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# Grosse Pointe News



VOL. 76, NO. 1, 20 PAGES  
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 JANUARY 1, 2015  
 GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes



PHOTOS BY JOHN MCTAGGART

A candlelight vigil was held in memory of Paige Stalker, who was killed by a gunman in Detroit Monday, Dec. 22. Stalker and three other teens were shot.

## A community mourns

By Kathy Ryan  
 Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — Paige Stalker was laid to rest Saturday, Dec. 27.

And even as her family struggles to cope with their loss and make sense of the events surrounding her death, they take comfort in knowing how many lives Stalker touched and how much the young woman they loved dearly was loved by so many in return.

"We were all so proud of her," her grandfather, Dave Lawrence, said. "And while we knew she had touched so many lives, but now so many people are coming forward, it's almost incomprehensible to us how many."

Stalker, 16, was killed the night of Monday, Dec. 22, while sitting in a car with four other teens in a desolate area of Detroit. A gunman opened fire on their car. Her family doesn't know why she was there, as she had planned to watch a movie with her sister and brother.

While Detroit police continue the investigation into the shooting, her family is sharing memories of a loving daughter, granddaughter, sister, niece and cousin.

"I can still hear her, coming through the door, saying, 'Hi, Pops, I brought you a milkshake,' and then she would stay and do her homework," Lawrence said. Stalker was close to a daily visitor



Dozens attended the candlelight vigil at Grosse Pointe Woods city hall.

to her grandparents' house in Grosse Pointe Park. She would come around 7 p.m., do her homework at the dining room table until about 11 p.m., then head out the door to her house in Grosse Pointe Farms.

He described his granddaughter, a junior at University Liggett School, as a gifted student who was first in her class and who planned on becoming a doctor.

"When she was in ninth grade, she took it upon herself to call the University

of Michigan to find out what she needed to do to get into medical school," he recalled. "And there was no question that was where she was going."

Her interest in medicine led her to do volunteer work at Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe, while her interest in serving others led her to tutor younger students after school.

"It wasn't what she said, it was what

See MOURNS, page 2A

## Donors up reward to \$100,000

By Kathy Ryan  
 Staff Writer

**DETROIT** — A \$100,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of Paige Stalker's killer was

announced Monday at a press conference at Detroit police headquarters.

The reward, put together by a group of anonymous donors, is being coordinated through the Detroit Crime

Commission. "They want this crime solved," said Andy Arena, executive director of the DCC.

Anyone with information about the shooting that took

place about 9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22, at Philip and Charlevoix in Detroit, is asked to call (313) 596-2663. Callers can remain anonymous.

See DONORS, page 2A

## Crash causes chaos

By Brad Lindberg  
 Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — Three men, including a 45-year-old resident of Battle Creek and his adult son from Detroit, ran from a single-vehicle car crash Friday night, Dec. 26, at the intersection of McMillan and Ridge, bordering the playfield of Richard Elementary School.

Numerous neighbors reacted to the sound of the impact, reported at 10:25 p.m., which broke two wooden utility poles and knocked down a steel sign marking the intersection.

"There were approximately 25 residents outside their homes advising that the three occupants fled and pointed the direction," according to Officer Thomas Dionne, one of at least four responding patrolmen.

The car, a silver 2007 Chrysler 300 four-door, had heavy left-front corner damage and a crumpled driver side. Both air bags were deployed.

"A witness reported the driver

See CRASH, page 8A

### 2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

## Farms on solid ground

By Brad Lindberg  
 Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — It's hoped that a mild yet measurable increase in taxable values during the year signaled a trend toward renewed prosperity.

Although the increase was only 1 percent during 2014, it was the first uptick in Grosse Pointe Farms in four years.

Among other happenings, the public safety department established a K-9 unit, the battle continued against phragmites invading the lakefront, a series of home invasions began in late summer and Little Leaguers proposed revamping diamonds at Kerby Field.

The year in review:

### January

◆ A space heater is believed to be the source of a three-alarm fire reported a half-hour before sunrise New Year's Day on the ground floor of a two-story duplex in the 300 block of Hillcrest. Officers from four depart-

See FARMS, page 8A

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**Pointer of Interest**  
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Pointers Tammy Eugenio, Trisha Stander and Rita Nelson support a worthy charity in an artful way.



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NEWS

# Police continue murder investigation

By Kathy Ryan  
Staff Writer

*Editor's note: This information was first published at grossepointenews.com.*

**DETROIT** — Detroit police continue to investigate a Monday, Dec. 22, shooting that left a Grosse Pointe teenager dead and three others wounded.

Paige Stalker, a 16-year-old junior at University Liggett School, was killed when a gunman opened fire on a car in which she was a passenger near Charlevoix and Philip on Detroit's eastside.

Three other occupants,

a boy and a girl who attend Grosse Pointe South High School, were also shot, as was a male Detroit resident. A fifth passenger, another girl who attends South, was not injured. The teens range in age from 15 to 17.

Two of the injured teens have been released from the hospital, and one of the victims, a junior at Grosse Pointe South, attended the candlelight vigil held Tuesday night in memory of Stalker and in support of the victims. A sophomore from Grosse Pointe South remains hospitalized.

According to Detroit Police Deputy Chief

Renee Hall, a call was received from Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe about 9:10 p.m., reporting teens coming to the emergency room with gunshot wounds. One of the injured teens drove the heavily damaged Mercury Milan to the hospital a couple miles from the scene.

The scene of the shooting, just south of Alter and within sight of the border with Grosse Pointe Park, was secured by Detroit Police Department investigators. The area has little lighting and few occupied dwellings.

Hall said the victims were questioned by Detroit police, but their



Students and friends of Paige Stalker were among those at the candlelight vigil Tuesday, Dec. 23.



PHOTOS BY JOHN MCTAGGART

A candlelight vigil was held at Grosse Pointe Woods city hall.

## 'We are praying for them'

By John McTaggart  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — Residents and students from the Grosse Pointes and beyond gathered Tuesday evening in front of city hall as part of a candlelight vigil held for the five teens attacked Monday night while sitting in a car on the east side of Detroit.

Police say the assailant used an assault rifle and fired up to 30 rounds at the teens during an incident that resulted in the wounding of three of the

teens and the death of University Liggett School student, 16-year-old Paige Stalker.

A fifth teen escaped without injury.

"We're here to send a message to these kids, to Paige and her family, in particular, and yes, they're still kids, that we care about them," Donna Constantina said. "That we are praying for them, and praying for their families."

The ceremony, which saw more than 150 people attend, was solemn,

See PRAYING, page 3A

## Schools provide counseling help

By Kathy Ryan  
Staff Writer

*Editor's note: This information was first published at grossepointenews.com.*

A school memorial service is being planned for a Grosse Pointe Farms teenager killed in Detroit last week.

Paige Stalker, a 16-year-old junior at University Liggett School, died after a gunman fired 30 shots into a car with five teenagers.

Stalker's funeral was

Saturday, Dec. 27. An additional memorial will be held at ULS, according to Stalker's family.

ULS spokeswoman Michelle Franzen Martin said the school will provide grief counseling when classes resume after the holiday break.

"As you can imagine, we are heartbroken over the death of one of our students, and our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends and to the entire Liggett community during this very difficult time," Martin said.

"Classes are not in session because of winter break, but we are working with our school psychologist and will be offering grief support services to students when they return."

Grosse Pointe Public School System superintendent Tom Harwood said the district will offer support to students and families during the winter break and after they return to school.

"Our hearts are saddened by the loss of a University Liggett stu-

dent," Harwood said. "We are continuously thinking about and supporting the students currently hospitalized and all those impacted by this tragedy. The district will be coordinating the support services necessary over break. Please watch the website for updated information."

Students seeking emergency counseling services are asked to call Beth Walsh-Sahutske at (313) 432-3522 or Lisa Khoury at (313) 432-4622.

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## MOURNS:

Continued from page 1A

she did," Lawrence said.

While Stalker was an outstanding student with medical school as her goal, she was also a typical teenager. She was an in-demand babysitter for several area families, and for one of her young charges, Stalker will now always be his babysitter. When his mother told

him Stalker was now in Heaven, he told his mother, "Oh, that is good because now Paige can watch us all the time."

Stalker used money she earned babysitting to pay for her two favorite things, her Jeep and all things Lilly Pulitzer.

It was Stalker's love for Lilly Pulitzer's preppy designs that led her family to make pink and green ribbons in her memory. Several can be seen throughout the Pointes.

While Stalker's spirit will always be remembered in her hometown, she is also being remembered in Greenville, S.C., the home of her uncle, Chris Lawrence and his wife, Karine, Stalker's godmother.

"Paige came for a week and helped with the vacation Bible school at our church," her Chris Lawrence said. "Our pastor remembered her and spoke of her at services."

One of Stalker's favorite places was Walt Disney World, a place she was able to visit several times with her family. They were there for Thanksgiving. With that in mind, contributions can be made to the Max A Wish Foundation in Paige's name so that children with health issues can enjoy the magic of Disney World.

The family also will establish a scholarship at University Liggett in Stalker's memory. Her paternal grandparents, Peter and Debbie Stalker,

are long-time supporters of the school, and the Stalker family legacy will continue in her name.

A memorial service will be held for Stalker at ULS when school resumes after the winter break.

For now, her family is left with several unanswered questions, waiting for answers that will probably be slow to arrive.

"Who cares what they were doing there?" Chris Lawrence asked. "We need to focus on the fact that a gunman is still at large. We need to stop him before this happens to another family."

While early police reports say some of the young people in the car that night were smoking marijuana, her grandfather says there was no indication his granddaughter was involved.

"I'm angry," Lawrence said, "but when I ask myself what I can do, I have to ask, 'What would Paige do?'"

## DONORS:

Continued from page 1A

mous. They are asked to leave a message and investigators will return their call.

"We believe this is a robbery gone bad," said Detroit police assistant chief Steve Dolunt. "The suspect we are looking for is a black male, 6 feet

tall, driving a light color sedan."

Stalker, 16, of Grosse Pointe Farms was with four other teenagers in a car parked at Philip and Charlevoix in Detroit. According to other passengers in the car, an unknown suspect opened fire on the car, killing Stalker and injuring three others. Police found 30 shell casings from a semi-automatic weapon at the scene.

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2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

# Shores has a strong year

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE SHORES** — The year 2014 chronicled strengthened municipal finances. The rainy day fund grew by \$181,000, which reinforced Grosse Pointe Shores's AA+ bond rating.

Municipal officials also expanded recreation activities.

A splashpad, donated by the Grosse Pointe Shores Foundation, opened at Osius Park.

The first fishing derby in memory was a hit, as was another chess tournament and the opening of a concession stand.

## January

◆ Super-cold temperatures seize repairs of a broken water main on Colonial near Lakeshore.

◆ Roads are so glacial in this ice-encrusted winter that shipments of road salt don't make it to the Shores public works garage.

◆ Supplies also dip due to widespread increased demand.

◆ A man is alive due to public safety officers cross-trained in emergency medical care.

◆ Sixty officers tend the man, 67, suffering a heart attack while shoveling snow at his house on Lakeshore.

## February

◆ Rental rates at the municipal marina are increased 3 percent to help brace the financially floundering harbor fund.

◆ Preparations continue to produce a municipal history book.

◆ A draft is expected in June, according to Councilwoman Kay Felt, liaison to the Shores Ambassador Committee.

## March

◆ The Blue Ribbon Operations Committee questions the economics of city-provided ambulance service compared

with hiring a private contractor, as in two of the other Grosse Pointes.

◆ Shores residents were nearly 5 1/2 times less likely last year to be victims of a major crime than nationally.

◆ The statistic reflects a nosedive in major crime in the Shores, as summarized in the public safety department annual report for 2013, released this month.

◆ Major crime last year dropped by half, from 20 to 10 cases, from the year before.

## April

◆ The tree canopy is destined to thin on North and South Edgewood.

◆ A fungus, armillaria root rot, is attacking locust trees lining both streets.

◆ "It's a soil-borne pathogen that attacks the root system, usually through an open wound, like a gash from a lawn mower or weed whacker," said Brett Marshall, chairman of the Shores tree board.

◆ A cosmetically refurbished, 100-year-old drinking fountain with separate bubblers for horses, dogs and humans — in that order — is rededicated in the circular garden near the main entrance to city hall.

◆ The fountain was donated to the community in 1914 by the Good Cheer Club of Grosse Pointe Shores at the suggestion of the Animal Welfare Committee of the 20th Century Club.

◆ Sooner or later, it's time to take down the Christmas tree.

