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Grosse Pointe News

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JANUARY 12, 2017
 GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Cause of fire 'undetermined'

By Kathy Ryan
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — While the cause of the Oct. 31 fire that severely damaged a building at Mack and Nottingham officially is listed as "undetermined," the source of the fire is not.

According to the official report issued by insurance investigator Thomas Kropf IAAI-CFI, CVFI, CFEI, a senior investigator with United Investigations & Sciences

Inc., the fire originated in the "northeast bedroom of the upstairs apartment 15412A," which, according to city records, did not have the required certificate of occupancy on file even though the apartment was occupied by two people. The names of the tenants were redacted by the Park from the copy of the report released to the Grosse Pointe News.

According to Kropf's

See FIRE, page 4A



Ice, ice baby

Sunday, Jan. 8, the last day of Christmas break, children looking for activities found a few ideas at Farms Pier Park. Alex Tigges, left, and Ryan Veneri, right, both seventh-graders at Brownell, help 4-year-old Conor Curran on the ice. Curran took ski lessons last week at Boyne Mountain and this week he skated at Farms Pier Park.

Former court administrator arraigned

By Kathy Ryan
 Staff Writer

HARPER WOODS — The former administrator for the Grosse Pointe Woods municipal court has been formally charged with two felony counts of embezzlement.

Julie Moore, 47, was arraigned Monday, Jan. 9, in Harper Woods District Court on one count of embezzlement by an agent or trustee for a sum greater than \$20,000 but less than \$50,000 and one count of

embezzlement by a public officer over \$50. Both felonies carry sentences of up to 10 years in prison and restitution. In addition, she was charged with larceny from a building, a felony punishable by up to four years in prison.

The charges stem from an investigation initiated by Woods Municipal Court Judge Ted Metry. In summer 2016, Metry became aware of discrepancies in court funds and

See ARRAIGN, page 7A



Wendy Jerome puts a helmet on her daughter, Katherine Jerome, before she goes on the ice rink. Jerome teaches middle school math and science at Grosse Pointe Academy, where her daughter attends the early school.



A Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park employee rides a Zamboni over the ice to smooth it for the skaters.



Joey Klunder, seventh-grader at Brownell, laces up his skates so he can join his friends on the ice rink.



Jennie Jerome, a second-grader at Grosse Pointe Academy, warms her hands in front of the fire before skating.

GP Farms year in review: Inland sewer study

By Brad Lindberg
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Most crime stories don't have happy endings and the biggest public safety story during 2016 in the Farms chronicled the death of a man from stab wounds and a 30-to-60 year prison sentence for his murderer.

Along the way were accounts of the community's drinking water being free of lead contamination, an oddball bank robbery attempt and the feasibility of separating storm and waste water sewer systems in

the inland district to reduce odds of basement flooding during heavy rains.

Highlights of the year appear in the month they were published.

January

◆ Construction continues at Pier Park of a gas-fueled fire pit ringed by a 14-foot circular pergola of 9-foot-tall Tuscan columns, the latest enhancement funded privately by the Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation.

◆ At the water filtration plant, there's water, water everywhere and all of it's fit to drink.

In addition to daily testing for purity, a chemical — orthophosphate — is mixed with drinking water to prevent lead leaching from pipes.

The additive is among differences between water systems in the Farms, which also serves the City of Grosse Pointe, and Flint, where lead pollution rates a state of emergency.

◆ A masked burglar puts the office safe on the carry-out menu of Luxe Bar & Grill.

"He enters the office and turns directly to the safe — doesn't look around at all," said

Detective Lt. Richard Rosati, citing security video.

February

◆ Camels are among 50 animals displayed at Grosse Pointe Farms Winterfest on the Hill.

◆ Buyers of the BP service station at the corner of Mack and Moross need approval from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, not the city, to add beer, wine and liquor sales.

"Since this request is a transfer, approval of the local unit of government is not required," the commission wrote the Farms

city clerk Jan. 25.

◆ Routine sewer inspections reveal two sections of pipe — Lakeshore near Provencal, plus Grosse Pointe Boulevard near Muskoka and Cambridge — need immediate repair.

March

◆ If the Tennis House building isn't transformed within its existing framework into 10 condominiums, it's nearly game over for the structure.

The private, one-court club can't survive a dwindling membership, according to Matthew Kornmeier, owner since

2013 and director of property management for ANK Enterprises.

◆ Daniel E. Clancy, 69, nearly bleeds to death from stab wounds to the neck Sunday, March 8, at his house on Voltaire Place.

"Clancy was not expected to live," said Lt. Detective Richard Rosati of the Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety Department.

Three days later, Clancy's alleged attacker, David Scott Corzilius, 49, of Warren, is arraigned in Farms Municipal Court

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Pointer of Interest

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Erykah Benson

Home: Grosse Pointe Park
 Editor-in-chief of The Tower, the student news site of Grosse Pointe South High School



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The League Shop closing its doors

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

January 2017 is a bittersweet month for Pat Brinker.

The owner of The League Shop will close its doors Jan. 30, after operating the business 45 years.

"I have grandchildren and great-grandchildren," Brinker said. "It's a different world and while my health is good, I'd like to enjoy the time."

Brinker, 74, who's been working six days a week the last five years, said she is ready to start the next chapter of her life.

A brief history

The League Shop originally was the Junior League Little Shop, opened in 1931, and supported and staffed by Junior League of Detroit members until 1953.

"It was a women's exchange that folded after the war," Brinker said. "Then it became an antique store."

In the 1940s, the shop changed its name to Junior League Shop of Grosse Pointe and moved to 72 Kercheval. In the 1950s, the JLD withdrew the responsibility of staffing the shop and changed its name to The League Shop.

"The Dance was down the street where Cafe Nini is. They sold cards and gifts," Brinker said, adding the stores merged and shortly after, she and her husband purchased it. "And then, 45 years later It went fast."



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Pat Brinker stands with two of her best-selling items, a hand-painted Herend china plate from Hungary and a picture frame.

The League Shop has earned a sterling reputation for its gifts, dinnerware, stationary and bridal services. From crystal and china to candles and cards, "We were really known for the good stuff," Brinker said. However, "it's a different world. People don't register for silver anymore. We used to sell a ton of silver casseroles, bowls, pitchers."

What some Grosse Pointers may not know is Brinker has saved every one of the shop's bridal registries since 1971. They are cataloged and stored in her office—and are available to customers curious about what their mother or even grandmother may have registered for.

"I'm more than happy to give (registries) to

them," Brinker said.

Moving on

Along with the registries, The League Shop's inventory must go, Brinker said. Through Jan. 30, sale prices on all merchandise start at 20 percent off. That which doesn't sell, she plans to donate.

The Farms resident, who was a Junior League of Detroit member and served on the board of the Neighborhood Club, said she had hoped to sell the business.

"I had some people interested in buying, but (they) couldn't get loans," she said. "I tried very hard to sell it."

Though sad to see it close, Brinker said she's happy, "because I've been able to share with a lot of people two of the

happiest moments of life — weddings and births.

"It's been a wonderful, wonderful opportunity," she continued. "I really thank all the residents of all the Pointes, who I will dearly miss. I'm thankful I had it as long as I did. It was a wonderful, good business."

Brinker said she's experienced an outpouring of well wishes via social media and in person since announcing the shop's closure. While she will move to Charlevoix after retiring, "there's too many friends here ... and family," so she plans to visit often.

"I had a year to worry and think about it," she said. "I will miss the people But you don't know what's down the road."



Bridal registries at The League Shop date back to 1971.



Items at The League Shop are on sale through Jan. 30.

For more information Shop's closing sale, call about The League (313) 882-6880.

Henry Payne speaks to Eastside Republican Club

Syndicated cartoonist and Detroit News auto critic Henry Payne speaks to the Eastside Republican Club 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Ken Chadwell, ERC chairman, cited Payne's wide-ranging interests.

"Mr. Payne is a student of history and closely follows current events, so in the midst of Inauguration Day preparations, we are eager to hear his perspective on the times," Chadwell said. "As an auto critic and syndicated editorial cartoonist, we also look forward to hearing

what's next for the auto industry and to watch him demonstrate his creative drawing skills."

Payne is The Detroit News auto critic, a syndicated editorial cartoonist and opinion writer. A 30-year newspaper veteran, Payne's auto column appears twice weekly in The

News. He also produces a weekly video and "Cartoon."

The lifetime motorhead is a Pulitzer-Prize-nominated cartoonist, has published three books and is an active racecar driver. His work is reprinted in USA Today, National Review, Townhall.com and other publications.

Payne has been voted Best Editorial Cartoonist in Michigan by the Associated Press.

Born in Charleston, W.V., Payne received a degree in history from Princeton University in 1984. As editorial cartoonist for two student newspapers, The Daily Princetonian and the



Henry Payne

Nassau Weekly, Payne won the College Media Advisers Cartoon Contest and the Tribune Company Syndicate's National College

Cartoonist's Contest.

Upon graduation from Princeton, Payne began his newspaper career as staff artist and editorial cartoonist with the Charleston Daily Mail. In 1986 he joined Scripps Howard News Service and began syndication with United Feature in 1987.


Payne is the father of two boys and lives with his wife in Bloomfield Hills.

The Eastside Republican Club Forum meets monthly September to June. Admission is free and the public is welcome. Find more information about the ERC on Facebook.

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*Preliminary, subject to change

Bar closings could change

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The former site of Green Zone Pizza in the Kercheval Place building becomes the new site of Old Pony Martini Pub early this year.

Pub owner Hisan Riad El-Awad needed approval of a liquor license before adapting the space to accommodate seating for 30 patrons and total capacity of 48.

"I have not invested in further architectural drawings or investments and will not do so until we receive appropriate approvals," he reportedly told John Jackson, the City of Grosse Pointe's planning consultant. City officials approved

the license transfer from Green Zone plus reclassification to allow sales of beer and wine to go.

"The licenses will intensify activity in downtown Grosse Pointe," Jackson said, recommending approval. "The district is intended to promote a lively social environment with a wide variety of uses while limiting businesses that create objectionable noise, glare or odors."

Awad, 38, of Dearborn Heights, is former owner of Moose's Martini Pub in Dearborn.

His hope to operate Old Pony, on the St. Clair side of Kercheval Place, 3 p.m. to 2 a.m. seven days a week confronts a city ordinance limiting posted hours to midnight. The council intends to

consider allowing later closing hours at its next meeting, 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23, prior to the pub's opening.

