

SCHOOLS

Warm welcome

School district welcomes new deputy superintendent **PAGE 8A**

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Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 80, NO. 30, 24 PAGES **JULY 25, 2019**
 ONE DOLLAR (DELIVERY 86¢) *Your community newspaper since 1940* GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Storms spark thousands of power outages

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Two storm systems with winds up to 70 mph rolled through southeast Michigan Friday, July 19, and Saturday, July 20, leaving 600,000 people without power as well as 2,500 downed power lines in their wake.



Traffic lights at Mack and Torrey, near the Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety Department and city hall, are one of many locations throughout the Pointes affected by outages.

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

As of noon Tuesday, July 23, 80,000 people remained without power. DTE Energy planned to have 80 percent of the

power restored by Monday night, 90 percent by Tuesday night and 100 percent by Wednesday.

“We will keep working around the clock until everyone is restored,” said Heather Rivard, DTE’s senior vice presi-

dent for electric distribution.

Areas in the Pointes to lose power included Grosse Pointe South

High School in the Farms; Woods city hall, public safety and public works buildings, along with much of the south end of the city; and the area south of Kercheval in the City.

The Shores was the one Pointe to remain largely unaffected by the power outages aside from the possibility of a house or two, according to its public safety department.

Nearly 900 out-of-state line workers were

brought in to join the effort alongside 1,100 DTE and local contract workers.

DTE workers already have been on 16-hour shifts the last four weeks due to heat and weather incidents.

“We know how frustrating and inconvenient it is to try to get through day-to-day life without power,” DTE wrote in an alert to customers. “We’re working as

See STORMS, page 3A

City works to combat flooding in cul-de-sacs

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — With record high lake levels resulting in flooding on the Lakeland, Stratford and Elmsleigh cul-de-sacs, with minor water back up on Wellington, the City is looking into multiple methods of correcting the issue.

“In the scheme of things, we have three

cul-de-sacs with water in them, but none of them are impassable,” City Manager Pete Dame said.

While projections by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers show the water is expected to come down three inches in July and be a foot lower by November, the City is working to be prepared in any case.

See FLOODING, page 2A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The cul-de-sac on Lakeland was the first to flood.

Two of three recall petitions approved

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Wayne County Election Commission met to review a second round of language for recall petitions

against Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education members Kathleen Abke, Judy Gafa and Christopher Profeta. At a hearing July 18, the commission voted unanimously to approve the language submitted for Abke and Gafa, while rejecting the language for Profeta 2-1 for lack of clarity.

Before petitions may be circulated in the community for signatures, the commission must determine whether the reasons for recall are stated clearly and factually. All three petitions submitted at the June 26 hearing were rejected due to lack of clarity. New language was submitted June 28.

According to the new



PHOTO BY MARY ANNE BRUSH

A second hearing on the school board recall petition language took place July 18, in the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center in Detroit.

petitions, Abke and Gafa voted June 24, “in favor of closing two elementary schools in the Grosse Pointe Public School System school district.”

The petition to recall Profeta stated he voted June 24, “in favor of reconfiguring middle and elementary schools in the

Grosse Pointe Public School System school district.”

Prior to the vote on three separate motions, Scott Hughes, counsel representing the petitioner, Genevieve Tusa of Tusa Law LLC in Grosse

See RECALL, page 2A

Plans to improve Osius bathhouse cleanliness

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — A growing odor of unknown source in the Grosse Pointe Shores Osius Municipal Park bathrooms and showers brought contention to a head regarding the cleanliness of the building during the council meeting Tuesday, July 16.

Remarks were made by council that the cleanliness issue has been ongoing for years and not enough has been done to address it.

In 2017, a budget was set aside to renovate the building and achieve higher standards, but

ultimately new mirrors, sinks and fixtures, partitions and quartz counters were the only changes.

Now, Mayor Ted Kedzierski reported, many mothers are afraid to let their children use the showers. Others, Parks Committee Chairman Joe Cipriano said, resort to lining the floor with towels so they don’t have to step on it.

City Manager Mark Wollenweber reported currently the locker room floors are scheduled for cleaning later in the evening every day, which is done by the summer lifeguards.