◆ The chore carries dour meaning on the front lawn of city hall, where a Colorado blue spruce — noted during summer for its stately, conical shape and in winter as the focus of the Lighting of the Village holiday kickoff — is coming down.

◆ "It has a disease called Cytospora canker," Marshall said.

## May

◆ Arbor Day marks the Shores' 10th consecutive year being named a Tree City USA.

◆ To shun shortcomings of character, the city

See SHORES, page 4A



## Tea at Ford House

The Edsel and Eleanor Ford House held their annual Nutcracker Tea. After the children enjoyed their treats, they boarded a shuttle bus to the playhouse where they visited with Santa and told him their special wish lists. Above, Kingsley Emmerson, 7 months, of Grosse Pointe Park visits with Santa for the first time. Right, these girls bought these green lace dresses just for this occasion. Regan Kirby, Anna Laverdiere and Morgan Kirby enjoy their hot chocolate at the Nutcracker Tea.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Davis Ford II and Vincent Nicosia of Grosse Pointe Farms take turns telling Santa what they hope to see under the tree.

Two-month-old Matthew Hamrick Jr. will only know he slept in Santa's arms when his parents show him this Grosse Pointe News.



## The Week Ahead

**THURSDAY, JAN. 1**  
◆ Happy New Year

**FRIDAY, JAN. 2**  
◆ City of Grosse Pointe municipal building is closed.  
◆ The Grannie Nannies meet at 1:30 p.m. at the Big Boy Restaurant,

20710 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.  
Grandmothers meet to discuss babysitting their grandchildren. For more information, call (313) 882-9600.

**SATURDAY, JAN. 3**  
◆ The emergency siren

is tested at 1 p.m.

**MONDAY, JAN. 5**  
◆ Grosse Pointe Woods city council meets at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers.

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7**  
◆ An American Red

Cross blood drive is from 2 to 8 p.m. at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. To register, visit redcross-blood.org and use the sponsor code gpblood-council, or call Ann at (313) 886-8437.

## Numbers tell a good story in Shores

**GROSSE POINTE SHORES** — The municipal employee pension system is 99.8 percent funded.

"We have an unfunded

balance of only \$36,000," said Mark Wollenweber, Grosse Pointe Shores manager, citing the most recent actuary report.

During a presentation

of the annual city audit at last month's council meeting, the auditor referenced a \$6.5 million pension liability coming "down the road."

"That \$6.5 million is the promise we now have to account for retiree health care,"

Wollenweber said. "The auditor was talking about the city's total obligation of \$6.5 million, without showing how much the city has in the bank for that over time."

That obligation is down from \$7.1 million in 2009. — Brad Lindberg

## PRAYING:

Continued from page 2A

emotional and reflective, and Grosse Pointe Woods resident Fran Haboz hoped it had an impact on all.

"It's important for everyone to be here," she said. "It's important that we come together as a community after such a tragic event. I hope, for all these students here, I hope it starts the healing. And for the family of Paige, I hope it provides them with some semblance of support and strength."

Several members of the group that gathered around the clock outside of city hall spoke about what the vigil meant,

while most were simply silent for the duration.

"This could've been my daughter or your son, anybody's child," Heather Mastropietra said. "Just taken away in an instant. It's a sobering thought and a bitter dose of reality."

Word of the vigil spread across social media throughout the afternoon, and reached people from all over the area.

"I live in the City of Detroit," Carla Brown-Collien said. "I think some people think something like this has the potential to divide us, but it can bring us together, too. I came here tonight to do what I could do to show my support for these families and for these kids."



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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

# This group effort has gone to the dogs

Three Pointers who are co-owners of an Eastern Market business are supporting a project that has gone to the dogs.

Tammy Eugenio of Grosse Pointe Shores, who co-owns 3 Dogs 1 Cat Urban Pet Shoppe in Eastern Market with Trisha Stander and Rita Nelson, said the support of Dog Aide is a no brainer.

Stander and Nelson are both residents of Grosse Pointe Woods.

A series of limited edition prints by Macomb County resident Jenny Risher, featuring classic cars paired with canines, is on display at the shop

through Monday, Jan. 5. Sales of the limited-edition prints benefit Dog Aide, a nonprofit rescue group.

"Donations are an imperative part of animal rescue, said Beth Kuschel of Dog Aide. "Our adoptables all came with extreme medical needs - severely emaciated, hit by cars or shot. Our vet bills can total thousands of dollars for just one dog. But we feel they're worth every penny."

Eugenio said the prints work in this area.

"Detroit loves its dogs," she said. "Detroiters really appreciate loyalty and who can provide that

better than our faithful canine companions?"

Risher said the "Go Dog, Detroit!" series was inspired by her sons' favorite bedtime story, "Go, Dog, Go!"

"My favorite photo in the series is a 1976 Pinto with Koda, the St. Bernard," Risher said. "It took me three months to find a mint condition Pinto. I finally found one at a Pinto Meet in Dearborn. I don't think this series could have been done in any other city than Detroit."

The store supports several nonprofits, including the "great goodness that Dog Aide provides daily

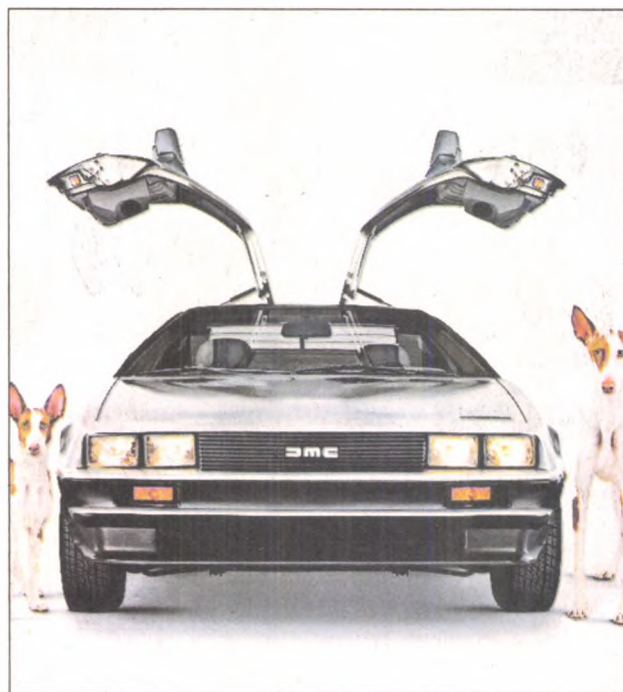
to our community," Eugenio said.

"We love our friends at Dog Aide," she continued. "We also love the work of Ms. Risher. She is so incredibly talented and a great person to know."

Another fundraising event with Risher will come in the spring, Eugenio said.

3 Dogs 1 Cat Urban Pet Shoppe is at 2472 Riopelle, Detroit. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Prints also are available at godogdetroit.com.

- Joe Warner



## SHORES:

Continued from page 3A

council considers an ethics ordinance with bite.

Provisions are expected to force the issue by exceeding standards in the city charter, which has holes through which misbehaving municipal officials can slide.

◆ The 17.8794 millage rate remains the same for next fiscal year's budget.

Yet, municipal property tax revenue increases \$185,000 due to higher home values.

### June

◆ Major sewer improvements on Oxford near the intersection of Lakeshore are delayed until outside funding comes through, except for emergency repairs.

"The cost might be as much as \$750,000," said Mayor Ted Kedzierski.

Shores officials prefer to fund improvements with a state grant.

◆ The fiscal year ends this month with a \$164,000 surplus.

"We anticipate transferring \$100,000 of that to the retiree healthcare fund," said Councilman Bruce Bisballe, chairman of the finance committee.

The \$64,000 balance is applied to next fiscal year's budget.

"That should keep our fund balance at about 20 percent of our total revenues, which the target

number for the audit," Bisballe said.

◆ Year-long infrastructure upgrades, dubbed the Honeywell project after the main contractor, is finished.

Honeywell officials guarantee the \$1.6 million project will more than pay for itself over 16 years in energy and operational savings.

◆ Children scramble onto a splashpad dedicated at Osius Park.

"This is what it's all about," said Martin Ellis, a Grosse Pointe Shores Foundation Trustee watching the fun.

Foundation members donated the splashpad to the city.

### July

◆ Vacant land inside Lakeshore's 1100-block curve is tagged for construction of a small hotel.

Plans aren't firm, but the concept is on paper.

"It's in our master plan, an inn-type of lodging," said Kathleen Mullins, president of the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House.

The field is part of the Ford estate, most of which is on the lake side of Lakeshore.

◆ Future drunken drivers barreling through fence into Osius Park at the foot of Vernier may also be making their film debut.

The area is among four in the Shores picked for video surveillance.

"Cameras will only be

looking at public areas," said Mayor Ted Kedzierski.

◆ The Fun Committee has trouble attracting members because people didn't like the name.

"What can you say? We changed it to the 'Events Committee,'" said Councilwoman Kay Felt, committee chair.

### August

◆ Outfitting two new police cruisers in-house instead of hiring a contractor to do the work saves the city \$1,800 to \$5,000 per vehicle, according to DPW Director Smith.

Municipal mechanic, Scott DeGeer, does the work.

"The work is meticulous," said John Schulte, public safety director.

### September

◆ City administrators may compile a list of e-mail addresses from residents wanting to receive timely municipal alerts and updates.

"We're trying to add more services because that's what makes this a special place to live," said Mayor Ted Kedzierski.

◆ Members of the newly-established Events Committee want to schedule two outdoor concerts per year at Osius Park.

Councilwoman and Committee Chair Kay Felt contacts Grosse Pointe North High School

administrators to book talent.

◆ Proposed rules on the installation of residential generators favor backyard placement.

◆ The public works department turns over a new leaf.

"This year, our department is trying something new with leaf pick-up," said DPW Director Smith. "Our goal is to pick up leaves on the scheduled rubbish pick-up day."

In the past, crews began collecting leaves curbside at one end of the city and worked through to the other end, then started over.

◆ Members of the Grosse Pointe Shores Improvement Foundation celebrate the organization's 30th anniversary with a party at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House.

Foundation members donate community enhancements outside the normal purview of property taxes.

"We love to make improvements in our community for our enjoyment and property values," said Lynn Kurtz, Foundation president.

### October

◆ The payoff of sewer bonds in two years will free up money to invest in municipal infrastructure.

The prospect continues until 2017, when Shores officials expect to receive a state grant for sewer work.

◆ The city joins the Nixle.com information system.

"Nixle is a community information service built for the secure and reliable exchange of information," said John Schulte, public safety director.

The website links local, state and federal law enforcement agencies for the dissemination of

See SHORES, page 7A

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6A | OPINION

Grosse Pointe News

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GROSSE POINTE NEWS MISSION STATEMENT

To provide the Grosse Pointes the most relevant, accurate and timely information in our print and online publications.

OUR VIEW

Tragedy too close to home

Many people knew Paige Stalker, the 16-year-old University Liggett School student who was murdered in Detroit three days before Christmas.

The Grosse Pointe Farms resident, in a car with four other teenagers, were just a few blocks into Detroit at 9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22.

What they were doing there isn't clear. Police said the stories don't match. One story was they had pulled to the side of the road to smoke marijuana. Another said they were looking for the brother of one of the teens in the car. Another said they were lost on the way to a movie.

Teenagers telling different stories isn't something new. Perhaps one of those stories is the absolute truth.

Police said 30 shell casings were found at the scene of the crime, just across Alter on Charlevoix at Philip. The driver, suffering from a gunshot wound, drove the badly damaged car to Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe.

It's the scene where reality hit hard - a young girl was dead. At the hospital where she was a volunteer. She wanted to be a doctor someday. People there knew her.

Her family is hurt as any of us would be. To lose a child, a sibling, a niece, a granddaughter in this way, well words wouldn't make us understand.

There's plenty of speculation. Some of it absurd. And some of it doesn't matter. The question of why these teens were in Detroit really doesn't matter.

There is no justification for the coward who shot 30 times into a car full of teenagers. How there were any survivors is a miracle.

Paige's grandfather, Dave Lawrence, said it's time for us to reclaim our community or we will lose it.

"I have lived in GP for 46 years and it is only the last few years that I have feared for the safety of the community and especially the safety of our children," Lawrence said.

There's no doubt Detroit police are working hard to solve this crime. Thanks to anonymous donations, there is a \$100,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of the shooter.

That kind of money may move somebody to say something.

A mistake by a few teens, being in Detroit for whatever reason, shouldn't have been this costly. It's a painful lesson that while many good things have started to happen in Detroit, it's still a dangerous place. Certainly for five teens between 15 and 17 years of age.

