierski said.

The tolling agreement was made with knowledge of the city attorney.

"He works for the council as a whole, not specific council members," Kedzierski said. "He's the city's attorney. If he reviewed an agreement that never got presented to the full council.... I don't want to finish that thought."

Kedzierski is concerned questions aren't being answered in the spirit they're being asked.

"It may be a matter of semantics," he said.

The Grosse Pointe News last month revealed aspects of the tolling agreement and water dispute in municipal documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act.

Documents were culled from a 4-inch thick folder that Vick set aside last month for council members to review in a reading room at city hall.

The folder isn't being made public.

"That folder is just like all attorney-client privileged documents," Vick said.

STUDIES: Data shared

Continued on page 1A

pendages from each home can be unique," Leonard said.

Some houses have rear-yard sewers, others are in front.

"It depends on the time the house was built," Leonard said.

Flooding irregularities

Of 320 houses contacted, Dervan spoke with or received completed questionnaires from 232 homeowners.

"There was a huge variable of flooding from street to street, and on either side of streets," Dervan said.

Irregular flooding convinced him sewer pipes are intermittently restricted.

◆ His house in the 300 block of Fisher, between Beaupre and Chalfonte, had less than three inches of water. The next two neighbors up the street reported four inches. The next house — three up the street — had 30 inches.

"If you didn't have a sump pump, you got flooded," he said.

◆ In the 400 block of McKinley, three odd-numbered houses mid-block had between 12 and 16 inches of water. Three houses directly across the street had no more than four inches.

◆ In the 300 block of

McMillan, odd-numbered houses flooded with clear water. Brown water backed up into even-numbered houses.

Council presentation

Dervan compiled findings in bar graphs and tables that made it easy for him to make a succinct report this week to the city council.

Mayor James Farquhar called the presentation "interesting."

"This is very informative," added Councilman Louis Theros.

"It's awesome," said Councilman Lev Wood.

"We will make sure our city engineers look at it," said Shane Reeside, city manager.

Dervan thought the engineers' report on flooding during a big May storm was "superficial." It focused too much on power failures at the Kerby Road Pumping Station, he said.

Problems at the station don't account for flooding variations, he said.

"I was really impressed with the station," Dervan said, having toured it recently.

Further investigation will consider sewer drain cleaning, road pitch elevations, catch basin restrictor plates and the pumping station.

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OPINION

Grosse Pointe News

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96 KERCHEVAL AVE., GROSSE POINTE FARMS, MI 48236
PHONE: (313) 882-6900 FAX: (313) 882-1585
E-MAIL: EDITOR@GROSSEPOINTENEWS.COM

ROBERT G. LIGGETT JR.: Chairman and Publisher
BRUCE FERGUSON: CEO
JOE WARNER: General Manager and Editor

GUEST OPINION By Rich Lowrys

A very, very carbon-neutral Christmas

The great Christmas tree debate should be settled for now. No more agonizing over artificial versus natural, not after the sustainable-development firm elipso released a bombshell study. A life cycle assessment — following “the recognized ISO (International Organization for Standardization) 14040 and 14044 standards” and relying on “no funding (direct or indirect) by any of the concerned stakeholders” — determined “a natural tree will generate 3.1 kilograms of greenhouse gases whereas the artificial tree will produce 8.1 kg per year.”

The new Christmas scolds worry someone, somewhere may be emitting CO2 over a glass of eggnog: Blessed is good, merry is nice, peaceful is advisable — but carbon-neutral is absolutely essential.

The firm’s president rightly called the finding “astonishing,” given “the artificial tree is reusable” and “the natural tree requires annual trips to purchase it.”

The artificial tree incurs such a carbon footprint at its inception — with its manufacturing and its transport from China — it takes 20 years for it to match a natural tree. Since most people don’t throw out their artificial trees on average after a mere six years of use, the natural tree is clearly superior.

It sequesters carbon as it grows, and “watering the tree in the use stage only has marginal impacts.” St. Boniface, who cut down the tree of Thor as a slap to the Norse gods and first suggested the fir as a symbol of Christianity, would no doubt be greatly relieved.

Following all this closely is the new Christmas scolds, who are as annoying as the old Christmas scolds, except greener. H.L. Mencken famously put down the Puritans — decidedly cool on Christmas celebrations — as people worried someone, somewhere may be happy.

The new Christmas scolds worry someone, somewhere may be emitting CO2 over a glass of eggnog: Blessed is good, merry is nice, peaceful is advisable — but carbon-neutral is absolutely essential.

Keep that in mind as you wrap gifts — if you must. According to the Clean Air Council, “An additional 5 tons of waste is generated during the holidays. Four million tons of this is wrapping paper and shopping bags.” To avoid this carnage, children should either be kept from ripping the wrapping paper so it can be reused — good luck — or gifts should be placed in cloth gift sacks.

Did I mention children? Aren’t they the root of much of the wanton Christmas waste? No sooner are they out of their diapers, using 8,000 to 10,000 prior to potty training, than they are thrilling to Christmas lights — an estimated 200 pounds of unnecessary carbon emissions per season.

Ralph Reiland of the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review points to a web publication called Alternative Consumer that recommends “A Freegan Christmas.” The festivities include Christmas trees fashioned out of shopping bags and a celebratory vegetarian meal.

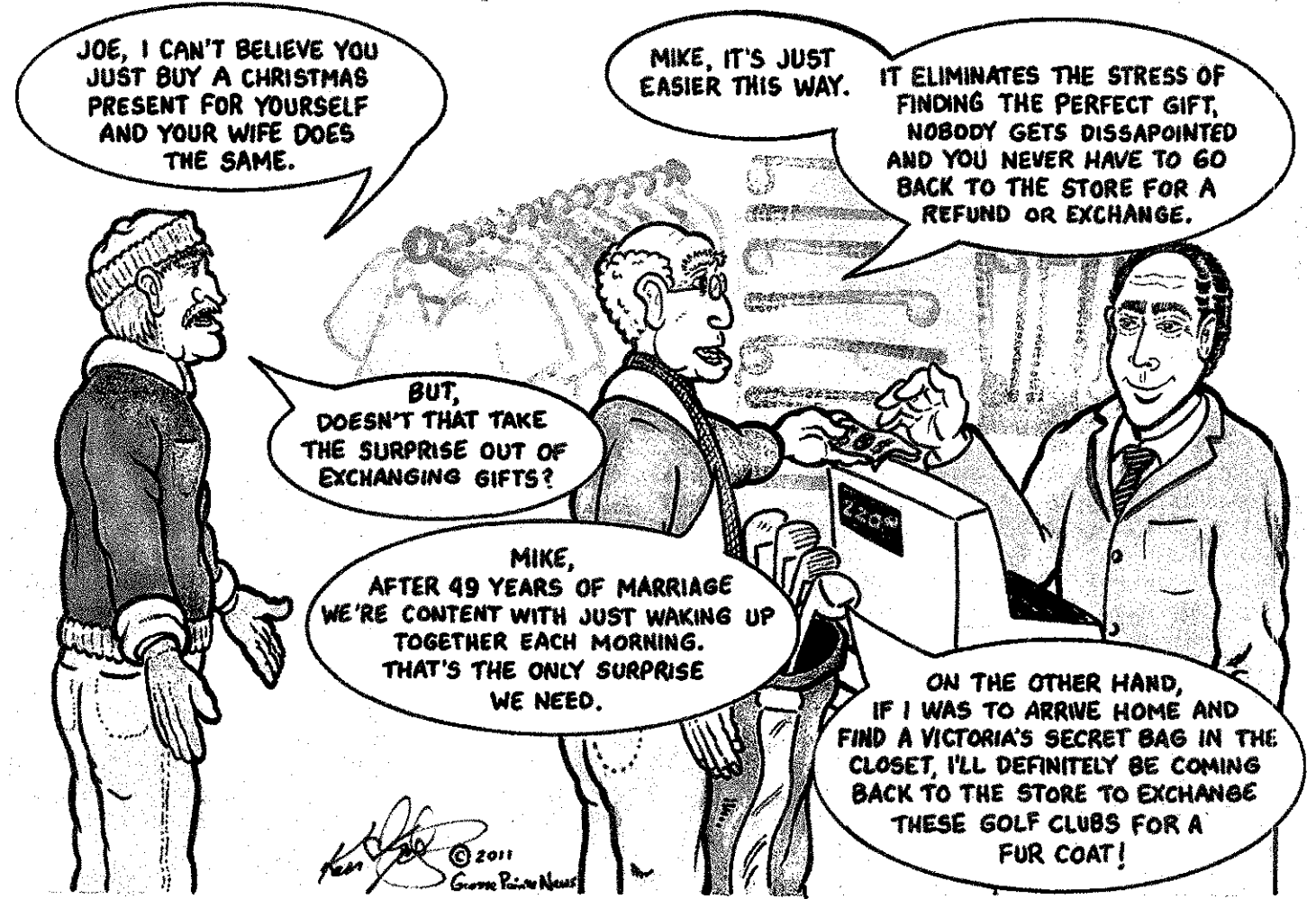
No cards and no wrapping paper. Someone captured the spirit of this holiday program long ago, “Bah! Humbug!”

It’s not an endorsement of Christmas excess to appreciate merrymaking and gestures of generosity. After all, the Magi didn’t necessarily have to travel, or offer gifts of frankincense and myrrh.

That they did points to the ultimate reason for the joyous celebration of the season. Merry Christmas!

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
— King Features Syndicate

KEN SCHOP



LETTERS

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

Thanks many for parade

To the Editor:
On behalf of the Grosse Pointe Village and Hill Associations, I would like to extend a huge thank you to all the sponsors that enable us to produce the 36th annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade.

Those sponsors are: Pentastar Aviation, Vicki and Bob Liggett, Henry Ford Medical Center - Cottage, the cities of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Woods, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Farms, Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, Ray Laethem Motor Village, Wayne County Community College District, Walsh College, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, Mr. and Mrs. William Rands III, the Grosse Pointe News, Grosse Pointe War Memorial WMTV5, the Hill Association, Aitken Ormond Shores, CVS, Flagstar Bank, the Fikany family, Eastside Tennis & Fitness, Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce Clown Corps, Absopure Water Co., Don Gooley Cadillac, Beaumont Hospital Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation, Connell Building Co., Adlhoec & Associates, Grosse Pointe Florist, Janet & Rob Ridder, Grosse Pointe Lions Club, LaLonde Jewelers, Robt. Loomis & Assoc., Crest Volvo Hyundai, Russell Development, Sanders Candy Shop, National Coney Island, UBS Financial Services, Pointe Electronics, Ralph Wilson Enterprises, Robert R. Sfire & Associates, TCBY and the League Shop.

A big thanks to John Stevens and the Friends of the Grosse Pointe Parade for the Wellness Express and Sean Moran for facilitating the donations for the Detroit float, all the “Big Heads” who marched in the parade, The Grosse Pointe Rotaries, the Clown Ministers from Regina for their balloon distribution and Village Ace Hardware for their fireplace and wreath.

The parade could not happen without the assistance of all our volunteers.

A big thank you goes to Chelsea Groustra, volunteer coordinator, and all the banner carriers from area schools.

Behind the scenes help from the Langton family, the

entire Berschback family, CCD, Mary Wells, Ellen Durand, Tim Cenowa and Dean Valente.

Thanks to the WMTV5 crew, commentators Mark Weber and John Denomme and the Stream Michigan Company.

TERRI BERSCHBACK
2011 Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade
Director

Woods taxes paid on credit card

To The Editor:

That well-worn adage, “Be careful what you wish for, because you just might get it,” never made more sense than it does this winter tax season in Grosse Pointe Woods.

For years, Woods residents have been asking the city mamas and poppas to let homeowners charge their semi-annual property taxes on their credit cards. Hey, using plastic is not only convenient, it saves dipping into your savings for a lump sum cash payment.

And many credit card issuers have attractive “rewards” programs that offer travel and cash-back to spenders.

Until this month, the city’s response has been less than enthusiastic. I served on the Woods council for four years and the leadership’s stock answer was that servicing credit cards was either “too much trouble” or “too expensive.”

Well, apparently that’s no longer the case. Both residents and business property taxpayers would be wise to heed another ancient adage: “Buyer beware.”

The good news is, the Woods now accepts credit card payments for property taxes. Sit down and I’ll tell you the bad news:

In addition to the customary 1 percent “Administration Fee” on each tax bill, the Woods city council has approved an additional 3 percent “Processing Fee,” in their words, “for this (credit card) service.” Service? Ripoff is a better word.

Pick a number. Say your winter taxes are \$3,000, which is not unreasonable in the Woods. The 1 percent Administration Fee that even cash customers must pay is \$30. For what, I have no idea.

Now, add a 3 percent Processing Fee of \$90 if you choose to pay by credit card and the city ends up charging you \$120 — to give them three grand? If your annual taxes are \$6,000 the cost for this “service” is \$240 a year!

Talk about voodoo economics.

Yes, credit card companies do charge their merchants — in this case, Grosse Pointe Woods — to process their credit card payments. For huge accounts like the Woods, however, that figure customarily is much less than 3 percent.

And who said they have to “make money” on collections anyway?

With the way the city inflates residents’ tax bills in this horrible real estate market, the Woods council ought to be happy they can offer a simple service without trying to make even more money on their taxpayers.

PETE WALDMEIR
Grosse Pointe Woods

I SAY By Karen Fontanive

It’s all in the given name



Instead of Michael, No. 1 on the Social Security Administration list for 30 years, our firstborn could have been Lamborghini or Portugal or Chutney.

BabyCenter.com recently released its list of top baby names for 2011. Topping the list are Sophia and Aiden.

According to the website, the list is based on the responses “from hundreds of thousands of parents who shared their babies names” with the website.

The list of top baby names for 2011 from the Social Security Administration will be released in May. Typical for the government to be behind five months.

However, how can BabyCenter release the top names for the year before the year is over?

There could be a slew of

Emmas or Jacksons, the No. 2 names, born by Dec. 31 catapulting them to No. 1.

In comparing BabyCenter’s list for 2011 with the 2010 SSA list, the girls’ names and rankings are close. Nine out of 10 names appear within the top 10 on both lists.

For boys, only four names on the BabyCenter list appear in SSA’s top 10.

Eighteen years ago when my husband and I were discussing baby names, we tried to come up with ones that flowed nicely with the last name (my husband’s, not mine), weren’t too trendy and would go well with whatever chosen career: doctor, lawyer, businessman, artist, plumber, professional athlete.

Silly us. We could have followed BabyCenter’s helpful hints on searching for names. We could have turned to brand names (Borden), holidays (Sage), favorite places (Madison), movies (Angelina), seasons (Summer) and nature (River) for inspiration.

Instead of Michael, No. 1 on the SSA list for 30 years, our firstborn could have been Lamborghini or Portugal or Chutney.

But in defense of our mainstream populist choice, BabyCenter didn’t exist when my son was born.

And three years later, we searched for a less common name for our daughter. Without help from websites or trendsetters, we agreed on a

name that hasn’t appeared on any most common lists ever — and I looked at SSA lists back to the 1930s and Babycenter lists to 2000. (Out of respect for my daughter’s anonymity, since I tend to embarrass her no matter what I do — including writing what I just wrote — I can’t reveal her name. It’s No. 8,726 on BabyCenter, though.)

According to an article in the Dec. 1 issue of “USA Today,” parents Google names to be sure there isn’t any bad juju associated with the name, look to celebrities for naming assistance, hence the uptick in Anderson, from No. 333 to No. 273, and Cooper to No. 58, or remember back to their youth to the child they liked most or least.

A parent quoted in the article said she and her husband chose their son’s name based on “something he could put on a resumé.” The result: Ryder.

Hmm. Suddenly I have an urge to watch, “A Christmas Story.”

OUR STAFF

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CLASSIFIED
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PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

City of Grosse Pointe

Effects linger

A woman is still dealing with repercussions from the August break-in of her former residence in the 100 block of Stephens in Grosse Pointe Farms.

The woman, now living in the City of Grosse Pointe, reported to police last week that someone associated with the burglary obtained her identity when stealing her purse.

The unknown suspect may have used her Social Security number to make a \$10,000 unauthorized withdrawal from her bank account.

—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

Third offense

A 35-year-old Detroit man was arrested at 1:38 a.m. Friday, Dec. 2, in the area of westbound Mack and East Warren for driving drunk.

The man had an open can of beer in his 2000 Dodge Intrepid and registered a .098 percent blood alcohol level, police said.

An officer investigated the man for operating the car with a burned-out headlight.

"The driver had two prior convictions for (drunken driving) and five prior convictions for (violating a suspended driver's license)," said the officer.

Credit check pays

A Farms woman obtaining credit reports last week learned she was a victim of identity theft.

"She discovered that three separate accounts had been opened in her name," said an officer.

Accounts at major chain and department stores dated back to 2002. None had balances.

I.D. theft

A Farms woman received a telephone call during the evening of Tuesday, Nov. 29, from a department store employee reporting someone trying to open a charge account in her name.

"The unknown suspect had her name, Social Security number and phone number,"

said a public safety officer.

Needs a lift

At about 2:15 a.m. Monday, Nov. 28, in the area of Mack and East Warren, a 21-year-old Detroit woman resisted being taken into custody for running two red lights and not having a driver's license.

"She became verbally abusive, accusing (me) of being racist," said the patrolman.

The woman reportedly wouldn't sit in the backseat of the cruiser.

"After several minutes of asking (her) to pull her legs in to the vehicle, she continued to refuse," said the officer. "(I) assisted (her) by picking up her legs and placing them into the vehicle."

—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 Shores

Another offense

A 29-year-old City of Grosse Pointe woman received her third drunken driving offense during an investigation in the first block of Vernier shortly before 12:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 4.

Grosse Pointe Woods police prompted the investigation by alerting Shores counterparts to the woman driving without headlights between lanes on eastbound Vernier.

"(The woman) indicated she was dropping her little brother and his friend off at her mother's house," said a patrolman. "(The driver) had watery, bloodshot eyes" and a .25 percent blood alcohol level.

Officers also cited the woman for child endangerment and violating a suspended license.

Drugs

At 7:52 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, a 21-year-old Chesterfield Township man was arrested for possession of controlled drugs.

An officer spotted the man driving a vehicle with two flat rear tires 40 mph between lanes on southbound Lakeshore.

"During a pat down, a baggie of white, powdery pills fell

from (his) right leg," said an officer.

The pills were Xanax, police said.

Lines burn

Loud explosions were reported at 8:04 p.m. Monday, Nov. 28, coming from a utility pole behind a house in the 700 block of Lakeshore.

"(I) arrived to find wires burning at (the) top of (the) pole," said an officer. "Lakeshore was experiencing a brownout. We advised (the) resident to shut down as much power as possible."

Officers stayed on scene until a DTE Energy repair crew arrived.

Car vandalized

Someone vandalized a 2008 Ford Fusion parked in a Putnam driveway during the night of Sunday, Nov. 27.

Damage included scratched paint, dented side panels and a broke rear view mirror.

—Brad Lindberg

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Right on schedule

At 8 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, two cars left running in driveways on Oxford were reported stolen.

One owner spotted her car being taken and yelled at the thief. A neighbor heard her and noticed his vehicle was also gone. An older model car was spotted leaving the area.

"This is a crime of opportunity," said Woods public safety director Andrew Pazuchowski. He said thieves drive around at certain times of the morning looking for vehicles left to warm up in driveways.

"In the case of Oxford, they actually found two cars and took both," he said.

Caught in the act

A Woods public safety officer on routine patrol at 3 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, noticed someone kneeling next to a garage near the intersection of Raymond and Bournemouthe.

Robbery

Two 15 year olds are being sought in connection with a robbery that took place at 5:30 p.m. Saturday Dec. 3, in the 800 block of Beaconsfield.

According to police, the teens approached two juveniles and demanded cell phones and cash. They took cash from one victim and fled.

Silver walks

A silver place setting was reported missing from a house in the 1200 block of Devonshire open for a holiday walk Sunday, Dec. 4.

—Kathy Ryan

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

The officer circled around and spotted the suspect near a car parked on Bournemouthe. The suspect fled.

Police found a screwdriver on the ground next to the car.

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

Larceny from auto

A Linville resident reported at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29, her car had been broken into while parked overnight in her driveway.

A laptop was removed from the trunk.

—Kathy Ryan

Grosse Pointe Park

Home invasion

Someone stole cash and jewelry from an unlocked house on Wayburn sometime between 4 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27.

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Blue Care Network of Michigan announces open enrollment for its non group product:

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Open enrollment dates are December 1 - December 31, 2011 for a January 1, 2012 effective date.

Please contact Blue Care Network's Customer Service department at 1-800-662-6667 for additional information.

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NEWS

DURANT: Tour of state shows need for change

Continued from page 1A

his own, garnering the support of former state Republican chairs Betsy DeVos, Spence Abraham and Saul Anuzis. Abraham also served in the U.S. Senate.

He also built a team that includes General Motors adviser Bob Lutz as his general finance chairman.

Experience

The American Way. Not the Washington Way. It's the theme Durant, 62, has chosen and is following for his campaign. His two main competitors in the race,

Hoekstra in the Republican primary and then Stabenow next November in the general election, have had time to make changes in Washington, Durant said.

"I tremble for my country," Durant said. I love my country. I see it on the wrong track and it would be my honor to serve.

"I've looked at Pete's record. On the core issues, he agreed with Stabenow - to increase spending and have a debt limit beyond any responsible level."

Durant, who co-founded Cornerstone Schools in Detroit with Adam Cardinal Maida, says it won't be business as usual if he is sent to Washington.

The announcement to run came Friday, Sept. 23, in front of dozens of supporters and students at Cornerstone Schools.

"It was a great joy to do my announcement at Cornerstone," Durant said. "It was a fun message and I got so much out of sharing it with them. Our future."

It was the eve of the state Republican gathering at Mackinac Island.

The whirlwind of the announcement turned in to huge momentum on the island.

He shared his vision in a handout called "Freedom Works," now past its third printing.

"I worked on it leading up to my announcement, as I rode shotgun around the state, in a Muskegon Subway restaurant, in the lobby of WOOD-TV 8, a Kalamazoo hotel room. Pretty much everywhere.

"I learned so much on that trip as I do with every bit of travel I do in this state," Durant said.

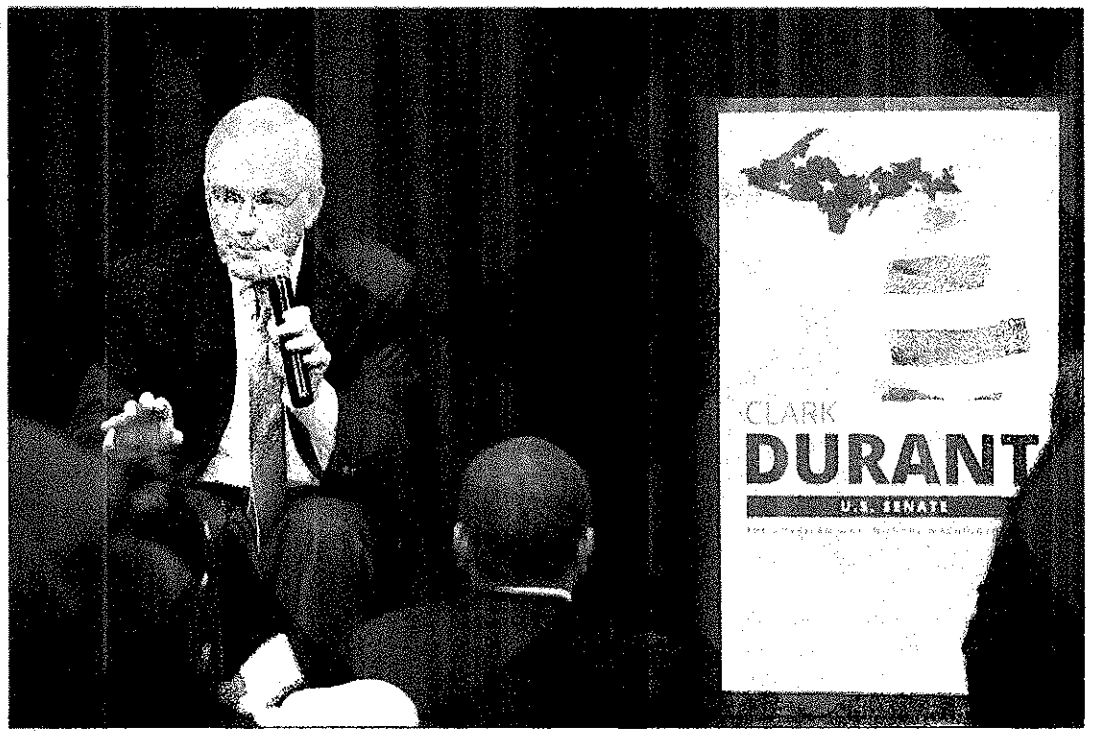
Among the surprises, Durant said the depth of questions show people are in tune with what's happening to the country.