See PLANS, page 4A

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Pointer of INTEREST
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Tom Shafer
Home: Grosse Pointe Farms
Longtime banker honored as Entrepreneur of the Year, Distinguished Alumni



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2A | BUSINESS

RECALL:

Continued from page 1A

Pointe Farms, reminded the commission of his remarks at the earlier hearing regarding leniency of the standard of review.

"The language of the petitions in this case easily satisfies that low threshold," he said.

Hughes added, "As this commission is well aware, the inquiry today is not whether or not these individuals should be recalled, just whether or not the language is sufficient. I would submit to you that this language is very concise, clear and stated as a fact."

Thomas Bruetsch, counsel for the three board members, pointed to lack of clarity in the language potentially leading to confusion for those asked to sign the petitions or vote on a ballot Nov. 5. The language also must be clear enough for board members to defend themselves against the recall.

"The two petitions regarding Ms. Abke and Ms. Gafa that they voted in favor of closing two schools in the Grosse Pointe Public School System fare no better than the last time we were here," Bruetsch said. "The Grosse Pointe Public School System has nine elementary schools. Yet the petition doesn't state which elementary schools they voted to close. ... I believe this is intentionally deceptive because they're going to take these petitions out to the community into neighborhoods where no

schools are closing. People in those neighborhoods not familiar with the issue are going to think potentially it's their schools that are closing."

Bruetsch said the language for Profeta was "far worse than the language in the other petitions. It says that Mr. Profeta 'voted in favor of reconfiguring middle and elementary schools.' ... Without context, that word 'reconfigure' is incredibly vague. Reconfigured what? Reconfigured the lunch hour? Reconfigured academic requirements? ... That word has to have some kind of context to it for the voters to understand what it is that they're signing and, importantly, for Mr. Profeta to defend himself."

Hughes reminded members of the commission, "A meticulous and detailed statement of the charges against an officeholder is not required. ... This is sufficient to put the officeholders and the public on notice of the reasons for the recall and this will be tested at the ballot box and the petition circulation process whether or not there's adequate public support for the recall."

Following a statement by GPPSS special education teacher Karen Listwan in support of Gafa, Wayne County Clerk and commission member Cathy M. Garrett said, "It saddens me that we can't weigh in on what the moral fiber is of the individual or what he or she might or might not do. ... But the ultimate recall is when elections

come up."

Commission Chairman Freddie G. Burton, Wayne County Probate Court chief judge, who voted to approve the language in all three petitions, reiterated his statement from the last hearing that "school board members have the most thankless job of any elected official in the country. ... We're not in a position to weigh in on the substantive basis of the language. We're not in a position to weigh in on the truthfulness or falsity of the language. We're here simply to weigh in on the clarity of the petition being circulated to the community."

"I've got a feeling, judging from all of you here, that the citizens are going to be involved heavily in the debate as these petitions are circulated," he added. "I'm certain ... people will be well informed to sign these petitions or not and be informed when they go to vote. The people have the final vote."

Lifelong Grosse Pointe resident John Martin expressed his support of all three board members.

"Kathy, Judy and Chris are beloved in Grosse Pointe and I don't think this is going to go anywhere and I apologize to you because I think this is a gigantic waste of your time and resources," Martin said. "I think the people behind this need to step up, put their names on it and own it. It's a shame that all of us are here in support and there's not a single person that's willing to put their name on this other than an attorney from Lansing."

Abke and Gafa have the right to file an appeal with the Circuit Court within 10 days of the commission's decision. Petitions may not be circulated during an appeal until the Circuit Court has ruled or 40 days have elapsed, whichever is sooner.

Completed petitions with sufficient signatures need to be filed with the county clerk by Friday, Aug. 2, to be placed on the Nov. 5 general election ballot.

Bruetsch said he was disappointed with the decision, but not surprised.

"I did think that all of the petitions were unclear," he said. "In fact, I thought the ones against Ms. Abke and Ms. Gafa were downright deceitful. But it is a low standard and the commission decided in two cases that low standard was met."