Lawrence said his granddaughter was all about helping other people. This senseless tragedy should encourage us to talk to our children. Having real conversations about how life can change in a second.

How one wrong decision or even a wrong turn can change your life forever. Or end it.

What can we do to make a difference? Does this tragedy change Grosse Pointe? Is it why the suburbs try to keep distance from the city, no matter how close physically we are? Will it ever change?

More than 300 attended Paige's funeral last Saturday. It's one that came way too early.

Lawrence said a memorial service at the school will likely be held after school returns from the holiday break.

On Saturday, Paige will be in her final resting place, "Charlevoix, a place that she loved," Lawrence said.

She'll be on our minds and heavy in our hearts.

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LETTERS

A job well done by cast and crew of White Christmas

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.

To the Editor:

I need to thank the entire cast of "White Christmas." The show was so beautiful in every way. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the show perfect.

PATTI GITRE  
Grosse Pointe Farms

GUEST OPINION By Michael LaFaive

Reorganization is new wine in old skin

There is nothing new under the public policy sun. Gov. Rick Snyder announced a government reorganization that will marry Michigan's existing "economic growth and job training efforts under one department." They've been married before and didn't work well then either. The fact is, corporate welfare doesn't work and no amount of reorganizing will make it so.

Michigan had a similar system when economic development efforts and job training efforts were both run out of the Michigan Jobs Commission. Governor Engler split job and talent training up from economic development because he thought it would improve the state's economic development efforts.

The Michigan Economic Development Corp. was to concentrate on economic development efforts while a separate Michigan Department

of Career Development was to handle workforce development. In a 1999 Michigan Information & Research Service report, the new MEDC, president and CEO, Doug Rothwell was quoted as saying, "The state's economy has grown to the point where the Michigan Jobs Commission model didn't fit anymore."

It's difficult not to be cynical about the moves governors make within the state's corporate welfare complex because so much of it just ends up being the same old musty wine in a new skin.

According to Gov. Snyder, "One of my top priorities has been to make Michigan a national leader in talent development by focusing on workforce training for the jobs of today and tomorrow." He said Why is a comprehensive, unified approach today necessary when it must not have worked in the past?

At last week's press

conference on the subject capitol correspondent Tim Skubick asked, "So the old system was not working?" The governor responded, "It was working. Again, you can see that by job creation; jobs being filled. Again we passed the 300,000 private sector job mark now. I'm very proud of that. This is a way to accelerate that. And again, focusing in on what you are going to see nationally as being something that's only going to be a louder and louder issue, this issue about requisite skills to be successful in the careers that are going to be the careers of the future."

To watch start at the seven-minute mark to hear Mr. Skubick lob his first question — on rearranging an organizational chart.)

It doesn't matter how often state government moves its seating chart around. Taking money from many businesses and people and giving it to just a few isn't a

recipe for economic growth and empirical evidence is pretty clear on that.

It's worth noting that every governor back to Kim Sigler in the 1940s has tried to put their own special stamp on some economic central planning bureau or department. Check out a brief history here.

Many of the job training goals laid out by government too can and perhaps should be reached privately.

After all, if companies and people were allowed to keep more of what they earn they could tailor their own needs and desires and revenue to fit the demands of the marketplace.

A better direction is to eliminate all corporate welfare and job training subsidies and return money used to pay for both to its rightful owners. They know how best to reinvest those dollars — in job creating investments or in life enhancing skills development.

GUEST OPINION By Tom Gantert

Parties come together in 2014

News reports on bills and votes in the Legislature tend to focus on confrontations and things that divide us.

I'm focusing on examples from the past year of successful problem-solving legislation that overcame two separate divides: Republicans vs. Democrats and the people vs. the political class.

House Bill 4186: Second chances get a unanimous vote of support.

On Feb. 5, 2013, State Rep. Stacy Erwin Oakes, a Democrat, introduced legislation to limit restrictions on "expunging" (clearing

a felony conviction from a person's record (with exceptions for very serious crimes). On Dec. 4, 2014, the bill passed the House in a 109-0 vote.

Two weeks later, the Senate passed a slightly revised version with a 38-0 vote. The House unanimously concurred.

House Bill 4480 (2013): Greater transparency gets two thumbs up — one from each party.

In 1999, then state Sen. Alma Wheeler Smith complained about how hard it was even for a legislator to get information from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

"I don't think the Legislature should have to FOIA a department or agency to find out how money is spent," she told Gongwer News Service.

Although it took 15 years, passage of HB 4480 this year showed that Democrats and Republicans can both be supportive of greater transparency.

The bill was introduced March 20, 2013, by Republican State Rep. Tom Leonard. It passed 107-0 in the House on Nov. 13, 2014, and a few weeks later passed 37-0 in the Senate with some revisions. The House concurred with the changes 108-1, sending the bill to Gov. Snyder for signature.

House Bill 4001 (2013): Holding down the cost of holding government accountable.

The Freedom of Information Act is an invaluable tool in the battle to keep government transparent. Heavily used by news organizations, Michigan's open records law is also frequently employed by regular citizens.

House Bill 4001 capped charges for FOIA requests at 10 cents per page, and increased the penalties for agencies that withhold information that should be public. The legislation passed 102 to 8 in the House on March 20.

The Senate reduced some of the proposed sanctions, but in a 30 to 8 vote on the last day of the 2013-2014 Legislature passed a version that still expands public access to information. The House concurred 101-9.

## City of Grosse Pointe

## Runs off road

A 31-year-old Detroit man with a blood alcohol level more than 2.5 times the state legal limit to operate a motor vehicle cut off two drivers and hit a utility pole on Jefferson near University Place a few minutes past 11 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, according to witnesses and police.

"(His) vehicle (a black 2014 Chevrolet Silverado) swerved onto the right-side curb and struck an electrical pole," said a public safety officer. "The driver appeared dazed. (I) could smell the odor of intoxicating beverages coming from (his) facial area."

The man gave up trying to pass field sobriety tests.

"Why bother," he reportedly said. "I know where I'm going."

He registered a .211 percent blood alcohol level, said police taking him to a holding cell for drunken driving.

A search of the Silverado revealed an unloaded 20-gauge shotgun under the rear seat and a 4-inch hunting knife.

## Can't get in

Police responding to a burglar alarm at a service station in the 17500 block of Mack at 2:27 a.m.

## Public Safety Reports

Sunday, Dec. 28, discovered a broken front window near the cash register, but no entry.

The station manager, arriving within 10 minutes, agreed, police said.

"Due to the small size of the broken window and large amount of jagged glass around the opening, (I don't) believe (the unknown) suspect made entry," said an officer.

Police think whoever smashed the window used an 8-inch rock, found nearby.

—Brad Lindberg

*Report information about these or other crimes to the City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety Department at (313) 886-3200.*

## Grosse Pointe Farms

## Asleep at wheel

Police awakened a 26-year-old man from Dearborn Heights slumped over the steering wheel of a 2010 Ford Fusion parked northbound in the southbound lanes of Moross at Mack at 4:38 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 28.

"(I) pounded on the driver-side window several times until the driver

finally woke up," said a patrolman.

As the man took his foot off the brake, the car edged forward.

"(I) ordered (him) to stop and put the vehicle in park," said the officer.

Officers arrested him for drunken driving and possession of narcotics paraphernalia.

He had a .12 percent blood alcohol level and a grinder with marijuana residue, according to police.

## Failed B&amp;E

During mid-afternoon Christmas eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24, a 36-year-old woman returning home discovered an apparent burglary attempt of her house in the 400 block of Moran.

"She observed mud trackings from the front flower bed to the side door," said a public safety officer.

Police confirmed the evidence, plus mud and grass clipping inside the screen door.

A rear screen door was open, but the glass inner door was intact.

"(The resident) believes no entry was made into the residence," said an officer.

## Drunk with kids

A woman being investigated for driving drunk with three juvenile passengers shortly after 11 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24, on Moross at Harbor Court also was arrested for possession of 3.3 grams of marijuana, a grinder with suspected drug residue and a half-empty bottle of brandy.

The woman, 52, of Detroit, had a .17 percent blood alcohol level, according to police.

She faces charges of drunken driving; possession of marijuana, narcotics paraphernalia and open intoxicants in a motor vehicle; child endangerment, violating a suspended operator's license and lacking car insurance.

## Wanted

A Farms public safety officer conducting a traffic stop on westbound Mack near Radnor at 12:40 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, arrested a 48-year-old man from Lake Orion on an outstanding warrant from Grosse Pointe Woods.

He was wanted for failing to appear in municipal court for a parking meter violation.

Woods authorities released him on \$208 bond.

## Drives on drugs

A 17-year-old male

motorist from Grosse Pointe Shores, being questioned for violating a mandatory right turn from the right lane of westbound Mack at East Warren, was arrested at 6:15 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, for operating motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs.

During a traffic stop on westbound Mack near Touraine, a patrolman noted an odor of marijuana coming from the driver's 2004 Mercedes-Benz C230.

The driver had "glassy, bloodshot eyes," admitted smoking marijuana and failed a series of field sobriety tests, according to police.

—Brad Lindberg

*Report information about these or other crimes to the Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety Department at (313) 885-2100.*

## Grosse Pointe Shores

## Trace of drugs

At 11:37 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, a Clinton Township man, 40, being investigated on northbound Lakeshore near Moorland Drive for weaving a vehicle between lanes, was arrested for violating multiple suspensions of his driver's license.

He attributed an odor of marijuana in his car to prior drug use by family

members, according to police.

Police searching the vehicle said they found trace amounts of suspected marijuana on the floor boards and seats, plus a grinder with residue in the center console.

—Brad Lindberg

*Report information about this or other crimes to the Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety Department at (313) 881-5500.*

## Grosse Pointe Woods

## Jewelry taken

Nearly \$10,000 in jewelry was taken from a house on the 1600 block of Anita sometime between Thursday, Dec. 25, and Sunday, Dec. 28, according to a police report. The victim reported a pair of pearl necklaces stolen from the house and an oak jewelry box damaged.

## Furnace, water heater stolen

A house in the 1500 block of Bournmouth was broken in to, according to a police report filed with the department Wednesday, Dec. 24. A Realtor came to show the house, which has been for sale for several months, to a potential buyer and noticed the furnace and water heater had been stolen.

—John McTaggart

*Report information about these or other crimes to the Grosse Pointe Woods public safety department at (313) 343-2400.*

## Prosecutor issues warrant

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — In the glow and glory of this Christmas season, a husband and father of two young children is testing its grace and forgiveness, according to accounts given to police by his wife and in-laws fearing his alleged threats and tirades.

Within five days of being released from a Grosse Pointe Farms holding cell and waiving a preliminary hearing in municipal court for cocaine possession, the conduct of 37-year-old resident Robert Anthony Ermanni at home Friday, Dec. 19, prompted his wife, 36, and mother-in-law, 67, to file complaints at public safety headquarters shortly after midnight the next day.

"(The mother-in-law) stated she feared for her and (her daughter's) safety by watching his aggression," according to an officer taking the report at 12:23 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 20.

Nearly a week earlier, Sunday, Dec. 14, the same officer was at the couple's house investigating the wife's complaint of Ermanni's alleged battery and cocaine use.

Patrolmen at the time noted a bump on her nose where she said Ermanni punched her.

She didn't file charges, but prosecutors moved against him for possession of less than 25 grams of cocaine, a four-year felony.

The drug case is designated "non-public," according to law enforcement and court officials forbidden to elaborate.

Michigan law lets first-time offenders of some drug crimes expunge their records by completing probation.

Such cases may be kept from the public at the outset given the chance they'll be deleted in the end.

Ermanni's other case is public.

"We resubmitted the warrant request on the original domestic violence," said Farms

Detective Lt. Richard Rosati. "It's been authorized by the Wayne County Prosecutor's office in light of the new incident that occurred just five days later."

Ermanni pleaded not guilty to domestic violence, a misdemeanor, during arraignment Monday afternoon, Dec. 22, in Farms Municipal Court, according to the clerk.

The hearing occurred after the Grosse Pointe News' early Christmas deadline.

Judge Matthew Rumora scheduled a pre-trial examination at noon Wednesday, Jan. 14.

Ermanni is free on \$1,000 personal bond based on the following conditions:

- ◆ no assaultive behavior,
- ◆ no verbal threats and
- ◆ complete a five-week anger class.

"(His wife) stated Robert has been living with her at (home) since he was released from Farms charges on Monday, (Dec. 15)," reported the officer taking the latest complaint.

Peace reportedly ended when her mother and older brother found out about the alleged domestic violence.