"We have to be consistent with all businesses," said Councilman John Stempfle.

"The projected opening date will be February or March of 2017," said Detective Lt. Al Gwyn, performing a mandatory background check on Awad as part of the liquor license approval process.

There are no plans for a new facade.

"The timeline for changes are estimated four to six weeks from inception, contingent on appropriate city approvals," Awad reportedly told Jackson. "We have yet to have access to the space."

Arrest in holiday purse snatchings

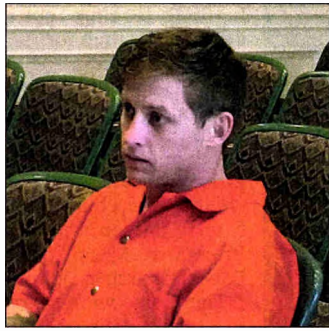
By Kathy Ryan
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Modern day technology combined with solid police work and the result was the quick arrest of a subject wanted in a brazen purse snatching that took place Monday, Dec. 26, at the Kroger store on Mack, as well as a similar incident Christmas Day in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Hugo Teague, 27, was arraigned Wednesday, Dec. 28, in Woods Municipal Court on multiple charges stemming from the Woods incident and subsequent fleeing and eluding. Cellphone

records and witness accounts aided Woods detectives in making a quick arrest of Teague, a heroin addict currently on parole since his August release after being incarcerated on federal drug charges in Macomb County. An Indiana native, Teague told the court he was homeless, but also admitted he has been living in the Woods with his girlfriend and her family and has his mail forwarded to her address.

Police were called 8:20 a.m. Monday, Dec. 26, to Kroger on the report of a purse snatching. According to police, a 60-year-old woman entered the store and



Hugo Teague

placed her purse in a cart. She then saw an arm reach into her cart and take her purse. She screamed for help and several witnesses noticed the suspect run from the store. One witness saw

the suspect enter a red Mercury Cougar and provided police the license plate number.

Without knowing the vehicle was wanted, another police officer noticed a red Cougar traveling over the speed limit on

Lancaster and started following it. When the alert was broadcast about a red Cougar being involved in a purse snatching, the officer activated his lights and attempted to stop the car. It proceeded down

several main and side streets before entering the freeway off the Harper service drive and the chase was called off.

During the chase, the vehicle struck a fire hydrant at Mack and Lancaster, causing damage to both the car and the hydrant.

While the suspect and vehicle eluded police at the time, detectives traced the license plate to a house on Saddle Lane. There they interviewed the 26-year-old daughter of the owner of the car who said she loaned the car to Teague the day before. She also told police she did not know where he was and provided police an inactive cellphone number for Teague.

Woods detectives Ryan Schroerlucke and Tony Chalut were undeterred. They put out a "be on the lookout" notice for the car and Teague. It wasn't long before they were contacted by an FBI agent who supplied them with a current cellphone number for Teague.

With the new number, Schroerlucke used "pings" off cellphone towers to track the phone to the Victory Inn in Roseville. Schroerlucke saw the red Cougar with front end damage consistent with striking a yellow fire hydrant and contacted Roseville police.

The detective then saw Teague, his girlfriend and her 5-year-old daughter leave the motel, get into the red Cougar and drive down Little Mack. It was quickly stopped by Roseville police and Teague was arrested by Schroerlucke without incident. The car was impounded, the girlfriend and her daughter were

picked up by her mother. A search of Teague's motel room by police turned up drug paraphernalia, including syringes and pill bottles, and a child's coloring book and paint set. Police also found a gray sweatshirt and khaki pants witnesses described as what Teague was wearing at the time of the purse snatching.

Following his arrest, Teague also was questioned by Grosse Pointe Farms police regarding a purse snatching at Mack and Moross on Dec. 25. According to Farms officers, Teague gave a full confession to them regarding that incident. He was scheduled to be arraigned in Farms Municipal Court Wednesday, Jan. 4.

Teague was back in Woods Municipal Court Thursday, Jan. 5, where he waived his right to a preliminary examination. Judge Ted Metry ordered him bound over to Wayne County Circuit Court where he will be arraigned on three felony charges — larceny, fleeing and eluding and larceny from a building. Teague remains incarcerated, unable to make the \$100,000 bail ordered by Metry.

Woods Director of Public Safety John Kosanke praised his detectives.

"The officers involved did a phenomenal job in wrapping up this case very quickly," Kosanke said. "We had excellent cooperation with other agencies, including the Roseville police, and we thank them for their efforts as well. It was a perfect blend of technology and good solid police work. Everyone is to be commended."

FARMS:

Continued from page 1A

on six felony counts, including attempted murder.

◆ A 14-year-old, 21st century Nancy Drew detects her stolen bicycle being advertised for sale on Craigslist.

"Maybe she can put in an application (to the public safety department) when she turns 21," said Chief Dan Jensen.

April

◆ The BP service station at the intersection of Mack and Moross is granted a license to sell beer, wine and spirits by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission during an appeal hearing Thursday, April 7.

◆ A 45 mil tax hike in next fiscal year's municipal budget pays for rubbish operations while maintaining the Farms with the lowest overall tax rate in the Grosse Pointes.

"This is our first rate increase in five years," said John Lamerato, Farms treasurer and controller. "The increase will generate approximately \$330,000."

May

◆ Bar codes are added to city-issued park passes.

"Every time a resident comes in, they would have their pass available for scanning," said Dick Huhn, director of parks and recreation in Grosse Pointe Farms. "That allows us to track usage of the park."

◆ Stabbing victim Daniel Clancy dies Wednesday, April 27, in Harper Hospital.

◆ The average residential water bill increases 4.8 percent next fiscal year, starting July 1, to \$255.08.

June

◆ He's not the one you want to see in your rear-view mirror while speeding through a school zone, but when a house is on fire, 33-year public safety veteran Lt. Jack Patterson's a godsend.

"I hate fires — somebody's losing property, somebody could lose their life and we could lose our lives," said Patterson, retiring as head of the Farms fire-fighting division.

July

◆ Four parked cars are stolen at night in one week.

"All unlocked vehicles," said public safety Director Jensen.

The community's reputation for unlocked cars makes it a target-rich environment for what are

known as "shoppers."

"We need the public's help in securing their vehicles and not leaving valuables in them," Jensen said.

◆ Fiscal year-end adjustments to the municipal budget are expected to result in more money for capital improvements, including road maintenance.

"It looks like we're going to have over \$300,000 of revenue over expenditures," said Controller Lamerato.

August

◆ Man Camp, a one-week, day-long activity for children ages 9 through 13, is offered at Pier Park by the recreation department with lead instructor Thom Dionne, a Farms public safety officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, U.S. Army veteran and father of four.

The syllabus includes learning good manners and how to check tire pressure, tie a tie, clean a fish, cook an omelet, organize a wallet and change motor oil.

◆ Farms public safety officers double-up in patrol cars in response to attacks on law enforcement in Texas, Louisiana and elsewhere.

"There's too much kookiness going on and I don't want to put the guys in harm's way unnecessarily," said Chief Jensen.

◆ A unanimous city council rezones Tennis Club property at the tip of dead-end Moselle Place from a recreation to multi-family residential district.

September

◆ The ironic thing about a woman's alleged attempted bank robbery is the money she sought would've covered her bail.

Instead, unable to post a \$100,000 cash-only bond, she's in the Wayne County Jail awaiting the next step in her prosecution.

Police contend the woman, 36, of Detroit, portrayed herself as a hostage forced to extort \$118,000 from Chase Bank on Moross near Mack.

◆ An unspecified number of residents displaying campaign lawn signs receive door cards from code enforcement officers alleging violations of Ordinance 193: No such signs 30 days out from an election; "Signs for the upcoming election shall not be placed prior to Oct. 8."

"As we're getting close to the allowable time to display political signs under the ordinance, the city does not intend to issue violations while the

matter's under review," said Shane Reeside, city manager.

October

◆ Come the rainy season in March, meters installed for a minimum three months at key points in the inland sewer district will document flow volume as the basis for possibly separating the area's storm water and sewage lines, cutting chances of basement flooding during down-pours.

"There will be comprehensive review of the whole inland district," said City Manager Reeside. "It may not necessarily mean total separation of the district. It may be partial separation or other solutions."

◆ Councilman Martin West announces his retirement from office effective in December, one year before his scheduled term expires. He plans to spend more time in Arizona.

◆ Members of the Grosse Pointe Farms Beautification Advisory Commission propose redesigned flower beds on Lakeshore.

Being considered is a landscape architect's concept featuring low-maintenance plants in naturalistic landscapes.

November

◆ When David Scott Corzilius' defense team fails to block his confession from trial — scheduled this month in Wayne County 3rd Circuit Court — he accepts a deal to plead guilty to the lesser crime of second-degree murder and spend 30 to 60 years in prison for killing Daniel Clancy.

◆ Election Day ends with two mayors in the Farms.

Both want vibrant commercial centers, allegiance to community heritage and commitment to a prosperous future.

One is Farms Mayor Jim Farquhar, a multi-term incumbent.

The other is Thomas Dionne, a Farms public safety officer and winner of a three-way race for Utica mayor.

◆ Village Food Market will stay open during renovation and expansion starting this year, weather permitting.

"If not, we'll start next spring," said Mark Garmo, owner.

December

◆ John J. Gillooly is named to complete the final 12 months of Councilman Martin West's vacated four-year term.

Gillooly, an attorney with experience representing municipalities, is due to be sworn in at the start of the January 2017 council meeting.

◆ The annual municipal audit reveals a \$3.8 million rainy day fund representing 27.4 percent of the annual general fund budget.

"The city continues to budget responsibly," said an auditor with Plante Moran. "The city did not issue any new debt and was able to pay down its current outstanding debt last year by about \$1.3 million."

◆ DTE Energy conducts preliminary work to swap underground metal gas distribution lines with plastic ones starting in 2017.

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The Week Ahead

MONDAY, JAN. 16

◆ Martin Luther King Day. Grosse Pointe Park and Woods municipal offices are closed. City of Grosse Pointe municipal offices also are closed; rubbish and recycling collection are set back one day.