"People aren't getting an alternative voice," he said. "Shopkeepers, auto plant workers, college students and other good Americans are scared about the direction of our country," Durant said. "These are hopeful people and their support for me has been a great surprise."

Durant talks to Michigan's residents about the tax reform, health care and jobs. Energy independence, Medicare and Social Security are also at the top of the list for Durant.

"We need to expand options for our people," he said. "The biggest budget outlays deal with spending and the debt crisis. We can't spend like a drunken sailor anymore."

Durant said he will challenge his own party, Gov. Snyder and anyone else to help residents



Clark Durant makes his Sept. 23 announcement to run for U.S. Senate at Cornerstone Schools in Detroit. Durant said sharing it with the children and staff there was a great beginning to a long campaign.

Fundraiser at CCD Dec. 11

A fundraiser for Clark Durant, U.S. Senate candidate and a resident of Grosse Pointe Farms, will be held at the Country Club of Detroit Sunday, Dec. 11.

The 4:30 p.m. leadership reception is \$150 per person, \$300 per couple. The 6:30 p.m. host committee dinner is \$1,250 per person, \$2,500 per

couple. RSVP to Alli Pilcowitz at (248) 762-4441 or aspilco@yahoo.com.

The host committee includes Judith and Randolph Agle, Linda and John Axe, Tracy and Doug Blatt, Jana and Steve Brownell, Jane and Ray Cracchiolo, Nena and Bill Dahling, Ellen and Peter Durand, Beth and Michael

Fisher, Barbara and Alfred Fisher III, Lorrie and Bill Howenstein, Mary Treder Lang and Paul Lang, Victoria and Robert Liggett, Sandy and Joe Lupo, Denise and Bob Lutz, Lindsay and Matthew Moroun, Suzanne and John Nicholson, Jeanne and Francis Sylvester and Dorothy and George Wrigley.

get the best government for their dollars.

"And for our congress and president, it's a giant con game. Government is doing too much and only reducing the pace of spending. We can do so much better."

Durant said he will rely on his Grosse Pointe neighbors as the bid continues.

"I was born in '49 at Harper Hospital. I grew up on Lincoln Road. This is a wonderful community and I love Grosse Pointe.

"We're going to have fun and make a difference. The people deserve it."

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11 12 13 14 15 16 17

WEEK AHEAD:

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

Continued from page 1A

Foundation.

MONDAY, DEC. 12

◆ Grosse Pointe Library meets at 7 p.m. at the Ewald branch library, 15175 E.

Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park. The agenda is available at gp.lib.mi.us.

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

◆ Wayne County Commissioner Tim Killeen, D-Detroit, holds a "Chat with the Commissioner" from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Grosse Pointe Woods Municipal Court, 20025 Mack Plaza.

TUESDAY, DEC. 13

◆ The First Christian Reformed Church of Detroit, 1444 Maryland, Grosse Pointe Park, hosts a Detroit Symphony Orchestra string quartet at 7 p.m. Adult tickets cost \$25 and children's tickets cost \$10. To buy tickets, call (313) 576-5111 or visit dso.org/neighborhood.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14

◆ The Grosse Pointe High School Band and Orchestra present its annual "Yule Be Boppin'" winter jazz concert at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, in South's auditorium. Admission is free.

THURSDAY, DEC. 15

◆ The Men's Garden Club of Grosse Pointe holds its Holiday Jubilee at 6 p.m. in the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. The cost is \$35. For reservations, call (313) 881-0322.

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Chamber accepts nominees

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for Pointer of Distinction Awards presented at the chamber annual general membership dinner, Tuesday, Jan. 24, at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

Categories for nominees, include: youth achievement, community service, excellence in business and new business enterprise.

Qualifications

Youth achievement: A student who excels academically and is enrolled in a Grosse Pointe high school and extra-curricular activities. The student must also be involved in one foundation or charitable activity and provide letters of recommendation.

Nominees must be a Grosse Pointe resident involved with and made an impact in the community as well as exhibit leadership.

Excellence in business: Nominees must live or work in Grosse Pointe, be accomplished in the area of business and must provide letters of recommendation.

New business enterprise:

Nominees must live or work in Grosse Pointe, have launched a successful business within the last five years, have a solid business plan in place and provide letters of recommendation.

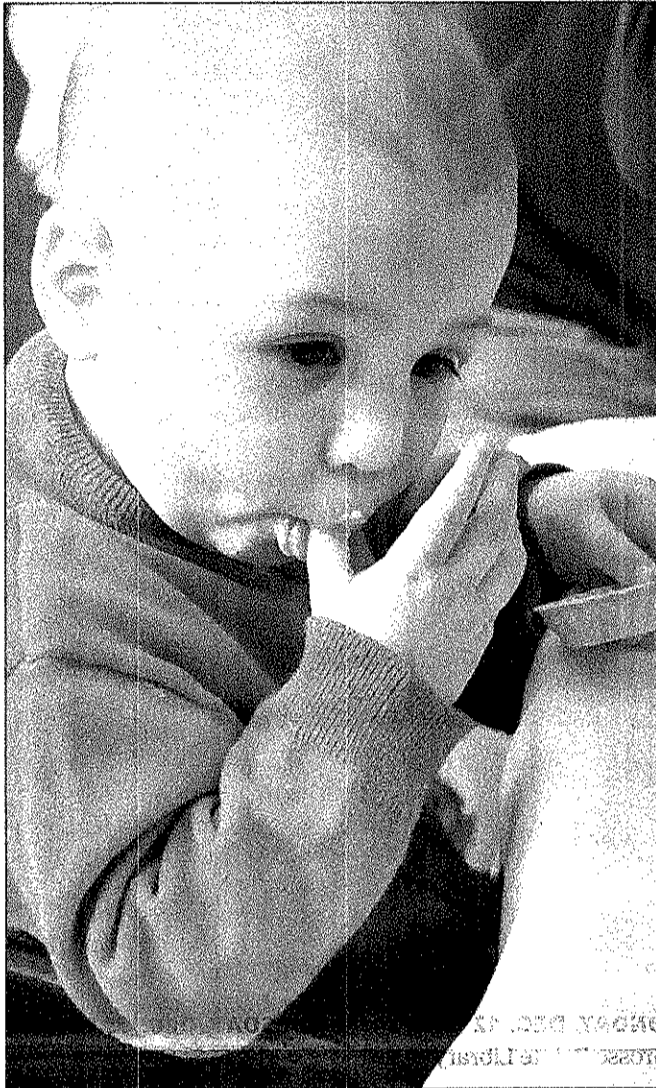
To obtain a nomination application, call the chamber office at (313) 881-4722. Forms must be completed and returned by Dec. 30.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Nutcracker tea

Young visitors and their adult companions partook in a holiday tea at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House last week prior to discussing their Christmas lists with Santa Claus. At left, Ryan Tanner, of St. Clair Shores, enjoys his peppermint cheesecake tartlet. Above, Carmella Crane, of the City of Grosse Pointe, brought her Frosty the Snowman doll to meet Santa, stationed in Josephine Ford's playhouse. Crane giggles after telling Santa she had been good and was washing behind her ears.





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NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB Recreation and Wellness Center



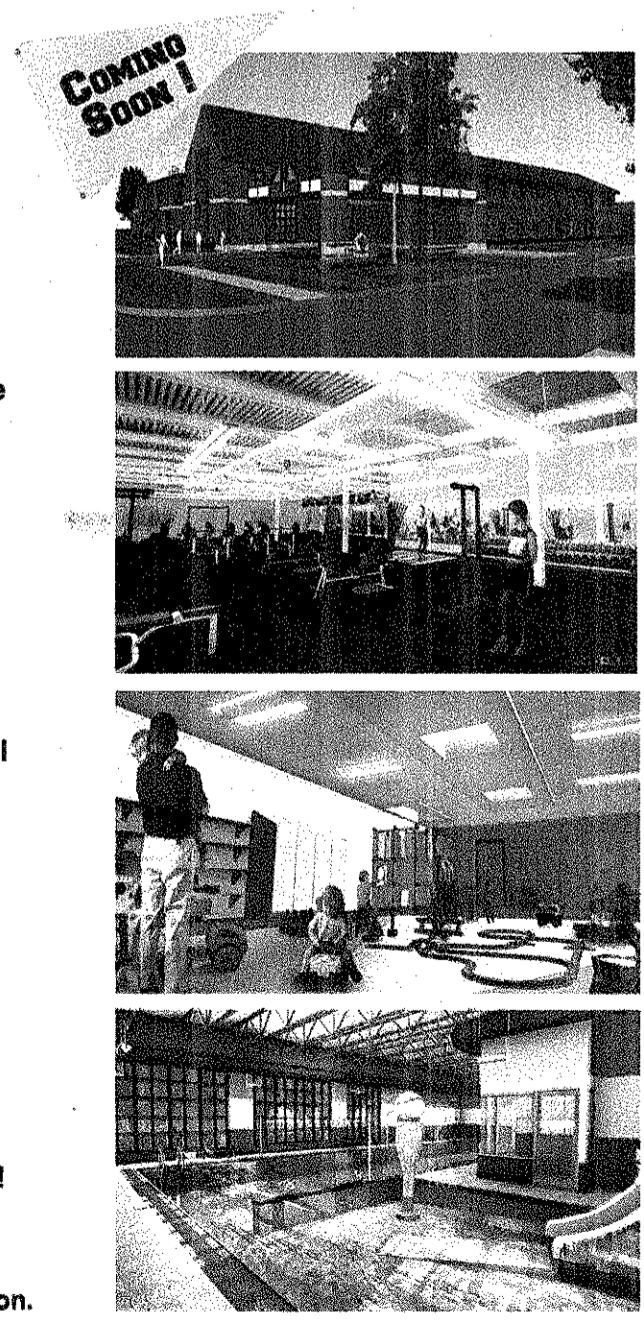
Have you heard...

- The new Neighborhood Club facility is slated to open January 2013.
- Yes, there will be a warm water pool, fitness center and gymnasium!
- The Neighborhood Club will continue to offer recreational programs throughout the community, as we always have.
- Some areas of the "new" Neighborhood Club will be membership based.
- The facility is owned and operated by the Neighborhood Club. Beaumont Health System will be a long-term tenant leasing a portion of the building to provide a full range of wellness services for children and adults.
- As the Neighborhood Club does not receive government funding, no tax dollars will be used for this project.

Thank you for providing \$4.8 million of philanthropic support to the Neighborhood Club Recreation and Wellness Center. Our goal is to raise \$700,000 more to finish our campaign.

We would like to thank the community for embracing our programs and providing temporary homes during our year of transition as we celebrate 100 years!

The Neighborhood Club, including its Nursery School and Thrift Shop, is a 501(c)(3) organization.



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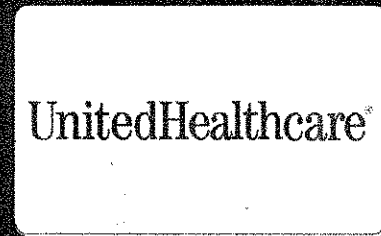
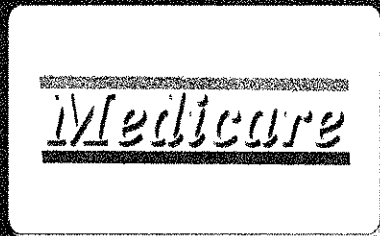
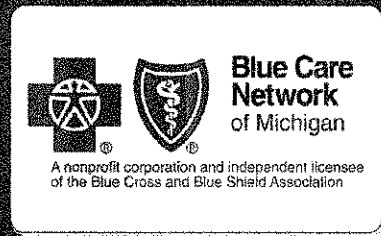
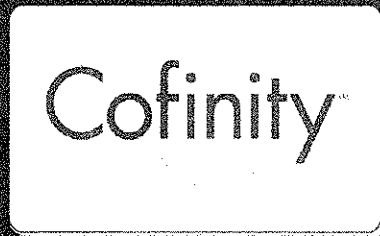
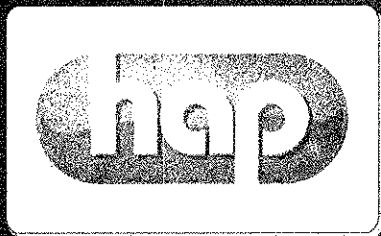


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- Henry Ford Macomb Hospital - Clinton Township
- Henry Ford Health Centers
- Henry Ford Macomb Hospital - Warren Campus

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NEWS II

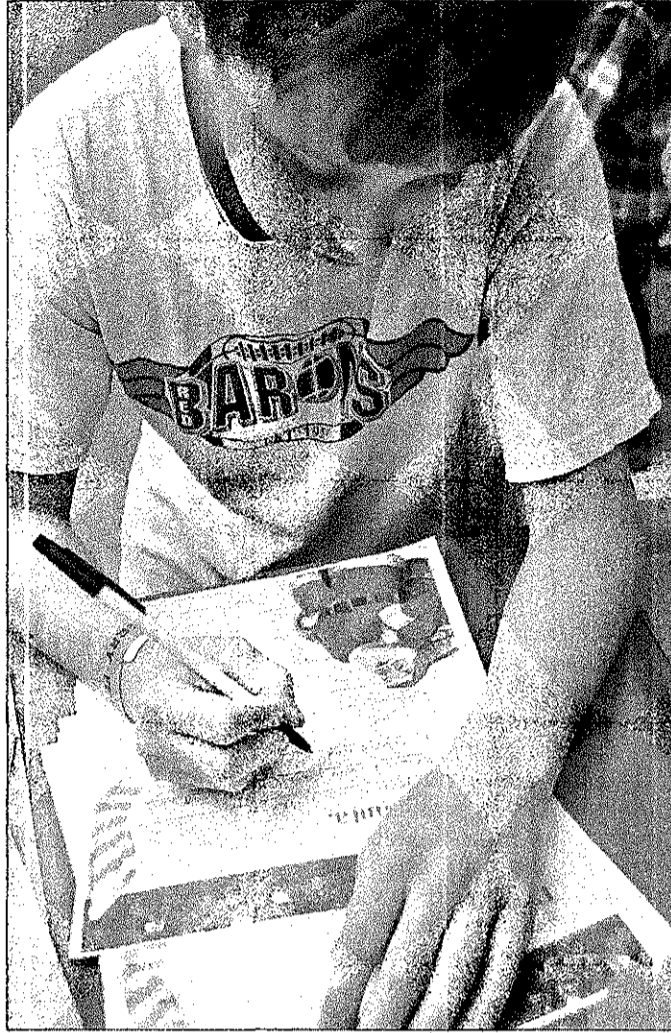
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SCHOOLS | 1A II OBITUARIES | 5-7A II BUSINESS

Ferry school hosts festive fundraiser



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Ferry Elementary School last week held its Santa Dinner and Festival of Trees fundraiser, in which parents and children had a pancake dinner, raffle and visit from Santa Claus.

Chris Cakes of Michigan, a pancake catering company, provided an all-you-can-eat dinner featuring its Flying Pancake, of which the cook flips finished pancakes to people standing in line.

The event included a raffle comprised of 18 trees, each decorated by a Ferry classroom.

Above left, Carrie Balderson's safety and service squad created a mitten wreath, dedicated to warm hands from the school's helping hands.

Above, Eric Cueter writes a letter to Santa. Throughout the evening, children wrote letters and placed them in a box prepped for delivery to the North Pole.

Left, Maggie McSkimming and her brother, Tommy, share their holiday wish lists with Santa.



Board treasurer paints painful financial picture

By A.J. Hakim
 Staff Writer

Painted against the backdrop of Plante Moran's independent financial audit report, Brendan Walsh's portrait of district trends — past, present and future — depicts a looming structural deficit.

According to the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education treasurer's November board meeting study, following current and projected trends, by the end of the 2012-2013 school year, general fund equity could dip below two percent, resulting in either 55 layoffs — 37 of which include teachers — or a 10.19 percent employee salary reduction.

"We need to maintain human resources required to deliver programs in a manner acceptable to deliver the end goals of our educational program," Walsh said. "We've been able to maintain a stable ratio of teachers to students ... We've concluded that we cannot continue to cut human resources in terms of head count to solve our problems."

Walsh attributes several factors to the likely deficit — declining enrollment, subsequent reductions in local and state revenue and increased retirement costs. In 2004, district enrollment neared 9,000; about

500 more than last year. Yet, as local (from \$3,087 to \$2,912) and state revenue (\$7,524 to \$7,464) decreased per pupil, district expenditures rose due to elevated Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System and Federal Insurance Contributions Act rates.

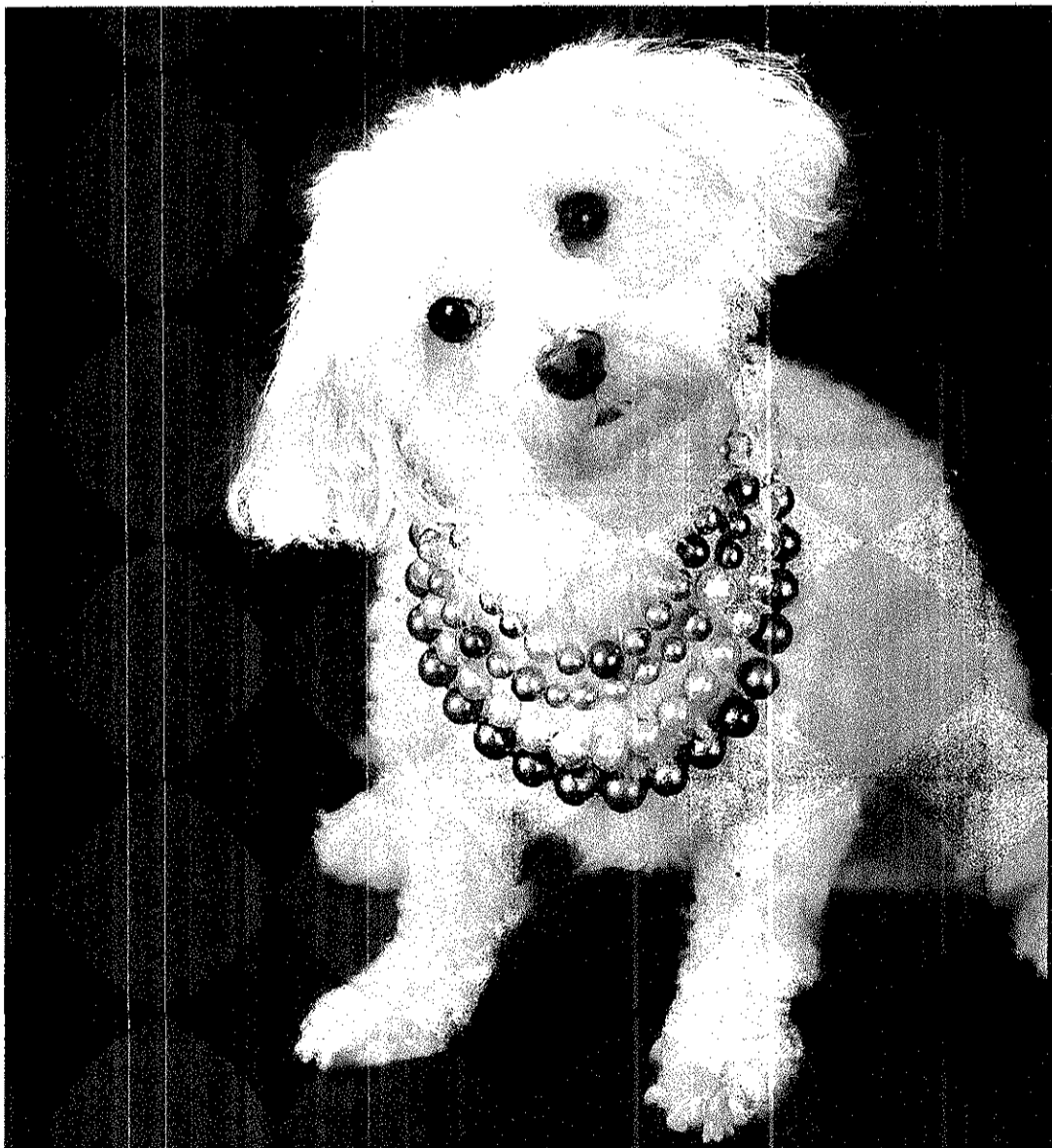
Retirement costs are a function of state-set rates applied to employee salaries which, according to Walsh's data, rank second statewide out of 783 public school districts. The average Grosse Pointe schools teacher salary is \$85,851, \$13,535 more than a sampling of 18 similar suburban districts across Metropolitan Detroit.

The result turned a \$660 per pupil aggregate surplus in 2004 to a \$729 operational deficit in 2010.

"We have always been, and remain, a very high-spending district on an average teacher salary basis," Walsh said. "And applied to the retirement rate of FICA and MPSERS, this has a dramatic effect on our finances."

In 2008, MPSERS and FICA accounted for 14 percent of employee compensation. Next year, that number is projected to spike to 19 percent and peak at 21 percent in 2013, at which point, the collective bargaining agreement is instituted and, af-

See BUDGET, page 3A II



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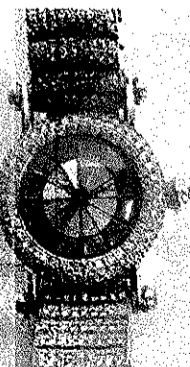
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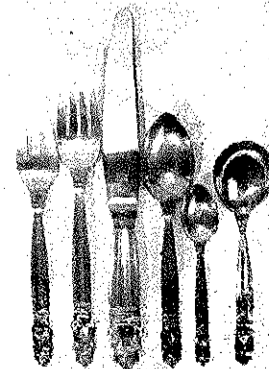
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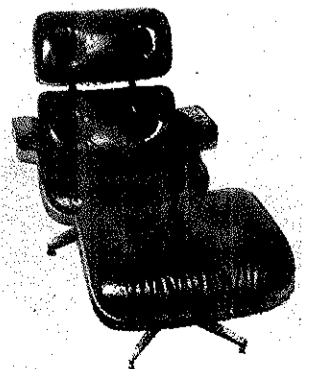
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SCHOOLS

North, South families impacted by SMART transit cuts

By A.J. Hakim
Staff Writer

Grosse Pointe North and South families reliant upon SMART transit route 655 must soon seek alternative routes or methods.

Due to a \$14 million shortfall, the SMART board of directors recently approved a 22 percent cut in bus services, resulting in a slew of shortened or eliminated routes. Cuts are effective Dec. 12 and include 655, the route dedicated to North and South, travels between the Pointes and Harper Woods and, according to principals Tim Bearden and Matt Outlaw, of North and South, respectively, accounts for 25 to 40 families daily at North and about 15 at South.

Wyandotte schools, Inkster's Peterson-Warren Academy and Dearborn Edsel Ford High School are other schools affected by eliminated routes.

"In making those decisions, we looked at ridership and productivity, and we tried to look at places where there may be alternatives for people to use other transits," SMART Marketing and Communications Manager Beth Gibbons said. "Some of those shortened routes continue on during peak hours and there were others that wouldn't, so it depended on the demand within those corridors and the ability for people to

transfer onto DDOT."

According to SMART, route 655 averages 71 daily passengers. Other shortened or eliminated Grosse Pointe routes, the 610 and 615, average 168 (weekdays) and 282 (Saturdays) passengers, respectively. Minimal numbers compared to SMART's most populated route, the 560 to Gratiot, which averages 5,500 daily passengers.

Route 655 passengers attending North can take the 730 from Harper Woods to the Mack Avenue, Vernier Road cross-section. They would have to walk the remaining distance to and from the bus stop, a significant task for some, according to Bearden.

"I have ridden the bus several times in the past to observe its route and can attest that some of our students live a significant distance from North," Bearden said via e-mail. "The change in route means that instead of the bus picking up those students at North, they will have to walk to their stop somewhere on Mack. There will be less consistency in terms of the timing of the bus run, and those students will now have a significant walk to get to a bus stop, requiring crossing Vernier Road twice."

Gibbons foresees limited possibility for the route's reinstatement unless factors contributing to SMART's shortfall — decreased millage revenue

from dropping property values, diminishing state and federal funding, increased health care and fuel costs and an inability to reach concession agreements with union workers — are resolved.

"Our millage, which at one time in 2008-2009 collected \$52 million, this year we're collecting only \$40 million, so that's a pretty significant drop," Gibbons said. "In addition, we have some other funding revenue changes in state and federal dollars coming into the region. SMART and DDOT are looked at as one entity, so when DDOT makes service cuts, our budget is also affected."