"We're a long way from a recall election," he added. "I don't think the community is going to support the petitions and I don't think they're going to get enough signatures."

Profeta said he was prepared to fight the recall against him, but now would focus his support on his fellow board members.

"I have 100 percent support for Judy and Kathy," Profeta said. "I think they're fantastic board members. Even though I may have voted differently than they did, I know they have our kids first and that's what's most important."

Tusa, the petitioner, could not be reached for comment.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

New hot spot

Orangetheory Fitness, 20853 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods, offers a science-backed, one-hour, full-body group workout that uses heart rate monitors to track results in real time. For more information, call (313) 960-4445.

Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce staff and Orangetheory Fitness staff helped owner Scott Marcus, Grosse Pointe Woods Mayor Bob Novitke and Orangetheory Fitness Regional Manager Ashley Heidrich cut the ribbon at the opening of the new location.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

New owners

JHouse Juice, 375 Fisher, City of Grosse Pointe, is under the new ownership of siblings Charles and Emma Kruse. JHouse Juice offers fresh juices, whole food smoothies, acai bowls, wraps, snacks and vegan and gluten free treats. For more information, call (313) 571-3423.

Pictured at the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce's recent ribbon-cutting event are, from left, Chamber Administrator Regan Stolarski; City of Grosse Pointe Mayor Chris Boettcher; Charles Kruse, co-owner; Emma Kruse, co-owner; and Chamber President Jenny Boettcher.

FLOODING:

Continued from page 1A

"Hopefully the Corps of Engineers is correct and we've already hit the peak and we've started our way down," Dame said. "But, even if they're not, we are planning to do several things, because the problem would really intensify by November if wintertime (comes) and there's water still in the streets. You can't have a street full of ice."

The city has ordered a pump and by the end of the week is planning to

have temporarily plugged the catch basins in the affected areas, pumped out the water, cleaned the streets and unplugged them.

The next step for the city is to buy in-line check valves to put into the catch basins.

"That will allow water when it rains to be draining down the catch basin down from the street and empty into the lake, but it won't let water back in," Dame said.

Dame reported the check valves hopefully will be installed within the next couple weeks and will not be of any

cost to residents.

In 1986, the last time water levels were this high, on Lakeland the city took the approach of closing off the catch basins completely and using portable pumps to prevent water entering the street from the lake. This is not a viable option now due to the risk the pumps could fail during a storm or flash flood and could then flood the streets faster than the water could be pumped out and begin flooding homes, Dame said.

This was the case just a few weeks back in St. Clair Shores during a

flash flood when multiple sections of Jefferson had to be closed off.

"You'd much rather have a street flood than a house flood," Dame said.

He reported the in-line check valve is a much more reliable system.

"We put our thinking caps on and tried to come up with a better solution," Dame said regarding the change of tactic from 1986.

The city originally looked at placing duckbill check valves at the outflows into the lake, but when a diver was sent to measure the outflows for the duckbill, it

was discovered some of them didn't have enough pipe sticking out into the lake to attach a duckbill. However, one was previously placed on the outflow for Woodland and has been working well.

The in-line check valve essentially does the same job, only instead of being on the outside of the pipe in the lake, it will be in the catch basin where it connects to the stormwater pipe that goes out to the lake.

"People are frustrated because they don't like water in their street, but no one's flooding, they can still get to their driveways and we have a good solution that we're putting forward that I think actually could be permanent," Dame said.

Other possible, more permanent solutions — also likely to be much more expensive — include raising the catch basins another foot so they're above lake level or installing mini pump stations on the affected

streets.

Raising the catch basins would require raising the whole level of the street and curbs at the same time.

At those three locations it likely would be possible because the angle of the homes and driveways seem to be on a slope; if the street is raised higher than the homes, it would negate the purpose of a catch basin.

Dame reported it looks like it could work, but the city hasn't had experts determine for certain yet.

He added the city has plans to do some waterline work later this year on Wellington, which would make it feasible to raise the cul-de-sac a couple inches since the street already will be dug up.

Another option is leaving the level of the catch basins as they are and permanently installing non-visible pumps, which would activate when the water reaches a certain level and start pumping.