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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

Teen balances life as editor-in-chief of school newspaper

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

As editor-in-chief of Tower, Grosse Pointe South High School's newspaper, senior Erykah Benson manages a staff of more than 60 people, referring to herself as "the master organizer." The job, which requires a commitment during the school day and three days a week after school to meet weekly deadlines, is all-consuming.

"Every waking moment is Tower related in my mind," Benson said. "It takes up a huge chunk of my life."

Born in Japan, her mother's homeland, the 18-year-old moved around a lot when she was younger. From Japan, the family moved to St. Louis, Mo., Farmington Hills and then Dubai for three years before settling in Grosse Pointe Park when Benson was in sixth grade. She attended Pierce Middle School before starting at South.

It was at Pierce she discovered her love for journalism. It was a natural progression for her to enroll in South's journalism class after learning about Tower from a friend and stepdaughter of former journalism teacher Jeff Nardone, who died in 2013.

"I really love Tower," Benson said. "It really developed my love for



COURTESY PHOTO

Erykah Benson visited the House of Representatives press conference room in the Capitol building while attending the Al Neuharth Free Spirit and Journalism Conference in June. She was the 2016 Michigan representative among 50 other state representative student journalists.

journalism. At this point in my life, I'm interested in pursuing journalism as a career I'm seeing the face of journalism changing so rapidly. I'm interested in multimedia and online because that's the way you reach most people."

She started sophomore year as a copy editor. Junior year she was a page editor for the print version of Tower. Now, as

editor-in-chief, she oversees both the print and Tower Pulse, the online version.

She said she views her role to "make sure everybody feels heard and everybody's ideas become a reality. It's just a really cool job."

While the role of editor-in-chief is time-consuming, she is able to balance it with other interests.

"The best thing I've managed so far is balancing both leading Tower and leaving time for fun and leisure and a social life," Benson said. She is a member of the Gay—Straight Alliance at South and part of an all-girls program and the choir at the church her family attends, Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit.

There also were sacrifices. Junior year she made the difficult decision to quit the softball team — one of the highlights of her high school career — to focus on Tower.

Benson also balances a challenging academic load including advanced placement literature, microbiology, forensic science, ceramics and AP Spanish V. Having grown up speaking Japanese, she is trilingual and hopes to continue studying Spanish in college and study abroad.

Among her accomplishments at Tower, Benson is especially proud of the relationship she and her staff have developed with the administration. She also is proud of "tackling stories that have to do with diversity, whether it's race or sexuality issues. We've been really good at tackling issues like that," she said, adding this was especially important given two incidents last year at the school involving racism, one with stu-

dents posting pictures on Instagram with the "N" word and another with several boys making racist comments on a video that went viral.

In the November issue of Tower, she covered South's unity rally, held in response to controversial reactions following the presidential election.

"The temperature was 50 degrees Fahrenheit," she wrote. "Biting wind. A clear blue sky. Students could almost see their breath escaping like ghosts from their teeth as they shouted, 'Love not fear.'"

As Tower's first African-American and Asian editor-in-chief, Benson said she has "an even greater responsibility ... (to) tackle issues of diversity more."

Another highlight of her journalism experience was attending the Al Neuharth Free Spirit and Journalism Conference last summer as a Free Spirit Scholar. While she applied for the scholarship on the recommendation of former Tower adviser Rodney Satterthwaite, she didn't expect to get it, as only one student representative from each state and Washington, D.C. is selected each year to attend.

"The conference was amazing," Benson said. "The people that I met and the students who were all across the country. We still talk to this

day. We have a group message. We just finished up a Secret Santa where we sent presents across the country. Overall the experience was amazing. It was once in a lifetime."

In addition to spending "a week with the 50 brightest people I have ever met," Benson said the experience taught her a lot about journalism and renewed her confidence in its viability.

"When a lot of adults ask what I'm interested in, people say, 'Oh, good luck finding money with that.'" At the conference, she said she gained "hope with finding a bright future for journalism."

She hopes to pass this hope along to future journalism students as she and fellow staffers recruit for Tower at Pierce and Brownell Middle School.

"I just finished making an outline for a presentation where I'm going to talk to middle schoolers about why they should join Tower," she said. "I plan to tell them there's no better time to be a journalist. There's so many different ways you can communicate with people, whether it's technology or social media or video. People are more receptive to information because there's so much information around us. As a journalist, it's important for that information to be non-biased. For the whole story to be told. I think there's no better time than now for that."

FIRE:

Continued from page 1A

report, Park Detective

Michael Narduzzi said gas service to apartment 15412A was shut off by DTE Aug. 18 and electrical service was shut off

Aug. 24. The unnamed tenants were running an extension cord from another apartment in the building that was "routed

into the unit through the kitchen window where it was connected to a multi-outlet power strip. The refrigerator and another extension cord were connected into the outlet strip."

While Park City Manager Dale Krajniak maintains an inspection of the building was attempted Sept. 13, there is no indication the inspector noticed extension cords running between apartments through outside windows. There also was no follow-up by the Park inspector during the 47 days that elapsed between the attempted inspection and the fire. According to residents, four of the seven apartments were occupied at the time of the fire.

According to the official report, while the cause of the fire is "undetermined," it indicates "the possible ignition of bedding material in close

proximity to an electric space heater could not be eliminated as the fire cause."

In addition, the report noted "the only power source in the area of origin was an outlet strip at the end of an extension cord that was routed from another apartment." The outlet strip had four items plugged into it including a television and the space heater. The report indicated the space heater "suffered the most extensive fire damage."

The report also said a generator was found in another bedroom, but was not in use at the time of the fire.

The report did not say anything about smoke detectors being in place in any of the units. Michigan law requires smoke detectors to be installed in all rental properties, but at least one tenant said no alarms sounded the morning of the fire.

Following the fire, Park city officials were unable to produce documents required under the city's rental ordinances, including certificates of occupancy, landlord licenses and rental unit registrations. These documents were required under ordinances adopted by the city following the murder of a resident on Wayburn by a man illegally living in the building next door.

The building at Mack and Nottingham was mixed-use with a restaurant and offices on the first floor and apartments on the second.

The building is owned by Zedan Bros. LLC. According to one of the owners, Larry Richards, the company plans to rebuild.

"We haven't settled on exactly what will be there," Richards said, "but we envision stores and possibly lofts on the second floor."

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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

Events honor, promote peace

The Grosse Pointe-Harper Woods branch of the NAACP has organized an event 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, to celebrate the contributions of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. Held at Grosse Pointe South High School — the site of King's address to a capacity audience of 2,700 March 14, 1968 — the program will include an introduction by NAACP local chapter President Greg Bowens, a 90-minute audio-recording of King's speech and a question-and-answer session.

Last week we covered the controversy surrounding King's visit nearly half a century ago (Jan. 5, page 1D). The online version of the article elicited several comments on Facebook. "I remember that time and the divisions that were so evident at the time," wrote one person. "Great memories of that evening," wrote another, who recalled breaking the protest line organized by Breakthrough leader Donald Lobsinger. We encourage others with recollections from that night or the events leading up to King's visit to write to Editor Jody McVeigh at jmcveigh@grossepointenews.com.

King fought for unity, justice and equality through peaceful channels. His revolutionary peaceful protests included the Montgomery bus boycott to campaign against racial segregation on public transportation, the Albany movement to protest city segregation policies, the Birmingham campaign to end discriminatory economic policies in Alabama and, perhaps his most famous act as a civil rights leader, the march on Washington for jobs and freedom.

Echoes of King's message promoting peace, justice and racial harmony will reverberate throughout the Pointes during the Grosse Pointe Walk for Peace, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, hosted by We GP, a community-based non-partisan organization similar in ideology to the Grosse Pointe Human Relations Council, the group that invited King to Grosse Pointe. We GP is committed to resisting the erosion of civil and human rights and providing opportunities for community building and social and political engagement.

"We" stands for "Welcoming Everyone" and everyone is welcome to join this family-friendly event honoring and promoting human rights, diversity, dignity and justice, according to the event Facebook page. The walk begins at the corner of Kercheval and Cadieux and proceeds through Grosse Pointe Park, ending at Wayburn. Candles will be provided. Parking is available in the municipal lots in the Village of Grosse Pointe. Participants are encouraged to RSVP on Facebook (search for Grosse Pointe Walk for Peace) or email contact. we.gp@gmail.com.



Pure Grosse Pointe

In the 1100 block of Yorkshire in Grosse Pointe Park sits a snowman, seemingly staring above, waiting for his flaky friends to fall from the sky. He got his wish Jan. 10 as overnight snowfall blanketed the metro area.

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

LETTERS

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

Oppose Puzder

The Senate is expected soon to hold hearings on President-elect Donald Trump's labor secretary nominee, Andrew Puzder. Puzder would be a disaster for working people. He's railed against a meaningful increase in the minimum wage, opposed expanding overtime pay and supported replacing working people with machines.

MARK WARREN
Madison Heights

GUEST OPINION By Michael Van Beek

Roll ridesharing regulations across finish line

A couple of years ago, the Michigan Legislature began debating whether to create new regulations for ridesharing companies, like Uber and Lyft. Back then, only a few states had tackled this issue and Michigan was out ahead of the game. Legislative talk did not lead to action, however, and the state fell behind the rest of the country in how it regulates this new way of getting around.

According to the Council of State Governments, Colorado created the nation's first statewide ridesharing regulations in June 2014. Since then, 38 other states have done the same, including all of Michigan's immediate neighbors — Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. The quality of these regulations vary, but they all create a more consistent and predictable environment for drivers, riders and ridesharing companies.

There are several reasons why Michiganders would gain from a set of statewide regulations. First, it would make it legal for anyone to start driving for Uber or Lyft or even start a competing service. Right now, only people living in a handful of Michigan cities can legally earn money by driving for Uber or Lyft. Second, new ways of

doing business need new regulations, not old ones. Michigan's current mishmash of state and local regulations for taxi and limousine services doesn't meet the regulatory needs of ridesharing.

Another reason is that Michigan's losing out on potential investments because local governments have been inconsistent and unpredictable in their regulations. Ann Arbor and Detroit have wavered on whether they'll allow ridesharing, leaving drivers and the companies in a precarious situation. The R Street Institute, a Washington, D.C., think tank, gave Detroit's Uber regulations a C-minus grade after comparing them to others around the country.