DDOT implemented cuts in June and September, affecting both companies' budgets. SMART's current cuts will have a similar impact.

"The dollars are certainly going to be less when (state and federal transit administrations) go through the process the next time," Gibbons said. "It's a spiral effect, but there's no other dollars for us to keep the services unless we make concessions."

According to the SMART website, to help impacted passengers prepare, the company is posting revised schedules.

"It obviously causes issues for these families, so we are disappointed that the service will not be available anymore," Outlaw said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TANIA BORREGO

Preschoolers donate food for holidays

Students at the Cooperative Nursery at Christ Church last week collected more than 300 pounds of canned foods for the program's annual donation to Gleaners Food Bank. The donation helps teach preschoolers firsthand about giving and sharing. For more information, call (313) 885-4783 or visit the program's Facebook page or website at christchurchgp.org.

Farewell reception honors retiring superintendent

Prior to its December meeting, the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education is hosting a farewell reception for retiring superintendent Suzanne Klein.

Klein served in the district for 41 years, the past 15 as superintendent, and is retiring Dec. 31. The reception is at 5:30 p.m., Monday, Dec. 19, at Grosse Pointe South High School's Cleminson Hall. There's no charge and it's open to the public.

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Potential pilot course aims to improve reading, writing

By A.J. Hakim
Staff Writer

Increasing numbers of freshmen entering Grosse Pointe high schools two years behind in reading and writing has prompted the school district to take action.

A pilot course, Strategies for Reading and Writing, proposed by the Educational Programs Leadership Council for implementation next fall, targets incoming freshmen scoring within the 26 to 50th percentile on the Northwest

Evaluation Association test.

Sixty-seven such students are enrolled at both South and North; a number of which transferred to the district at varying levels of educational development. District officials said depending on when the transfer occurred, students may have missed out on intervention and other available programs or resources, creating a need for an additional course, such as the strategies course.

The school board is expected to vote on the proposal this

month.

"If you were to scroll back to what happens when students enter elementary school, we're looking at teacher interventions, we're looking at interventions with reading specialists and we're looking at, if needed, interventions by our special education staff — consultations, classroom support activities — we're looking at summer programs," superintendent Suzanne Klein said.

"When students move into the middle level, there's a variety of supports there ... In high

school, we already have in place some options, and this is one more option very specifically targeted for reading and writing strategies."

Developed by South English teachers and reading specialists Jodi Stevens, Taryn Loughlin and Harry Campion, along with South principal Matt Outlaw, the course objectives are to increase reading and writing proficiency, improve standardized test scores and motivate students.

The one-credit class, Outlaw said, is required for qualifying

students not already participating in a reading and writing intervention program. It explores reading meaning and communication, genre and craft of language and research and depth of understanding through critical thinking, writing and literary analysis.

"This will give them an opportunity to be successful in a regular English class, as well as in their other course work," said Monique Beels, assistant superintendent of curriculum, assessment, instruction and technology.

"The strategies that they're learning will transport between English, science, social studies and math."

The program's success at South, coupled with interest from teachers and administrators, ultimately determines the course's expansion into North the following semester.

"I am pretty excited about this suggestion by our teachers," Outlaw said via e-mail. "This is a group of students that, with the extra help, will improve greatly with these foundational skills."

Dear Santa

The following are Ferry Elementary School teacher Glenda Lassiter's second-grade class' Letters to Santa.

Dear Santa,
My name is Paige. I have been pretty good. For Christmas I would like an Easy Bake Oven. I would also like my dad to find a job in Michigan so he doesn't have to drive back and forth to Pittsburgh every week. Hope you have a very good Christmas!
Love,
Paige P.

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? Good I hope. I have fallen asleep once in social studies and I forgot my planner and take home folder. But if you do get me presents three things I want are D.S., computer and ipad.
Sincerely,
Kennedy W.

Dear Santa,
I've been a good boy so far. I've been helping others. The three top things I want are Lego Harry Potter Hogwarts Express, Lego Harry Potter 2010, Lego Harry Potter years 1-4.
Love,
Jose V.

Dear Santa,
I just want a few things please. I would like an iPhone, a 3 D.S., and a raw diamond. My sister would like feathers for her hair. My mom would love gold and diamond earrings. Would you please bring my dad a food proces-

sor and catnip toys for Lois?
Love,
William P.

Dear Santa,
How have you been? I have been good this year. I would like earrings; a bed and bedding for my American Girl, and a horse for her too. I've been good at school and at home too. I usually get along with my Brothers. On Christmas eve me and my Brothers will give you cookies and milk.
Love,
Giavanna D.

Dear Santa,
I've been behaving well this entire year and doing chores for my mom to earn money for Christmas presents! My teacher asked me to write three things for Christmas. The three things that I want are: an Xbox 360 a Harry Potter Xbox 360 game and a Lego christmas Winter Village Bakery set.
Matthew G.

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I am fine. I have a list of chores to do. I have two Christmas present ideas to share with you. The first idea is Mario Kart 7. I like this because you get to customize your kart. My last idea is Mario stuffed buddies. I like this because you get to cuddle with them at night.
Love,
Aidan B.

Dear Santa,
This year I have been good. This year what I really want is a purple Jacket, clothes, Junie

B. Jones Books and finally some earrings.
Love
Clare R.

Dear Santa,
How are you Santa, Mrs. Claus, and your elves? I'm doing very well. There are 3 things that were on my list: Cars 2 Charge-up Track, an ipad 2, and a DS with a Cars 2 video game. My sister and I would like to have a Nintendo wii, too.
From
Gabriel L.

Dear Santa,
I want a Big container head to hold my Legos, all of The Angr Birds, except Red Bird, Yellow Bird, Blue Bird. A nut cracker would be nice.
Evan R.

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I take care of my pets, keep my room clean, listen, and do good work in school. I am wishing for videogames, football cards, and an official NFL football.
Sincerely,
Tyler C.

Dear Santa,
I hope you are having a great year. I have been good this year because I have been doing my homework. I want these toys for Christmas. They're a play station, slot electric cars, and 2011, 2012 Collodge football for the play station. I am feeling happy right now! Can you bring toys for the people who don't have the money for it?
From,
Robert H.

Dear Santa,
Happy holidays! How have you been this year? I've had a

great year. Second grade is the best! I want to share my list with you. I would like Spider-Man comics 118 and 119, NFL football and LEGO Pirates of the Caribbean The Black Pearl. I like the presents you gave me the last few years.
Love,
Parker O.

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year because I have listened to my mommy and daddy. I would really like a globe and the game Scattogories. I am doing very well in School. I will use these presents a lot. This will be the best christmas yet!
From
Zoe N.

Dear Santa,
How are you? I've been pretty good this year. I did my chores and I've been pretty nice to my sisters. My top three things that I would like are Kirby Returns to Dreamland, Lego Connect Four, and a remote control car. My 6 year old sister would love Just Dance 3, and my 3 year old sister would like a pink purse. I can't wait to see what I will get.
Sincerely,
Luke B.

Dear Santa,
How have you been? I have been good. How about you? I only want a few presents for christmas. I want lego harry potter years 5-7 for wii on christmas. I also want lego pirates of the caribbean for wii on christmas. Please send my brother an ipad with the game angry birds seasons. Also send my dad a steppad. Hope you're good and I will see you on christmas!
Love,
Luke U.

Dear Santa,
My name is James M. I've been pretty good this year. I love Christmas the most. I would like an electric tablet, a ds game, a lego star wars set, and a xbox 360 with kinect. I hope you have a safe trip.
Love,
James M.

Dear Santa,
I hope you and Mrs. Claus had a nice year. I was good. I would like the video games: Skyward Sowrd and Skylanders. I would also like a 3DS. Thank you very much. I hope none of the reindeer get sick and you have a safe flight on Christmas Eve.
Love,
Ian O.

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I have been good this year. I raked the leaves. I kept my room clean. I did my homework from school. I want a police lego and a football. My sister wants a soccer ball. My dad wants an Ohio State picture.
From,
Mitchell M.

Dear Santa,
What I would like for Christmas this year is a Barbie Doll house. I would also like socker Boppers and a pair of MSU gloves with pom poms on the finger tips. I have a lot of toys I would like to donate to children who can't afford them. I will put them by

the Christmas tree for you.
From,
Claire D.

Dear Santa,
Christmas is my favorite holiday. I love helping my mom decorate the house and christmas tree. I've been a good girl this year. For christmas I want an easy bake oven because I love baking. Also, I want a guitar because I want to learn how to play this year.
Love,
Jamison M.

Dear Santa,
May I have a dipping dot maker, a bidday baby and a v-reader for christmas. Thank you and Love you!
Katerina P.

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I didn't argue when I had to get a haircut. My little brother wants a Harry Potter game. My big brother wants some speed stacks. I will leave some carrots milk and cookies. I hope you have a good Christmas!
Love,
Grady C.

Dear Santa,
I've been a good boy this year. I can't wait until christmas. I want the A.T.E. walker and General Gleivious Star Fighter. I also want the Star Cruiser.
From
Tyler D.

BUDGET: 'When you have salary costs that are out of skew, and retirement costs derivative of salary, this is a problem'

Continued from page 1A II

ter employee salary reductions, retirement costs decrease as well, he said.

Walsh produced five scenarios, none of which presented a pleasant picture. With current projections, the district predicts a \$142 loss in per pupil revenue in 2012-2013, no change the next year and a \$50 loss in 2014-2015. Coupled with MPSERS rates increasing from 24.46 to 27.46 percent, fund equity would drop to 1.9 percent in 2012-2013, followed by a slight increase (5.49) the next

year, before returning above the contractually agreed upon 10 percent (12.65) in 2014-2015.

In terms of employee salaries, there's an average reduction of 2.65 percent in 2012-2013, 10.19 percent the next year and 5.62 percent in 2014-2015.

Other scenarios adjust per pupil revenue changes (no change for four years, decreases three of four years, decrease one year) and MPSERS rates (decrease to 20.43 percent, no change, increase next year to 27.46 percent, or an eight per-

cent decrease, followed by slight increases). All scenarios result in salary reductions, though none as drastic as the currently projected 10.19 percent cut.

"Grosse Pointe is certainly not as wealthy in both relative and absolute terms," Walsh said. "And you cannot continue

to spend at a level that pretends you're wealthier than you are.

"Salary costs ... are our most out of skew costs ... It's just something that's happened over the course of time. And when you have salary costs that are out of skew, and retirement costs derivative of salary, this is a problem."

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OBITUARIES

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

Robert Darras

Robert Darras, 87, died Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011, of complications related to Alzheimer's disease at Virginia House in Harper Woods.

Mr. Darras was the devoted husband of the late Aileen and the doting father of Michele (Allan) Ulery. In addition to his wife, he was predeceased by his parents, Herman and Julia Darras and his brother, Albert Darras.

Less than a month after graduating from St. Bernard High School in Detroit, Mr. Darras began serving in World War II at Iwo Jima as a Marine Medical Corpsman in the 5th Medical Battalion.

After completing military service, he worked at Michigan Bell Telephone Co., where he attained the management level of chief switchman. He was responsible for the telephone service of residential and business customers east of Woodward Avenue; the largest telephone index in the state of Michigan at the time. He retired in 1980.

An optimistic individual, Mr.

Darras was deeply religious and an animal lover.

Visitation will be held from 2 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, at A. H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods. The rosary will be recited at 7 p.m. Thursday.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 9, at St. Joan of Arc Church, 21620 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores. Visitation begins at the church at 9:30 a.m.

Interment will be at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Township with Marine funeral honors.

Donations may be made to the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, 296 Chalfonte Ave., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236 or at gpaas.org.

Express condolences or share a memory at ahpeters.com.

Maureen R. Garceau

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Maureen R. Garceau, 95, passed away Monday, Nov. 21,

2011.

She was born in Detroit to Matthew and Rose Kerwin and graduated in 1934 from St. Ambrose High School in Grosse Pointe Park. It was at St. Ambrose she met many of her life-long friends. She loved to participate in the school plays and was often given the leading role because of her beautiful singing voice.

After attending the Detroit College of Business, Mrs. Garceau worked as a secretary for Detroit Edison. She also did secretarial work for William Austin Interior Decorators in Grosse Pointe.

She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, lovingly referred to as "Rinty" by her grandchildren. She was an active member of Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Harper Woods. Some of her favorite pastimes included bridge, bowling and golf.

Mrs. Garceau is survived by her daughter, Gail Guaresimo; son, Thomas (Kristen) Garceau; grandchildren, Dave (Maggie) Guaresimo, Andrew (Dawn) Garceau, Kevin Garceau and Aaron Garceau; great-grandchildren, David Guaresimo, Vincent Guaresimo, Natalia Guaresimo and Viola Garceau.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 57 years, Milton; her parents, and her sister, Katherine Foster.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 28 at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church.

Donations may be made to the Capuchins, 1740 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207.

Denis E. Lenahan

Longtime Grosse Pointe Woods resident Denis E. Lenahan, 86, passed away Saturday, Nov. 26, 2011, at his residence in St. Marys, Ga. He was the former president of Lenahan Insurance Agency in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Born May 6, 1925, in Detroit, he was the son of Joseph D. and Elinore H. Lenahan and served honorably in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Mr. Lenahan was a governor of the Golf Association of Michigan and a member of the Michigan PGA Advisory Council. He was a longtime member of the Detroit Golf Club and the Country Club of Detroit.

He was also a member of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Woods. For the last 30 years, he lived in the north Florida, southern Georgia area.

Mr. Lenahan is survived by his wife of 61 years, Helen Lenahan of St. Marys, Ga.; children, Lynda (Tom) Clement of Holland, Daniel (Lauren) Lenahan of Grosse Pointe Shores and Eleanor Trambley of Cookeville, Tenn., and grandchildren, Henley and Greer Clement, Erin and Ryan Lenahan and Alex, Evan, Blaire and Colin Trambley.

He was predeceased by his parents and sister, Sally Lenahan.

Donations may be made to Heartland Hospice, 112 Scranton Connector, Brunswick, GA 31520.

Ernest Spilos Sr.

Ernest Spilos Sr., 88, of Melbourne, Fla., died Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2011, in Orlando, Fla.

He was born Feb. 8, 1923, to Gus and Nancy Spilos in Detroit and served his country honorably in the U.S. Navy.

His family described him as a friendly and outgoing man who loved to tell stories, especially of his travels around the world. He was a kind-hearted and affable man who was proud of his family.

Mr. Spilos was a member of "ROMEOS," Retired Old Men Eating Out, and the AHEPA organization through St.



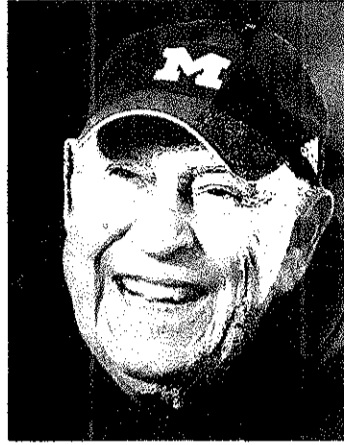
Robert Darras



Maureen R. Garceau



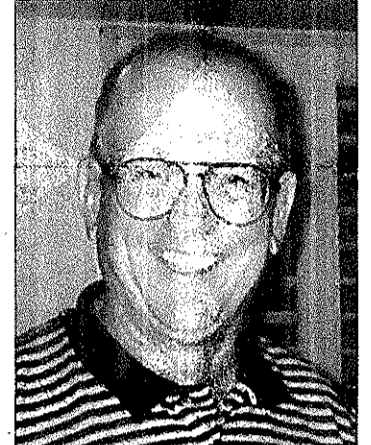
Denis E. Lenahan



Ernest Spilos Sr.



Barrie Gartrell FitzSimons



Greg Sanders

Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church, where he shared his love, laughter and gift of gab by touching the lives of many.

Mr. Spilos was predeceased by his wife, Dorothy Mae, in 2007.

He is survived by his children, Ernest Spilos Jr., Cheryl N. Steffen and Starlene C. Burns and seven grandchildren. He will be missed deeply by his family and friends.

Express condolences or share a memory at beachfuneralhome.com.

Barrie Gartrell FitzSimons

Barrie Gartrell FitzSimons of Grosse Pointe Farms, Harbor Springs and Vero Beach, Fla., died peacefully Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011.

She was born Aug. 24, 1939, in Penticton, British Columbia, Canada, to William P. and Tra Gartrell. She graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City and later received an honorary doctorate degree from Siena Heights College in Adrian.

Mrs. FitzSimons was an accomplished interior designer and dedicated volunteer. She served as president of the Sigma Gamma Association, was a trustee of the Detroit Institute for Children and University Liggett School and a director of the Wequetonsing Golf Club.

She was an active member of Garden Club of Michigan, Grosse Pointe Garden Club and John's Island Garden Club. In addition, she was a docent for the Detroit Institute of Arts and a member of the Junior League of Detroit.

Mrs. FitzSimons is survived by her husband, David K. FitzSimons; children, Kerry and Charles Wilson, David and Holly FitzSimons, William and Lisa FitzSimons and Allison and John LaFramboise; grandchildren, Josephine, Charlie and Place Wilson, Katherine and Patrick FitzSimons, Freddy and Henry FitzSimons and Grace, Thomas and Madeline LaFramboise. Her

brother, Richard Gartrell of Williams Lake, British Columbia, also survives her.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at noon Thursday, Dec. 8, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Karmanos Cancer Institute, 4100 John R, Detroit, MI 48201; St. John Providence Health System Foundations Nursing Fund, P.O. Box 673271, Detroit, MI 48267-3271; or Northern Michigan Regional Hospital Foundation, 360 Connable Ave., Petoskey, MI 49770.

Greg Sanders

Former Grosse Pointe resident Greg Sanders, 65, died Thursday, Nov. 24, 2011.

He was the loving husband of Dot, his wife and best friend of 40 years and caring son of Doc and Marge and Will and Sidge. A favorite brother to Phil (Mary), Russ (April), Don (Dee) and Jeff Sanders, George Brewer and sisters Meg Belcher, Susan (Larry) Larrabee, Nancy (Tom) Vischer and Debbie (Clark) Norwood and adoring uncle of many nieces and nephews.

He was a dear friend to those who knew him and will be greatly missed.

Mary E. "Mimi" Jacobson

Former Grosse Pointe Park resident Mary E. "Mimi" Jacobson, 81, died Friday, Dec. 2, 2011, at Henry Ford Hospice in Warren.

She was born in Detroit to Kathryn Cardinal and Hillis Hendricks. She graduated in nursing from Miami University-Middletown and completed post-graduate studies at New York University, earning her registered nursing degree.



Mary E. "Mimi" Jacobson

She was a surgical nurse and retired from Cottage Hospital. She previously worked at Jennings, Deaconess and Henry Ford hospitals.

Ms. Jacobson was a member and former chapter president of the Metropolitan Detroit Association of Operating Room Nurses and a former troop leader for Girl Scouts. She was an avid bridge player and enjoyed attending the theater. Her family said she was a fun-loving and caring person and will be missed greatly.

Ms. Jacobson is survived by her daughters, Mary (Rob) Cole and Marjorie (Brian) Collins; sons, Charles Jacobson and Russel Jacobson; grandchildren Mary (Jason) Bernard, Elizabeth Cole, Daniel Cole, Amanda Collins, Meagan Collins, Abigail Collins, Michael Collins and Mia Collins; her sister, Lucinda (John) Prost and her half-brother, David Hendricks.

She was predeceased by her parents.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 9, at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, 15020 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Park.

Donations may be made to Henry Ford Health System, Henry Ford Hospice, 1 Ford Place, Detroit, MI 48202-3450 or at henryfordgiving.com.

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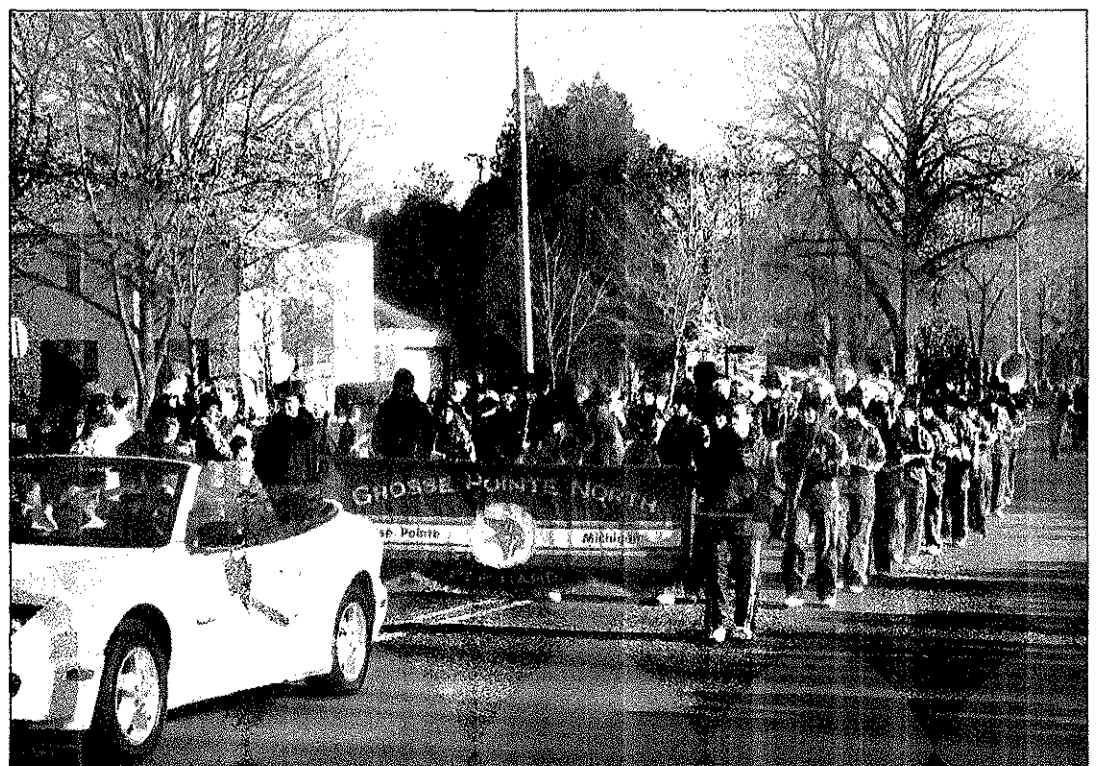
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The Grosse Pointe North High School Pep Band marching down Kercheval in the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade.

PHOTO BY BRUCE BRUSH

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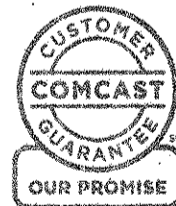
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PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Neighborhood thrift shop

The Neighborhood Club Thrift Shop opened at 17888 Mack, City of Grosse Pointe. Attending the ribbon cutting ceremony were from left, Peggy King Skully, Neighborhood Club board president; Margaret Brown, thrift shop manager; Stu Alderman, club executive director; City of Grosse Pointe Councilman Don Parthum; City of Grosse Pointe City Manager Pete Dame; and Jenny Boettcher, executive director of the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce.



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Chamber accepts distinction award nominees

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for Pointer of Distinction Awards presented at the chamber annual general membership dinner, Tuesday, Jan. 24, at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

Categories for nominees, include: youth achievement, community service, excellence in business and new business enterprise.

Youth achievement: A student who excels academically and is enrolled in a Grosse Pointe high school and extracurricular activities. The student must also be involved in one foundation or charitable activity and provide letters of recommendation.

Community service: Nominees must be a Grosse Pointe resident involved with and has made an impact in the community and exhibits leadership.

Excellence in business: Nominees must live or work in Grosse Pointe, be accomplished in the area of business and must provide letters of recommendation.

New business enterprise: Nominees must live or work in Grosse Pointe, have launched a successful business within the last five years, have a solid business plan in place and provide letters of recommendation.

To obtain a nomination application, call the chamber office at (313) 881-4722. Forms must be completed and returned by Dec. 30.

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Small business

Grosse Pointers dropped in their local businesses Saturday, Nov. 26, during the second annual



Small Business Saturday, dedicated to highlighting local stores. Above, Sara Hamilton, of Grosse Pointe Park, selects a pair of handmade mittens, made by Sue Dalian, of Grosse Pointe Park, at Rainy Day Art Supply in Grosse Pointe Woods. Store owner Lisa Amori, of Grosse Pointe Woods, waits on Hamilton.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Sophie Schuetz, and her mother, Julie, of Grosse Pointe Park, shop at Village Toy Store. Schuetz selects a birthday present for her friend, Evie.