However, maintenance would come with this solution to continually make sure the pumps work.

Each of the four flooding cul-de-sac locations may end up having their own separate solution, Dame said.

"What we need is a hot, dry summer and a mild winter with no ice cover and then hopefully next year we won't have a repeat of these problems," he said. "But if this is global warming and we're stuck with high and maybe higher water levels for 10 years, then you have to evaluate what approach is the most cost effective."

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City, Farms families invited to 71st annual Fishing Rodeo

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The 71st annual Farms/City Family Fishing Rodeo — the oldest and largest single-day event in Grosse Pointe, according to Richard Graves Jr., general chairman and coordinator — returns to Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park, 350 Lakeshore, 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 10.

Ages 17 and younger are invited to fish — or not fish — and attendees of all ages are invited to enjoy free food, drinks and prizes.

“It was started by my dad and fire and policemen in 1948,” Graves said. “It was a way to give kids, even back in those days, fun stuff to do and to stay out of trouble.”

Graves inherited the responsibilities from his father in 1986.

“When I inherited this, there were 288 people at the first fishing rodeo I did,” Graves said. “Now we have over 1,500.”

Year after year, the event runs smoothly, considering last year’s record-setting 1,550-plus attendees.

“Everyone’s welcome to attend; you don’t even

have to come with children,” Graves said. “It’s just a community event.”

Breakfast — doughnuts, coffee and juice — and registration begin 8 a.m. and last an hour, until a siren signals the start of the rodeo. Fishing takes place 9 to 10 a.m.; every catch should be measured and catalogued immediately.

Once fishing wraps, lunch is served. Attendees are treated to free hot dogs, chips, soda and lemonade.

During lunch, Grosse Pointe Farms K-9 officer, Duke, and his handler, Officer Tim Harris, will give a demonstration. Fire trucks will be on site during the event as well.

At 10:30 a.m., awards and prizes are given. Three trophies are awarded for each city — first fish caught, largest fish caught and largest game fish caught.

As the event has grown, more people have come forward with support,



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD GRAVES

Hundreds of prizes are up for grabs for every child who attends the Farms-City Family Fishing Rodeo Aug. 10.

which means better prizes, Graves said, adding six mountain bikes once again will be raffled at the rodeo.

Since the end of last year’s event, Graves has been amassing prizes for this year. He has \$40,000 worth of prizes; every child in attendance, whether they fish or not, receives a prize valued \$25 to \$30.

“The earlier you come, the better your selection of prizes,” Graves said, noting numbered tickets are handed out at the gate; children are called

by number to select their prizes. “We’ll have 20 picnic tables six feet high with prizes.”

Adult raffle prizes — electronics, restaurant gift cards, tickets to sporting events — are given out as well, completely free of charge. Among the adult prizes this year are five suites to Comerica Park with food, beverages and parking included.

Graves stressed that the event is completely free to City and Farms residents.

“Just come and every-

thing’s done for you,” he said. “We feed you two meals and you walk away with prizes.”

Even the worms are free, said Graves. Participants need only bring themselves and a fishing pole.

“It’s a no-brainer,” Graves said. “There’s no registration, no fees.”

Graves spends all year prepping for the rodeo, securing prizes and food,

reaching out to vendors and selling advertisements. The event is made possible by “the benevolence of our local businesses and local people,” he said.

“We’re third-generation now,” he continued. “We have grandparents

come who fished.” Lining up volunteers is another task, though Graves always finds willing help.

“We are always looking for volunteers the day of the rodeo to help pass out toys, distribute doughnuts and hot dogs, etc.,” he said.

“It’s a lot of work,” he continued. “But I love the joy on their faces. That’s what I get out of it. And it’s the only time ... for one hour of the year you will not see one child on a cell phone. They’re so focused on fishing they couldn’t care less about that phone.”

The Farms/City Family Fishing Rodeo takes place rain or shine. For more information or to volunteer, call (313) 343-2405.

“It’s only from 8 a.m. until noon,” Graves said. “They’ve got the whole rest of the day to do whatever they want.”