The good news is the Michigan Legislature is considering very solid ridesharing regulations. These would require companies to contract only with drivers who have a clean driving record and have passed a rigorous background check. Ridesharing companies also would have to carry a certain level of insurance, ensure all vehicles are inspected annually by a certified mechanic and subject themselves to a state audit. The regulations also would prevent local municipalities from pil-

ing on their own set of rules.

The proposed regulations would create a level playing field for the likes of Uber, Lyft and their taxicab rivals. Taxi companies made a legitimate complaint that the state might unfairly disadvantage them if it created statewide regulations only for new ridesharing services. What's being considered in the Legislature now would treat everybody the same — taxis, Uber, Lyft and even limousine companies.

Crafting new regulations is a tricky business. They must be firm, but also flexible; impartial, but specific; clear, but detailed. Spend a moment talking to anyone in a heavily regulated industry and you'll hear firsthand how often politicians and bureaucrats get things wrong. The ridesharing regulations legislators are considering, although not perfect, have many of the qualities of good regulations. Michigan should join the rest of the country and officially legalize ridesharing so all Michigan residents can benefit from this innovation.

Van Beek is the director of research at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, a research and education institute headquartered in Midland.

GUEST OPINION By Janet Trautwein

Congress should be 'open' to Medicare enrollees' needs

More than 18 million seniors just picked a Medicare Advantage plan for next year. Let's hope they chose wisely. Because if they selected a benefit package that turns out to be a bad fit, they're likely stuck with it.

That didn't use to be the case. Up until a few years ago, seniors had an opportunity to switch plans in the first weeks of the new year if their budgets or health circumstances changed.

Medicare Advantage is more popular than ever. The program allows seniors to pick from a variety of privately administered insurance plans that provide dental, vision and prescription drug benefits in addition to coverage for hospital procedures and doctor visits. Enrollment has increased from less than 6 million a decade ago to more than 17 million in 2016. The Congressional Budget Office projects that more than 40 percent of all seniors eligible for Medicare will enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan by 2017.

Seniors select their Medicare Advantage plans during an "annual election period" each fall. Throughout this period, they can change Medicare Advantage plans, continue with their current plan or return to traditional Medicare.

But as of Jan. 1, their decisions are all but locked in for the rest of

the year.

This wasn't always the case for seniors. During a 90-day "open enrollment period" following Jan. 1, seniors could choose a new Medicare Advantage plan if they decided the one they'd previously selected wasn't a good fit for them.

The Affordable Care Act eliminated this open-enrollment period. Instead, the law offers a poor substitute — an "annual disenrollment period." For the first six weeks of the year, seniors can exit their Medicare Advantage plans. But they must then enroll in traditional Medicare. They can't pick a new Medicare Advantage plan.

This lack of flexibility can have real negative consequences for seniors. For instance, some seniors might not realize the benefits and providers covered by their Medicare Advantage plan have changed from one year to the next — until they walk into their doctors' offices and have their insurance cards denied.

Others may be unaware another Medicare Advantage plan has lower premiums and deductibles, or more valuable benefits, until a friend informs them of other options.

Before the Affordable Care Act eliminated the open-enrollment period, seniors who enrolled in a plan for Jan. 1 could "test drive" plans — and then make a one-time

switch if they found the plan was not a good fit. A survey conducted by my organization, the National Association of Health Underwriters, found many seniors who switched coverage during open enrollment did so because friends or relatives furnished them with additional research about coverage options that better suited their particular needs.

Low-income seniors have been hit particularly hard. Without the open enrollment backstop, many find themselves stuck in a Medicare Advantage plan that doesn't provide adequate or affordable coverage. And their only other option is to switch to traditional Medicare, which doesn't cover the dental and vision procedures they may need.

Fortunately, Congress is considering restoring seniors' freedom to make a one-time switch to another Medicare Advantage plan. Restoring this pre-ACA provision would prevent them from inadvertently getting trapped in a plan which does not meet their health care needs or is not in their best financial interest — and prove that Congress truly is "open" to meeting seniors' healthcare needs.

Janet Trautwein is chief executive officer of the National Association of Health Underwriters.

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City of Grosse Pointe

Drugs

Two women, ages 21 and 22, of the same last name and address in Macomb Township, were arrested for possession of marijuana and narcotics paraphernalia during a traffic stop on westbound Jefferson near St. Clair shortly after 12:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 5.

A patrolman stopped the older woman for operating a red 2013 Chevrolet Cruze 15 mph over the limit.

The car contained 6.1 grams of marijuana, a pipe and half empty bottle of Irish whiskey, according to police.

In the way

A felony warrant from Wayne County caught up with a 39-year-old Detroit man reported at 7:57 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3, walking in oncoming lanes of Jefferson.

"(He) stated he was walking home from Beaumont (Hospital, Grosse Pointe) and didn't want to walk on the sidewalk," said one of two public safety officers on scene.

Records revealed the man was wanted for cocaine possession.

"I advised (him) he was being detained," said the arresting officer.

Tough guy

A drunken and belligerent patron of a restaurant in the Village required a police escort off the premises during the evening of Monday, Jan. 2, according to public safety officers.

The suspect, a 47-year-old St. Clair Shores man, allegedly kicked and spat on one officer while tossing racial slurs at another prior to being arrested for felony assault.

The restaurant manager

Public Safety Reports

reported him at 7:26 p.m. intoxicated, using profane language and refusing to leave, according to police.

His criminal record reportedly includes an outstanding warrant for contempt of 40th District Court, an unspecified charge in Macomb County plus a drunken driving arrest in 2012.

Goes up & down

Celebratory New Year's gunplay is suspected of damaging the windshield of a car parked in the 800 block of St. Clair early Sunday, Jan. 1.

Investigators based their analysis on a principle dating to at least Issac Newton's distillation of gravity: What goes up must come down.

A Grosse Pointe Woods woman, 36, reported the incident shortly before noon.

She said the car, a 2015 Honda Accord, was parked at the location from 1 to 5 a.m.

"(She) provided me a bullet she found near the windshield," reported a public safety officer.

—Brad Lindberg

Report information about these and other crimes to City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety, (313) 886-3200.

Grosse Pointe Farms

Off-road

Medics took a 65-year-old male motorist from Detroit to a hospital shortly after police intercepted him veering a 2005 Cadillac DeVille onto a Bournemouth Circle lawn, reentering the roadway and proceeding slowly eastbound.

"The driver thought he was near Outer Drive and Gratiot

and appeared to be having a medical condition," said a patrolman. "(He) was unable to move his left hand."

The officer notified members of the man's family.

"(They) were surprised he was operating a vehicle," said the officer. "A check of his driving record shows multiple accidents within the past two years."

Marijuana

A faulty brake light on a silver 2000 Dodge Neon prompted the roadside investigation and arrest of a 21-year-old Mount Clemens man for possession of marijuana.

While searching the car on Moross near Chandler Park Drive shortly before 1 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 5, officers found four brownies made of marijuana "consistent with edible marijuana confections sold at medical marijuana dispensaries," reported the arresting officer.

—Brad Lindberg

Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety, (313) 885-2100.

Grosse Pointe Shores

Suspended

An unlicensed 56-year-old male motorist from Detroit spent 24 hours in a holding cell until raising \$600 bond for release on traffic charges.

A patrolman pulled him over about 10:15 a.m. Friday, Jan. 6, for operating a 1996 Chevrolet GMT 400 illegally on southbound Lakeshore near the foot of Provincial.

Offenses included violating a

suspended driver's license, lacking auto insurance, not wearing a seat belt and being wanted on a traffic-related warrant issued through 36th District Court, according to police.

—Brad Lindberg

Report information about this and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Park

False report

A 25-year-old Park resident was expected to be arraigned this week on charges of filing a false police report stemming from an incident that occurred Friday, Jan. 6. According to police, the resident called 911 and reported armed intruders had taken hostages at his house in the 1300 block of Bishop. An investigation by police determined no hostages had been taken and the resident was arrested. Police also determined the man had been drinking.

Intoxicated driving

A 56-year-old Park resident was found to be intoxicated after officers found him at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, passed out behind the wheel of a car that had struck a fire hydrant at Jefferson and Berkshire.

Money missing

A resident in the 1200 block of Buckingham notified police at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 6, that money was missing from an envelope in their house. The resident suspects a contractor working in the home is respon-

sible. Police continue to investigate.

Traffic stop

A 26-year-old Detroit resident was arrested at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3, at Mack and Alter after a check of the license plate attached to the car she was driving came back registered to a car reported as stolen. However, the car it was attached to was not the stolen car. The driver was arrested and charged with being in possession of stolen property and other traffic violations.

—Kathy Ryan

Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety, (313) 822-7400.

Grosse Pointe Woods

How many?

A driver with 29 current suspensions on his driver's license will probably be adding one more following his arrest 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 4. The 33-year-old Detroit resident was stopped on Vernier for driving without headlights. He explained to the officer that one headlight was burned out and the other only operated on high beam. He was taken into custody and charged for the 30th time for driving while license was suspended, operating without headlights and no proof of insurance.

UDAA

A 1998 Jeep Cherokee was stolen from a driveway in the 1800 block of Prestwick sometime between 2:30 and 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3.

—Kathy Ryan

Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety, (313) 343-2400.

Recruiting forestry commissioner

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — A tree commission takes root next year by appointment of the mayor.

At the 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23, City of Grosse Pointe council meeting, Mayor Dale Scrace is scheduled to establish an Urban Forestry Commission consisting of five members of the public plus one liaison each from the council, park and beautification advisory commissions.

The idea sprouted from resident Rick Whitney.

While scouting roughly 80 percent of the city, Whitney said he tallied a shortage of up to 80 trees on city property and another 50 on private land.

"Driving around, I see too much sky," he said. "I'd love to see a tree plan that looks at canopy coverage and has sufficient diversity of well-spaced trees. (Trees) improve the quality of life, aesthetics, property values and ecological aspects."

"I remember as a kid, you could ride your bike in the rain and not get wet," said Councilman Don Parthum. "Not any more."

"There was a period when we were planting more trees than losing," said Peter Dame, city manager. "For the last five years, we were losing more than we planted."

"We need to think not just of today, but of the future," Whitney said.

"We appreciate your enthusiasm," said Mayor

Dale Scrace.

"Rick brought forward trying to improve tree replacement efforts," Dame said. "We talked at length how best to coordinate that because the only people officially allowed to work on our rights of way are city officials."