"Her mother immediately flew in from Traverse City (and) arrived at her house with her son (41, of Grosse Pointe Shores), at 11 a.m. (Friday), Dec. 14,"

according to a police report. "(The wife) stated Robert became very agitated by seeing most of

(his wife's) family."

Things worsened when Ermanni learned his wife's family restricted his access to bank funds, according to police.

"(The brother), who has control over Robert and (his wife's) banking account, put a freeze on the account so Robert couldn't make transactions," police said.

The brother reportedly acted with his sister's approval.

"Robert became outraged and began to shout vulgar words at her and (her) family," police reported, citing complainants. "(The brother) stated Robert continued to yell at him to leave the house, but (the brother) refused to leave for protection of (his sister) and (mother)."

At 4:30 p.m., Ermanni reportedly packed a duffel bag with clothes and declared he was spending the night at the MotorCity Casino in Detroit.

He "stormed out of the house" to his Jaguar, according to police.

From then until midnight, Ermanni called his wife's cell phone 20 times, she reportedly told police.

He left several voice-mails, some threatening, as in, "I'm going to [expletive deleted] you (both) up tomorrow," the wife allegedly told an officer.

The officer added, "(The wife) advised (me) she is scared for her life. Robert will come back sometime and seriously hurt her or (her mother)."

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## SHORES:

Continued from page 4A

information.

## November

◆ A homeowner cries foul about a municipal ban on chickens.

The resident asks the city council to temporarily abandon enforcement of an ordinance declaring chickens a nuisance while new rules are drawn to allow backyard chickens on large properties.

◆ Residents Greg and Sharon Peters pay the city's \$12,500, five-year obligation to the all-Pointes and Harper Woods K-9 division.

"Both my husband and I come from families of police officers," said Sharon Peters. "We understand the dangers they face each day to keep our city safe."

◆ An increase to the municipal rainy day fund during fiscal year 2014-15 continues a trend begun late last decade.

"You've added to fund balance in each of the last five years," Aaron Stevens, an auditor with Abraham & Gaffney certified public accounts, tells the city council. "Your general fund is in good shape."

Stevens' presentation of a draft of the annual municipal audit, for June 30, reveals a \$181,000 addition to the unre-

served general fund balance.

The increase equals 13.5 percent of 2014 general fund expenditures.

## December

◆ The municipal employee pension system is 99.8 percent funded.

"We have an unfunded balance of only \$36,000," said City Manager Mark Wollenweber, citing actuaries.

◆ A change in the municipal water-buying contract with Detroit is apt to produce a 6 to 6.5 percent increase in water rates.

"The reality is the Detroit water system was built for high-volume industrial customers," said Bisballe. "Those aren't around anymore."

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BA | NEWS

FARMS:

Continued from page 1A

ments spend two hours extinguishing the fire during the 15-degree morning.

◆ The new year kicks off with a \$10 bimonthly water rate increase, adding about \$250,000 annually to the water department's revenue.

The increase totals a flat rate of \$60 per year for customers of the Farms water filtration plant, serving the Farms and neighboring City of Grosse Pointe.

February

◆ Someone strips two vacant houses in the 400 block of Hillcrest of copper pipes and related hardware.

Both houses are in foreclosure and owned by Fannie Mae.

◆ Newly-resurfaced roads hold up well to winter.

“We’ve been aggressive in our road maintenance and have put in about \$2 million worth of new roads in the last four years,” said Shane Reeside, city manager.

March

◆ Up to \$250,000 in bonds will be issued to fund sewer rehabilitation this spring on Tonnancour Place and Country Club Drive.

◆ Anglers could land themselves in hot water by breaking tough rules about fishing at Pier Park.

Penalties for violating fishing restrictions in the harbor include temporary expulsion from the park.

◆ Major crime reported last year in the Farms decreased 27 percent from 2012, according to the

public safety department annual report for 2013, released this month.

Of 122 major incidents logged, most were property crimes. They accounted for 92.1 percent of all major crime last year in the city.

◆ A 72-year-old man uses his cane to beat back a 250-pound alleged pickpocket outside the front entrance to a building on the Hill.

Police quickly catch the suspect, a 23-year-old Detroit man.

April

◆ Terry Brennan, director of Farms public services, shops for a second-hand “chip-seal skin-patch and joint-sealing machine.”

He’ll use it to fix potholes during this tough-on-roads winter.

◆ The proposed municipal budget for next fiscal year maintains a property tax rate that hasn’t changed in three years.

Although the rate remains 14 mills, a 3.2 percent increase in assessed values means Farms officials expect to collect \$138,000 more in property tax revenue than this year.

◆ Three weeks of narcotics training in Phoenix, near the front lines of the drug war, result in Officer Roger Wieszewski becoming the only public safety officer in the Pointes, and one of three in Wayne County, rated a drug recognition expert.

May

◆ Incinerating invasive waterfront weeds is just another Sunday barbecue for an ecological restoration crew on an anti-phragmites mission.

Members of the crew burn phragmites growing

on accretion above Pier Park.

“The plant develops so much that if we were to leave it, all the native plants would be smothered,” said David Mindall, owner of Plantwise Native Landscape and Ecological restoration of Ann Arbor, retained by the Farms.

◆ K-9s are on equal footing with their masters at the new dog park on municipal property at Mack and Moross.

The roughly 210-by-150-foot park is double the size of the former facility and features an undulating landscape, gazebo and multi-level drinking fountain for people and their four-pawed family members.

Two-thirds of \$300,000 construction costs is paid by donation from the Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation.

June

◆ Municipal parking rates are raised for the first time in at least 10 years,

Short-term meter rates, which hadn’t changed in 20 years, are doubled to 50 cents per half hour.

Long-term lot rates — three hours or more — go down.

◆ A 9.19 percent water rate increase is effective July 1.

“The average residential rate, on an annual basis, will go up about \$144 per year,” said John Lamerato, Farms controller.

◆ Jazz, the new, 14-month-old police dog, is renamed.

He’s now Duke, after Duke Ellington, to honor the K-9 team’s benefactor, Gretchen Valade, owner of the Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe on the Hill.

July

◆ With ample remnants of cherry pie caked on Andrew Kolojeski’s face, it’s a wonder he swallowed enough to win the pie eating contest during this year’s Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club regatta at Pier Park.

◆ Pumping storm water runoff to Detroit for sewage treatment is pouring money down the drain, according to members of the Farms city council.

Their long-term solution is citywide sewer separation to divert storm water runoff to Lake St. Clair.

Some 75 percent of each Farms water bill pays for Detroit to treat sewage and runoff, according to Councilman Martin West.

“The more we eliminate sewage treatment, we’ll be able to lower (water) bills,” West said.

◆ Extra money from last fiscal year is allocated to road repairs.

“In the past two years, we’ve resurfaced almost four miles of roads,” said Terry Brennan, public services director.

August

◆ Attendance at the 66th annual Grosse Pointe Farms-City Family Fishing Rodeo at Farms Pier Park is a record-setting 1,205, according to Dick Graves, second-generation organizer and Farms resident.

“The mission of this event is to bring families together in an old-fashioned way,” said Graves.

◆ Council members draft an ordinance re-

Next week: Year in review for Park, Woods and City

stricting personal use of consumer fireworks.

“The intent is to restrict the use of explosives and fireworks to the greatest extent allowed by Michigan law,” said Shane Reeside, city manager.

“People fire them off when they’re not supposed to or when you’d think common courtesy would prohibit it,” added Derrick Kozicki, city clerk.

September

◆ An estimated \$200,000 budget surplus could be allocated to the capital projects fund for road repairs.

“This is preliminary,” said John Lamerato, Farms controller. “Even though our fiscal year ended June 30, we won’t have final results for a couple of months.”

The transfer depends on the city achieving a 25 percent fund balance, a rainy day fund representing one-quarter of the annual general operating fund.

October

◆ The only things missing from a house entrusted for a few days to a 17-year-old Farms male friend of the homeowner’s teenage daughter are about two dozen pieces of jewelry worth nearly \$40,000.

Prosecution of three suspects stalls when the

homeowner doesn’t file a complaint.

The suspects, pressured by police, return most of the missing valuables. Their parents pledge to make restitution for the balance.

November

◆ Little League organizers propose to transform a cluster of diamonds in the rough at Kerby Field into lighted fields of dreams.

The prospect is a natural for the Grosse Pointe Farms-City Little League’s 1,000 boys and girls, said league leaders.

The league plans to reconfigure four existing diamonds on municipal property at Kerby Field, plus add a fifth diamond.

The proposal requires municipal approval.

December

◆ The annual municipal audit records a \$115,000 addition to undesignated fund balance, a reserve account.

The new balance equals 28 percent of the 2015-15 general fund budget.

The percentage is 2 percent greater than last year’s level and eight points beyond the 20 percent threshold auditors recommend for safe standing.

“We had another robust financial performance for the city,” said Councilman Louis Theros, chairman of the finance committee.

CRASH:

Continued from page 1A

was exiting the vehicle

from the driver-side door window and running from the vehicle,” Dionne said.

Officers soon detained two alleged passengers three blocks away on

Lewiston below Charlevoix.

“I observed two men running from the rear yard of the second house south of Charlevoix on the west side of the street,” reported Officer Paul Reygaert. “I ordered both suspects to the ground, to which they complied.”

Officers identified them as the driver’s son, 22, and another Detroit man, 29.

“While detaining both subjects, a silver Honda van with out-of-state plates pulled up to the scene and family members, that were called by the subject, were emerging from the van,” Reygaert said.

Officer Wesley Kipke kept them from approaching.

They came from a house in the 200 block of Moran, between Charlevoix and Beaupre, Reygaert said.

At headquarters, one of the two suspected passengers said the driver would try to reach the Moran address.

“(The son) stated the only people (his father) knows in the area lived at (the house),” said Officer Richard Rosati.

Reygaert and Kipke went there.

“(We) observed the same Honda van pulling up to the residence,” Reygaert said.

The man they were looking for sat in the passenger seat, police said.

Upon being arrested and taken to headquarters, he registered a .146 percent blood alcohol level, police said.

Charges consist of drunken driving, reckless driving, leaving the scene of an accident, violating a suspended driver’s license and violating parole.

“(The son) stated his father was speeding and turned too quickly, losing control of the vehicle, crashing it into a pole,” Rosati said. “The vehicle began smoking. That’s why they all ran.”

Officers released the passengers.

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# COMMUNITY

28 ENTERTAINMENT | 48 OBITUARIES | 50 CLASSIFIEDS

## Holiday Memories



### Sweet

Children gathered at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial last week to decorate a gingerbread house. Left, Georgia Palmgren of Grosse Pointe Farms adds green candy above the door to create a wreath. Right, Anders Palmgren of Grosse Pointe Farms topped his house with red and green candies and a happy gingerbread man.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

The Rendezvous With Tea in Grosse Pointe Woods received the People's Choice award in the Deck the Store contest. The window was filled with nutcrackers, an animated Mrs. Claus and Santa Claus and teapots. The store on Mack has been open for more than a year. The runner-up in the People's Choice was Coldwell Banker. Decorations were taken down prior to receiving the recognition from the panel of five judges.



Morning Glory Coffee & Pastries was awarded the Most Festive in the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce's Deck the Store contest. This is the second consecutive year the coffee shop on the Hill has earned an award.

### Anonymous donor

A student dropped a bag of money off at the Grosse Pointe Public Library's Woods branch earlier this month filled with a total of \$44.15. No name was given, Grosse Pointe Library Foundation executive director Jennifer Bingham said. The enclosed note requested the donation be used "for new books." The money will be used to purchase children's books for the Woods branch, Bingham said.

PHOTO COURTESY JENNIFER BINGAMAN



The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce's most creative distinction was bestowed on The Shoe Tree in the Village.

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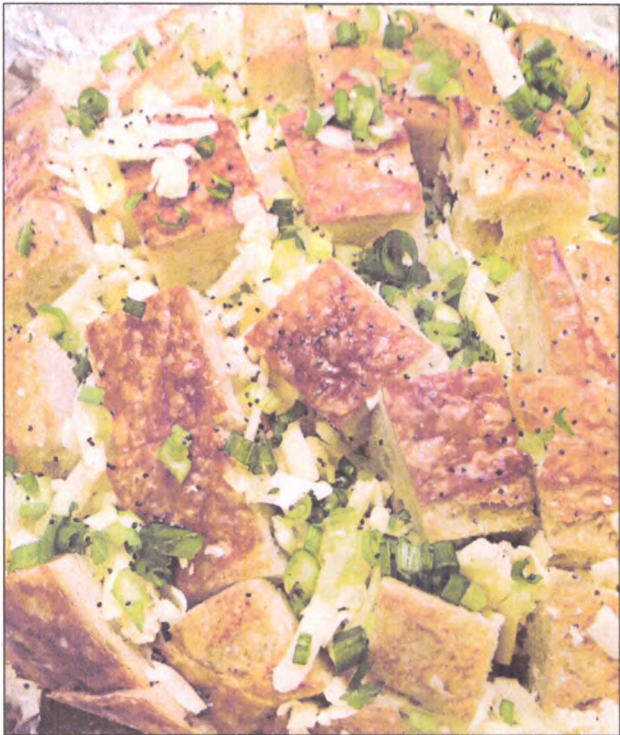
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2B | ENTERTAINMENT

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



PHOTOS BY ANNIE ROULEAU-SCHERIFF

The before picture of the bloomin' party sour dough bread.