Peters earns national award

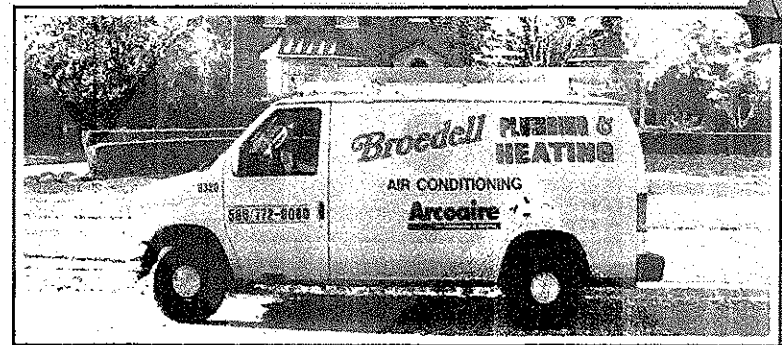
A.H. Peters Funeral Home of Grosse Pointe is recognized with the 2011 Pursuit of Excellence Award by the National Funeral Home Directors Association.

The award is based on compliance with state

and federal regulations, providing ongoing education and professional development opportunities for staff, offering programs and resources to bereaved families, being involved in the community and public relations.

Some 147 firms around the world received the award.

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NEWS III

AUTOMOTIVE

2012 Range Rover Evoque

The all-new five-door combines concept car design with family appeal. PAGE 4A III

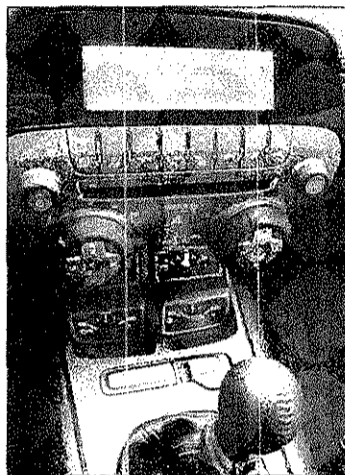
1-6A III AUTOMOTIVE

AUTOS By Jenny King

Camaro celebrates its 45th in style



The Camaro is celebrating its 45th birthday, accelerating into the future with gusto.

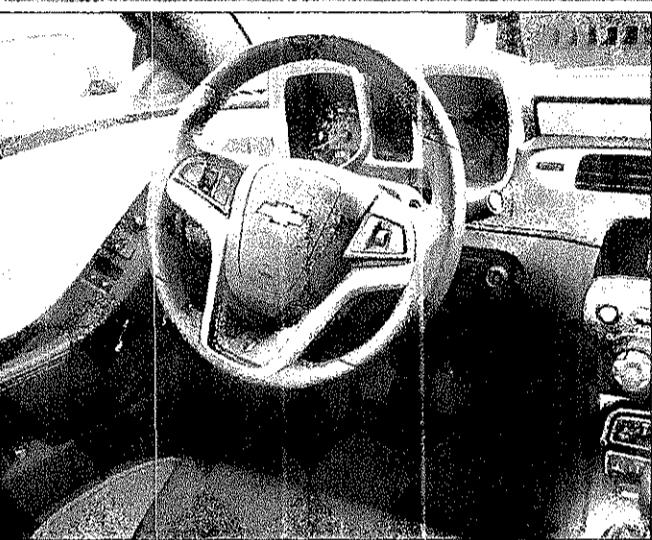


Under the hood of the 2012 Camaro SS 45th special edition is a monster 6.2-liter V-8. In spite of its 426 horsepower, it's capable of at least 24 miles per gallon in highway driving. The precise six-speed manual transmission only improves the drive: it's quick from a standstill, even quicker as you progress.

The Camaro SS engine appears to be loafing in the top gears at highway speeds. The



PHOTOS BY JENNY KING



The latest Camaro cloaks its bulk and power nicely under a sleek skin. Large gauges and dials on the center console of the 2012 Camaro SS take out the guesswork and add pleasure to the driving experience.

made easier with warning beeps and the small visual from a rear camera on the rearview mirror.

Getting dressed up

The 45th anniversary special edition "package," available on Camaro and Camaro SS, includes red and silver hood and deck stripes, 45th badging, 20-inch wheels, RS-style taillamp lenses and standard HID headlamps.

Camaro trims, engines

Trim levels comprise LS, LT and SS. Chevrolet says starting prices are: \$23,530 for the LS; \$24,730 for the LT; and \$31,795 for the SS. Standard engine for the LS and LT is a beefy 323-horsepower 3.6-liter direct-injected V-6. The SS comes with a 426-horsepower V-8 or a 400-horsepower V-8. A six-speed manual and six-speed automatic are the transmissions.

Fuel economy for the V-6 with automatic is 18 mpg city and 29 highway; the manual provides 17 city and 29 highway averages. The more powerful SS averages 16/25 with the six-speed automatic and 16/24 with the six-speed manual.

A rear spoiler is standard on

LS and LT models and a choice among three suspensions, depending on model choice.

The instrumentation is a cluster of four gauges on the center console. Much of that information is repeated in the traditional spot behind the steering wheel.

The inside door panels include off-white hard plastic inserts for a clean look and the front passenger seat has power height adjustment.

Passenger space in the rear seat is compromised. The roof chops off headroom. The tunnel for drive shaft of the rear-drive Camaro robs floor space.

Staying safe

Brembo performance brakes are a good match for the high-energy V-8 engines. An antilock braking system monitors all four wheels. Driver and front-seat passengers are protected by front and side air bags; side head curtains protect front and rear-seat occupants. StabiliTrak stability control with traction control and battery rundown protection are standard.

Steering wheel-mounted controls give the driver easy access to several functions.

Outside mirrors on the Camaro SS are heated and power adjustable. There is no spare tire; in case of a flat, Chevy supplies a tire repair kit beneath the trunk floor.

Jenny King is an automotive writer who lives in the City of Grosse Pointe.

tachometer needle doesn't even register 2,000 rpms. But don't be fooled by the car's effortless — you are almost certainly moving right along.

Getting around town

The 2012 Camaro prefers

open roads. As an urbanite, it's impatient. While there is a generous-size trunk, the front seats are stiff to fold forward. The Camaro doors are wide and heavy — don't park close beside one.

Parallel parking a Camaro is

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¹Dealer to insert disclaimer. ²EPA-estimated 19 city/26 hwy/21 combined mpg. Class is Midsize Crossovers, Non-Diesel. ³Dealer to insert disclaimer. ⁴The Lincoln MKZ received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among entry premium cars in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2011 Vehicle Dependability Study.⁵ Study based on 43,779 consumer responses measuring problems consumers experienced in the past 12 months with three-year-old vehicles (2008 model-year cars and trucks). Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed October-December 2010. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. ⁶Driving while distracted can result in loss of vehicle control. Only use mobile phones and other devices, even with voice commands, when it is safe to do so. ⁷EPA-estimated 17 city/25 hwy/20 combined mpg, EcoBoost AWD. ⁸Four-year/50,000-mile Maintenance Plan includes a maximum of eight regularly scheduled maintenance services. See dealer for qualifications and complete details.

Offer ends 1/03/12

¹ Driving while distracted can result in loss of vehicle control. Only use mobile phones/MyLincoln Touch/other devices, even with voice commands, when it is safe to do so. ² Custom, Lease Disclaimer - A/Z Plan price w/factory lease \$1000 Factory conquest rebate (\$2,000 factory conquest rebate for 2012 Lincoln MKX) plus taxes, fees and doc fees. Mileage allowance is 10,500/year. Program ends 1/03/12. ³ EPA-estimated 19 city/26 hwy/21 combined mpg, FWD. Class is non-diesel Luxury Midsize Crossovers vs. 2010/2011 competitors. ⁴ Some features are unavailable while driving. Service available in the 48 contiguous states and DC. Sirius Traffic[™] and Sirius Travel Link[™] are trademarks of Sirius XM Radio, Inc. Requires available Navigation System.

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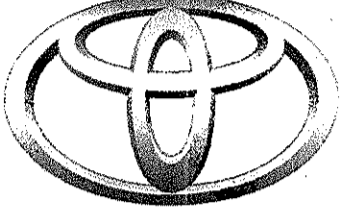
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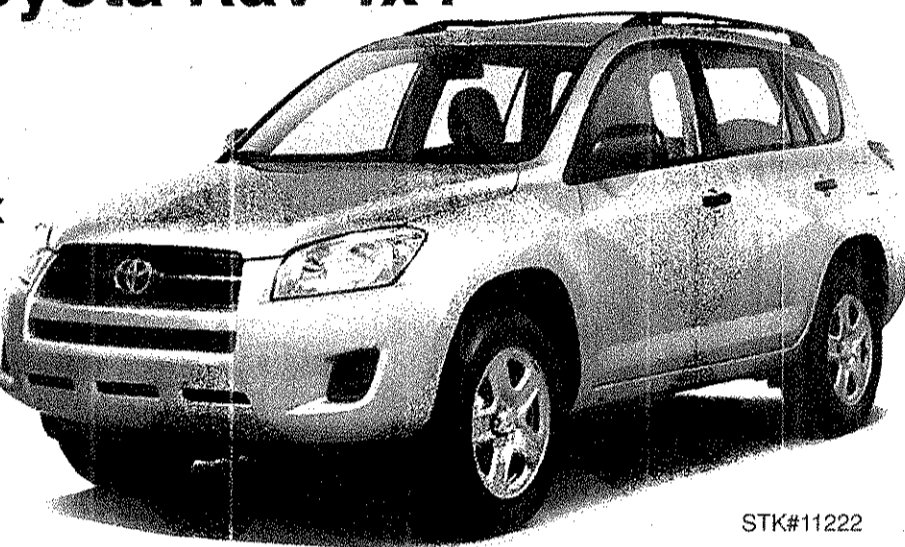
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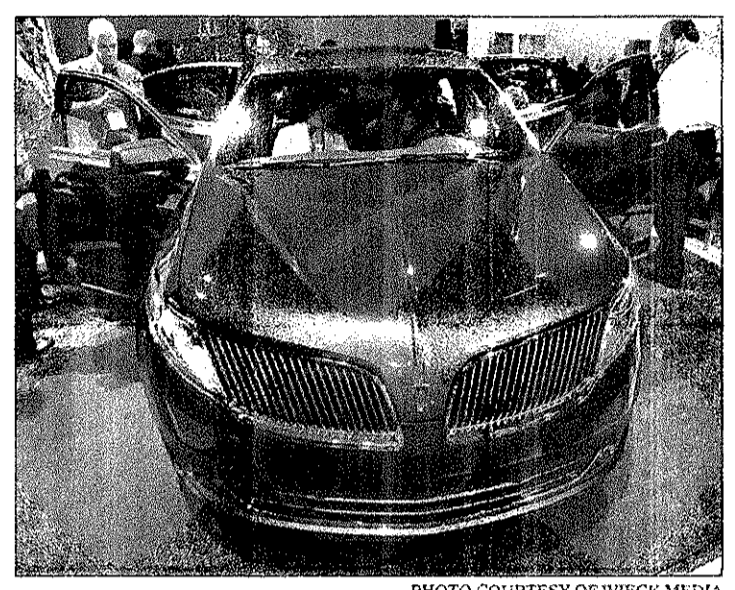




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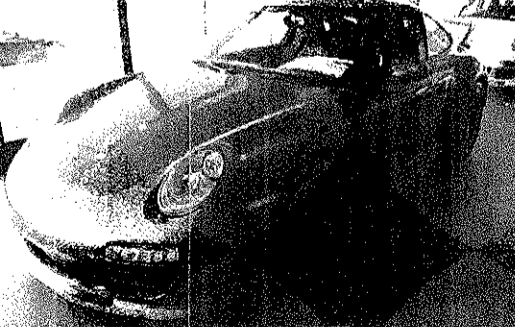

Lincoln reveals new MKS Sedan and MKT

Lincoln recently revealed its new 2013 Lincoln MKS sedan and Lincoln MKT at the Los Angeles Auto Show. Derrick Kuzak, group vice president of global product development, said Lincoln is committed to becoming a world-class luxury brand with seven new or significantly refreshed Lincoln models in the next three years.



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All-new 2013 Lexus GS 350 Sport Sedan

Bringing style, performance and advanced technology to the luxury sport sedan segment, the new 2013 Lexus GS 350 comes to dealer showrooms in February.

The fourth-generation GS was revealed last summer at the Concours d'Elegance in Pebble Beach, Calif. The sport sedan features Lexus' new design philosophy, including the signature Lexus spindle grille.

The GS also incorporates a higher level of precision handling and driving dynamics. Whether going through a curve or tight corner, the GS exhibits a solid stance and confident handling. Its powerful 3.5-liter, 306-horsepower V6 engine propels the 2013 GS 350 from 0 to 60 mph in 5.7 seconds.

The interior boasts a spacious cabin with luxury appointments including white LED ambient lighting and a classic analog clock. Cabin materials include three types of wood set off by detailed contrast stitching on the instrument panel, door trim, center console, shift knob and steering wheel.

New features include the next-generation version of Lexus Enform with Safety Connect — an advanced multimedia system that connects to music, information and entertainment services through the user's smart phone. Apps include Bing for local search, OpenTable, MovieTickets.com, Pandora, iHeartRadio, Facebook and Yelp. An SMS text-to-speech feature allows the driver to be read text messages and send preset responses. DVD audio and video compatibility, along with HD Radio with iTunes tagging and a three-month trial subscription to SiriusXM Satellite Radio are standard.

The GS 350 is available in rear-wheel or all-wheel drive configurations, and can be



2013 Lexus GS 350

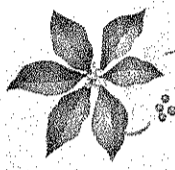
equipped with the available premium, luxury or sport packages.

Next spring, the GS 450h hybrid arrives to complete the line-up. With a total system power output of 338-horsepower,

the GS 450h has the power of a V8 and is projected to exceed most competitive V6s in fuel mileage with EPA-estimated ratings of 29 miles per gallon city, 34 highway and 31 mpg combined.

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2012 DODGE RAM 1500 SRT QUAD CAB 4x4 8 AT THIS PRICE Premium Cloth 40/20/40 Bench Seat, 6-Speed Automatic 65RFE Transmission, 5.7L V8 HEMI MDS VVT Engine, Bighorn Value Package, Customer Preferred Package 25Z MSRP \$36,230 LEASE 36 MO. \$1999 DOWN BUY 72 MO. \$1899 DOWN CHRYSLER EMPLOYEE \$199 \$392 \$25,855* GENERAL PUBLIC \$278 \$439 \$28,274*	2012 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO 4x4 6 AT THIS PRICE 3.6L V6 Engine, Bucket Seats w/ adj Head Restraints, Power Windows, Locks, Mirrors, Flex Fuel Vehicle, Laredo E Group MSRP \$31,820 LEASE 24 MO. \$1899 DOWN BUY 72 MO. \$1899 DOWN CHRYSLER EMPLOYEE \$164 \$379 \$24,439* GENERAL PUBLIC \$259 \$418 \$26,721*

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2012 VOLVO S60

2012 VOLVO S60 T5 Lease Price \$299*	2012 VOLVO S60 T6 Purchase Price \$399*
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*36 months/10,000 miles per year. \$1399 total due at signing. Includes first payment and acquisition. Tax, title, plate transfer and doc fee extra. Based on MSRP vehicle of \$32,035. Must have Volvo loyalty. Security deposit waived with approved credit. Offer good through 1/03/12.

*72 month purchase. \$1500 down. Tax, title, plate transfer and doc fee extra. Must have Volvo loyalty. Based on 1.9% financing. Payment based on Tier 1 credit approval. Offer valid through 1/03/12.

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2010 XC60 AWD, Moon, Nav, One Owner, Low Miles, Silver, Stock# P6555	BUY NOW Only \$32,995 Was \$38,995
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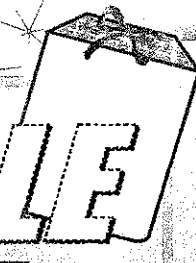
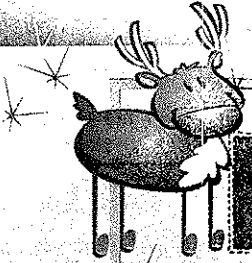
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OXFORD WHITE, CHARCOAL BLACK CLOTH SEATS, EQUIPMENT GROUP 201A, 2.0L I4 GDI ENGINE



27 MONTH LEASE PAYMENT **\$139⁰⁰**/MO.

STK# L2198

MSRP **\$20,670⁰⁰**
A/Z PLAN DISCOUNT PRICE **\$18,960⁶⁴***
LESS FORD FACTORY HOLIDAY CASH **-\$250⁰⁰**

YOUR PRICE \$18,710⁶⁴*

**Lease based on 27 months, 10,500 allowed miles per year. \$2550.10 total due at signing. \$0 security deposit. Plus tax, title and license fees. With approved credit at Ford Motor Credit. Not all customers will qualify. Offer expires 12/30/2011.

2012 FORD FUSION SEL

RED CANDY METALLIC, CHARCOAL BLACK LEATHER SEATS, EQUIPMENT GROUP 302A, 2.5L I4 ENGINE



27 MONTH LEASE PAYMENT **\$159⁰⁰**/MO.

STK# L1700

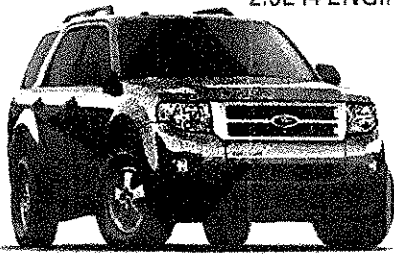
MSRP **\$29,380⁰⁰**
A/Z PLAN DISCOUNT PRICE **\$25,236³⁰***
LESS FORD FACTORY RCL RENEWAL **-\$500⁰⁰**
LESS FORD FACTORY SPECIAL HOLIDAY CASH **-\$500⁰⁰**

YOUR PRICE \$24,236³⁰*

**Lease based on 27 months, 10,500 allowed miles per year. \$2050.10 total due at signing. \$0 security deposit. Plus tax, title and license fees. With approved credit at Ford Motor Credit. Not all customers will qualify. Offer expires 12/30/2011.

2012 FORD ESCAPE 4DR XLT 4WD

TREADOR RED METALLIC, STONE PREM CLOTH SEATS, EQUIPMENT GROUP 202A, 2.5L I4 ENGINE



27 MONTH LEASE PAYMENT **\$189⁰⁰**/MO.

STK# L2153

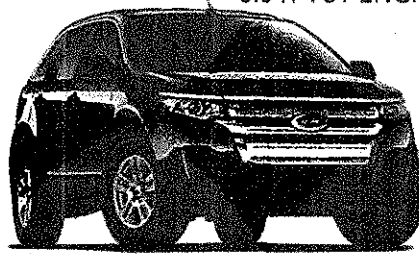
MSRP **\$28,730⁰⁰**
A/Z PLAN DISCOUNT PRICE **\$26,060⁴⁶***
LESS FORD FACTORY RCL RENEWAL **-\$500⁰⁰**
LESS FORD FACTORY CUSTOMER CASH **-\$1,000⁰⁰**
LESS FORD FACTORY SPECIAL HOLIDAY CASH **-\$750⁰⁰**

YOUR PRICE \$23,810⁴⁶*

**Lease based on 27 months, 10,500 allowed miles per year. \$1260.10 total due at signing. \$0 security deposit. Plus tax, title and license fees. With approved credit at Ford Motor Credit. Not all customers will qualify. Offer expires 12/30/2011.

2012 FORD EDGE FWD-SE

DARK BLUE PEARL METALLIC, BLACK CLOTH, EQUIPMENT GROUP 100A, 3.5TI-VCT ENGINE,



27 MONTH LEASE PAYMENT **\$219⁰⁰**/MO.

STK# L1791

MSRP **\$28,660⁰⁰**
A/Z PLAN DISCOUNT PRICE **\$26,708¹⁵***
LESS FORD FACTORY RCL RENEWAL **-\$500⁰⁰**
LESS FORD FACTORY SPECIAL HOLIDAY CASH **-\$500⁰⁰**

YOUR PRICE \$25,708¹⁵*

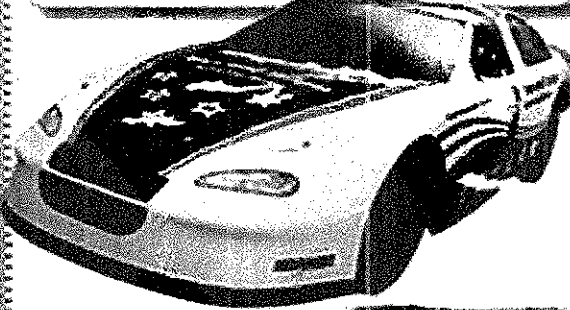
**Lease based on 27 months, 10,500 allowed miles per year. \$2216.83 total due at signing. \$0 security deposit. Plus tax, title and license fees. With approved credit at Ford Motor Credit. Not all customers will qualify. Offer expires 12/30/2011.

*A/Z discount price less applicable Ford factory rebates. Price does not include government fees, taxes, finance charges and documentary fees. Must take retail delivery by 12/30/2011. All offers valid at time of printing. Pictures may not represent actual vehicles. Customer may not qualify for all Ford factory stated rebates.

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Presents: **When: Thursday, December 15th**
From: 2 pm - 8 pm
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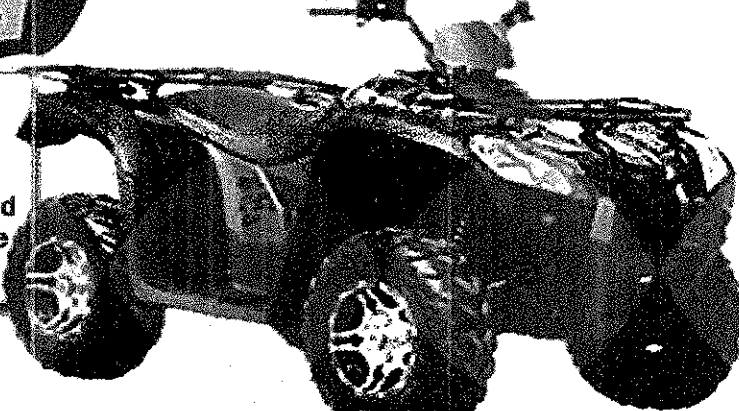
- Test your driving skills with the Sprint Cup Nascar Simulator. Top 3 times win prizes!



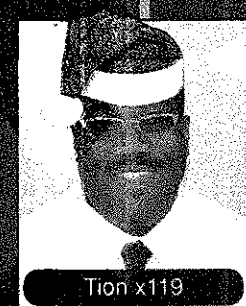
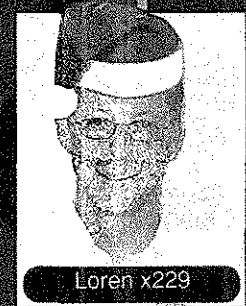
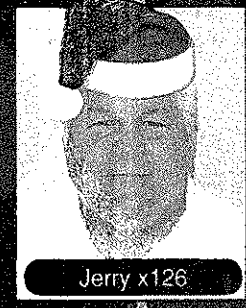
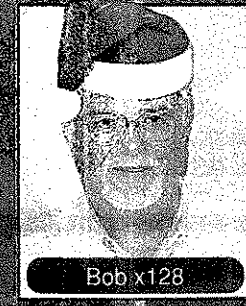
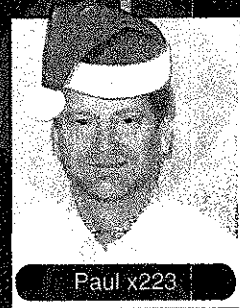
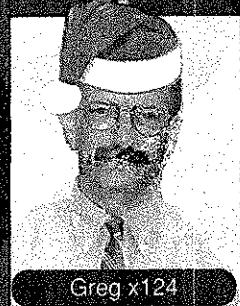
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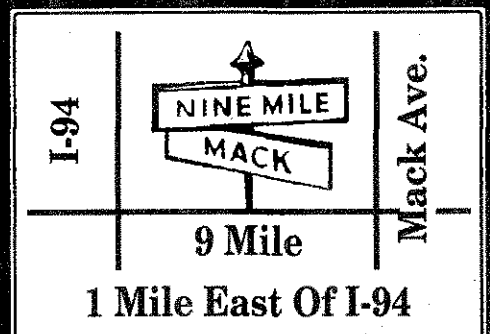
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CHURCHES

White frosting topped **gingerbread houses** are as necessary to the holiday as are creches, Santa and pine trees.

A sign of the season

By Ann L. Fouty
Features Editor

Indian Princesses of the Chippewa Tribe of the Lakeshore Longhouse - Native Sons and Daughters concentrate on putting their creative mark on gingerbread houses, while their fathers look over their shoulders.

Completed, the girls, aged 4 to 14, lick white frosting-covered fingers, realizing each sweet masterpiece will be given away in a few days.