Municipal staff modeled the forestry commission on those in other communities, including Grosse Pointe Shores, and recommended retaining Grosse Pointe Park City Forester Brian Colter up to 15 hours per week at a cost of up to \$38,880 per year paid to the Park.

"One of the first tasks would be to complete an inventory of city-owned trees on the public right of way and to develop a master plan for trees," Dame said. "With a master plan vision in hand for an enhanced urban forestry initiative, the commission would potentially work in conjunction with the City of Grosse Pointe Foundation."

Commissioner duties include:

- ◆ coordinating the Arbor Day program and application for designa-

tion as a Tree City USA.

- ◆ recommending the regulation or prohibition of certain trees,

- ◆ promoting public awareness of urban forestry,

- ◆ recommending standards for street tree maintenance, upkeep and location.

"This could be structured similar to how the Beautification Commission works with city staff and foundation on its Project Bloom program for flower gardens, to attract donations and grant funds to implement the master plan," Dame said.

The foundation privately funds municipal improvements.

Money raised for forestry would supplement the city's tree replacement effort, said Dame.

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ARRAIGN:

Continued from page 1A

requested an audit by the state's Court Administrator's Office. That audit revealed several thousand dollars in unaccounted for money that would typically be handled by the court administrator. Once the audit was complete, city officials placed Moore on administrative leave and the investigation was turned over to Michigan State Police.

Detective Sgt. Joe White led the investigation and in October 2016 sent a request for a warrant to the Wayne County Prosecutor's office,

which returned a warrant in late December on the three charges.

Moore said little at her arraignment. She was represented by attorney Stephen Rabaut, who requested a reading of the charges against his client be waived. District Judge Daniel Palmer agreed, but did set personal bail for \$25,000, also agreeing with Rabaut that Moore did not pose a flight risk nor a threat to the community. Moore, the mother of three children, is married and lives in Warren. She said she is currently employed at a funeral

home.

Palmer scheduled a probable cause hearing for 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17, and a preliminary examination for 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25, both at Harper Woods District Court. Because of Moore's close ties to the Pointes' municipal court systems, all parties agreed to move the case to Harper Woods.

Moore was the Woods' court administrator since 2013, replacing Susan Tobin who retired. Following Moore's dismissal, Tobin returned to the position.

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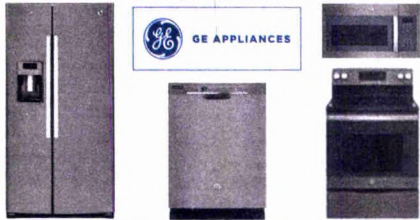
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OVER-THE-RANGE MICROWAVE: 2.0 Cu. Ft., Sensor Cooking, 1000 Watts (MMV205FZ)
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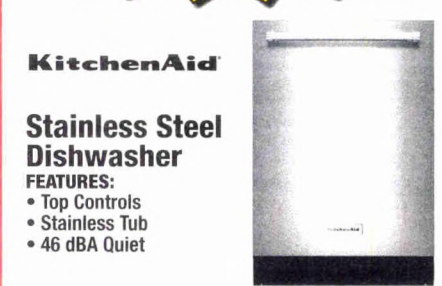
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COMMUNITY

ENTERTAINMENT

GPT to perform
"Fiddler on the Roof" takes the
stage Jan. 22 to Feb. 4 PAGE 3B

3B ENTERTAINMENT | 5B CHURCHES | 5B OBITUARIES | 6B ASK THE EXPERTS

Settling in The Lake House moves to new location

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Since 2011, The Lake House has offered support services for anyone touched by cancer — from patients going through treatment and those in remission to their caregivers and family members. Its programs and services are completely free to members, whose numbers and needs are growing.

To better serve its clients, The Lake House has relocated to much bigger quarters. Jan. 3, the organization opened doors to its new home, located at the former Pare Elementary School, 23500 Pare, St. Clair Shores, near 9 Mile and Mack.

"We tripled our visits in two years," Executive Director Madeline Bialecki said. "We really needed to move; we were so confined there We had 2,800 square feet. Now we have 5,200 square feet."

In the new building, The Lake House uses three former classrooms for its programming, as well as administrative offices, kitchen areas and other spaces.

Separate rooms house crafts and social activities, support groups and wellness activities such as yoga, Zumba and tai chi classes.

"It's nice we can have yoga at the same time we have a craft group, the same time we have a support group," Bialecki said. "There's so much more freedom. We can increase our programming now. We've had people who've offered (additional programming)," but space and timing were issues, she said. "Now we can offer three things at once, so there's much more freedom."



Top, a classroom offers comfortable seating for support groups. Bottom, the wellness activities room is set up for chair yoga.

Not only is the extra space a luxury, but the separate rooms offer an added benefit to Lake House clients.

"If you close a door, you can't hear anything," Bialecki said. "It's very private; people love it In the old space, there was no such thing as a private conversation. If two people were talking in one area, anyone in the building could hear it. These rooms are really soundproof."

Designer Virginia Ficarra is helping with furniture layout and color selection, and Bialecki hopes to host a paint party soon to revitalize its space in the building, which has been closed five years.

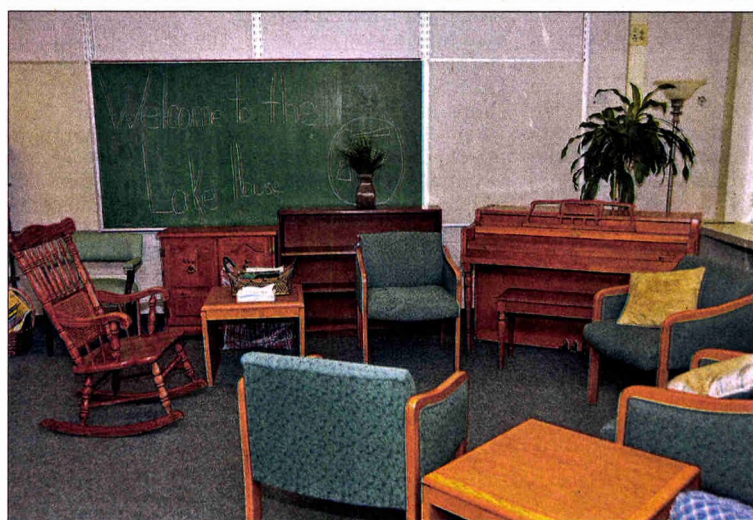
The South Lake Schools District also plans to paint the hallways and fix up the common spaces next summer.

"The idea is this (building) will fill with nonprofits — fill the whole school," Bialecki said. "There will be two or three common areas that any nonprofit can use or anyone in the community can use."

The school's former library and cafeteria, and possibly the gymnasium, will be "fixed up" by the school district "so anyone can use it," she said.

"The building is 37,000 square feet. We have 5,200 square feet, so there's a lot left," Bialecki said, adding Creative Designs plans to move in later this month and other nonprofits have expressed interest in sharing space.

"There is interest," Bialecki said. The space is perfect for nonprofits, she said, because of lower rent. "We were paying commercial rent



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Top, Executive Director Madeline Bialecki welcomes the community to The Lake House's new home at the former Pare Elementary School in St. Clair Shores. Middle, the new space includes a large classroom for support groups. Last, the school's former cafeteria will serve as a common area for The Lake House, other nonprofits and the community once it's fixed up.

(at the old building). It was so much more expensive. Utilities also were very expensive there. This is much more affordable."

The building provides

ample parking as well, so the more, the merrier.

"Any nonprofits that are looking, there's tons of space," Bialecki said. "If they want to come and see it, I'm happy to do

tours."

However, serious inquiries about renting rooms at the building should contact the school district's business office at (586) 435-1661.

A Night in the Stacks

Library launches new program series

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Grosse Pointe Public Library is inviting the community to experience it like never before during a new series of events titled, "A Night in the Stacks."

Five after-hours ticketed programs replace the Grosse Pointe Library Foundation's annual black-tie gala.

"We were looking for a way of getting people into the library who maybe wouldn't normally come here or who might look at the library in a different way or who are looking for something new," Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Bingaman said. "We felt like this furthers the mission of the foundation — fundraising and advocacy.

We feel this should get people to check us out."

The author-heavy series kicks off with a bit of a twist 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20.

"We're mixing it up with the first event — Yoga in the Stacks," Bingaman said. "It's a great way to help people with their new year's health and wellness goals."

For \$10, Yoga Shelter's Amy Koenig leads a yoga class featuring live music by Chris Emmerson and refreshments courtesy of Jungle Juice.

"Amy is active in the community and an incredible instructor," Bingaman said. "Jungle Juice is also really active in the community and really excited to partner with us, too."

"It's an alternative

Friday night," she continued. "I think it'll be a healthy, fun alternative to dinner and a movie."

The second program, 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, is called "Detroit Writers in the Stacks." It features Wayne State Press authors Desiree Cooper, Terry Blackhawk and Kelly Fordon.

"They'll talk about their work and style, but they'll also be mingling with the audience at the reception, so there will be opportunities for informal discussion, too," Bingaman said.

Author Amy Haimerl stops by 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, April 21, to discuss her book, "Detroit Hustle."

"She'll be speaking about her experience with her husband of moving here from Brooklyn

and buying a house and rehabbing it," Bingaman said. "She's funny, but she's really done her homework. She knows the history of Detroit and writes about the experiences of navigating the historic area."

The series breaks from its after-hours theme Friday, June 16, when the library kicks off its summer reading program at noon.

"More than 1,500 children and adults sign up for summer reading every year," Bingaman said, adding with help from some community partners they hope to make the kick-off "more fun this year."

Bingaman anticipates a sell-out event when Francis Stroh, author of

See STACKS, page 3B

2B | COMMUNITY

AREA ACTIVITIES

BNI

Business Network International meets 7 a.m. Friday, Jan. 13, at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 20338 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Call Ryan Marier at (313) 638-7526.

Ecumenical Breakfast

The Grosse Pointe Men's Ecumenical Breakfast meets 7:45 a.m. Friday, Jan. 13, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Reservations are not required; all are welcome. Breakfast is \$7. Call (313) 882-5330.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:
 ♦ 1:30 to 7:15 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13, St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park.
 ♦ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 22412 Overlake, St. Clair Shores.

♦ 2:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, Mason Elementary School, 1640 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods.

♦ 2 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25, Trombly Elementary School, 820 Beaconsfield, Grosse Pointe Park.
 Register online at redcrossblood.org.