The bread spends a little time in the oven to melt the cheese and out comes a quick party appetizer.

# Start the year with party bread

**H**appy New Year! I'm celebrating with champagne and a blooming party bread.

bread. Yummy.  
**Blooming Party Bread**  
1 round loaf of sour-dough bread, unsliced  
1 stick butter, melted

18 oz. block extra sharp white cheddar cheese, shredded  
2 scallions, finely chopped  
poppy seeds, for garnish  
salt and pepper to taste, optional



Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Using a serrated knife score bread down to the base but not all the through, into one-inch slices. Turn bread and score it again in one-inch slices to create cubes, keeping base of bread intact. Brush melted butter down and in between all of cubed bread. Use your hands to "shove" down in between cubes. Scatter scallions over bread and sprinkle with some poppy seeds and just a dash of salt and pepper. Bake at 375 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes. Serve hot. This over the top pull apart bread will bring your guests together. Really. Thanks to Sue Massucci for sharing a great recipe.

# Theatre holds 'The Producers' auditions in February

Grosse Pointe Theatre holds open auditions for "The Producers" from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, at the theatre's main office, 315 Fisher, City of Grosse Pointe.

Call backs are to be scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 8.

Scripts are available by calling (313) 881-4004. A refundable deposit of \$20 is required.

Performances will take place at Fries Auditorium at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms, May 10, 14 through 17, and 21 through 23. Additional performances may be added.

"The Producers" is an 'old school' Broadway singing-and-dancing musical adapted by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan from Brooks' 1968 film of the same name. The story concerns two theatrical producers who scheme to get rich by overselling interests in a guaranteed Broadway flop, "Springtime for Hitler," but to the surprise of everyone involved it's a huge success. Mike Trudel returns to the director's chair after last season's comedy, "The Fox on the Fairway," with

Ellen Skinner Bowen handling vocal and music direction and choreography by Grace Knoche and Theresa Pullen.

Dance workshops are at the main office. Attendance is not a requirement of auditioning, but will help sharpen skills and provide a glimpse of the show's choreography. Solid tap is a requirement for several dance numbers and will be included in the workshops. These five workshops are free and are scheduled for 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays, Jan. 5, 19 and 26, and 2 to 4 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 10 and 17.

Two free vocal workshops are 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, Feb. 2, and Wednesday, Feb. 4, are at 315 Fisher.

Character descriptions:

**Max Bialystock:** late 30s to 50s, baritone, Audition songs are "We Can Do It" and "Betrayed."

**Leo Bloom:** mid 20s to 30s, baritone. Audition song are "I Wanna Be A Producer" and "That Face."

**Franz Liebkind:** 30s to

See AUDITIONS, page 4B

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PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

## Helping hands

Grosse Pointe Park's St. Ambrose Catholic Church, St. Vincent de Paul chapter held its 15th annual spaghetti dinner. Above, Henry Goitz of St. Clair Shores had a plate of spaghetti but it was the cannoli that captured his attention. More than 40 gallons of sauce and 60 pounds of pasta were cooked up for the dinner.

Left, Marty Vorhees of Grosse Pointe Farms, right, waits while volunteer Mike Pellock puts sauce on her pasta. Also waiting in line are Bob Wrosch of St. Clair Shores and his brother, Dennis Wrosch, of Shelby Township. Above left, Adelyn Christian of Grosse Pointe Farms attended her first spaghetti dinner from which the proceeds help people in the two ZIP codes near the church pay their rent, DTE, food and clothing bills.



## PASTOR'S CORNER By Rev. Randy Boelter

# God's resolutions for 2015

**Y**ou may or may not be making some New Year's resolutions for 2015, but what may surprise you is that God is.

What are his resolves this new year?

*God promises to forgive our sins.*

He made this resolution long ago and brought it to pass when his son, Jesus Christ, was born in the flesh in Bethlehem, then suffered, died and rose again. Jesus has already paid the price for all sins: past, present and future. But God wants us you and me to enter the new year believing him when he says through his Son: "Be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven." (Matthew 9:2)

What else?

*God promises to strengthen and lead us.*

"Be strong and of good courage. Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go (Joshua 1:9)."

God was with us in the past and he will be with us in 2015, for our savior Jesus promises: "I will be with you always." (Matthew 28:20)

This we can be sure of.

We can also know that God has resolved to take us to heaven.

"I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there you may be also (John 14:3)

We don't know if this will happen in 2015, for no one can know the exact time of his return, Matthew 24:44.

But that is why God also resolves

through word and sacrament to give us faith in him.

"By grace we are saved through faith as a gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8)

God wants us to receive what he has resolved to give us in 2015: forgiveness, his help and eternal life in heaven. Worship the Lord faithfully this year, for in your church home you will hear his word, and that word will give you the faith you need to believe God keeps all of his resolves and has good things waiting for us in Jesus Christ.

May God's resolves give you confidence to live by this new year.

*Rev. Boelter is the minister at Christ the King Lutheran Church and preschool in Grosse Pointe Woods.*

## ASK THE EXPERT By Michael Kelly

# Estate planning with aging parents



**Q.** How can I get my parents to see the importance of estate planning?

**A.** First educate them on the importance of making arrangements for death or incapacity. Failure to do so will leave many things up in the air, contribute to discord and leave distribution of property in the hands a probate judge applying state law to decide who receives property, including creditors.

If parents become incapacitated and require long term nursing home care these problems become more complicated. Most persons need to become eligible and apply for government assistance to pay for this high cost care.

Effective planning in these areas can provide additional piece of mind and save valuable property as a legacy for loved ones.

Have someone your parents trust and feel comfortable with sharing their wishes to help initiate the conversation.

Another successful approach is to ask your parents' advice on estate planning.

**Q.** What is specifically addressed in estate planning?

Your parents' wishes should be determined first so they will be carried out.

Determining proper estate and health care plans comes next. Estate planning involves documents effecting properly transfer such as wills, trusts

and deeds. Health care planning involves health care powers of attorney, advance directives and durable powers of attorney for financial affairs to safeguard against incapacity and avoid a public court process to establish guardianship and conservatorship.

For more detailed question and answer on this topic visit The Family Center website at familycenterweb.org.

*Kelly is a licensed Michigan attorney and has been practicing for more than 23 years in the areas of estate planning, elder law, long term care planning, Medicare planning and assisting families with probate matters. He can be reached at kellymich@kellydr.com.*

*The Family Center serves as the community's hub for information, resources and referral for both families and professionals. Its mission is to serve our community through programs and resources vital to today's families.*

*The Family Center is a non-profit organization, all gifts are tax deductible.*

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



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**The Christmas Season continues at St. Ambrose Catholic Church**

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Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God  
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MASS AT 4:00 P.M.  
Thursday, January 1, 2015  
MASS AT 10:00 A.M.

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**  
Saturday, January 3, 2015  
MASS AT 4:00 P.M.  
Sunday, January 4, 2015  
MASSES AT 8:30 A.M. & 11:15 A.M.

**FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF JESUS**  
Saturday, January 10, 2015  
MASS AT 4:00 P.M. - Confirmation Liturgy  
Sunday, January 11, 2015  
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St. Ambrose Catholic Church is located at 15020 Hampton Road between Wayburn and Maryland, one block north of Jefferson, just west of the Grosse Pointe Park City Hall. (313) 822-2814 • stambrosechurch.net facebook.com/stambroseparish

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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.

## Ada Dickie

Ada Dickie (nee Hempy), 86, of Grosse Pointe Woods, died Sunday, Dec. 14, 2014.

Mrs. Dickie was active with the Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church and worked at the Grosse Pointe Public Library, Central branch.

She is survived by her daughters, Debra (Richard) Crabb and Shawn (Mike) Conlin; son, Malcolm II "Tad" (Beth) Dickie; grandchildren, Andrew, Spencer, Trent, Malcolm III, Tyler, Katie, Brian, Kristen and Brooke; a brother, James; and her aunt, Irene Pyle.

She was predeceased by her husband, Malcolm.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association at alz.org. Share a memory at rudyfuneral.com.

## Edward Leo Chavarria

Edward Leo Chavarria, 55, passed away suddenly Friday, Dec. 26, 2014.

Mr. Chavarria was born Dec. 29, 1958, in San Mateo, Calif. He graduated in 1978 from Grosse Pointe South High School. He loved working with his hands and was a carpenter for the Display Group and Lombardo Restorations.

His first love was always "Red," his Harley-

Davidson, on which he traveled through Michigan and parts of the United States. Mr. Chavarria's family said he will be best remembered for his giving heart, charity work and "doing the next right thing."

His family said if someone needed help, he was there.

He assisted on many projects for the Grosse Pointe North High School Class of 2014, Angels on the Rail Classic Horse Show for Breast Cancer and Northern Michigan Equine Therapy.

Mr. Chavarria is survived by the love of his life, "Pammy" Paris, and her two children, Caroline and Tristen; his dear sister, Patricia Chavarria, and many loving friends.

He was predeceased by his parents, Edward and Phyllis, and his loving grandparents, Leo and Lydia Biggs.

Visitation is 3 to 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2, followed by funeral services at noon Saturday, Jan. 3, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Pamela Paris to assist with expenses and her children's education or to Northern Michigan Equine Therapy 501(c)(3), 5025 Church Road, Boyne City, MI 49712, in care of NMET/Eddie Chavarria scholarship

fund for children.

## Harold Bruce Davis

Former Grosse Pointe Farms resident Harold Bruce "Hal," "Dave," "HB" Davis, died Friday, Dec. 12, 2014, at his home in Naples, Fla. He was 90.

Born in Blackpool, England, he was the son of Austin Elliott Furness Davis and Sophia Doris Applebaum.

Mr. Davis was a wing commander and commanding officer for the No. 400 Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Force and served in its Reserves for many years. He earned a civil engineering degree from the University of Toronto and a Master of Business Administration degree from the Harvard Business School. After his retirement, Mr. Davis earned a Master of Arts degree in liberal arts studies from the University of Detroit Mercy.

He moved to the United States from Canada in 1965 when transferred to the American operations of the Bundy Tubing Corp., where he was vice president of the North American operations. A member of the Country Club of Detroit, Lochmoor Club and the Detroit Curling Club, his interests were golfing, curling, dancing and walking on the Pelican Bay berm in Naples.

His family and friends say Mr. Davis was a great storyteller. They also said, quite often, he and his wife would pull up the rugs on Saturday nights and dance for hours.

Mr. Davis is survived by his wife, Elizabeth "Betty," "Slim" Davis; two daughters, Kelie Davis McMillan (Ron) and Karyn "Alex" Davis (Eric Head); grandchildren, Justin and Christopher McMillan and Emily, Evan and Olivia Davis; and a son-in-law, Fred Zosel.

He was predeceased by a daughter, Lee Davis.

His ashes will be placed in the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church Memorial Garden in the spring.

Donations in Mr. Davis' name can be made to: avowcares.org/donate or donatesalvationarmyusa.org



Ada Dickie



Edward Leo Chavarria



Harold Bruce Davis



James George Farquhar

## James George Farquhar

Grosse Pointe Woods resident James George Farquhar, 87, died Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014, at Sunrise on Vernier.

The son of James and Mary Farquhar, he was born June 7, 1927, at Cottage Hospital, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Mr. Farquhar graduated from Grosse Pointe High School in 1945 and was a corporal in the U.S. Army. He was the second generation of florists and previous owner of Grosse Pointe Florists Inc. He was 14 when his parents bought the business and worked there until he was 85 years old. Mr. Farquhar's family said he was a proud businessman, enjoyed waiting on his customers, many of whom became his friends. His

family also said he loved to plant flowers, nurture them and harvest them.

As a golf-lover, he was member of the Gowanie Golf Club, and enjoyed fishing for perch, gardening and spending time with his family, especially the annual northern Michigan summer vacations.