In one of several annually planned father-daughter outings of the YMCA-based organization, the group builds about six homemade houses in early December at the Grosse Pointe Congregational Church. The houses are delivered to Grosse Pointe, Detroit and Harper Woods senior citizens Dec 18.

"We start at 8 a.m. and sing carols at each stop," said Charles Krasner, a princess' father.

"After having seen my parents become home-bound and need significant care over the last five years, I realize that it is the here-and-now that really makes a difference for older folks like them," said Pete Spencer, a gingerbread project founder and Grosse Pointe Farms resident.

"The connections to the broader world, for many, don't matter as much. What a special thing we are privileged to do, to be able to provide them with a visit by children and let them hear the voices of children."

Betsy Schulte, director of volunteers for Beaumont Hospital Grosse Pointe, connects the YMCA group and seniors.

"We have heard from many grateful recipients how much this Christmas greeting you provided warmed their hearts and lifted their spirits," she said in an e-mail to the organization last year. Most of these folks are not getting out of the house much and at the holidays it can be a very difficult time for them. You each



See GINGERBREAD, page 2B



From left, Ellie Liedl, Hailey McDonald, Devon Krasner, Mike Hix, Lydia Miller and Moira Hix.

PHOTO COURTESY CHARLES KRASNER



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Visit the enchanting cottage to see Santa's workspace filled with antique toys and activities for kids. Santa himself checks in on the workshop on December 10 and 17 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

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GINGERBREAD: Personal delivery

Continued from page 1B

brought joy, laughter and a chance to forget their trouble for little while."

The Gingerbread House Project began about seven years ago on a smaller scale — decorating Christmas cookies and singing carols. The idea expanded after Spencer and his wife attended a party where they decorated gingerbread houses.

"The gingerbread house event at Indian Princesses was conceived several years ago while sitting at a campfire,"

Decorating

1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 11
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Congregational Church
240 Chalfonte
Grosse Pointe Farms
Public can attend

DELIVERING

8:30 a.m.
Sunday, Dec. 18
Meet in the Grosse Pointe
Congregational Church parking lot

John Williams explained. "Pete Spencer's wife, Colleen, had talked about what a great time she had making gingerbread houses.

"I told Pete when I was a young lad in Canada we made

them as well and delivered them to the elderly at Christmas when want was most keenly felt. It was something I never forgot. We decided to make this part of our program to give back to the community."

Spencer continues, "We purposely decided awhile back not to visit the area nursing homes because they often get the school choirs and others stopping in to serenade them. Even though we only touch about six to 10 folks each year, I think it makes a big impact on their day. And the beautiful house sitting on the coffee or dining room table over the holidays can remind them of the visit for a while longer."

The National Longhouse is designed for one-on-one parent-child interaction within a



Mike and Moira Mix make a gingerbread house delivery.

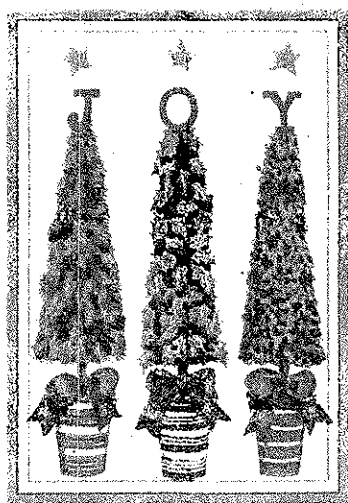


PHOTOS COURTESY CHARLES KRASNER

In front, from left, Pete and Mary Spencer. In the middle, Elena and Callie Zingas, Charlotte Shea; and in background, John Sea, Rhona Dempsey and Steve Sicklesteel.

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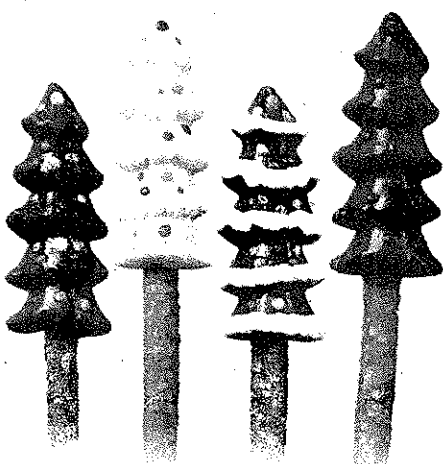


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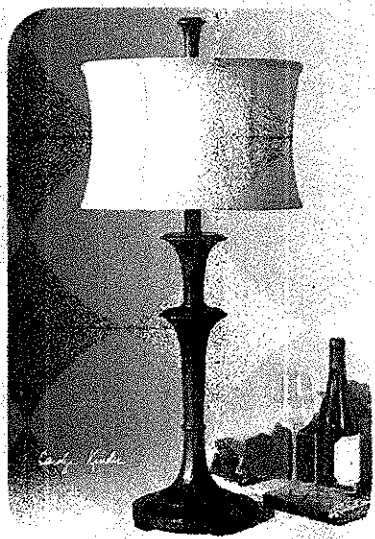


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group setting. Each program helps build inter-family, communal and spiritual relationships through shared, structured activities.

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duction to Native American cultures.

For more information, contact the Lakeshore Longhouse at lakeshorelonghouse.org; Pat Carlsen at pcarse01@lear.com or (313) 751-4699; or Charlie Krasner at charles.krasner@comcast.net or (313) 574-4350.

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Invite You to Share in a Celebration of Christmas

2011 Christmas Concert and Tea

The Presbyterian Women of Woods Church invite you to a wonderful Christmas event on Tuesday, December 13th at 1:00 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary. The Grosse Pointe North High School Choir will perform a concert of Christmas music, which will be followed by refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

DATE: December 13th
PLACE: Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church
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AREA ACTIVITIES

La Societe des Jardinieres

The La Societe des Jardinieres meets at noon Thursday, Dec. 8, at the Detroit Yacht Club for its annual Christmas party and lunch. Members decide which charity to make a donation.

Members should bring a white elephant item for a gift exchange.

Questers

The Grosse Pointe Questers meet at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 9, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club for a Christmas brunch.

Community chorus

The Grosse Pointe Community Chorus presents "I'll be Home for Christmas," at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, 800 Vernier, Grosse

Pointe Woods.

Adult tickets cost \$10 and children's tickets cost \$3. Tickets can be purchased at Moehring-Woods Flowers, 20923 Mack, or at the door.

Rotary club

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe meets at noon Monday, Dec. 12, at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. Lunch costs \$13 and the public can attend and learn about Rotary's mission.

Speaker Laurie Smolenski discusses her experience as a Rotary Scholar. She has a master's degree from the Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain, where she studied international relations, focusing on women's rights in developing countries.

The literacy book drive drop off is from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, and Dec. 27, at the Grosse Pointe Memorial

Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. The entrance is at the rear of the church.

Rotary's past district governor, Jennifer Jones, discussed Rotary International's projects at the Nov. 28 meeting, including "End Polio Now."

For more information about Rotary, visit grossepointerotary.org.

Senior Men's Club

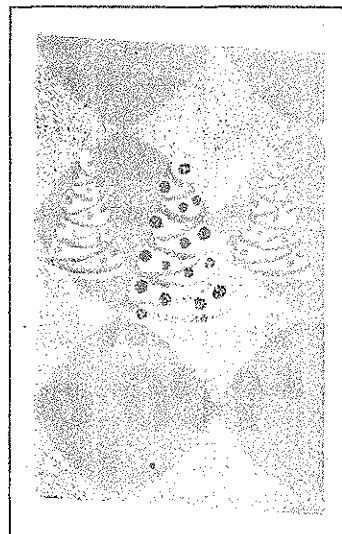
Senior Men's Club of Grosse Pointe holds its Christmas lunch Tuesday, Dec. 13, at Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Grosse Pointe North High School chorale sings at 11:15 a.m. and lunch is served at 11:45 a.m.

Lake House

The Lake House, 26701 Little Mack, St. Clair Shores, holds orientations at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 12; 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14; and 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15.

The organization helps peo-



Special Kids

Christmas cards benefiting Special Kids can be purchased by calling (313) 881-7575 or at specialkids.us/fundraisers/christmas. Packets of 15 cards sell for \$10.

ple live quality lives during their cancer journeys. For more information, call (586) 777-7761.

Soroptimist

Soroptimist of Grosse Pointe seeks nominees for: ♦ Women's Opportunity award: Nominee must be the head of household, enrolled

in a vocational or educational program beyond high school and in financial need. The nominee may be pursuing a second degree for better employment opportunities. Applications are due Dec. 15. The recipient receives, \$2,000.

♦ SIGP Special award winner is given \$1,000.

For more information, contact Sue at slewand12@yahoo.com or (313) 737-5696.

♦ Virginia Wagner Educational Grant: The nominee must be enrolled in a university degree program and be in financial need. The nominee's volunteerism is considered. The due date is Jan. 15.

One winner is given \$2,000. For more information, contact Cathie at baldwindetroit@yahoo.com or (313) 885-4886.

♦ Soroptimist Ruby Award for Women Helping Women: This award honors a woman who has made a difference in

the lives of women and girls. Nominations are due Jan. 15. One winner earns \$500 for her charity of choice. For more information, contact Jane at JLightfoot2002@yahoo.com or (313) 882-4939.

Family Center

The little BIG Discount Cards benefit The Family Center of Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods and CARE of Southeastern Michigan.

The fundraiser card, formerly the Our Community Cares Card, offers purchasers discounts at more than 25 area businesses until Oct. 31.

The card costs \$10. To purchase a card or for more information, visit familycenterweb.org or call (313) 432-3832.

For more information about CARE, visit careofsem.com or contact Anne Nearhood at e-mail, anearhood@careofsem.com or (313) 332-0972.

DSO quartet performs in Park church

By Ann L. Fouty
Features Editor

A Detroit Symphony Orchestra string quartet performs selections by Mozart and Brahms in the sanctuary of the First Christian Reformed Church of Detroit at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13.

"A member of the congregation who works for the DSO approached me and asked if we'd consider hosting the event," the Rev. Ben Van Arragon said. "And we're excited about the prospect of wel-

coming an audience of our neighbors from the Pointes and Detroit to what promises to be an evening of beautiful music."

The concert is part Neighborhood Residency Initiative created by the DSO to establish musical connections with residents, said Kareem George, DSO managing director of community programs.

"This creates a wonderful opportunity for Grosse Pointers to meet with other (DSO) patrons in Grosse Pointe," he said.

"It also helps patrons who are unable to travel into Detroit for concerts, but still want to attend performances."

The December concert initi-

ates a four performance concert series by the full 70-member orchestra in Grosse Pointe next year. The first concert, under the direction of Leonard Slatkin, is Jan. 8 at the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church.

The DSO, according to George, is the first major American orchestra to establish long-term performance and education residencies across its region.

Venues are selected in areas providing strong orchestra support.

The church is located at 1444 Maryland, Grosse Pointe Park. Doors open at 6 p.m. Adult admission is \$15 and children pay \$10.

Tickets can be purchased by calling (313) 576-5111 or visiting dso.org/neighborhood.

Henry Ford earns award

Henry Ford Health System has received one of four 2011 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards for performance excellence.

"The Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award is a symbol of the highest standards of excellence, and we are extremely proud and humbled to have been selected," said Nancy M. Schlichting, CEO of Henry Ford Health System.

Named after the 26th Secretary of Commerce, the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award was established in 1987 by Congress to promote quality awareness, recognize quality and business achievements of United States organizations and publicize these organizations' successful performance strategies.

To apply, organizations must submit details showing their achievements and improvements in seven key areas: leadership; strategic planning; customer focus; measurement; analysis and knowledge management; workforce focus; operations focus; and results.

Baldrige examiners spent four days at 36 medical sites throughout the hospital system interviewing leaders and more than 1,200 employees before making a decision.

NEW ARRIVAL

Evanthia Margaret Inempolidis

Dena and Demetri Inempolidis, of Naperville, Ill., are the parents of a daughter, Evanthia (Evey) Margaret Inempolidis, born Sept. 5, 2011.

Ruthann and Jim Zavakos, of Dayton, Ohio, are maternal grandparents.

Paternal grandparents are Evelyn Inempolidis, of Grosse Pointe Park, and the late Basil Inempolidis.

Great-grandparents are Koula Pervanis, of Grosse Pointe Park, and Julia Zavakos and Charles Krandler, of Dayton, Ohio.

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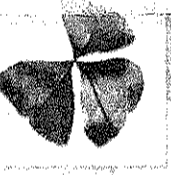


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CHURCHES



Harmony Grace Swanson, of the City of Grosse Pointe, filled her plate with pasta and a roll.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

St. Vincent de Paul

Who gains the most when 45 pounds of pasta and 35 gallons of sauce are served? St. Vincent de Paul Society, in this case. St. Ambrose Catholic Church ladled out three varieties of pasta sauce to cover four kinds of noodles to hundreds of people at the recent fundraiser. Top left, Grosse Pointe Park resident Carrigan McGraw, right, sprinkles Parmesan cheese on his spaghetti, as his mother, Bobi Morey, watches. Above, volunteer Deanna VanAntwerp was in charge of the dessert table, including, handing out cupcakes with orange frosting.

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Supervised Nursery Provided
www.christthekinggp.org
Randy S. Boelter, Pastor
Making New Disciples - Building Stronger Ones

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church
December 11, 2011
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
The Polar Express, Holiday Pageant
Julie Artis & Reverend Shelley Page
Childcare will be provided
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www.stpaulgp.org
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SUNDAY
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. - Holy Communion
11:00 a.m. - Church Sunday School and Nursery
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12:35 p.m. - Recital of Classical Music
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Sunday, December 11, 2011
9:00 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Meditation: "A BABY! Praise God!"
Scriptures: Luke 1:26-38, 46-55
Peter C. Smith, Preaching
Church School: Crib - 8th Grade
Save the Date
Community Chorus of Detroit presents Handel's "Messiah"
Friday, December 16 and Saturday, December 17
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Visit our website: www.japc.org 313-822-3456

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"Young Children and Worship"
Program for Preschool through 2nd grade at 9:00 a.m. Service
We are taking registrations for our Parent's Day Out program
7:15 a.m. Friday Ecumenical Men's Breakfast
Dec 11 - Worship Services, 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Blue Christmas Service, 10:15 a.m.
Education for all ages, 10:10 a.m.
Dec 18 - Worship Services, 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Children's Pageant at both services
Education for all ages, 10:10 a.m.

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Monday - Saturday at 12:15 p.m.
Confessions 20 minutes before every Mass

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CHURCHES

Outstanding

Film maker

Lucy Ament, 35, a Grosse Pointe Park native, stars in the 30-minute short film, "Being Custer," which she co-wrote with director Denn Pietro and producer Jeff Turner.

The film was shown at a recent Mitten Movie Project preview. Filmed mostly in Port Huron, the movie is a redemption story about Custer Kleckner, a young man who years earlier fled his hometown after his father was convicted and incarcerated for the murder of his wife.

In the film, Custer returns to make peace with his dying father and is forced to face his personal demons as well as the many relationships he abandoned.

Ament plays Sarah, the girlfriend he left behind with no explanation or goodbye.

In the Grosse Pointe Theater's spring 2011 musical, "The Scarlet Pimpernel," Ament played Marguerite. Alan Canning, who played the Pimpernel, stars in "Being Custer" in the title role.

They both won Grosse Pointe Theatre's Clarence awards for their performances.

Appointed

City of Grosse Pointe resident Terry Shea is president of the Michigan Opera Theatre Volunteer Association.

Shea has been employed with Comerica Bank since 1978 and is vice president in charge of Midtown Detroit Banking Center.

He has long been involved with various civic and cultural organizations, including 13 years with the Southwest Detroit Business Association.

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Angela Aufdemberge is president and chief executive officer of Vista Maria.



Angela Aufdemberge

Former executive vice president of sales development and support at Entertainment Publications, Aufdemberge was selected after an extensive national search.

She has served as a director on Vista Maria's board for more than 12 years and on the executive and development boards and program, planning and evaluation committees.

Honored

Lois and Gale Warden, of the City of Grosse Pointe, were among the 30 honored by the Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings for their contributions to the 30-year-old organization.

Winner

Kate Patterson, of Grosse Pointe Park, received two national awards for her game, Slooooks!

Creative Child gave it the 2011 Game of the Year award and Parents Choice, a children's media and toy review foundation, presented the game with its recommended award.

The game is similar to I Spy, a game for the car.

Author

Melissa Altomare, of Grosse Pointe Woods, wrote "Diesel, The Little Engine That Did."

The picture book is a true story of Diesel, a 10-week-old puppy, that underwent three emergency surgeries to save his life and bond with a young man.

The story, according to Altomare, helps children are hospitalized and helps them address their fears.

CHURCH EVENTS



Thousands of cookies

Ellen Dunn, left, and Laurie Stowell are among dozens of bakers preparing thousands of cookies and holiday treats for the annual Cookie Mart from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 10, at the Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, 211 Moross, Grosse Pointe Farms. Proceeds support the mission work of the United Methodist women both locally and globally.

Ecumenical breakfast

The Grosse Pointe Men's Ecumenical breakfast begins at 6:45 a.m. Friday, Dec. 9, with coffee at the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. A buffet breakfast is served at 7:15 a.m. followed at 7:45 a.m. by the speaker, the Very Rev. Patrick Halfpenny from St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church. The event ends at 8:15 a.m. For more information, call Bruce Vick at (313) 881-9661.

St. Paul

The General Motors Employees Chorus presents a concert of Christmas music at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 375 Lothrop, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Christ the King

Christ the King Lutheran Church, 20338 Mack, Grosse

Pointe Woods, hosts a living nativity from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11.

Performances are every 45 minutes and children can sign up to play a part in the event. A light lunch is served in the church. The event is free.

Crosspointe Church

A free Compassion International Christmas Concert is at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, at Crosspointe Christian Church, 21336 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

The concert features Chuck Tocco Band performing songs from its CD, "Room Full of Mirrors," and worship leaders Teri Miller and Rob Pira from the "Unto Us" CD.

The public may attend, including children.

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women of Grosse Pointe Woods Church host the 2011 Christmas Concert and Tea at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13, at the church, 19950 Mack.

The Grosse Pointe North High School choir performs in the church's fellowship hall.

The public can attend. For more information, call (313) 886-4301.

Digging Deeper

Digging Deeper meets from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, at First Christian Reform Church, 1444 Maryland, Grosse Pointe Park.

The group explores emotional and spiritual issues related to job transition. The Rev. Ben VanArragon facilitates the meet-

ing.

First English

The First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, 800 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods, Sunday school Christmas pageant is at 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 18.

The service features children from preschool through fifth grade.

Mariners' Church

Musicians Ioana Galu, Kevin J. Bylsma and Kenneth J. Sweetman perform works for violin and piano by Brahms and Bach, during a free recital at 12:35 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, at Mariners' Church, 170 E. Jefferson, Detroit.

Parking is free in the Ford Underground Garage.

PASTOR'S CORNER By Rev. Shelley Page

Embracing the dark

We're well into it now, the time of year when we wake up in darkness and feel it descend all too early as the afternoon sun disappears. Our very human reaction to this time of year tends to be a grand, beautiful and perhaps an even defiant display of light. It twinkles in our windows, festoons trees and lamp-posts, blazes in our hearths and glows as we cradle candles in our hands. We avidly seek the light as the holiday season sweeps us in its whirlwind of activity. It's almost as if our lives get re-directed toward the energy, warmth and magic of light set against the darkness.

But it wasn't always this way. Before electricity or gas illuminated our lives, our ancestors took their cue from nature at this time of year. They observed the hibernating animals, the dormant trees, the seeds sleeping in the soil and the soft blankets of snow covering the land. They embraced the dark, appreciating the opportunity to slow down, turn inward and become more reflective.

I wonder what we have lost as a culture that now so hungrily chases the light. I love our holiday lights as much as anyone, but I do wonder if we are missing an opportunity to slow down and spend some meaningful time in reflection.

What would it mean to embrace the dark as part of your spiritual practice this December? What would it be like for you to slow down and simply be?

What treasures of insight would rise up and speak as you sit quietly in the dark? What seeds of change are nestled deep within that need rest, calm and nurturance to come to life in the months ahead? What parts of you simply need to stop for a while in the deep winter woods of your being?

Rev. Page is minister at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church.

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- 9:30 am Pointes of Horticulture
- 10:00 am Shine a Light
- 10:30 am Things to Do at the War Memorial
- 11:00 am Out of the Ordinary
- 11:30 am Senior Men's Club
- 12:00 pm Economic Club of Detroit
- 1:00 pm The Soc Show
- 1:30 pm Great Lakes Log
- 2:00 pm The John Prost Show
- 2:30 pm Legal Insider
- 3:00 pm Things to Do at the War Memorial
- 3:30 pm Art & Design
- 4:00 pm Vitality Plus (Tone)
- 4:30 pm Musical Storytime
- 5:00 pm In a Heartbeat
- 5:30 pm The Soc Show
- 6:00 pm Legal Insider
- 6:30 pm Shine a Light
- 7:00 pm Vitality Plus (Step/Kick Boxing)
- 7:30 pm Things to Do at the War Memorial
- 8:00 pm In a Heartbeat
- 8:30 pm Senior Men's Club
- 9:00 pm Art & Design
- 9:30 pm Pointes of Horticulture
- 10:00 pm The John Prost Show
- 10:30 pm Great Lakes Log
- 11:00 pm Out of the Ordinary
- 11:30 pm Senior Men's Club
- Midnight Economic Club of Detroit
- 1:00 am The Soc Show
- 1:30 am Great Lakes Log
- 2:00 am The John Prost Show
- 2:30 am Senior Men's Club
- 3:00 am Art & Design
- 3:30 am Pointes of Horticulture
- 4:00 am The John Prost Show
- 4:30 am Great Lakes Log
- 5:00 am Out of the Ordinary
- 5:30 am Legal Insider
- 6:00 am Things to Do at the War Memorial
- 6:30 am Art & Design
- 7:00 am Vitality Plus (Tone)
- 7:30 am Musical Storytime
- 8:00 am In a Heartbeat

Featured Guests & Topics

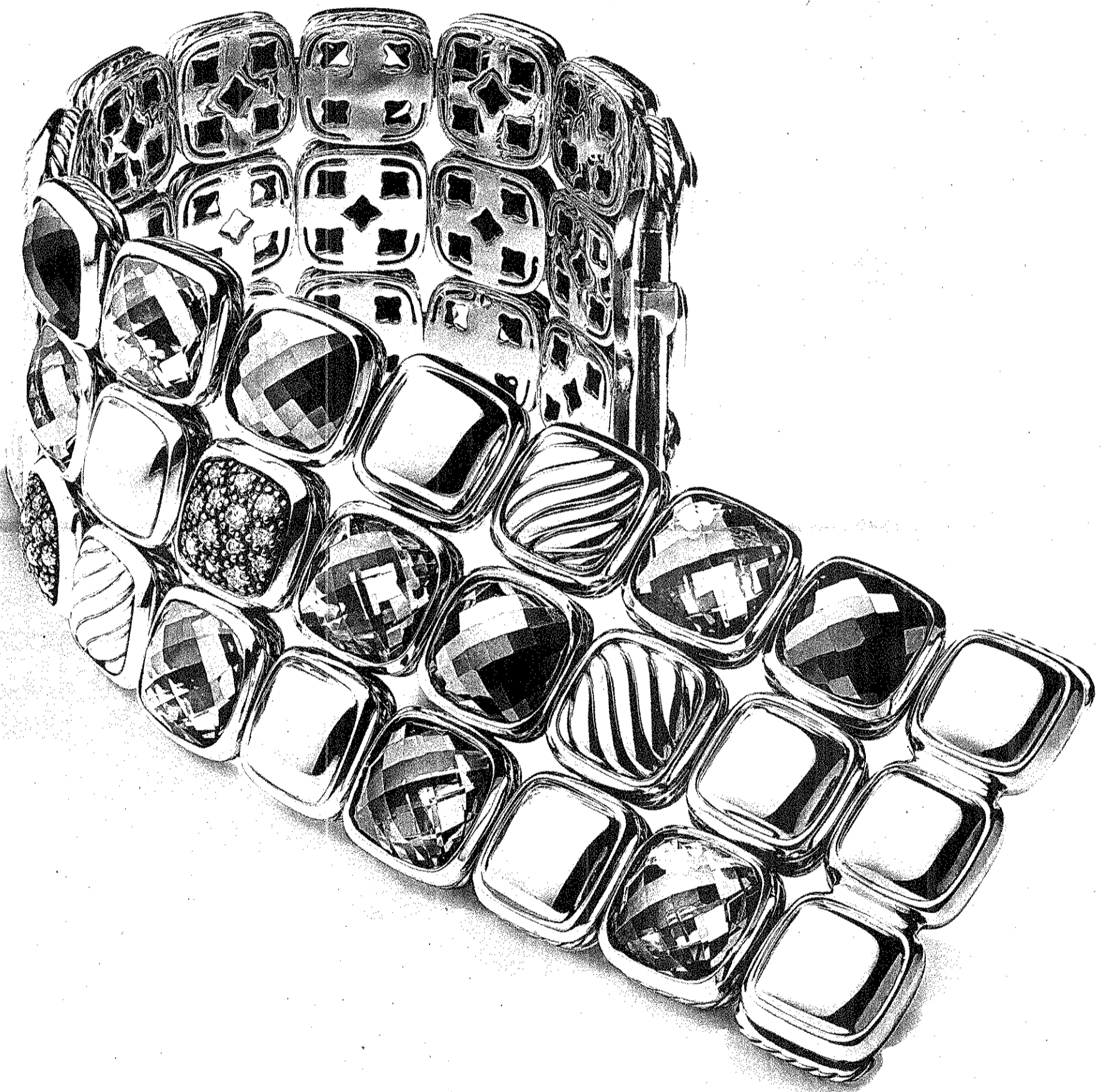
- Shine a Light**
Izzy Donnelly, Michele Agosta and Russell Peebles
Grosse Pointe Historical Society
- Things to Do at the War Memorial**
Ski Hi, Hula Hoop Your Way to Fitness, Mommy & Me Yoga and Cooking Boot Camp
- Out of the Ordinary**
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FEATURES II