NAMI

The National Alliance on Mentally Ill Eastside meets 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 16, at Henry Ford Cottage Hospital, 159 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Call Barb at (313) 886-8004.

Woman's Club

The Grosse Pointe Woman's Club meets noon Wednesday, Jan. 18, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. After a light lunch, Peter Campbell, executive director of the Cancer Climber Association, presents, "From California to Mt. Kilimanjaro, Hope and Positivity." Guests are welcome. Reservations

are required by Saturday, Jan. 14, by calling Sue Plath at (313) 884-5081. For information, call Pam Zimmer at (313) 926-6726.

GPAA

The Grosse Pointe Artists Association is accepting works through Wednesday, Jan. 18, for its "Domestic Interiors" exhibit. The exhibition is Feb. 6 to March 3. Call (313) 881-3454 or visit grossepointeartcenter.org.

The GPAA also offers "Acrylics with Al Sonnenberg" 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 14 to Feb. 4. Call (313) 881-3454.

LWV

The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe hosts its Program Planning Program 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, at the Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center. Cost is \$12 and includes dinner. RSVP with Jan Wells at (313) 884-6904 by Thursday, Jan. 12.

War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, welcomes Hai Xin Wu to kick off its Arts at the Alger Winter Brunch Series. Doors open at 11 a.m. for this Sunday, Jan. 22, chamber music feature. The performance begins at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$39 and includes brunch, coffee service and mimosas. Cost for the concert only is \$30. Call (313) 881-7511 or visit warmemorial.org.

Audubon Society

The Grosse Pointe Audubon Society hosts its next meeting 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23, at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, City of Grosse Pointe. Jim Hewitt of the Capital Area Audubon Society presents "Cuba: The Land, the People, the Birds." The meeting and refreshments are free and open to the public.

SOC

Services for Older Citizens, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers "Sign Language for Beginners," with LaTonya Barber, 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 24 to March 14. This Wayne County Community College Continuing Education class is free and limited to 12 students. Call (313) 882-9600.

Women's Connection

The Women's Connection of Grosse Pointe presents "And the Beat Goes On: Women's Heart Health," with Sarine John-Rosman M.D., Thursday, Jan. 26. Doors open at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. And the program at 7 p.m. Cost is \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members or \$8 for the program only. Call Ellie Kaye at (586) 295-0775 or Jan Baumann at (586) 243-2241.

AAUW

The Friends of the Grosse Pointe Library and the American Association of University Women of Grosse Pointe welcome recently retired Detroit Free Press travel writer Ellen Creager at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, at the Woods branch, 20680 Mack. Creager answers audience questions about winter get-aways, shopping for airline fares and more during this free program. Reservations are not required, but guests should arrive early.



Giving back Library branches collect for charities

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Grosse Pointe Public Library last fall launched a collection program that already has served three organizations and countless individuals.

"GPPL Gives Back is a way of partnering with local agencies," said Jennifer Bingaman, executive director of the Grosse Pointe Library Foundation.

The library's three branches — Central, Ewald and Woods — have started serving as collection sites for community organizations. They started with Services for Older Citizens in October, collecting items for gift baskets SOC annually delivers to shut-ins during the holidays. In all, six moving boxes were collected full of holiday gift items.

November's collection of food and money benefited Gleaners Food Bank and provided 337 meals for the hungry.

December's drive — benefitting Mittens for Detroit — has been extended through January. Already two large boxes of gloves and mittens have been

donated, but more are needed.

The GPPL Gives Back drive for April will collect wish list items for the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society.

"It's a way of partnering," Bingaman said. "Our three buildings are open all day long, so we decided we could really help our friends in the community.... People are catching on to it, for sure."

Boxes are available in each branch lobby. So far, the response has been generous, said Laney Corrado, who coordinates the program.

"People are already saying it — that they're already here, they love the library, they love that they don't have to leave the building to donate to organizations they already want to donate to," Corrado said. "We hope that as more families learn the brand, it'll really take off."

The first 30 people to donate three or more quality pairs of gloves or mittens — 10 per branch — will receive a board book copy of Jan Brett's "The Mitten," courtesy of the Friends of the GPPL.

"Due to the harsh winter, we have decided to continue the Mittens for Detroit drive through January and hope to double our donation," Bingaman said. "After-Christmas sales are a great opportunity to pick out a few pair of warm, weatherproof gloves for those in need."

Organizations interested in partnering with the library are asked to call Corrado at (313) 343-2074, Ext. 216. More information can be found online at gp.lib.mi.us/grossepointegivesback.

"We would love to do something for the schools in the summer," Bingaman said.

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Grosse Pointe Theatre presents 'Fiddler on the Roof'

Audiences of all ages are invited to experience a musical theater tradition as Grosse Pointe Theatre presents "Fiddler on the Roof." The eight-performance run starts Sunday, Jan. 22, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Featuring a cast of 36, "Fiddler on the Roof" is set in the village of Anatevka and centers on Tevye, a poor dairyman, and his five daughters. With the help of a colorful and tight-knit Jewish community, Tevye tries to protect his daughters and instill in them traditional values in the face of changing social mores and a growing anti-Semitism in Czarist Russia. Rich in historical and ethnic detail, the production's universal theme of tradition cuts across barriers of race, class, nationality and religion, leaving audiences crying tears of laughter, joy and sadness.

"Fiddler on the Roof" is based on Sholem Aleichem stories used by special permission of Arnold Perl, with a book by Joseph Stein, music by Jerry Bock and lyrics by Sheldon Harnick.

The cast includes Mitch



Ann McReynolds, left, as Golde and Mitch Master as Tevye.

Master of Bloomfield as Tevye, Ann McReynolds of Grosse Pointe Park as Golde, Megan Haddad of Sterling Heights as Tzeitel, Grace Knoche of New Baltimore as Hodel, Maggie Bickerstaff of Grosse Pointe Shores as Chava, Selga Jansons of Grosse Pointe Farms as Shprintze, Erin Steinhauser of the City of Grosse Pointe as Bielke, Kelli Wereley of Harper Woods as Yente, Luke Sabella of Grosse Pointe Park as Motel, Jude Purcell of Troy as Perchik, Eddie Tujaka of Grosse Pointe Farms as Lazer Wolf, Mike Parker of Grosse Pointe Woods as Fyedka and Mike Trudel of Grosse Pointe

Park as the constable.

The ensemble includes David Roberts of Grosse Pointe Park, Kevin O'Brien of the City of Grosse Pointe, Mark Weber of Grosse Pointe Farms, Rob Weber of Royal Oak, Pete DiSante of St. Clair Shores, Cliff Levin of Detroit, Anne Maters of the City of Grosse Pointe, Deborah Frontczak of Harrison Township, Donna DiSante of Grosse Pointe Farms, Julianna Brenner of Grosse Pointe Park, Amanda Nummy of Shelby Township, Keith Clark of Harper Woods, Gordon Richardson of Grosse Pointe Park, Erica Clarke of Warren, Sarah Seely of Sterling Heights,



Mike Parker, left, as Fyedka and Maggie Bickerstaff as Chava.

Anita Millers of Grosse Pointe Farms, Jacqueline DiSante of the City of Grosse Pointe, Patricia Stewart of Grosse Pointe Woods, Cathleen Campbell-Cormier of Columbus, Kate Vernier of Chesterfield, Miriam Goldstein of Southfield, Robert Bertetto of Grosse Pointe Farms and Robert Daniels of Grosse Pointe Woods.

The crew includes Director Ellen Skinner Bowen of Grosse Pointe Park, Assistant Director Melissa Smith of Grosse Pointe Farms, Co-Producers Emmajean Evans of the City of Grosse Pointe and Cindy Pytel of Grosse Pointe Woods, stage manager

Mickie Pizzimenti of Warren, assistant stage manager Virginia Lee of Richmond, co-tech directors Justin Hawley of Grosse Pointe Woods and Rick Hawley of St. Clair Shores, set designer Kathy Conlon of St. Clair Shores, co-choreographers Allison McClelland of Grosse Pointe Park and Rachel Settlege of Grosse Pointe Farms, costumers Marianne Casey of Warren, Erin Getzin of St. Clair and Debbie Martell of Westland, co-lighting by Jef Fisk of the City of Grosse Pointe and Bob Montgomery of Grosse Pointe Farms, sound

In short

WHAT: Grosse Pointe Theatre presents "Fiddler on the Roof"
WHEN: 2 p.m. matinees Jan. 22 and 29; 8 p.m. evening performances Jan. 26 to 28 and Feb. 2 to 4

WHERE: The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms

TICKETS: \$25 each
INFORMATION: Call (313) 881-4004 or visit gpt.org.

design by Eric Vreeland of St. Clair Shores, and co-props and set dressing by Amy Steinhauser of the City of Grosse Pointe and Dona Johnson-Beach of Grosse Pointe Park.

In January, Grosse Pointe Theatre's 69th season continues with the Nora Ephron comedy "Love, Loss and What I Wore" at the Purdon Studio Theatre. In March, the Tennessee Williams classic "The Glass Menagerie" is performed and the season concludes with Disney's "Beauty and the Beast."

For more show information, audition dates and to purchase individual or season tickets, visit gpt.org.

Registration open for Grosse Pointe Theatre's Youth On Stage winter sessions

Grosse Pointe Theatre's Youth On Stage program continues to grow with expansion into additional classroom space now available at Woods Presbyterian Church. With more space, Youth On Stage has been able to add more specialized and age-appropriate classes for younger children interested in theatrical arts.

Two levels of classes take place at the Grosse



Youth on Stage

Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church, 19950 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods, beginning Saturday, Jan. 21. The first session is the Young

Acting Class, geared for children ages 6 to 8. These sessions meet 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Jan. 21 to March 4.

This class touches on theater fundamentals such as observation, imagination and taking make-believe to the next level, as well as focusing on stage vocabulary, concentration and interpretation. These classes are perfect for children with little or no stage experience.

Instructors include Grosse Pointe Theatre volunteers and occasional guest instructors. Past guests have included

See YOUTH, page 6B

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STACKS:

Continued from page 1B

"Beer Money: A Memoir of Privilege and Loss," visits the library 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, June 23. Stroh will discuss her childhood and coming of age as a member of Detroit's Stroh's Beer family.

The series wraps up 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15, with "Blues in the Stacks," featuring entertainment by the Paul Crey Group.