Mr. Farquhar and Harry Jewett were responsible for forming the Grosse Pointe Hockey Association Mite Division and Mr. Farquhar served on its executive board of directors and as a coach for many years. He served his community as a member of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society.

Mr. Farquhar is survived by his wife of 61 years, Doreen (nee

Schroeder); a daughter, Linda Kahn (Michael); and two sons, James Farquhar (Elaine) and Gordon Farquhar (Leslie); grandchildren, Brian, David and Kevin Kahn, Jack Farquhar and Leigh Farquhar.

He was predeceased by a sister, Jessie Davies, and a brother, William Farquhar.

A service was held at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church. Interment was at White Chapel Cemetery in Troy.

Donations in Mr. Farquhar's name may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 25200 Telegraph Road, Suite 100, Southfield, MI 48033; or Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, 24359 Northwestern Highway, Southfield, MI 48075.



PHOTO BY JOHN MINNIS

## Author

Jason Vines, author of "What Did Jesus Drive: Crisis PR in Cars, Computers and Christianity," was guest speaker at the Dec. 8 Grosse Pointe Rotary meeting. He signs a book for Lina Bowman. Bill Scott looks on. Vines was a public relations "fireman" for automakers involved in the industry's controversies.

## AUDITIONS:

Continued from page 2B

40s, a Nazi living in Greenwich Village, baritone. Audition songs are "Old Bavaria" and "Have You Heard the German Band."

Roger DeBris: 40s to 50s, a gay director, baritone and audition song is "Springtime For Hitler."

Carmen Ghia: 20s to 30s, is Roger's common-law assistant, tenor and audition song is "Springtime For Hitler."

Ulla Inga Hansen Yonsen Tallen Hallen Svaden Swanson: 20s to 30s is a voluptuous, leggy blonde, mezzo-soprano, a strong belt when

needed and the audition song is "When You've Got It Flaunt It."

Featured swing/chorus men: Eight men fill the roles of accountants, cops, first nighters, judge, Roger's production team, first Nazi and Churchill, good voices and dancing, including tap, are needed and the audition songs are "Goodbye" and "Springtime for Hitler."

Featured swing/chorus women: Eight women fill the roles of usherettes and chorus girls. Good voices and strong dancing abilities, including tap are needed. Audition songs are "Goodbye" and "Springtime for Hitler."

For more information about the non-profit organization, visit gpt.org or call (313) 881-4004.



## I Remember When...

For nearly 75 years it has been the responsibility and privilege of the Grosse Pointe News to watch, listen and record how the five Grosse Pointes have grown, flourished and changed.

house you grew up in. A memory might center around a significant date or celebration, a business, organization, enduring friendships or the opportunities available living by Lake St. Clair.

As the Grosse Pointe News approaches its 75th anniversary in November 2015, the staff invites the community to join with us in reminiscing about when there was still evidence of the ribbon farms to recent events impacting their lives.

Photos also are accepted. They can be dropped off, mailed in or sent as an attachment in jpg form. Photos will be returned if a self-addressed stamped envelope is provided.

We request our readers, their friends and family to send special memories of their home town — City of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Shores and Grosse Pointe Woods. These remembrances of 200 to 250 words, for example, can be about the last item purchased at Jacobson's, the first day of school, your first job or the

The first of your remembrances are to appear in January and focus on winter activities, events and the weather. Your letters will be printed regularly. The first 75 published submissions will receive a free year's subscription to the Grosse Pointe News.

Send your stories to: Grosse Pointe News, 21316 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236 or 75years@grossepointenews.com.

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We accept credit cards, cash and check. <b>FREQUENCY DISCOUNTS</b> Given for multi-week scheduled advertising with prepayment or credit approval. Call for rates or for more information. Phone lines can be busy on Monday and Tuesday. Please call early. <b>WORD ADS:</b> 12 - 25 words for \$25.35; additional words are 30¢ each. Abbreviations are not accepted. <b>BORDER ADS STARTING AT:</b> \$42.00 per column inch <b>CLASSIFYING AND CENSORSHIP</b> We reserve the right to classify each ad under its appropriate heading. The publisher reserves the right to edit or reject ad copy submitted for publication. <b>CORRECTIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS</b> Responsibility for classified advertising errors is limited to either a cancellation of the charge or a re-run of the portion of the error. Notification must be given in time for the correction in the following issue. We assume no responsibility for the same after the first insertion. <b>MAIL OR FAX THIS FORM (OR PLACE AN ORDER ON OUR WEB SITE)</b> Grosse Pointe News Mail: Classified Advertising, 21316 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236 Phone: (313) 882-6900 Ext. 1 Fax: (313) 343-5569 Web: grossepointenews.com Email: classifieds@grossepointenews.com <b>YOUR ADVERTISEMENT</b> CLASSIFICATION NAME: _____ \$25.35 FOR 12 - 25 WORDS. ADDITIONAL WORDS, .30¢ EACH. CALL FOR COLOR! <table border="1"> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>\$25.35</td> <td>26</td> <td>\$25.65</td> <td>27</td> <td>\$25.95</td> <td>28</td> <td>\$26.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td> <td>\$26.55</td> <td>30</td> <td>\$26.85</td> <td>31</td> <td>\$27.15</td> <td>32</td> <td>\$27.45</td> </tr> </table> NO. OF WEEKS: _____ X COST PER WEEK: _____ = TOTAL: _____ <b>YOUR CONTACT AND BILLING INFORMATION</b> NAME: _____ STREET ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____ CARD NO.: _____ EXP. DATE: _____ Prepayment is required. We accept credit cards, cash and check.	25	\$25.35	26	\$25.65	27	\$25.95	28	\$26.25	29	\$26.55	30	\$26.85	31	\$27.15	32	\$27.45
25	\$25.35	26	\$25.65	27	\$25.95	28	\$26.25									
29	\$26.55	30	\$26.85	31	\$27.15	32	\$27.45									

### Property For Sale

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 -Excellent typing skills with special attention to grammar and accuracy.  
 -Ability to work with and maintain highly confidential information. Please respond to this posting with your resume by facsimile at (586)778-6633

**LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE SOLVED**

A	M	A		G	U	S		F	O	A	M		
L	O	G	S		A	S	H		I	D	L	E	
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				K	I	N		K	A	H	U	N	A
J	E	W	E	L	E	R		C	Y	N	I	C	
A	X	I	S		T	O	T		D	I	N	E	
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S	M	O	G	G		E	R	A					
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J	A	V	A		M	A	O		T	H	E	A	
O	P	A	L		M	P		S	E	E	N		
G	E	T	S		Y	A	M		E	L	K		

**ACROSS**  
 1 Coconut tree  
 5 Auto fuel  
 8 Bat a fly  
 12 Hodge-podge  
 13 Web address  
 14 Apiece  
 15 Panty raid site  
 17 1492 vessel  
 18 Shirt shape  
 19 Donkey  
 20 - mignon  
 21 See 36-Across  
 22 Court  
 23 Two-faced god  
 26 Takes temporarily  
 30 Greatly  
 31 Diving bird  
 32 Concept  
 33 Laundry task  
 35 Trusty horse  
 36 With 21-Across, senescence  
 37 Handyman's abbr.  
 38 Store staffer  
 41 Baseball great Hodges  
 42 Tease  
 45 Mischievous Norse god  
 46 More than half  
 48 Aid and -

**DOWN**  
 1 Mail  
 2 Lotion additive  
 3 Former Italian money  
 4 Cow's call  
 5 Costume  
 6 - and crafts  
 7 Crafty  
 8 Privilege due to time  
 9 Banshee's noise  
 10 Teen's woe  
 11 Just one of those things?  
 16 Tatters  
 20 Supporting  
 21 Expert  
 22 Oriental  
 52-Across  
 23 Mandible  
 24 - carte  
 25 Ph. bk. info  
 26 Insect  
 27 Rhyming tribute  
 28 Small  
 29 Blue  
 31 Moreover  
 34 Sort  
 35 Missile shelter  
 37 Mustard city  
 38 Family  
 39 Timber wolf  
 40 Scratches (out)  
 41 Totally smitten  
 42 New Zealander  
 43 Particular  
 44 Unit of force  
 46 Navigation aid  
 47 Computer acronym

**ACROSS**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18				19				20		
			21				22			
23	24	25			26			27	28	29
30					31			32		
33				34				35		
38	39	40			41			42	43	44
45					46			47		
48					49			50		
51					52			53		

**DOWN**

**Solution Time: 21 minutes**

**IT'S IN THE CLASSIFIEDS**  
 Grosse Pointe News  
**(313)882-6900 ext. 1**

**Weekly SUDOKU**  
 by Linda Thistle

	1			6			2	
9			4				8	
	2	5			9			
	9		7				4	3
7				5	1			
		1		6			5	
2	6		8					1
	4			9	5			
3		2					7	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★**  
 ★ Moderate ★★ Challenging  
 ★★★ HOO BOY!

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**SOLUTION FOR LAST WEEKS PUZZLE 12/25/14**

9	6	3	2	1	8	4	5	7
5	1	8	6	7	4	9	3	2
4	2	7	9	3	5	6	8	1
1	3	5	4	8	6	2	7	9
6	8	4	7	2	9	1	5	3
7	9	2	3	5	1	8	6	4
2	7	9	8	6	3	4	1	5
8	4	1	5	9	7	3	2	6
3	5	6	1	4	2	7	9	8

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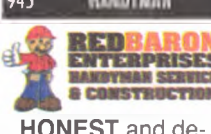
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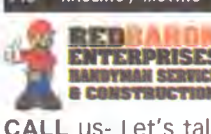
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**1:30 am** Senior Men's Club  
**2:00 am** Out of the Ordinary  
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# SPORTS & SCHOOLS

YEAR IN REVIEW

## 2014 revisited

North, South and Liggett enjoyed success PAGES 2, 3

2C CHARITY HOCKEY GAME | 4C SCHOOLS

### Liggett 2014 Year in Review

# Baseball, girls hockey shine

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

It was quite a year for University Liggett athletics.

The first two sports seasons netted a state champion and this fall was all about winning teams and the new athletic complex on campus.

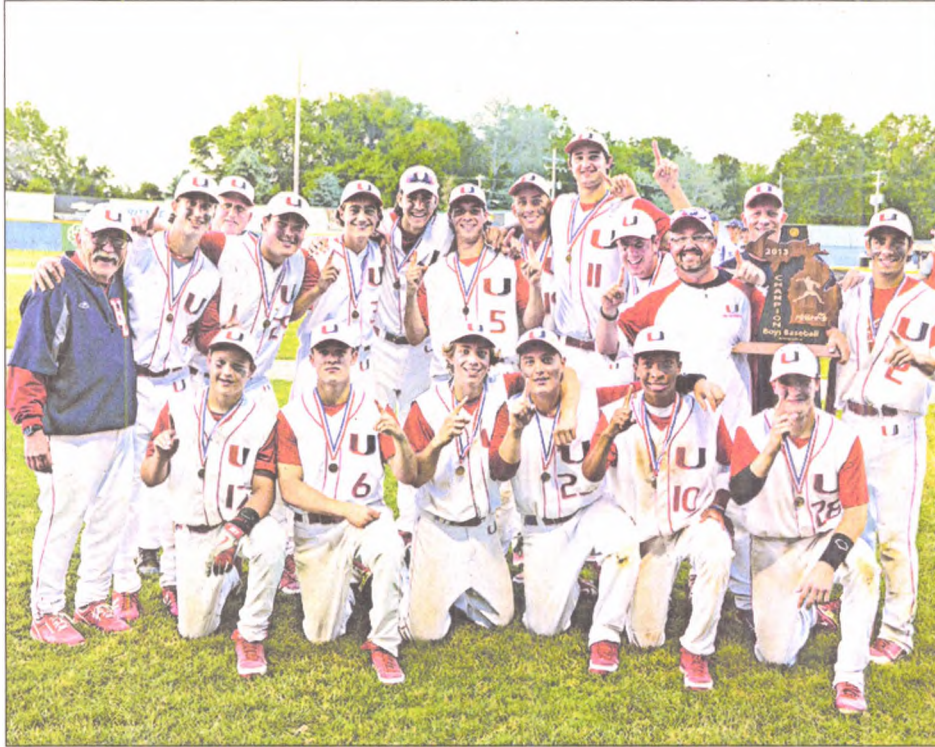
First was the winter, which yielded one state champion and nearly two.

The girls' hockey team, under the tutelage of Cassie Jaeckle, pulled off a stunning 4-3 overtime win over heavily favored Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League Division 1 state championship game.