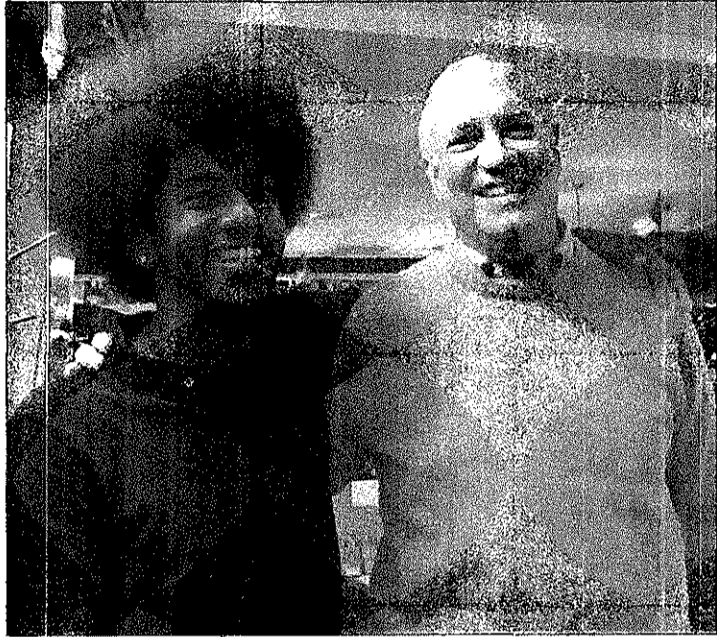
HEALTH Rebellion

Changes in teens and adolescents

PAGE 3B II

2, 4-6B II ENTERTAINMENT | 3B II HEALTH

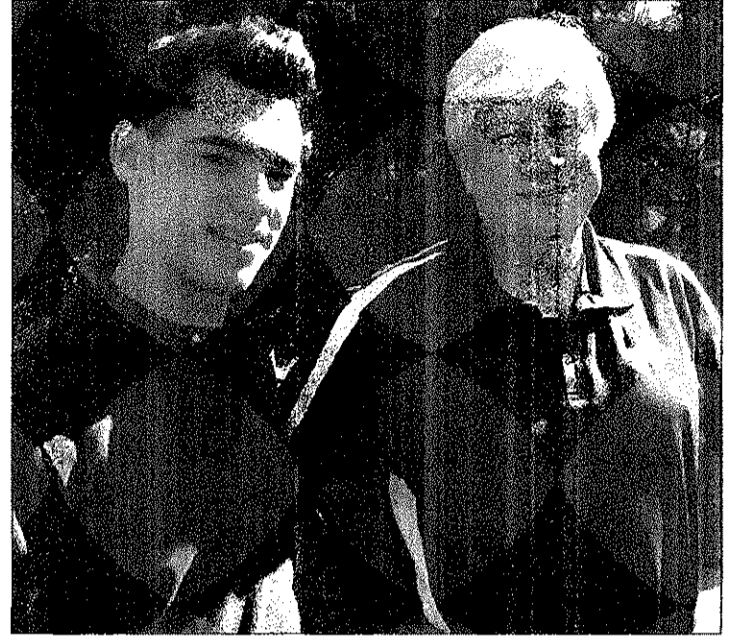
Student Mentor Partners are meant to change one student's life at a time. The adult counterparts always say the student also changes their lives for the better.



Student Marcel McTier with his mentor John Mozena, of Grosse Pointe Farms.



Mentor Nancy Combs, of Grosse Pointe Park, with her student, Ania Sisco.



Student Josh Reece with mentor Bob Hrtanek, of Grosse Pointe Farms.

Life changing partners

By Ann L. Fouty
Features Editor

Student Mentor Partners are about changing one young life at a time.

Adult mentors are paired with a Wayne, Oakland or Macomb county middle school boy or girl in jeopardy of falling through the educational cracks. Instead of possibly failing in school and life, students are given the chance to move from a struggling school to a private school for a better education. The partnership creates an environment to learn social skills, be exposed to area cultural and athletic events, tour college campuses and have a reliable and constant adult friend outside their normal sphere.

The name of the game is commitment.

It's a commitment from the mentor, the student and the student's caretaker.

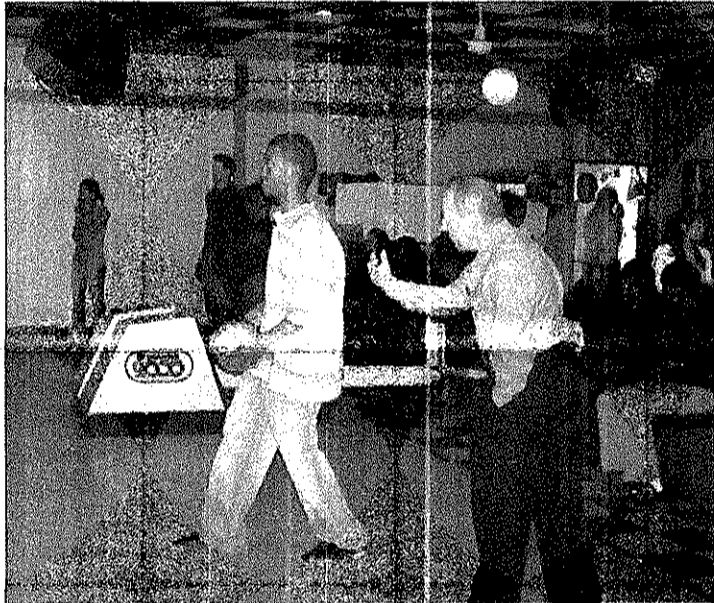
Between the mandated four hours a month spent with the mentor and maintaining a minimum 2.0 grade point average, the young person is given the tools to succeed, said Tyler MacEachran, the organization's executive director.

"We are investing in the future, one student at a time," he said.

"Inner city children, youth (are) the most endangered segment of our society," said John Mozena, who has mentored four boys. "So much of their lives is swimming up stream. I tell my kids they can get out of the hood if they want to."

To break the cycle, he tells them studies have shown getting an education, getting a job and getting and staying married are three components that generally lead to a better life.

Mentor Nancy Combs, like Mozena, says it's not the mentors creating successful students, it's the combined sup-



PHOTOS COURTESY TYLER MACEACHRAN

Mentor Greg Leslie, of Grosse Pointe Farms, provides bowling pointers to Bernard Draper.

port of the school, the family and the SMP organization. She said she doesn't teach her mentee, Ania Sisco, but rather brings her new experiences, such as visiting a cider mill, the Detroit Institute of Arts and Detroit Public Library or learning how to canoe.

"Those kids know we have no agendas," Mozena said. "They need to understand they can do it, but they have to be focused. They are smart enough."

SMP isn't necessarily looking for a student at the top of the class, but rather someone with potential, such as Detroit's Sisco. She is valedictorian of her class at Detroit Christian Schools of Excellence, sings in the school choir and, as Combs said, "is coming out of her shell."

SMP provides \$2,000 for tuition to one of 11 partner schools. The caregiver provides the rest and transportation. Partner schools are: Cabrini High School, De La Salle Collegiate High School, Bishop Foley Catholic High

School, Mercy High School, Regina High School, University of Detroit Jesuit High School, Loyola High School, Detroit Cristo Rey High School, Detroit Christian Schools of Excellence, Shrine Catholic High School and Academy of the Sacred Heart.

This year, 52 students are enrolled. Next year's goal is 70, MacEachran said. Students fully participate in their new school. Additionally, students are attending collegiate or professional sporting events, operas, symphonies, theater and just hanging out with their mentors, either as a pair or with other students and their mentors. They become more than just adult and child, the two teach each other lessons and bond.

Former mentor and Grosse Pointe Farms resident, William Adlhoeh, explained how his student partner, David, enjoyed fishing. Adlhoeh said he had never fished in his life.

"I found a friend at the office who had a boat and took us fishing. David caught the

largest small mouth bass recorded (on the lake)," he said.

David has since earned high school and college diplomas and the two communicate once or twice a month from where ever David is posted as a member of the U.S. Navy.

Like David, two of Mozena's mentees earned high school

diplomas and are in college; the third dropped out of sight and the fourth is in high school.

In the beginning

A group of eight businessmen and community activists, four from the suburbs and four from city, got together in 1998 to discuss discrepancies be-

tween the hopes and dreams of those in their respective areas. Actually, the hopes and dreams were similar, obtaining them was widely different. The men created the Bridge Builders, beginning with three students in three schools. Each was given tuition to a private school,

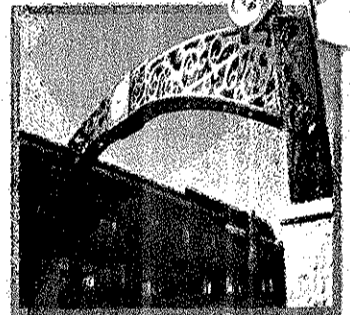
See MENTOR, page 6B II



A simple sack race can result in bursts of laughter.

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- Saturday, December 10th, Noon - 4 p.m.
- Saturday, December 17th, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Woods beautification awards

Grosse Pointe Woods 38th Annual Beautification awards were presented to the residential winners: Zelinda and Marianne Battani, Craig Curran, Mary and Nick Goerke, Kathy and Doug Hawkins, Linda and Chris Janson, Faith Marie Kolly, Michael and Cheryl Kreuter, Barbara Mercer Shapiro, Albert and Nancy Spalding, George and Suzanne Topper and Christine VanHeusden. Mayor Robert Novitke is at center. Also receiving awards but not pictured are David and Julie Kaleel, Antonio and Jacki Lentine, Mark and Susan Lorenger and Donald and Kathleen Rouls.

Bottom left, Andiamo Trattoria and Wellspring Dental received business renovation plaques. Business beautification awards were presented to Ben J. Czerniawski, D.D.S.; Caribou Coffee Mack Avenue; Closet Connections; General Funding Corporation; David Secord, D.D.S.; Talmer Bank and Trust; William C. Quinlan, D.D.S. and Woods Wholesale Wine. Also receiving business beautification awards but not pictured are Beline Obeid Realty, DaEduardo Restaurant, Wild Birds Unlimited and Wireless Zone of Grosse Pointe Woods.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Residential winner, Barbara Shapiro, and her daughter, Sue, with Mayor Robert Novitke.

A LA ANNIE By Annie Rouleau-Scheriff

Cranberry, cherry jam in seasonal harmony



I recently created a yummy spread that marries cranberries and dried cherries into a sweet and tart "jam" that pairs well with cream cheese, brie or even ice cream.

Holiday Cran-Cherry Jam

- 1 1/3 cups 100 percent cranberry juice
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 cups fresh cranberries
- 1 cup dried cherries
- 1 lime, peeled and cut into small bits (about 1/4 cup)



PHOTO BY VIRGINIA O. MCCOY

Annie has cooked up a tart, sweet holiday treat with cranberry juice, fresh cranberries and dried cherries.

- 2 teaspoons grated lime zest

In a medium pot, combine cranberry juice with sugar.

Heat over medium heat until all sugar is dissolved. Add cranberries, dried cherries and lime bits to the pot and bring mixture to a low boil. Simmer uncovered 15 minutes or so, stirring every few minutes. Remove from heat and stir in lime zest. Allow to cool to room temperature. Transfer to an airtight container and store in refrigerator until ready to serve. I'm serving the cran-cherry jam over toasted baguette slices with a slice of brie. Ladle over a block of cream cheese and surround it with assorted crackers. Those with a sweet tooth can turn to vanilla ice cream for a reason to sample this tart and sweet holiday treat.

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ASK THE EXPERTS By Georgia Michalopoulou

Why do adolescents and teens rebel so much?



The teen years are a time of great change and intense growth during which many physical, cognitive and psychological changes are occurring.

These changes often cause confusion and upheaval for both parent and child. A parent used to their younger child being cooperative and eager to please may be faced with an adolescent who opposes and asserts more independence. This is often part of normal development.

Constructing an identity, developing autonomy and achieving separation are skills adolescents need to master to become individuals.

To navigate these challenging years, parents must listen to their teen's worries and concerns and provide support. Providing support however, does not always mean agreeing with the teen's requests.

Parents must set appropriate limits to ensure their adolescent's safety. When conflict arises, parents may choose to pick their battles to avoid constant confrontation and arguments.

Knowing which battles to fight becomes easier when parents communicate clearly their expectations. For example, if a teen decides that he or she wants to dye their hair, some parents may feel its not harmful and say OK while other parents may find it offensive to their cultural/religious beliefs.

When dealing with rebellious, defiant behavior, it is important for parents to evaluate if the rebellion is an expression of a normal developmental process or a sign of a more serious problem.

If an adolescent consistently exhibits disrespectful, anger or violent behavior with authority figures, or is disruptive in school or in the community it may be worthwhile to seek the advice of a professional.

Sometimes rebellion can be a sign of a more significant problem such as depression, separation anxiety or even obsessive compulsive disorder. An evaluation with a behav-

ioral expert may unlock underlying issues and lead to a successful treatment of the problem.

Michalopoulou is a licensed clinical psychologist and chief of staff, child psychiatry/psychology, DMC Children's Hospital of Michigan.

The Family Center, a non-profit organization, serves as the community's hub for information, resources and referral for both families and professionals.

To volunteer or contribute, visit familycenterweb.org; call (313) 432-3832; e-mail info@familycenterweb.org; or write to The Family Center, 20090 Morningside Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236.



CAREGIVING By Teri Murphy

Holiday shopping with seniors

Select a senior shopping venue with care

For most of us, the holidays are a wonderful time to share the joys of family life and friendship. For many older adults, this time can be highly stressful, confusing or even depressing if their mental, physical and emotional needs are not considered.

One source of holiday stress can be holiday shopping.

While many seniors can get out and enjoy the experience, remind them of safe shopping habits.

Those that cannot physically or mentally handle the shopping experience alone can go with a loved one.

Before heading out, understand their limitations.

Holiday shopping safety

When you or a loved one are exploring holiday shopping opportunities, make sure you are practicing safe shopping habits.

Before leaving, tell someone where you are going and about what time you are returning, especially at night.

If necessary, ask security to walk you to your car or take advantage of valet parking services. Some are free, but even if they are not, it will be money well spent.

Avoid ATMs, especially those in a closed-in area, some one is close or at night. Drive around the block and come back when it feels safer.

Limit credit cards to just one and have the phone number handy to report theft.

Always avoid uneven surfaces when possible and use a cane or walker: it is better to be safe than sorry.

Carry minimal medical and emergency information.

Most important, trust your instincts.

Senior discounts

A big bonus when taking older loved one shopping is many retailers offer senior citizen discounts. Some companies offer them daily, while others have special senior discount days. Be sure to ask.

Online Shopping

If it is just too much to take your loved one into the holiday shopping maze, spend the afternoon shopping with them online.

Online shopping is a convenient, often affordable way to purchase gifts.

Whether you choose to brave the stores, or spend a quiet afternoon on the Internet, the companionship brightens both of your holiday spirits.

Reach out to older family, friends and neighbors and help them spread a little holiday cheer.

Murphy, of Grosse Pointe, is a certified senior advisor and owner of Home Helpers, a



Non-Medical Home Care Business.

She can be reached at (313) 881-4600 or tmurphy572@comcast.net.

St. John Providence names new leader

St. John Providence Health System has named Jean Meyer, M.S.N, R.N, to the newly created position of president/executive vice president, Acute Care Operations for the health system.

In this new role, Meyer is responsible for overseeing business and clinical/patient care operations for all five system hospitals.

Meyer joined St. John Providence Health in 2008 as senior vice president and chief nursing officer and became chief operating officer of the Providence Region before being appointed Providence Park Hospital president.

She earned a bachelor's and master's degree from Loyola University of Chicago and has a bachelor's degree in public health from the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse.

HEALTH POINT By Jeff and Debra Jay

Festive, delicious and nonalcoholic holiday

Seasonal parties can be fun without booze



Dear Readers: "The Great Pretenders Party Guide," published every holiday season by AAA, provides fabulous alcohol-free drink recipes from Diamond-rated restaurants and hotels.

The new guide is a compilation of best recipes from past years.

With so many delightful drinks from which to choose, it's hard to pick a favorite for 2011, but we can't resist this lively concoction submitted by the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island.

Sparkling Pineapple Sunset

1 cup pineapple juice
1 cup Perrier
splash grenadine
cherry for garnish

In a large glass filled halfway with ice, add equal parts pineapple juice and Perrier. Mix well. Add a splash of grenadine. Garnish with maraschino cherry.

AAA offers the following tips to stay safe and prevent holiday drunk driving:

- Plan ahead and designate a non-drinking driver before any holiday party or celebration begins.

- Plan activities, like party games, to engage guests and reduce alcohol consumption.

- Don't let guests mix their own drinks. Choosing a reliable "bartender" helps you keep track of the size and number of drinks guests consume.

- Serve foods that act as a buffer to alcohol. High protein foods such as cheese and meats are best. They stay in the stomach longer and slow alcohol absorption.

- When mixing an alcoholic punch, use noncarbonated mixers, such as fruit juice. Alcohol is absorbed into the blood stream faster with a carbonated base.

- Never get behind the

wheel of a car when you've been drinking — even after just one drink.

- If, despite your best efforts, some guests have too much to drink, have a designated driver who can take them home.

- Offer alcohol-free beverages.

"The Great Pretenders Party Guide" is part of AAA's ongoing campaign to reduce deaths and injuries caused by drunk drivers.

Even one drink can affect your judgment. It's a misconception that blood alcohol content begins to drop as soon as you stop drinking. It takes 20 to 40 minutes for the body to absorb alcohol from one drink. If you plan to consume alcohol, designate a sober driver or travel by taxi.

To download the digital version of the AAA guide, visit AAA.com/Pretender.

Jeff and Debra Jay, of Grosse Pointe Farms, are professional interventionists and co-authored "Love First: A New Approach to Intervention for Alcoholism and Drug Addiction." They can be reached at (313) 882-6921 or lovefirst.net.

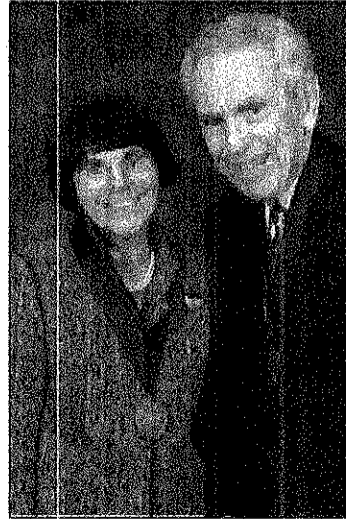
Pointers honored for service

Two Grosse Pointe volunteers were recognized for their commitment and dedication to St. John Providence Health System by the Greater Detroit Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Dr. William Rice and Dr. Virginia Rice, of Grosse Pointe Shores, were declared distinguished volunteers at the National Philanthropy Day Recognition Dinner last month.

The Rices have been active supporters of the Holley Institute for the Deaf, Deaf Blind and Hard of Hearing for nearly 20 years and active summer volunteers at the institute's Family Village.

William Rice is the co-founder and medical director of the institute and provides volunteer leadership and hands-on caring. He has been recognized by Rotary Club for his participation in the 3 million pound challenge to col-



Dr. Virginia Rice and Dr. William Rice

lect books, food and clothing for those in need.

Virginia Rice is an 18-year Crossroads of Michigan volunteer, serves on its board, is a counselor and participates in the organization's summer lunch program for neighborhood youth.

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* Offer applies only to new ShorePointe Village residents who have not lived at Shorepointe Village during the previous 12 months. This promotion is valid from now until January 31, 2012 and can be modified or changed without notice.

ENTERTAINMENT

Yesterday's Headlines

Editor's note: The following excerpts appear as they were printed in the Grosse Pointe News.

1961

50 years ago this week

♦ **OFFICER RUN DOWN:** A Detroit man, who ran down and injured a Park officer who stopped him for a traffic violation, was arrested by Detroit police and turned over to Park authorities.

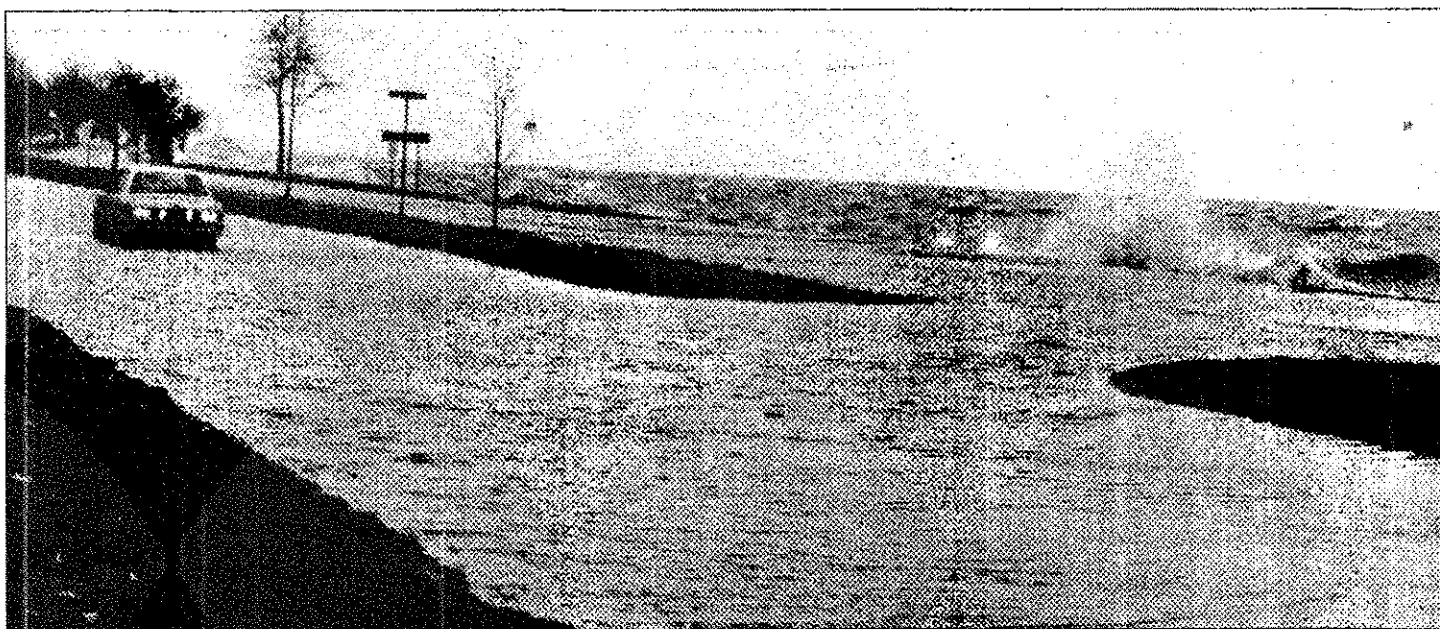
The man, who is accused of violating probation imposed for a Detroit burglary, was stopped by Park Patrolmen Henry Wilson and William

Furtaw for having no rear license plate lights on his car. Wilson approached the man's car and demanded his operator's license. The officer noticed another young man in the automobile.

Becoming suspicious, the patrolman ordered the driver to raise the hood of his car for an inspection of the car motor and went to the front of the vehicle. The driver, instead of complying with the demand, stepped on the gas peddle and the car shot forward.