Thanks to community partners and program guide sponsors, 100 percent of ticket sales will go "back into special events

and programming at the library," Bingaman said.

"These are after-hours events," she said. "The building closes at 6 p.m. on Fridays. You need tickets to get in."

The summer reading kickoff is free and the yoga program is \$10. All other events are \$30 and include food and drinks. Tickets may be purchased online at gplf.org.

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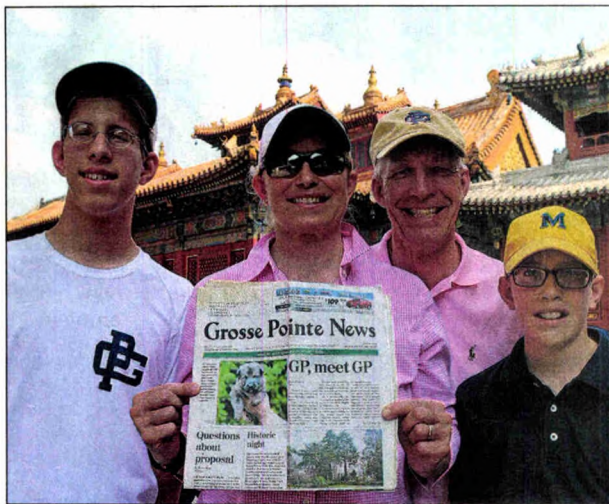
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The Durant family brought the Grosse Pointe News with them when they spent the holidays at Rough Creek Ranch in Texas. Pictured are Charlie, Susan, Mike, Hope and Caroline Loomis; Maggie, Clark, John and Susan Durant and T. Clark Durant with Pepper and Kirk.



The Weglarz family of the City of Grosse Pointe took the Grosse Pointe News with them on their trip to China.



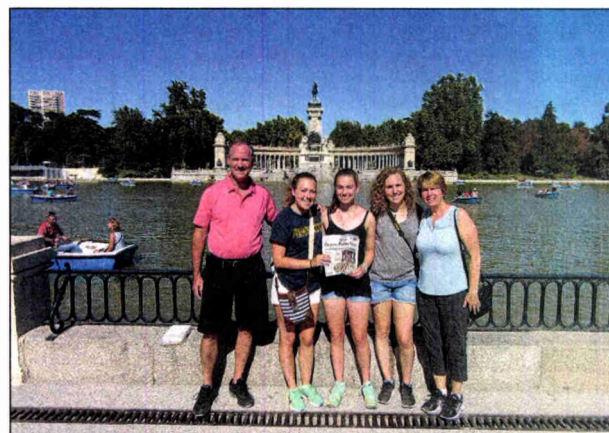
Ellen Chapin and Diana Langlois took the Grosse Pointe News with them when they visited the pre-Inca ruins in Sillustani, Peru.

Adios, au revoir, sayonara

Thank you readers for taking us with you as you traveled all over the world the last several years. We've enjoyed your journeys to every continent and appreciate you taking us with you.

As Geoffrey Chaucer penned, "All good things must come to an end." So it is with the Reader Travel Photos.

We wish you many more travels and thank you for your continued readership.



Standing with the Grosse Pointe News outside the Alfonso XII Monument in Retiro Park, Madrid, Spain, are Matt, Katelyn, Ashley, Courtney and Jenna Carroll of Grosse Pointe Woods.



Grosse Pointe Woods residents Mary Keatts and Evelyn Sanom, and a copy of the Grosse Pointe News, stayed at the Ashford Castle in Cong, Ireland.



Michael Wharton of Grosse Pointe Park and City of Grosse Pointe resident Matthew Brauer took a copy of the Grosse Pointe News when they visited Asia. They are posed in front of the 12th century Angkor Wat temple complex in Cambodia.



Grosse Pointe Woods resident Bonnie Sysling-Salvador and her children, Sophia Salvador and Nicholas Salvador, brought a copy of the Grosse Pointe News with them while vacationing on the beach in Cancun. Taking the photo is husband and dad, Michael Salvador.

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11:00 am Adult Sunday School
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OBITUARIES

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

Robert Edmund Boomer

Robert Edmund Boomer, 90, passed away peacefully Monday, Jan. 2, 2017, in Grosse Pointe.

He was born June 17, 1926, the second of five children to Roy and Helen Clippert Boomer. A lifelong Detroit resident, Mr. Boomer grew up in the historic Boston-Edison district and had fond memories of large family gatherings at his Clippert grandparents' house every Sunday. He graduated from Detroit Country Day School in 1944 before enlisting in the U.S. Army during World War II and served in occupied Japan. He returned home to attend Wayne State University on the GI bill and completed his degree in three years.

After graduating from WSU, he joined The Boomer Company, a construction materials distributor founded by his grandfather in 1903 as a coal supply company. In 1960, he succeeded his father as president and led the company into a new era in Detroit's construction industry. He served on the board and as Chairman of the Builder's Exchange of Michigan, now the Construction Association of Michigan, and The Associated Construction Distributors International.

In his community, Mr. Boomer took on many leadership roles and was as generous with his time as he was with his wisdom. He served on the boards of The Franklin-Wright Settlement, The Grosse Pointe Academy and Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

His enthusiastic involvement extended to his beloved Pointe aux Barques community where he met his wife of 63 years, Anne Knapp Boomer, originally of St. Louis. After he retired they spent winters in Boca Grande, Fla., where he enjoyed taking friends out on his boat, fishing and golfing. He and his wife loved to travel and visited more than 50

countries together though his heart was always at Pointe aux Barques.

Mr. Boomer was predeceased by his wife July 24, 2016. He is survived by their children, George (Allison), Anne "Muffy" Milligan (Edward), Robert (Julia), Catherine (Stephen Germic) and Ellen; grandchildren, Maxwell and Andrew Boomer, Scot and Charles Milligan and Eloise Germic. His also is survived by his sister, Susan Boomer Brumback, her three daughters and many Clippert cousins.

A memorial service will be held for Bob and Anne at 10 a.m. Thursday, June 15, at The Grosse Pointe Academy, 171 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Grosse Pointe Academy, 171 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236; The Port Austin Reef Light Association, 8265 N. Van Dyke Road, Port Austin, MI 48467; or The Paragon School, P.O. Box 540507, Orlando, FL 32854.

Viola Hadjiyanis

Viola Hadjiyanis, nee Nanas, died peacefully Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2017, in New York, with her daughter and son-in-law by her side. She died four months short of her 100th birthday.

She was born April 7, 1917, in Woonsocket, R.I., to Hariklia and James Nanas. The family moved to Detroit when Viola was a young girl and then to Grosse Pointe Park, which she called home more than 66 years.

Viola began her career as secretary to Henry Ford II at the U.S. Naval Training School, took time out to raise her daughter and then worked 18 years at Grosse Pointe High School, where she enjoyed dealing with administrators, teachers and the public. Following her retirement from the school system, Viola worked for the DIA executive offices of the

Founders Society and served as an active member of the volunteer membership committee for more than 13 years.

Always an avid reader, Viola loved the Sunday crossword puzzles of the New York Times. She enjoyed the arts and travel, especially her many visits and trips to visit her daughter in Manhattan, as well as nephews and nieces in Michigan, Oregon and Illinois, and with friends and family in Europe, Ireland, Turkey and Greece. A lifelong member of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, she always was a willing volunteer and participant in the festivals and church activities. Among her many talents she enjoyed entertaining and baking for the holidays; baklava one of her specialties.

She was predeceased by her husband, Andrew; parents and sister, Catherine Imhoff.

She is survived by her daughter, Joanna; son-in-law, Richard Caraballo and many loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. A funeral service was held Jan. 10 at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, St. Clair Shores, followed by burial at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Detroit.

Donations may be made to the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 21800 Marter, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Andrew J. Przeslawski

Harper Woods resident Andrew J. Przeslawski, 26, died Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017.

He was the dear son of John and Michelle Przeslawski; beloved brother of Brenna Przeslawski and Scott Przeslawski and beloved grandson of Peter and Darlene Meldrum.

A celebration of life was held Jan. 8 in St. Clair Shores.

Share a memory at gilbertfuneralhomeinc.com.



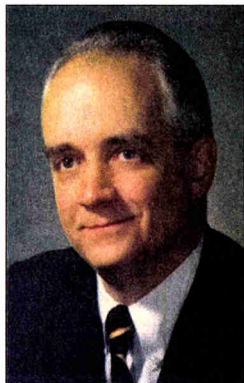
Robert Edmund Boomer



Viola Hadjiyanis



Andrew J. Przeslawski



John Philip Worcester

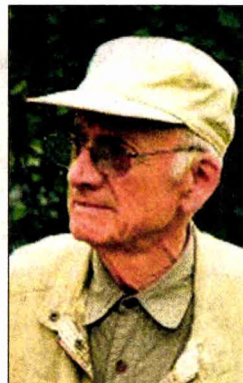
John Philip Worcester

John Philip Worcester, 90, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather and uncle, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2016.

John attended The Detroit University School and graduated from The Hotchkiss School and Williams College. He later served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. His career path led him to Comerica Bank where he retired as a personal trust officer.

John was president of the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, president of The University Club, chairman of the United Foundation Advance Giving, elder at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church and treasurer of the University Liggett Alumni Association. He was a member of The Country Club of Detroit and The Yondotega Club.

Surviving are his wife, Nancy Jones Worcester; daughter, Katharine Getz (Michael); sons, John Worcester Jr. and Peter Worcester (Wendy); grandchildren, Allison Getz Sullivan (Kevin), Michael Getz Jr. (Sabrina), Molly Getz Sheldon (Oliver), Maxwell Getz, Caroline Worcester, Laura Worcester and Peter Worcester and great-



Harry Elkins

grandchildren, Teddy and Emma Sullivan, Leela and Samson Getz and Lucy Sheldon.

He was predeceased by his sister, Mary Kate Hastings.

Private memorial services will be held at future dates in Sarasota and Petoskey.

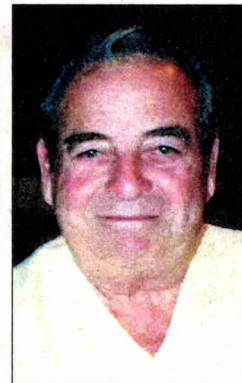
In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of John Worcester may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, P.O. Box 5014, Hagerstown, MD 21741-5014 or Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy, Walloon Lake Association, P.O. Box 621, Petoskey, MI 49770.