They won the title on home ice after trailing 3-1 in the third period. They scored two goals to send the game to overtime and then Jena Pangborn found a loose puck near the Cranes' goal and buried it past the goalie to send fans into a frenzy.

In the final minute of regulation, goalie Olivia Portillo stepped up and made a couple of amazing saves to keep the score tied.

The second team, which almost pulled out a



The Liggett boys' baseball team won its third state title in the past four years in mid June.

state title was the girls' basketball team, under head coach Omar Ahart.

The Knights' road to the Final Four began in districts, with wins over Detroit Henry Ford Academy, 57-38, and Detroit Edison Public, 89-56.

In the regionals, they beat Madison Heights Bishop Foley 61-36 and Brown City 58-47, and the Knights used a huge game from Lola Ristovski

to upend Blissfield 50-47 in the quarterfinals.

The season ended with a 34-30 loss to St. Ignace in the semifinals.

The boys' squads for basketball, under head coach Sidney Johnson, and hockey, under head coach Mike Hamilton, enjoyed a lot of success.

The basketball team made it to the district finals, but lost 65-49 to Harper Woods, and the hockey squad made the

regional title game, but lost 3-0 to Cranbrook-Kingswood.

Transitioning into the spring season, one of the best head coaches in the state in any sport, Dan Cimini, led the baseball team to a Division 3 state championship.

They went through a couple of difficult weeks in the middle of the season, but recovered and played their best ball the final month.

The Knights defeated Ann Arbor Greenhills 10-2 in a regional semifinal game and then pulled out a sweet 5-4 win over three-time defending Division 3 state champ Bishop Foley.

There were some nervous moments in the final inning, but the Knights got the final out to move to the quarterfinals.

Cimini's squad crushed its foes in the final three games of the season, beating Clinton 7-3 in the quarterfinals, Reese 7-1 in the semifinals at Decatur 9-0 in the championship game.

Staying on the diamond, Ted Alpert's softball team won a share of a MIAC title and cruised to a district championship. The Knights also won a second straight regional crown before bowing out with a 12-5 loss to Clinton in the quarterfinals.

The success continued for head coach David Dwaihy and his girls' soccer team, which won a district title by edging Royal Oak Shrine 1-0.

The season ended with a 5-0 loss to Clarkston Everest Collegiate in a regional semifinal.

Both lacrosse teams, under head coaches Bill Brusilow (boys) and

Abby McIntyre (girls) built a nice foundation, but a lot of rain and sloppy field conditions forced several postponements.

Head coach Dan Sullivan and his boys' golf team enjoyed one of the program's best seasons.

His all-junior lineup of Stephen Campau, Thomas Peracchio, Paul Sidhu, Luke Soyka and Jeff Shell played well in the districts and regionals to make the state finals.

They finished ninth in the Division 4 finals at Battle Creek Bedford Valley Golf Course.

The track and field teams, though not big in numbers, had some outstanding performances during the MIAC season. Then they excelled in the regional meet.

Cathy Hackenberger's girls' tennis team progressed through the season, which paid off with a solid showing in a state regional tournament.

They made the state finals, earning 5 points.

After a two-month hiatus, students returned for the recently completed fall season.

The Knights didn't have

See KNIGHTS, page 2C

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Jeff grew up in Grosse Pointe, graduated from Grosse Pointe North in 1978 and graduated from Western Michigan University "Go Broncos".

On a side note, Jeff met his current wife (Lisa) when he sold her a car "now that's a salesman". They currently reside in Grosse Pointe Woods and are the proud parents of an 8 year old daughter named Ava. Sharing their home in the Woods is their cat "Mooch" who specializes in being around family and taking long afternoon naps.

Jeff and Lisa like vacationing on Mackinaw Island, rooting for the Lions and taking in the occasional dinner at their favorite restaurant the Village Grille.

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Grosse Pointe North 2014 Year in Review

# Norsemen make gains in '14

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe North's 2014 athletic season brought promise that 2015 will be better. Starting off the year with winter sports, the Norsemen's boys' and girls' basketball team endured seasons not up to par. The boys played well for a majority of each game, but couldn't finish in the fourth quarter. A 4-16 final record was the end result and it ended up being the final season for long-time head coach Matt Lockhart, who takes the time to coach his young son. The girls, under newly enshrined hall of fame head coach Gary Bennett, finished 12-10 and lost to city rival Grosse Pointe South in the district championship game. On the ice, the girls' team under head coach Joe Lucchese had another winning campaign, finishing 12-10-1. The Norsemen lost 2-1 to Port Huron in the quarterfinals, but a majority of the players return, so look out this winter for the Norsemen. First-year head coach Brad Case endured a season-long headache as the Norsemen finished 5-22 overall. However, they were poised to pull off a stunning upset of host University Liggett in the first round of the state playoffs, leading 2-1 in the third period. Unfortunately, the Norsemen lost 4-3. The boys' swimming and diving team, under head coach Mike O'Connor, had a winning season, going 8-5 overall, as several competitors made the state finals, and



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe North's No. 1 doubles team of Mitchell Zacharias, left, and Nick Cusmano were one of the school's top stories in 2014.

the gymnastics team, under head coach Courtney Law, won another league championship and had a great run through the regionals and state finals. Eric Julien and his wrestling team struggled with numbers the entire season and it was a reason why they won-loss record wasn't better. They were 3-4 in the Macomb Area Conference Gold Division and finished mid-way through the pack in the regular season-ending league meet. The spring had its share of ups and down at North. Head coach Frank Sumner and his boys' baseball team enjoyed a nice spring, finishing 8-7 in the MAC White Division and 22-14 overall. Their season ended with a loss to arch rival Grosse Pointe South in

the districts. The Norsemen's other diamond team, head coach Ron Smith's softball squad, started slow, but picked up the pace in the final third of the season. They were well below the .500 level, but they gave eventual district champ St. Clair Shores Lakeview a run for its money in a district semifinal. The Norsemen were winning until the late innings when the Huskies scored unearned runs to take the lead. With two outs and two strikes, 2014 graduate Izzy Kirck blasted a two-run homer to tie the game and take it to extra innings. The Norsemen went on to lose, but they had a chance to pull the upset. Both the track and field teams finished in the middle of the pack of the MAC Red Division. They

sent several runners to the Division 1 state finals. The boys' golf team finished 2-6 in the MAC Red Division and placed seventh in the regional at The Orchards. However, senior Garrett Freismuth made the state finals as an individual, shooting a 77. Freismuth went on to shoot a two-day total of 160 in the Division 1 state championship tournament at Forest Akers West at Michigan State University. The girls' tennis team, under head coach John VanAlst, had a below average regular season, but made the Division 2 state finals with a solid regional tournament. In the state finals, the Norsemen tied for 11th with four points. The girls' soccer team, under head coach Skipper Mukhtar, struggled and won only five games, but they beat

archival Grosse Pointe South near the end of the regular season. Mark Sepala, the boys' lacrosse head coach, took a younger, inexperienced team and finished a tad about the .500 mark. They played well in the second half of the season and nearly advanced in the state playoffs, but lost a tough overtime regional game, 6-5 to Rochester Adams, to end the year. The girls' lacrosse team endured a tough season under first-year head coach Chris Sims. The Norsemen won a few games and ended the season with a 29-2 loss to Birmingham Marian in the regionals. After a summer to rest, North's student-athletes returned this fall and played better. Sumner's football team had a nice season, finishing second in the MAC White Division, beating Grosse Pointe South and making the state playoffs once again. The win over South came when senior quarterback Dan Robinson scored on a run with a minute left and added the two-point conversion to lift the Norsemen, 22-20. A loss to Warren DeLaSalle in the first round of the state playoffs ended the season at 6-4. Head coach Chelsea Brozo took over the girls' volleyball team from long-time leader Kim Lockhart. With six seasoned seniors, the Norsemen finished 31-19, but lost a tough district title match to Grosse Pointe South. The boys and girls' cross country teams, under head coaches Scott Cooper and Diane Montgomery, both made

the state finals with solid runs in the state regional meet. Lauren Sickmiller and Joe Ciaravino led their respective teams. The boys' soccer team made some noise this fall. The boys played some good soccer under Mukhtar and stayed in title contention for the MAC White Division the entire season. A tough district loss to Warren DeLaSalle ended the season at the .500 mark. The boys' tennis team was .500 and won a regional championship. In the state finals, the Norsemen, under VanAlst, had some nice moments. Included in the fine moments was the No. 1 doubles team of Mitchell Zacharias and Nick Cusmano, who was seeded No. 1. They lost a tough semifinal match 6-4, 7-6 to Midland Dow's duo to come up just shy of trying to win a state title. The girls' golf team played well in the regular season, taking second at 6-2 in the MAC Red Division. The Norsemen went on to make the state finals in Division 2. Mike O'Connor's swimming and diving team finished .500 and had several competitors make the state finals. The girls' field hockey team struggled for a second straight season, finishing with a few wins under second-year head coach Brittany Paquette. The team was very young, but the returning girls have to commit some time in the off-season to improve their skills for the program to get better.

## KNIGHTS: A nice year

From page 1C  
a state champion, but they did enjoy a lot of success. The new athletic complex is nearly completed. The football and field

hockey teams were able to play on the new turf. First-year head coach Jayant Trewn brought a renewed optimism to the field hockey program. His ability to build confidence in his players and not degrade them turned the team into an instant winner. The Knights finished with one of the best

records in program history, 15-3, and was second in the Michigan High School Field Hockey Association Division 2 standings. They beat Warren Regina and Detroit Country Day in the playoffs before losing to regular season champ Dexter in the state championship game. Despite the loss, Trewn established Liggett as a solid team. Cimini's football team exceeded expectations and won a MIAC title with a perfect 5-0 mark and made the playoffs at 8-1. His ability to get the most out of his players was the key to the Knights' success. The season ended with a first-



PHOTO BY BOB BRUCE

The Liggett girls' hockey team started 2014 off by winning a Division 1 state championship.

round playoff loss to Royal Oak Shrine, but most of the team returns next season. The girls' volleyball team, under head coach Joe LaMagna, started slow, but picked up the pace to share a MIAC division title and then capture a Class C district crown. They lost to Gabriel Richard in the regional semifinals to end the season 14-14-2. Head coach David Backhurst made his final

run through the state playoffs and guided the Knights' boys' soccer team to a district title, beating Detroit Universal Academy 3-2 in overtime. The run continued with a 1-0 win over Allen Park Inter-City Baptist in a regional semifinal, but the fun was over in the finals, a 3-1 overtime loss to Birmingham Roeper. One of the more compelling stories this fall was the boys' tennis team. Mark Sobieralski took over as head coach

and instantly turned the team into a state title contender. His positive attitude rubbed off on every player and they went on to earn a team trophy at the Division 4 state tournament by placing second with 22 points. Both the boys' and girls' cross country teams made the state finals. Head coach Lindsey Bachman has turned those programs into quality champions during her short time at the helm.

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**Grosse Pointe South 2014 Year in Review**

# Girls tennis the best of the best

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe South kept on the state champion train as one team earned a state championship in 2014.

We will get to that in a moment, but first we start in the winter where the Blue Devils enjoyed a lot of success, including winning or sharing league championships.

However, that success didn't carry over to the regional rounds for some teams.

The boys' swimming and diving team, under head coach Eric Gunderson, won another Macomb Area Conference Red Division dual meet and league meet championship, with relative ease.

The Blue Devils are simply head and shoulders above the second-best team in the MAC and they are a solid state title contender.

In 2014, the Blue Devils brought home a team trophy after finishing third in the Division 2 title meet at Eastern Michigan University.

Birmingham Seaholm won with 357.5 points, followed by Dexter with 203 and South with 196.

They had several top-eight performances, which lifted them to the top three.

The girls' basketball team, under one of the school's best head coaches Kevin Richards, won the MAC Red Division with a perfect 12-0 mark.

The Blue Devils routed city rival Grosse Pointe North in the district title game, but a third straight spot in the Class A title game came to an abrupt half in the regional semifinals after a loss to Farmington Hills Mercy.

First-year head coach Troy Glasser turned his inaugural season at the helm into a success story.

They tied with Warren Fitzgerald for the MAC Blue Division championship at 10-2. Glasser led the squad to a 15-5 regular season, but a 0-1 mark



The South girls' tennis team captured another Division 1 state championship the final weekend of May.

in the district playoffs.

He brings back a plethora of talent, just not much height since Dan Dixon graduated. However, the Blue Devils will be talented once again this winter.

One of the feel-good stories at South was the wrestling team, under head coach Tony Cimmarrusti. The boys turned a slow start into a hot finish.