The officer was knocked to the pavement and suffered an injured leg, not serious. The officer got into the police cruiser and took up pursuit.

♦ **PARK WINS FIRST ROUND IN FENCING ORDI-**



FROM THE DEC. 4, 1986, ISSUE OF THE GROSSE POINTE NEWS

1986: Road or lake?

Lakeshore near Provençal was under water following steady northwest winds. High water levels are making the threat of flooding more real, a situation that has many lakeside residents worried.

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NANCE: The validity of the Park's fence ordinance, limiting the height of fences and hedges on private property, was upheld in a decision by a Wayne circuit judge.

The ruling upset a contention by homeowners of a residence on Grand Marais that the ordinance was unconstitutional.

The Park had filed suit in court charging the homeowners with violating the city ordinance when they erected a six-foot fence in their back yard to screen in a newly constructed swimming pool.

Last spring, the homeowners applied for a construction permit for a four-foot backyard fence which was granted. However, while the fence was under construction, the homeowners changed the plans and ordered a six-foot fence installed.

1986

25 years ago this week

♦ **SMOKING BANNED AT HIGH SCHOOLS:** It's settled! When Grosse Pointe high

school students return to school after the Christmas vacation, they will no longer be allowed to smoke on school grounds.

Period. School board members decided it was time the schools conform with state law and end the designated smoking areas at North and South high schools. They voted unanimously to do just that.

♦ **PARK, UNION BREAK TALKS FOR 30 DAYS:** The city of Grosse Pointe Park and

the newly formed public safety department are in the midst of a 30-day cooling-off period.

The action came after the mediator's second attempt to resolve differences between the city and the union. Both sides are close to agreement except for one or two issues.

♦ **FARMS DPW VOTES TO SEEK NEW UNION:** Troubles between Grosse Pointe Farms and its Department of Public Works employees apparently continue to worsen, as there has

been talk of work slowdowns, mass illnesses and a decision by union local members to seek new representation.

DPW union members of AFSCME Local 522 have been working under the terms of their old contract which expired June 30, 1986.

Union members have picketed in front of the public works building, city hall and the city manager's and mayor's houses.

—Compiled by Karen Fontanive

CULTURAL EVENTS

Detroit Concert Choir

Detroit Concert Choir Director Gordon Nelson leads 80 voices in a holiday concert, "Come Home for Christmas," at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts.

Adult tickets cost \$20, seniors pay \$18 and young adult tickets are \$10.

For more information, call (313) 882-0118 or visit detroitconcertchoir.org

exhibit at Detroit Historical Museum that runs through Sunday, Feb. 5. It showcases both the council's history and current activities and features displays and artifacts from the Thomas D. Trainor Scout Museum.

Dedicated in September 2002, the 1,100 square foot museum is located on the grounds of the D-bar-A Scout Ranch in Metamora.

The Detroit Historical Museum, located at 5401 Woodward, is open from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Adult admission is \$6; seniors, college students with valid college ID and youths ages 5-17 pay \$4. Parking in the museum's lot is \$4. For more information, call (313) 833-1805 or visit detroithistorical.org.

Crocker House

The Crocker House Museum & Macomb County Historical Society, 15 Union, Mount Clemens, offers a Victorian Christmas Open House from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18. Refreshments are served downstairs while guests watch silent Christmas films. Admission is by donation.

For reservations, call (586) 465-2488 or visit crockerhousemuseum.com.

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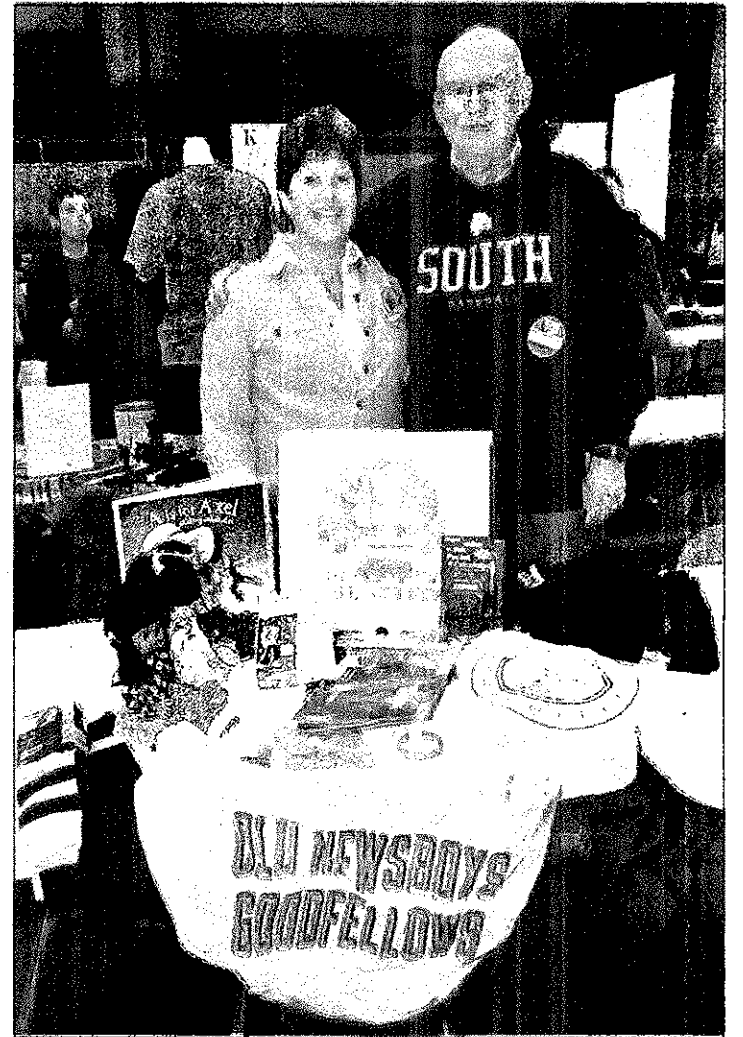
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PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Michigan Humane Society volunteers Lisa Paulsen, Julie Blood and Liz Krieg with Scarlett, the dog, a success story. Scarlett was found abandoned with 10 puppies. Blood fostered her and the puppies, who were all adopted. Blood adopted Scarlett. At right, Goodfellows board member Therese Yglesias and past president Conrad Koski. The gifts on the table are a sampling of what a 13-year-old girl would receive in a Goodfellows package.



In the spirit of giving

By Ann L. Fouty
Features Editor

Some 60 non-profit organizations welcomed more than 200 Grosse Pointers during the second annual Spirit of Giving event last month.

The purpose was to find a match between volunteers and organizations.

For Grosse Pointe Shores newcomer Patty Schoeck, it was an opportunity to discover volunteering options for her family. While living in California, she said she volunteered with Special Olympics and the humane society.

Here she was considering the children's portion of COTS Detroit and Special Olympics, as possible volunteering opportunities.

"My goal is to get my children involved," Schoeck said.

There were plenty of organizations represented in which children, as well as adults, could become involved, including Detroit's oldest charity, The Detroit



Irma Hudson, resident manager, and Mike McCoy, events coordinator of Detroit's Ronald McDonald House. The house McCoy holds is sent to schools and organizations to collect pop tops turned into cash to help purchase supplies for the Ronald McDonald House next to Children's Hospital.

Goodfellows.

"We want to get younger people involved through helping with delivery and unloading the packages (of goods)," said Conrad Koski, Goodfellow's past president and Grosse Pointe Farms resident.

Being a recipient of a

Christmas package as a young boy, he became involved in 1975 as his way of giving back.

Some 35,000 children between the ages of four and 13 receive Christmas presents, courtesy of the Goodfellows.

At the Ronald McDonald House table, events coordinator Mike McCoy indicated collecting pop top tabs was an easy way to help the house raise funds for supplies.

"We turn pop top tabs into money," he said.

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce found its first time at the event a success.

"I was so impressed with the number of companies represented," said MaryJo Harris, the chamber's director of administration. "I now have some volunteers to help make S'mores at the Winterfest and help me with registration at the annual meeting."

Suzy Berschback, of Beaumont Hospital Grosse Pointe, said, "I think it is a gift to our community to offer this night. Even if they only secured a couple volunteers, they were happy to get their messages out there."

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MENTOR:
Life changing experiences

Continued from page 1B II

MacEachran said. "The people who started this wanted to give them (students) semblance of hope," he said. "They (the men) visited a student-sponsored program

out of New York City. They (those in New York) mentored all four years of high school and provided tuition support. It worked well with the social scene. We loved the private school and four-year mentor idea, but we didn't want it to be determined by a bank account. Not all mentors have money."

Detroit's version is to recruit qualified people, many of whom had grown up in the same neighborhood and came out on the right side. Each is

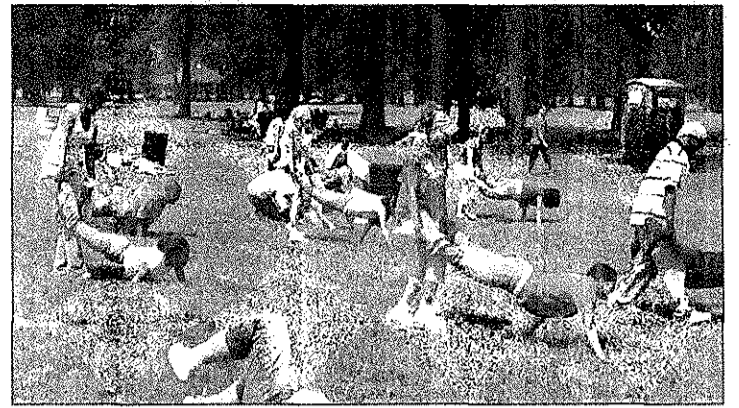
assigned a young person and sticks with him or her for the entire high school experience.

Potential mentors are screened, fingerprinted and interviewed by MacEachran and his staff. The new mentor is partnered with an experienced mentor. During the annual August picnic, the mentor and student meet and for the next four years, spend time together. The mentor might teach social skills, such as mastering a firm handshake or looking

people in the eye. The student might introduce the mentor to the newest technology or musical groups, Adlhoj said.

"We are recruiting those passionate about education, youth and Detroit," MacEachran said.

Students and caregivers learn about SMP through community presentations, word of mouth and school referrals. After the application is completed and screened, the family is interviewed. The student is



Student Mentor Partners pair up in a wheelbarrow race during a summer picnic.

interviewed both with the family and alone.

"The caregiver needs to be involved. The kids need to be motivated," MacEachran said. "We're looking for kids (who are) not the A student. We look for the one(s) to keep them from falling through the cracks."

He continued, "99 percent have stuck with the program and received a diploma and all but one have gone on to college. The one went to vocational school. The goal is to get them through high school."

Adlhoj added one of the program's graduates played University of Michigan football and became a neurosurgeon. And several caregivers have become mentors once their

son or daughter has graduated.

"They want to give back," Adlhoj said.

"We are investing in the future one student at a time. We have seen the impact from giving a small amount financially or give time. We see the headlines about schools, the city, bankruptcy.

"Our organization has proven our kids are equipped to take care of themselves and ingrain in them a sense of community and give back once they have achieved personal success. It's a ripple effect," MacEachran said.

"If we light one candle, then you light the darkness. When they come out they really blossom. They just blossom," Adlhoj said.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

Liggett opens by pummeling Ladywood

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

University Liggett girls' basketball team dismantled Livonia Ladywood in its season opener Monday night, winning 73-32.

The home Knights trailed at one point, 17-15, midway through the second quarter before they turned up the defensive heat.

They turned the two-point deficit into a 14-point halftime lead, 31-17, thanks to sopho-

more Bre Andrews' eight second-quarter points.

"They're a good Catholic League team and this was a good first game test for us," head coach Wayne Gigante said. "We were strong defensively, got into a good tempo and had a few nice runs."

The Knights used a 5-0 run to lead 36-17 early in the third quarter, and senior all-state point guard Madison Ristovski made it a 56-28 game after hitting back-to-back three-pointers. Each one was a few feet longer and the third was all net from NBA range.

At the end of the third quarter, Ristovski personally outscored Ladywood, 29-28.

Gigante watched his defense continue its stranglehold on the Blazers, holding them to only four fourth-quarter points. They forced Ladywood into 19 turnovers and senior Briana Combs led the Blazers with 14 points.

The Knights' defensive efforts were paced by junior Haleigh Ristovski, who nearly had a double-double, grabbing eight rebounds and blocking eight shots.

The Knights had 38 rebounds.

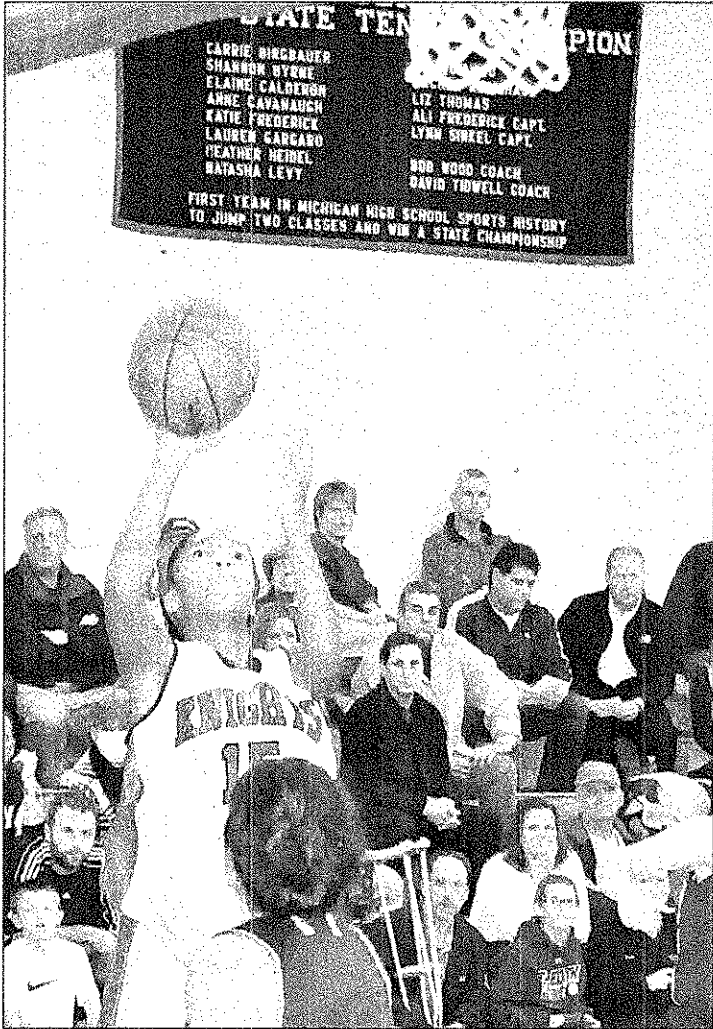
Andrews finished with 11 points as the Knights opened their season in style.

"We beat a good Ladywood team and our schedule doesn't get any easier," Gigante said. "This is unprecedented territory for Liggett and now we will see what kind of team we



PHOTOS BY RENATO JAMETT

Madison Ristovski starts her senior year by torching Livonia Ladywood for 29 points in Liggett's huge victory.



Sophomore Bre Andrews scored 11 points in the Knights' season-opening win over the Blazers.

have." In successive road games, Liggett, 1-0 overall, faces Goodrich and Dearborn Divine Child. Divine Child beat state semifinal and once again ranks top five in the state. Goodrich 54-52 in double-overtime in last year's Class B.

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20 | SPORTS

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Coaches offer instruction; register for baseball camp

Baseball players of any age can now receive personal instruction on all aspects of the game from Grosse Pointe South's baseball coaches.

South coaches are available for inside or outside instruction throughout the year.

Players may choose to have one or more coaches at a time, and can focus on hitting, pitching, fielding, catching, or any specific element of the game they prefer.

"We will continue to run the camps we have for years at South in December, January and March, and at Defer in June," said South's long-time varsity baseball head coach Dan Griesbaum. "Now, we are responding to the demand for private instruction throughout the year by offering instruction to individual players, a group of players or teams as a whole."

For details, please call Matt Reno at (313) 999-3487.

All MHSAA rules regarding out of season participation will be followed. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Grosse Pointe South baseball program.

Holiday camp

The Dan Griesbaum

Baseball School has a holiday hitting camp Thursday, Dec. 22, and Friday, Dec. 23, from 1 to 4 p.m., at Grosse Pointe South.

The cost is \$60 per session or \$100 if registered for both days. The objective is to provide detailed instruction on the fundamentals of baseball by teaching proper mechanics in a safe and positive atmosphere.

The camp's open to second through sixth graders in the Grosse Pointe Public School District and second through eighth graders if outside the Grosse Pointes. This is due to Michigan High School Athletic Association rules.

For further questions, contact camp director Dan Griesbaum at dan.griesbaum@gpschools.org. The enrollment form can be found on the Grosse Pointe Farms and Grosse Pointe Park Little League websites, as well as the South baseball website, gpsouthbaseball.com.

Interested parties can call Griesbaum at (313) 884-7834 or (313) 886-5537.

Make checks payable to Dan Griesbaum Baseball School, 1318 Edmunton, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Richards hosts hoops clinic

Boys and girls in grades three to six can learn the fundamentals of basketball from Grosse Pointe South girls varsity basketball head coach Kevin Richards and the players from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 6, in the high school's main gymnasium.

Participants work on drills together that can be done in a driveway, basement or the gym. The cost of the clinic is

\$25.

"Enjoy the game of basketball with your son or daughter and develop a passion together," Richards said.

Make check out to Grosse Pointe South and mail it to Kevin Richards, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

For further questions, contact Richards at (313) 244.1523 or coachkrich@yahoo.com.

Volleyball

LIGGETT



PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDSEY BACHMAN

Runner-up

University Liggett's girls' junior varsity volleyball team took second place in the Grosse Pointe Academy Tournament Saturday, Nov. 19. The Knights won three games. Ann Arbor Greenhills won the title with a perfect 6-0 mark. Team members are, standing from left, Alexis Jones, Annelies Ondersma, Madeleine Azar, Teagan Cornell, Tegan Jones, Lauren McKenzie and head coach Therese Chouinard; and kneeling from left, Delaney Bandos, Madeleine Moroun and Lucy Alpert. Madison Jerome is not pictured.

Girls basketball

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Norsemen split first 2

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

In a battle of underclassmen-dominated teams, Grosse Pointe North girls' basketball team lost 51-48 in overtime to perennial state power Birmingham Marian last week.

"We are young and inexperienced and this was a good game for us to be in," North head coach Gary Bennett said. "We will grow and learn from it."

The host Norsemen, sporting 12 underclassmen and one senior, had several chances late in the fourth quarter to win the game, but turnovers and a long, potential game-winning three pointer forced the game to overtime.

Even in the extra session, the Norsemen took a two-point lead, 48-46, and had their opportunities to add to it, but more turnovers allowed the Mustangs, also fielding 12 underclassmen, to hang around.

The biggest shot of the game was made by Marian junior Jolene Jaddou, who sank a three-pointer with 30 seconds left to give the Mustangs a 49-48 lead.

Freshman Kara Holinski made a basket in the final 10



PHOTO BY BOB BRUCE

North junior Anna Giordano dribbles down court in the Norsemen's tough overtime loss to Birmingham Marian.

seconds to account for the final margin.

Bennett said it would take time for his young players to gel.

They showed signs of being a solid team as juniors Anna Giordano, three points, Taryn Kiah, 19 points, and Anajai Gutierrez, 12 points, led the way. Kiah added two assists and five steals, while Gutierrez had nine, seven steals and two assists.

Sophomore point guard Maria Liddane had eight points, four assists and two steals, but couldn't be as aggressive defensively after picking up her fourth foul early in the fourth quarter.

The Norsemen led 11-8 after the first quarter, but trailed 21-16 at the half.

The home team outscored the Mustangs 18-8 in the third stanza to take a 34-29 advan-

tage, but the visitors won the final quarter 15-10 to send it to OT.

Freshman Megan Lesha had four points in her second varsity game and chipped in with six rebounds.

Earlier in the week, North stomped host Farmington 48-34 as Kiah and Gutierrez paced the attack with 20 and 13 points, respectively.

The Norsemen trailed 17-10 after the first eight minutes, but blitzed the Falcons 16-4 in the second quarter and never looked back.

Gutierrez had 10 rebounds and four assists, too, while Lesha had six rebounds to go with Kiah's four assists and three steals. Liddane had three assists.

Grosse Pointe North is 1-1 overall and plays at Grosse Pointe South Tuesday, Dec. 13.

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Girls hockey

RIVALS

North
edges
ULSBy Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe North faced a tired University Liggett girls' hockey team in the consolation game of last weekend's Liggett Tournament.

Norsemen senior Sara Villani scored both goals with senior Melissa Mermiges assisting the first and junior Natalie Skorupski assisting the second in a 2-0 victory.

The Norsemen scored with 22 seconds left in the opening period and at the 3:20 mark of the second stanza.

"We played a good game and had a lot of scoring opportunities," North head coach Joe Lucchese said.

It could have been worse if it wasn't for the stellar goaltending of Liggett freshman Jenna Pleva, who made more than three dozen saves.

In the semifinal games, North lost 2-1 to Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood with Villani scoring the goal. Junior Jennifer Cusmano assisted.

"We played a half game and that was the difference," Lucchese said. "We played much better in our previous game. We always seem to lose 3-2 or 2-1 to Cranbrook and we play them in our next game."

"I knew we would be a little rusty since this was our first game in two weeks," Cranbrook Kingswood head coach Terry Brooks said. "North took it to us in the first period, but then we settled down and got our legs under us."

In its tournament semifinal, Liggett trailed Northville 3-0 before senior Haleigh Bolton scored twice and sophomore Danielle Lorient tallied to tie it 3-3.

The game lasted five overtimes before Northville's Chloe Page scored the game-winner in the fifth OT.

Earlier in the week, Liggett



PHOTO BY BOB BRUCE

Grosse Pointe North's Sara Villani is on a goal-scoring streak and is the leading scorer early in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League season.

head coach Cassie Jaeckle earned her first big win behind the bench when her team beat visiting Livonia Ladywood 3-2.

The Knights led 1-0 after junior Chandler Warren's first-period goal, but the Blazers struck twice in the second stanza, taking a 2-1 advantage into the second intermission.

Freshman Valentia Peruzzi assisted on Warren's tally, while the Blazers' goals were scored by sophomore Abigail Pelon and junior Hannah Pereira.

The Blazers out-shot the Knights 23-6 through the first two periods as Pleva's stellar play kept the home team within one goal.

"Our intensity lacked those first two periods and I told the girls they had to come out with more energy," Jaeckle said.

The message was heard loud and clear as sophomore Hannah Hodges scored her first varsity goal at the 14:14 mark, unassisted, and four

minutes later, Bolton scored the game-winning goal, also unassisted.

Both Hodges and Bolton carried the puck into the Blazers' zone, with Ladywood goalie Sarah Koch misplaying Hodges' shot and it slid under her pads. Bolton skated deep into the zone before beating Koch with a backhand shot.

In the third period, the Knights had eight shots on net, finishing with 14, while Pleva finished with 31 saves to earn the victory.

North played a big league game last week, hosting Port Huron.

Senior Emma Huellmantel played well as North beat Port Huron 3-1. Villani had a goal and assist, and Cusmano added two goals. Freshman Karina Lucchese also chipped in with an assist.

Grosse Pointe North and Liggett are 2-1 in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League. North is 3-2 overall, while Liggett is 2-3.

Boys hockey

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Sweet
winBy Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe North's boys' hockey team evened its division record at 1-1 last week, beating host Wyandotte Roosevelt 4-3.

Roosevelt is the defending Division 2 state champion.

"To beat the defending D-2 champs on the road is a big win, especially since it is a league game," head coach Scott Lock said. "We started off well, let them back in it, but then played better down the stretch."

The Norsemen jumped out to a 2-0 lead on goals by Brad Werenski and Ryan Babcock. For Babcock, it was his first varsity goal.

Roosevelt battled back to tie it 2-2, but once again the Norsemen jumped ahead when J.P. Lucchese scored.

The home team never quit and tied it for a second time, 3-3, before Lucchese scored the eventual game-winning goal midway through the third period.

From that point, the Norsemen's defense held tight and goalie Kyle Cosens did the rest, holding Roosevelt off the scoreboard.

"Kyle played well in net for a second straight game and



PHOTO BY BOB BRUCE

North senior Julian Quinlan, shown above in a game against Cranbrook Kingswood, is playing a lot of ice time for the Norsemen.

made some big saves," Lock said. "The three he gave up weren't his fault. They have a lot of firepower and they have some talented players who can score."

"They're the defending state

champs because they have good hockey players. This is a big win for us."