Harry Elkins

Harry Elkins, 95, of Grosse Pointe Park, died Friday, Jan. 6, 2017.

Harry was the beloved husband of the late Astrid Irene Elkins; dear brother of Sadie Bialock and the late Doris Fishman and is survived by loving nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, cousins and friends.

He was a retired teacher and a renowned horticulturist specializing in rare plants.



Ronald Freismuth

Services were held Jan. 9, at The Ira Kaufman Chapel in Southfield with interment at Beth El Memorial Park Cemetery in Livonia.

Donations may be made to Jewish Senior Life of Metropolitan Detroit, 6710 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48322.

Ronald Freismuth

Ronald Freismuth, 82, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2016.

He was the beloved husband of Joan; loving father of Jerry Freismuth (Kathleen), Debra Bellestri (Anthony), Colleen Mamelka (Peter) and Alice Toarmino (Edward) and proud grandfather of Gerald (Lauren), Jonathan and Garrett Freismuth, Michael, Mitchell and Miranda Bellestri, Lauren, Angela, Anthony and Arianna Mamelka and Chuck, Phil and Keith Ozbun.

Mr. Freismuth enjoyed hunting, fishing, hockey, football and gardening. Most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his family.

A memorial service and celebration of his life will follow at a later date.

PASTOR'S CORNER By the Rev. Ben Van Arragon

Eyes wide open

Jesus' parables often are narrative explanations of the Wisdom Literature of the Hebrew Bible. One example is Jesus' parable of "The Rich Man and Lazarus" (Luke 16:19-31). In it, a nameless rich man lives in luxury while a poor man, Lazarus, begs just outside his gates. Both die. Lazarus goes to paradise while the rich man goes to a place of torment. The rich man appeals to heaven for relief and is told, "You enjoyed your good things in your lifetime." The parable illustrates the teaching of Proverbs 29:13-14:

"The poor and the oppressor have this in common: The Lord gives sight to the eyes of both. If a king judges the poor

with fairness, his throne will be established forever."

Jesus points out this "giving of sight" may happen too late — when death strips away the obfuscation of wealth and social class to reveal God's right order. According to God's right order, everyone should have enough. Life goes wrong when a few have far more of life's necessities — money, food, property, social status — than any person needs, while others go without. God insists his practical purposes in creation all move toward justice, which, from a biblical perspective, is "making life right." Not for a few, not just for you, but for all. In the negative, justice means restraining

immorality and punishing evil. But in the positive it consists of taking the material resources and social capital God has given in abundance and using them to create a life of abundance for others. Throughout the Bible God specifies the "others" for whom this life is to be created are those who fall outside your ethnic and economic comfort zones. In Luke 16 and Matthew 25, Jesus elaborates the ultimate consequences of telling the poor, the displaced, the hungry, the sick and the imprisoned, you're not my problem.

We live in an era of political spin and social stratification. It is easy to tune in to the voices that reinforce our own preferences, and prejudices

while blocking out any message that demands a change of course. When the one true God reveals himself to people, God almost unilaterally commands course correction. God opens people's eyes to a view of reality that demands change. The scriptures warn us: no matter how hard you shut your eyes now, they will eventually be opened. Jesus adds that this restoration of sight need not wait until you die. Jesus says each of your encounters with the most vulnerable people of your world is his intervention — an invitation to open your eyes right here, right now. To see his reality. And to respond to God's call to make life right.

Van Arragon is pastor at First Christian Reformed Church of Detroit, 1444 Maryland, Grosse Pointe Park. Visit firstcrodetroit.org.

CHURCH EVENTS

St. Paul on the Lake

St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, presents "Reconciliation — the Love of Christ Compels Us," with Vespers at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, as part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The program includes the choirs and congregations of St. Paul on the Lake, Christ Church Grosse Pointe and Grosse Pointe Memorial Church. The Rev. Msgr. Patrick Halfpenny presides, while the Rev. Drew Van Culin preaches and the Rev. Peter Henry gives the prayers. All are welcome. Call (313) 885-8855.

Memorial

Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, hosts Older, Wiser, Learning Still — or

OWLS — noon Wednesday, Jan. 18. Charlie and Peggy Davis present "A Trip of a Lifetime," discussing their trip on a freighter to Marquette and back transporting iron ore to the Rouge Plant. RSVP for this potluck event by calling (313) 882-5330.

The church's Diversity Task Force next meets 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18. Those who can't attend but have ideas to share may email howardbhill@comcast.net.

Bible 101 returns 6 to 7 p.m. Sundays, Jan. 22 to Feb. 26, with no meeting Feb. 19. Learn about the first five books of the Bible.

Christ Church

Christ Church Grosse Pointe hosts Family Game Night 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29. Bring a favorite board game and a friend. Pizza is provided. A freewill offering is collected. Call (313) 885-4841.

6B | COMMUNITY

ASK THE EXPERTS By Detective Ryan Schroerlucke

Selecting the proper booster seat

Q: I recently installed a new booster seat for my toddler, but I'm not sure if it's the right size for him or maybe I moved him out of his other seat too early. How can I be sure?

A: Surprisingly, four out of five car seats are improperly installed, so you are right to question. There are simple guidelines to follow when assigning your children to safety seats.

STAGE 1: Birth to approximately 2 years

Children younger than 2 years old are best protected riding in a rear-facing seat. Most convertible seats accommodate rear-facing up to 35 pounds. Be sure, when using a rear-facing convertible seat, to use the rear-facing seat belt path and make sure the seat is in the reclined position. Keep your child rear-facing up to the maximum limits of the infant car seat. Always follow the directions from the manufacturer.

STAGE 2: Approximately 2 to 4 years

Most car seat harnesses can be used until a child reaches 40 pounds, but some seat

The Family Center

ASK THE EXPERTS articles

harnesses have higher weight limits. Check the label. The seat type should be forward-facing convertible or forward-facing only combination. Be sure to use the forward-facing seat belt path and switch the recline adjuster to the upright position.

STAGE 3: Minimum 40 pounds to 4 feet, 9 inches

Booster seats help protect children by lifting them up so the lap and shoulder belt connects with their strong bones. Children should remain in a booster seat until the seat belt fits correctly without it. This stage should sit in a high-back booster, no-back booster or forward-facing only combination with harness strap removed.

STAGE 4: Minimum 4 feet, 9 inches

Your child is ready for the lap and shoulder seat

belt if you can answer yes to each of the following questions:

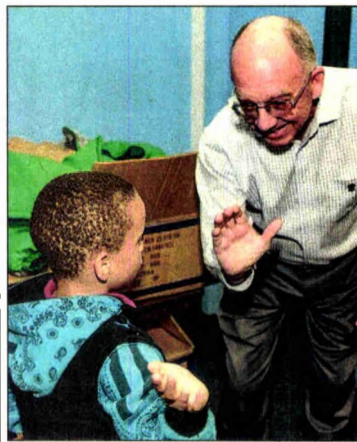
1. Is your child 4 feet, 9 inches tall?
2. Does the lap belt sit across the upper thighs?
3. Does the shoulder belt lie across the collar bone, not touching the neck and not off the shoulder?
4. When the child's bottom is scooted to the back of the seat, do his knees bend at the edge of the seat?
5. Can the child stay seated that way the entire trip?

Remember, Michigan law states all children younger than age 8 or shorter than 4 feet, 9 inches must be properly restrained in a child safety seat or booster seat.

Originally written as a Grosse Pointe Woods public service release by

Detective Ryan Schroerlucke of the Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety Department, this column has been adapted for use to assist the community in general. Woods Public Safety has two nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Inspectors on staff and offers free car seat inspections by appointment. The office can be reached for an emergency at 911 or (313) 343-2410 for all non-emergency calls.

The Family Center serves as the community's hub for information, resources and referral for families, individuals and professionals. Its mission is to serve the community through programs and resources vital to today's families. As a nonprofit organization, it is completely supported by community donations. All gifts are tax-deductible. To volunteer or contribute, visit familycenterweb.org, call (313) 432-3832, email info@familycenterweb.org or write to: The Family Center, 20090 Morningside Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236.



Paul Rentenbach, treasurer of the Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe, high-fives a young coat recipient.

COURTESY PHOTO

Operation Warm: More than a coat

"As a child, I grew up with all of the basic necessities," said Sandi Cook, Grosse Pointe Assistance League of Northeast Guidance Center volunteer. "I can't begin to imagine not having a warm coat for the winter or having to share my sibling's coat."

Unfortunately, having to wear a sibling's coat, or even a parent's, is becoming more common in inner city communities. Statistics show self-esteem can be a problem for children who do not have their own coat. Having to wait to wear a sibling's coat every third day can cause emotional

and health issues in addition to affecting literacy and social skills.

This year the Northeast Guidance Center received almost 800 new coats as a result of the efforts of the Grosse Pointe Rotary Foundation's Operation Warm Detroit, a project in partnership with the Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe, Sunrise Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe and the Rotary Club of Detroit.

Paul Rentenbach, treasurer of the Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe, said the need for children's coats was greater this year than in previous years.

"While the number of requests received reduced the number of coats that the Rotary could distribute to each requesting organization, we were still able to provide 200 more coats than last year, due to a generous donation from PNC Bank," he said.

PNC Regional President Ric DeVore, speaking on behalf of the PNC Foundation, said, "PNC is committed to strengthening the communities where we do business. PNC's support of the warm coat drive is one of the many ways we are working to support essential needs in the communities we serve."

As a result of these organizations' efforts, children of adults who receive services from NEGC will receive coats, in addition to students who attend Detroit and Harper Woods schools where NEGC provides behavioral health services.

YOUTH:

Continued from page 3B

Gary Lehman from "Go Comedy! Improve Theatre" and actor/writer Gordon Michaels, known for "The Lost World: Jurassic Park" and other movies.

GPT's Youth On Stage winter session also begins 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21. This session is for children ages 9 to 14 and covers various aspects of theater, such as audition preparation, rehearsal process, acting techniques and character development.

The winter session performs "Shrek The Musical Jr." onstage at The War Memorial 2 p.m. Saturday, April 22, and Sunday, April 23. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased by calling the Grosse Pointe Theatre Box Office at (313) 881-4004 or visiting gpt.org.

Class registration forms may be obtained online at gpt.org, by mail or in person at Grosse Pointe Theatre's home, 315 Fisher, City of Grosse Pointe.

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