The Blue Devils shared the MAC Silver Division title with St. Clair Shores Lakeview at 4-1 and then went on to capture the league meet with 58 points, which was 2.5 ahead of runner-up Center Line.

Cimmarrusti brought patience and confidence to the program and he handed off control to one of his assistants for this season.

When it came to ice hockey, South and head coach Bobby McKillop enjoyed another successful campaign. They won the Michigan Metro Hockey League, but had to face highly-ranked Trenton in a regional semifinal, which was a 6-0 defeat.

The girls' hockey team, under fourth-year head coach Joe Provenzano, finished below .500 for the first time in several seasons and lost in the first round of the state playoffs.

Moving to the spring, the girls' tennis team, under long-time head coach Mark Sobieralski,

won the Division 1 state championship, earning 28 points to Clarkston's 22.

Maddie Paolucci, a freshman, went on to win the state title at No. 4 singles, while Brooke Willard made the finals at No. 3 singles, but lost.

The No. 2 doubles team of Sydney Keller and Morgane Flournoy made the finals, too, and the No. 4 doubles squad of Ginny Hayden and Kelly Beardslee went on to win a state championship.

Another great story was the boys' baseball team was the story as it advanced all the way to the Division 1 state championship game.

After a less than stellar regular season, head coach Dan Griesbaum kept preaching patience and playing fundamentally sound baseball, which worked to perfection in the state playoffs.

The biggest surprise came in the quarterfinals where South upset one of the top-ranked teams in the state, Sterling Heights Stevenson, 2-0.

In the semifinals, South beat Battle Creek Lakeview 6-4, but lost 6-2 to Bay City Western in the state championship game.

Staying on the diamond, the girls' softball team had a new head coach, Bill Fleming, who added some zest to the program.

They also had a freshman pitcher to go with several talented veterans,

which resulted in one of the best seasons in a decade.

South's girls' soccer team, under head coach Gene Harkins, made the regional finals, but lost 1-0 to Utica Ford to finish 12-6-5 overall.

South's boys' lacrosse team also had an outstanding season, winning a share of the MAC Red Division title with Utica Eisenhower and advancing to a regional semifinal.

The Blue Devils lost a tough 7-6 game to Haslett-Williamston to finish 14-5 overall.

The girls' lacrosse team played well under first-year head coach Alycya Valentine and finished 10-3-1. They played with a fire for most of the season, but the fire was not present in a playoff loss to Bloomfield Hills.

South's golf team finished second in the MAC Red Division at 6-2, but went on to advance to the state finals after playing well in the district and regional tournaments.

On the track, South's girls' squad, under head coach Steve Zaranek, won the MAC Red Division title and regional championship. In the state finals, the Blue Devils placed sixth with 29 points.

The boys didn't place so well in the division or in the regional tournament.

After the summer break, the athletic teams came back at full force for this fall.

It was a tough autumn for the teams. However, the girls' swimming and diving team under Gunderson won another MAC Red Division dual meet and league meet title, as well as sent a dozen competitors to the Division 2 state championship meet.

The girls' volleyball team, under second-year head coach Kevin Nugent, went on to finish second in the MAC White Division, but stormed back to beat Grosse Pointe North in the district title match and Chippewa Valley in a regional championship contest.

It was the Blue Devils' first quarterfinal appearance in two decades.

The team was led by

seniors Izzy Murphy, Carina Bertakis, Ashley Borowicz and Martine Maes. Other seniors were Paige Hall, Kayla Staneck and Dominique Maes.

The football team, under Tim Brandon, finished 4-5, while the boys' soccer team, playing for first-year head coach Francesco Cilano, finished 5-11-2.

It wasn't banner years for either squad, but they had moments of greatness.

The girls' golf team struggled with a young and inexperienced lineup.

The boys' tennis squad enjoyed a MAC Red Division dual meet championship this fall and made the state finals with 20 points in the regionals.

Each cross country team posted solid results. For the girls, it was a second-place division finish and a first-place regional finish. The Blue Devils placed 13th in the state title meet at MIS.

The boys weren't as fortunate, finishing in the middle of the pack in the division and regional.

South's girls' field hockey team, under first-year head coach Monica Dennis, struggled to find consistency.

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## I Remember When...

For nearly 75 years it has been the responsibility and privilege of the Grosse Pointe News to watch, listen and record how the five Grosse Pointes have grown, flourished and changed.

As the Grosse Pointe News approaches its 75th anniversary in November 2015, the staff invites the community to join with us in reminiscing about when there was still evidence of the ribbon farms to recent events impacting their lives.

We request our readers, their friends and family to send special memories of their home town — City of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Shores and Grosse Pointe Woods. These remembrances of 200 to 250 words, for example, can be about the last item purchased at Jacobson's, the first day of school, your first job or the

house you grew up in. A memory might center around a significant date or celebration, a business, organization, enduring friendships or the opportunities available living by Lake St. Clair.

Photos also are accepted. They can be dropped off, mailed in or sent as an attachment in jpg form. Photos will be returned if a self-addressed stamped envelope is provided.

The first of your remembrances are to appear in January and focus on winter activities, events and the weather. Your letters will be printed regularly. The first 75 published submissions will receive a free year's subscription to the Grosse Pointe News.

Send your stories to:  
Grosse Pointe News, 21316 Mack,  
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236  
or [75years@grossepointenews.com](mailto:75years@grossepointenews.com).

**NEW ARRIVALS**  
Proud Parents, Grandparents, Aunts & Uncles...  
**Introduce Your "New Arrival" Baby in the Grosse Pointe News**  
**FEBRUARY 5, 2015**

We will publish your full color photo and text for \$25.00.  
Deadline is Wednesday, January 28!

Call (313) 882-3500 for details or mail the completed form below or e-mail [edavis@grossepointenews.com](mailto:edavis@grossepointenews.com)

**Please Print**

Child's Name (First & Last) \_\_\_\_\_  
Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Parents' Name (First & Last) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address, City \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card

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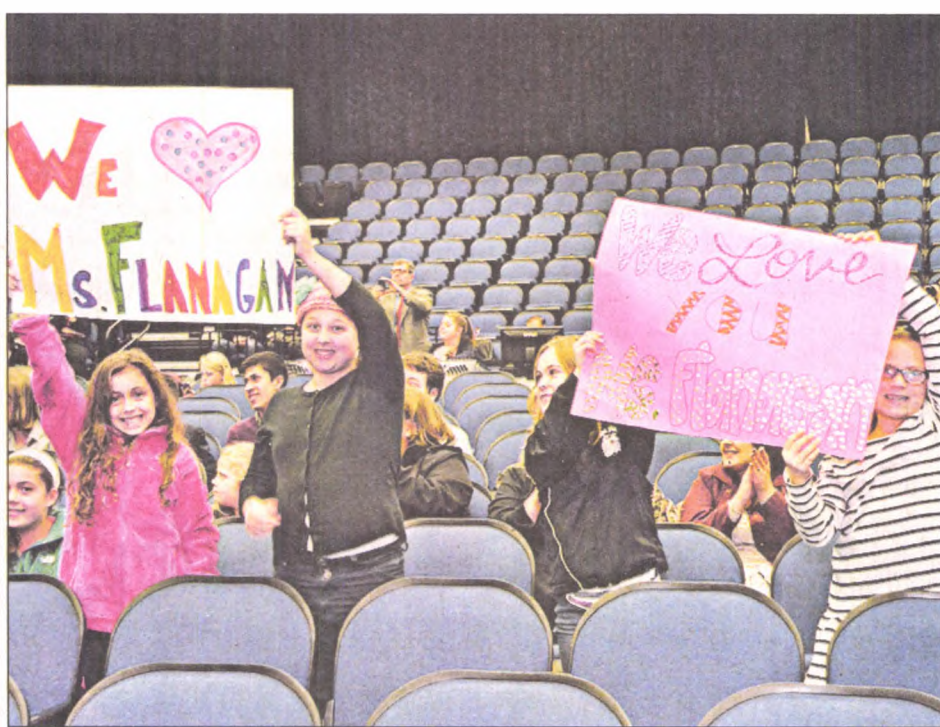
Grosse Pointe News Attention: Erika Davis  
21316 Mack Ave.  
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**NEW ARRIVALS**  
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**Grosse Pointe News**

75th ANNIVERSARY SINCE 1940

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PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

## Distinguished employees

During the Grosse Pointe Public School System board of education meeting on Monday, Nov. 24, 10 school employees were awarded for their distinguished service. The employees in various programs and activities were recognized as someone who has initiated a new program, service or activity and/or who have served the district above and beyond their daily employee responsibilities. In the top photo, Gabby Brumme, Lauren Veitengruber hold up a sign to the left and Ellison Smith and Riley Sherry hold up a sign to the right. The students are in Anne Flanagan's class and were there to support and cheer her on when she received her award. Flanagan is a fourth-grade teacher at Ferry Elementary school. Above, from left, Flanagan, Susan Howey, Dineen Krotche, Susan Lucchese, Kari Mannino, Sean McCarroll, Susan Quinn, Gina Ventimiglia and Lori Ann Woznicki. David Fluary also received an award but was not present at the meeting.



## BandORama

The Grosse Pointe North BandORama and String Extravaganza took place Dec. 17 and 18. These district-wide concerts feature all student musicians, grades 5-12. Above, are photos from the performance, with Paul Miller conducting the 5th graders and Noah Zogas conducting the high school students.



## Gifts from ULS students

Beneath the Christmas tree in the lobby of the University Liggett school the floor is covered with wrapped gifts. The tree, filled now only with holiday ornaments, was covered in gift tags which students from the lower school took from the tree and returned the tag on a wrapped gift which will go to Crossroads Social Service Outreach.

In the photo, from left, are Anders Palmgren, Malik Petty, Brisa Reyes-Zobi, Savannah Street, Anna Detwiler, Zachary Rabbani and Luc Valiot.

### CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 15, 2014

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Kenneth A. Poynter at 7:00 P.M.

**ROLL CALL:** All Councilpersons were present.

**MOTIONS PASSED**

- 1) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held December 1, 2014 and furthermore receive and file the minutes of the Ordinance Committee meeting held November 17, 2014 and the Board of Review meeting held December 9, 2014.
- 2) To adjourn to executive session for the purpose of discussing a Collective Bargaining matter.
- 3) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

**RESOLUTION PASSED**

- 1) To approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: (1) Approve the Accounts Payable listing for Check Numbers 104588 through 104700 in the amount of \$474,522.52 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) Approve payments to Nu Appearance Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of \$15,661.25 for assistance with leaf pickup, lawn cutting and fall maintenance in various areas of the City. (3) Approve payment to Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. in the amount of \$5,644.40 for professional services during the month of for the following projects: DTE Street Lighting, #180-162; 2014 Emergency Concrete Pavement Repair, #180-160; SRF Open Cut Repairs, #180-119; SRF SCIPP Repairs, #180-118; SRF FCIPP, #180-117; 2014 User Charge Update, #180-157; DWSD Water Contract, #180-163 and the Milk River Study Review, #180-164. (4) Approve payment to WCA Assessing in the amount of \$10,130.23 for the contractual assessing services performed during the month of December 2014. (5) Approve payment in the amount of \$6,061.00 to the Michigan Municipal League for membership dues covering the period February 1, 2015 through January 31, 2016. (6) Approve the appointment of Don Nicholson as an alternate member of the Board of Review.
- 2) To approve the revised Amendment No. 2 of the Water Service Contract between the City of Detroit and the City of Harper Woods and further that the City Manager be authorized to sign the contract on behalf of the City.
- 3) To renew the City's participation in the Michigan Municipal League's Liability and Property Pool for 2015 in the amount of \$191,522.00 for coverage as stated in their renewal proposal and, further that competitive bidding be waived in accordance with City policy.
- 4) Approve the Proposal for Engineering Services from Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$10,650.00 to conduct the Street Condition Rating and Asset Management Plan for the City of Harper Woods.
- 5) To approve the employment agreement between the City of Harper Woods and Heather Toutant and further to authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement.
- 6) To direct the City Clerk to place a public notice in the paper soliciting interested and qualified citizens to fill the vacant City Council seat, with said notice to include a filing date of January 5, 2015 and to schedule a Special City Council meeting for January 12, 2015 at which time all interested candidates must appear before City Council to give a presentation, followed by the City Council selecting a candidate to fill the vacancy.
- 7) Approve payment to Wayne County in the amount of \$235,950.75 for the operation and maintenance of the Milk River Drain for the 1st quarter of FY2015.

**Kenneth A. Poynter**, Mayor

**Leslie M. Frank**, City Clerk

Published: GPN, January 1, 2015

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