North improved to 2-1 overall and is 1-1 in the Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Blue Devils' offense key
to league victories

Grosse Pointe South boys' hockey team put its offense into overdrive last week, pummeling Ann Arbor Pioneer 9-1.

Wes Cimmarrusti got the ball rolling, scoring the Blue Devils' first goal off assists by Geoff Welsher and Nolan Monforton.

Minutes later, Andrew Bigham scored his first goal of the season with Chris Addy and Shane Sparkman netting assists.

Max Corden also scored in the three-goal first period when he put in a rebound off a save from Cam Gibson's shot. Thomas Marantette also assist-

ed. Midway through the second period, host Pioneer scored its lone goal, beating netminder C.J. Schebil.

However, less than a minute later the visitors reclaimed their three-goal advantage when Welsher made a perfect pass to Cimmarrusti, who fired a shot on net. The shot was blocked, but Monforton buried the rebound to make it a 4-1 game.

Corden and Marantette had back-to-back assists off Sparkman and Gibson's second-period goals to give the

Blue Devils a 6-1 lead.

In the third period, defenseman Ryley Maher, Jake Corden and Brad Kohut delivered several solid hits to keep the Pioneer offense off the board.

Scoring in the third period were Welsher, Gibson and Sparkman with assists going to Cimmarrusti, Monforton, Welsher, Max Corden and Bigham.

Last weekend, South kept the peddle to the metal, beating Dearborn 8-3, improving to 3-0 in the Michigan Metro Hockey League and 3-3 overall.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH



PHOTO BY BOB BRUCE

Victorious

Grosse Pointe South's Eliza Bourke and her teammates beat Livonia Ladywood 4-1 last weekend, improving to 3-1 in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League. Coming up on the schedule is a city rivalry game against Grosse Pointe North at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 21, at Grosse Pointe City Rink.

LIGGETT

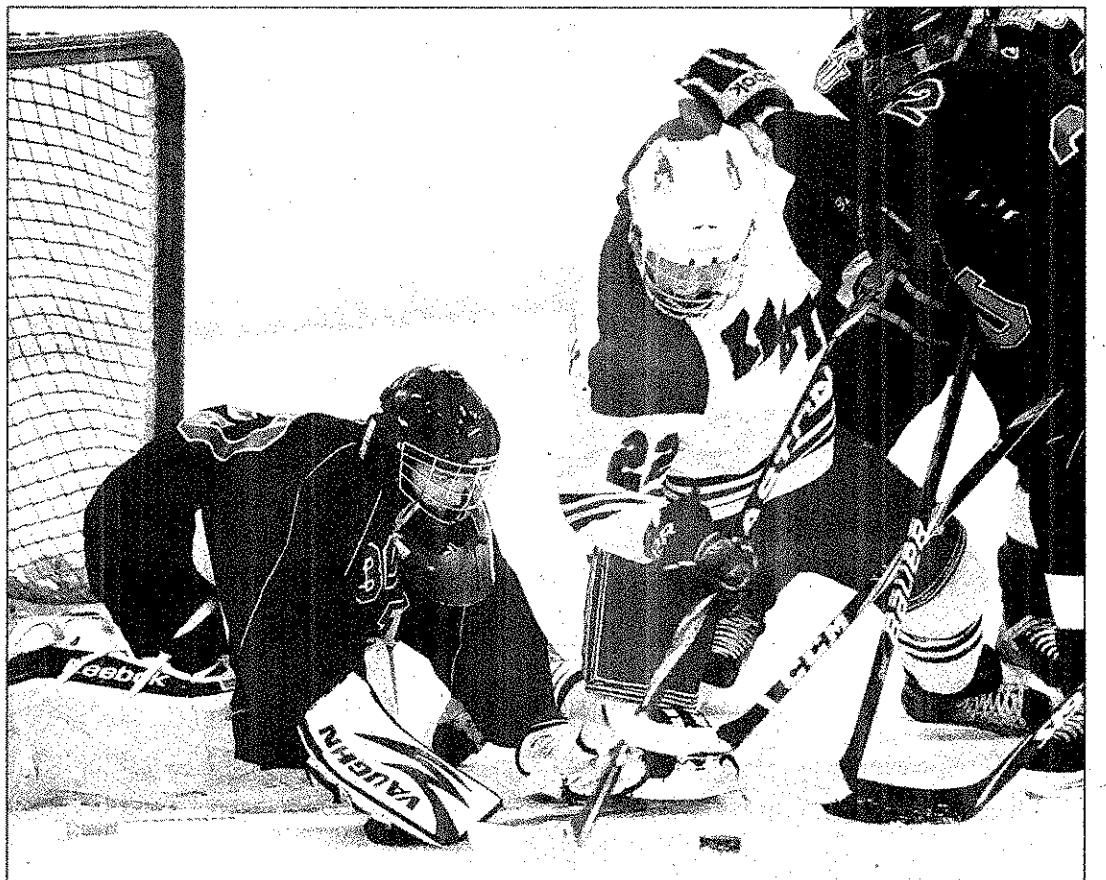


PHOTO BY RENATO JAMETT

Back to .500

Liggett senior Austin Petitpren, No. 22, shown above in a game against Rochester United, and his teammates went on the road and beat Toledo St. John's 3-2 last weekend, improving to 2-2 overall. Coming up for the Knights is a charity game at 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 9, at McCann Arena against the Michigan Sled Dogs. They are, for the second year, promoting the sport of sled hockey and providing awareness for the different types of disabilities. The event is free to the public. Donations are being accepted to help the Michigan Sled Dogs defray the costs of travel and ice time. The organization is a certified 501(C)(3) non-profit; contributions may be tax deductible.

FROM THE SPORTS DESK

Verlander earns Cy Young & MVP honors

Detroit Tigers star Justin Verlander became just the 10th pitcher in Major League Baseball history to win both the Cy Young and league Most Valuable Player honor in the same season.

Verlander accomplished the rare feat Monday, Nov. 21, when baseball writers across the country chose him the American League MVP over Jacoby Ellsbury of Boston, Jose Bautista of Toronto, Curtis Granderson of New York and teammate Miguel Cabrera.

He also became just the second player in history to win the Rookie of the Year, Cy Young and MVP accolades in their career. He won the American League Cy Young, the league's best pitcher, earlier in November.

The last starting pitcher to win the MVP was Boston's Roger Clemens in 1986. Verlander was first in the American League in games started, 34; wins, 24; winning

percentage, .828 at 24-5; innings pitched, 251; hits per nine innings, 6.239; strike outs, 250; ERA, 2.40; and whip (walks + hits/innings pitched), 0.920.

It was hot debate for the week leading up to the announcement. Should a pitcher win the league MVP over an everyday player? A starting pitcher toes the mound every fifth day, while the fielder plays every day.

In most seasons, starting pitchers don't put together a season like Verlander had in 2011. He was dominant, throwing a no-hitter against Toronto, and put the Tigers on his shoulders, helping the team win its first division title since 1987.

As it turned out, writers across the country agreed with the statistics and had him on 27 of 28 ballots for American League MVP. The only absence was Jim Ingraham of the Herald-News in Ohio, who vot-

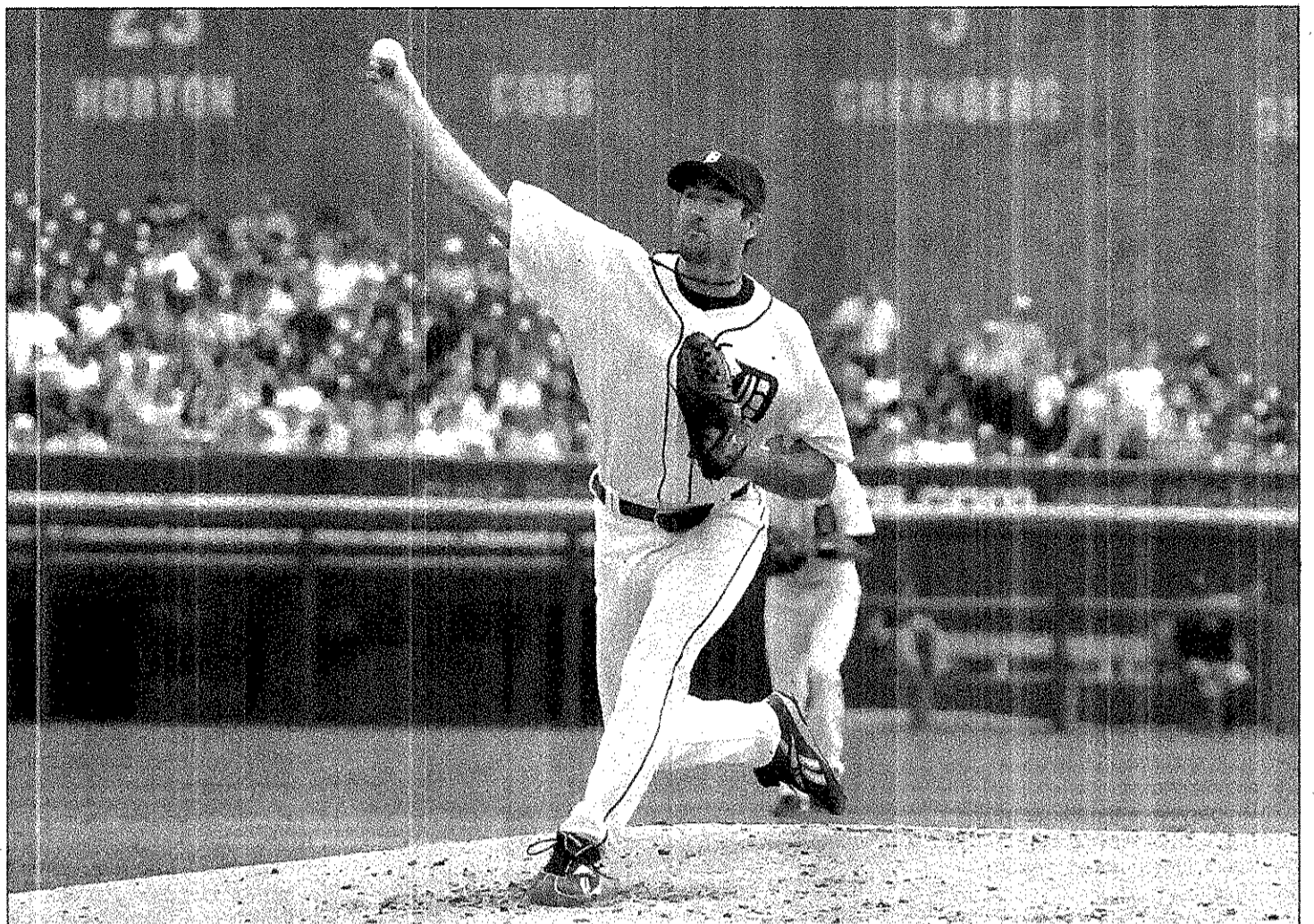


PHOTO BY RENATO JAMETT

Justin Verlander enjoyed a dominant 2011 season, going 24-5 with 250 strike outs for the Central Division champion Detroit Tigers.

ed Bautista first.

He states pitchers should not be eligible for the award, but acknowledged Verlander did have an outstanding season.

I'm sure Verlander knows this fact. Watch him no-hit Cleveland twice next season with Ingraham in the press box. He can have a grand time writing that story for the Indians, not once, but twice.

The other Tigers named MVP were Mickey Cochrane in 1934, Hank Greenberg in 1935, Charlie Gehringer in 1937, Greenberg again in 1940, Hal Newhouser in 1944 and

'45, Denny McLain in 1968 and Guillermo Hernandez in 1984, the last year the Tigers won the World Series.

Verlander earned the honor. As I stated before, he dominated MLB in 2011. His pitching statistics were off the charts and he did win the pitcher's equivalent of the triple crown.

An offensive player wins the Triple Crown if he is first in batting average, home runs and RBIs, which has only been accomplished several times in the history of the game. Verlander did it with wins, strike outs and ERA.

Verlander did what an MVP should do, carry his team to the top. Ellsbury didn't do that and Bautista couldn't get it done. Boston put together one of the worst tank jobs in MLB history, losing a large lead for the wildcard, while Toronto was eliminated from the race early in September.

Granderson, in my mind, was a close second as he had a grand season, socking a career total in homers with 41. However, it wasn't enough because he didn't have the complete package like Verlander did. Granderson only drove in

119 runs and his .262 batting average wasn't close to the top 25 in the American League.

Good job, Verlander, on an outstanding season, helping the Tigers win a division crown and making it to the American League Championship Series. They beat the Yankees in five games to win the American League Divisional Series, but lost in six games to Texas in the ALCS.

Verlander's first start of 2012 comes on Opening Day, Thursday, April 5, at Comerica Park against the Boston Red Sox.

COLLEGE NEWS

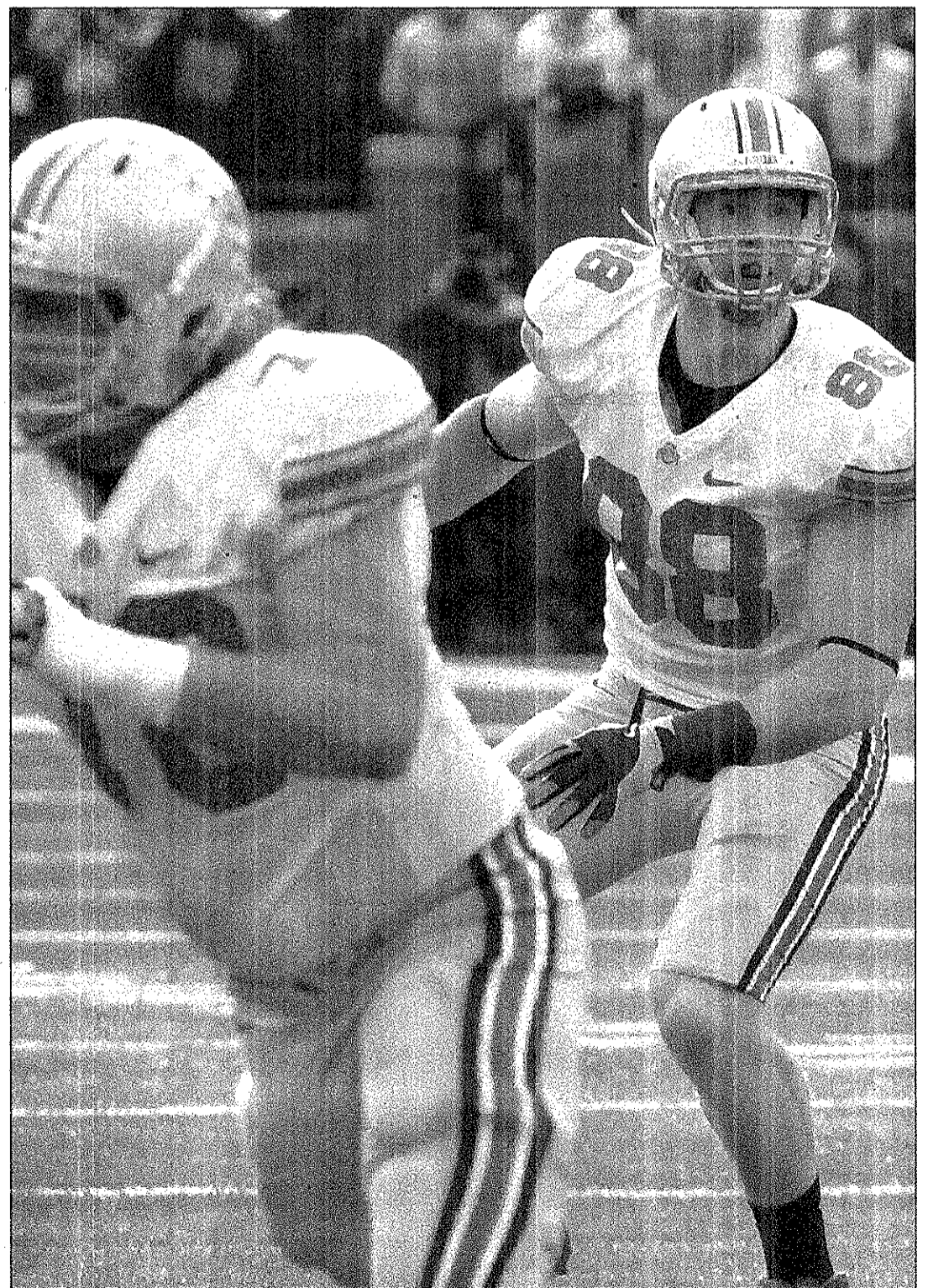


PHOTO BY RENATO JAMETT

Bowl-bound Buckeye

Grosse Pointe South graduate and The Ohio State University football player Reid Fragel, shown above playing against the University of Michigan Saturday, Nov. 26, played in all 12 of the Buckeye's games this fall. At tight end, Fragel caught five passes for 64 yards. His longest gain was 20 yards and he did not score a touchdown. Last season, Fragel caught nine passes for 121 yards and one touchdown. Fragel and The Ohio State, 6-6 overall, faces Florida, 6-6, at 1p.m. Monday, Jan. 2, in the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla. The game airs on ESPN2.

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MOVING SALE

FRI., DEC. 9TH AND SAT., DEC. 10TH
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
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BLOOMFIELD HILLS

(South of Long Lake, off Clubgate Drive)

This home is chock full of furniture, decorative items, framed artwork, everyday items and more. Many Asian inspired furniture and decorative items. It is definitely worth the trip.

Check website for photos and details.

STREET NUMBERS HONORED AT 8:30 A.M. FRIDAY ONLY.
Our numbers available 8:30 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. Friday only.

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313 779 0193
www.marciawilkestatesales.com

1027 YORKSHIRE GROSSE POINTE PARK FRIDAY AND SATURDAY DECEMBER 9 AND 10 9:00 - 4:00

This is a great sale and this house is packed! We have a leather sofa and two chairs, oriental carpets, pair brass etageres, sofa tables, coffee tables, nice iron and marble table, tea cart, mirrors, settee, really nice queen four poster bed, armoire, pair of night stands and dresser, brass bed, nice mahogany dresser, secretary, nice dark rattan table and chairs, so many decorative items! artwork, owls, elephants, crystal, books, you can do all your Christmas shopping here! lots of items for entertaining, women's clothing, lots and lots more!

Street numbers honored Friday 8:30 a.m.
See www.marciawilkestatesales.com to see some featured items.

RENTAL REAL ESTATE

700 APTS/FLATS/DUPLX POINTES/HARPER WOODS

1 bedroom apartment, stove/ refrigerator. Private back entrance. \$650 heat/ water included. Close to Village. Street parking. Immediate occupancy. 313-779-6800

700 APTS/FLATS/DUPLX POINTES/HARPER WOODS

HARCOURT- 2 bedroom. Newly decorated. All appliances. Basement storage. Garage. \$1,000. 248-219-5720

702 APTS/FLATS/DUPLX S.C.S/MACOMB COUNTY

9 1/2 Mile, Mack- 1 bedroom, \$500. includes heat. Available now! (313)885-0031

705 HOUSES FOR RENT POINTES/HARPER WOODS

20939 Ridgmont, Harper Woods; (East of 194), 2 bedroom. Appliances, conference room and lobby area, approximately 1,500 sq. ft. (can customize), includes conference room and lobby privileges, off street parking, all utilities included! \$650, plus security deposit. Call Jim Saros, 313-886-9030.

706 HOUSES FOR RENT DETROIT/WAYNE COUNTY

BRICK home, 2 bedrooms, near St. John's hospital. 2 car garage, fireplace, first floor laundry, storage attic. New carpeting & paint. \$750 plus security deposit. (313)881-1163

716 OFFICE/COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

1ST offering, prime Grosse Pointe City location. 4 private office, plus small lobby area, approximately 1,500 sq. ft. (can customize), includes conference room and lobby privileges, off street parking, all utilities included! \$1,800 plus security deposit. Call Michelle Lowin, (313)886-9030.

716 OFFICE/COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

1ST offering, prime Grosse Pointe City location, 1 private office, includes conference room and lobby privileges, off street parking, all utilities included! \$500 plus security deposit. Call Michelle Lowin, 313-886-9030.

716 OFFICE/COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

21002 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods. Office in professional office building. Excellent location. Many amenities included: conference room, photocopying, cable internet access, phone system, etc. (313)884-1234

1 bedroom upper, Vernier. Air, appliances, garage. No pets. References. \$600. (313)881-3149

State and federal housing laws prohibit discrimination that is based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age (Michigan Law), marital (Michigan Law) or familial status.

For further information, call the Michigan Department of Civil Rights at 800-482-3604; the U.S. Department of Housing and the Urban Development 800-669-9777 or your local Fair Housing Agency.

BEAUTIFUL 2 bedroom ranch condo. St. Clair Shores, \$820. Kathy Lenz, Johnstone & Johnstone, 313-402-4515.

GROSSE Pointe and East side homes, 2-6 bedrooms, appliances, basement, yard, garage. Foreclosures, short sales & land contracts available. Call for details, 586-541-4005.

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721 VACATION RENTALS FLORIDA

COCOA Beach condo. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, \$1,600 monthly. 419-836-1808/ evenings. 419-654-0568

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11891 Glenfield- 1 bedroom. \$435, heat included. 313-372-2066

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SAFE, clean and comfortable 2 bedroom/ 1 bath 900 sq. ft. cottage, one block from the St. Clair Shores library and park, 2 car garage, large back yard, newly decorated, pets allowed, \$745 plus utilities, \$900 security deposit; (586) 917-9170.

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TO PLACE AN AD CALL 313-882-6900 ext 1

Grosse Pointe News Grosse Pointe CONNECTION

723 VACATION RENTALS MICHIGAN

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2 bedroom- Quiet Vernier lower (\$700). Newly decorated, central air, basement, garage, new driveway. All appliances. No smoking. No pets. (313)418-1738

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ROSLYN near Marter. Great areal 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. (810)523-4977.

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3506 Bishop, East English Village, off of Mack, 3 bedroom bungalow, fireplace, Florida room, basement, central air, 2.5 car garage. \$850 plus security deposit. Call Michelle Lowin, (313)884-6861

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716 OFFICE/COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

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704 HOUSES-RENT

HARBOR Beach- All updated, 2 bedroom. \$450. No smoking/ pets. Deb, 989-550-5258.

3 bedroom lower, hardwood floors, recently painted, separate basement area, off street parking. No pets. \$750 per month. (313)969-0989

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137 Muir Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, 2 bedroom, air, 1 car garage. 1 year lease. 1 1/2 months security deposit. \$875/ month. No pets. Available January 1. (586)596-2084

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716 OFFICE/COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

17888 Mack Avenue, 1 private office suite, off street parking, all utilities included! \$750 plus security deposit. Call Michelle Lowin, 313-886-9030.

716 OFFICE/COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

17888 Mack Avenue, 1 private office suite, off street parking, all utilities included! \$750 plus security deposit. Call Michelle Lowin, 313-886-9030.

705 HOUSES FOR RENT POINTES/HARPER WOODS

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706 HOUSES FOR RENT DETROIT/WAYNE COUNTY

137 Muir Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, 2 bedroom, air, 1 car garage. 1 year lease. 1 1/2 months security deposit. \$875/ month. No pets. Available January 1. (586)596-2084

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	3	6		5					
					6		4	5	
	8	9	1	4				3	
	6				2	8			4
7	1		3		8			2	9
8		2	7						6
	4				7	5	1	9	
3	7			9					
					8			2	5

VE-14 Thursday 12-08-11

DIRECTIONS: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3 x 3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats.

5	1	2	6	7	4	8	9	3
9	7	8	2	3	1	5	4	6
3	4	6	5	9	8	7	1	2
1	3	9	4	2	7	6	5	8
7	8	5	1	6	3	4	2	9
6	2	4	9	8	5	3	7	1
8	6	1	7	4	9	2	3	5
2	5	7	3	1	6	9	8	4
4	9	3	8	5	2	1	6	7

VE-13 SOLUTION 12-01-11

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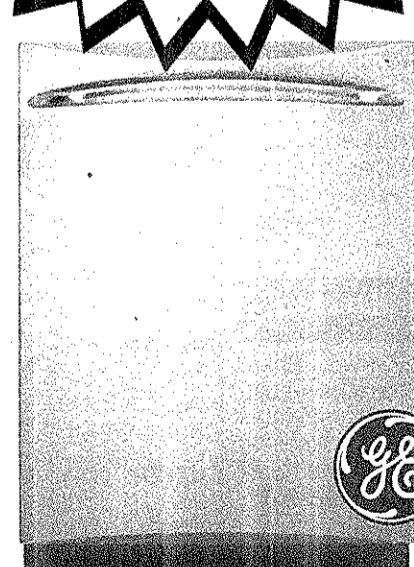
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