The Week Ahead

FRIDAY, JULY 26

◆ Music on the Lawn, Grosse Pointe Woods, 7 to 10 p.m. Music by Detroit Social Blues Band and food from National Coney Island.

◆ Village Sidewalk Sale and Art Fair, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at St. Clair and Kercheval. Music by The Sun Messengers, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 27

◆ After 6 on Kercheval, 6 to 10 p.m. at 15200 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park. Music by Midwest Dueling Pianos.

◆ Village Sidewalk Sale and Art Fair, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at St. Clair and Kercheval.

THURSDAY, AUG. 1

◆ Music on the Plaza, 7 p.m. in The Village. Music by Alvin Waddles.

◆ All Pointes Outdoor Movie, “Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey,” 7 p.m. at Patterson Park, 16006 Essex, Grosse Pointe Park. Gates open to all Pointes at 5 p.m.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, AUG. 2 AND 3

◆ Camp Norbert P. Neff, 5 p.m. Friday to 11 a.m. Saturday. City families are invited to camp overnight at Neff Park. Crafts and activities, snacks and breakfast are included. Cost is \$45 per family. Advanced registration is required.

SATURDAY, AUG. 3

◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Picnic, noon to 4 p.m. at Lake Front Park.

◆ Grosse Pointe Shores weather siren tests, 1 p.m.

Two suspects in Pier Park chase charged

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Two men involved in a car chase that ended at Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park around 5:58 a.m. Saturday, July 13, have been charged with 53 offenses between them.

The defendants, 23-year-old Dawaun Al McQueen of Clinton Township and 29-year-old Michael Thomas Sims of Chesterfield Township, were allegedly involved in a chase with another car that led to three Detroit men driving a vehicle into Lake St. Clair.

The charges against



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FARMS PUBLIC SAFETY

Dawaun Al McQueen

both defendants include three counts of assault with intent to murder, three counts of assault with intent to do great



Michael Thomas Sims

bodily harm less than murder and three counts of assault with a dangerous weapon.

McQueen also was charged with possession with intent to deliver less

than 50 grams of cocaine and 14 felony firearm counts, while Sims was charged with 11 felony firearm counts.

The defendants were arraigned at Grosse Pointe Farms Municipal Court before Judge Matthew R. Rumora Wednesday, July 17. McQueen received a \$1 million cash bond and Sims received a \$500,000 cash/surety bond.

Both probable cause conferences are at 8 a.m. Wednesday, July 31, followed by preliminary examinations at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 7.

Suspect in custody following Better Health robbery

By Eddie B. Allen Jr.
Staff Writer

DETROIT — Grosse Pointe Woods residents and other loyal patrons from the Pointes can be comfortable returning to one of their favorite specialty retail outlets, despite a recent robbery, store management said.

The July 16 crime at Better Health Market, located at 19221 Mack at the Detroit-Grosse Pointe Woods border, left no one injured and the suspect is in custody.

Detroit Police said an unknown man in his late-40s entered the store around 11 a.m. during

Better Health’s regular hours and indicated he had a weapon, though it wasn’t clear if he actually was armed. The man took an unknown amount of money from the cash register and fled the store by foot, westbound on Moross. Detroit Police arrested him a short time later.

No injuries were reported.

Josh Forster, store director, said there was “an incident,” declining to provide details. Visitors to the market can continue to expect a safe shopping experience at the outlet, which is part of a chain offering grocery staples,

vegetarian and vegan options, plus assorted brands of vitamins, supplements and medicinal herbs.

“There’s no reason for anyone to feel uncomfortable,” Forster said.

Formerly located in the Woods, Better Health Market reopened early

this year in the Pointe Plaza space formerly occupied by Barnes & Noble. The expanded store offers a daily hot buffet, salad bar, smoothie station and grill.

Detectives in the Detroit Police’s 5th Precinct are continuing an investigation.



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STORMS:

Continued from page 1A

quickly and safely as we can.”

The alert also noted, “Customers who have been without power for 120 hours or longer may be eligible for a \$25 reliability credit. Details and claim forms are available on DTE’s Damage Claim webpage.”

DTE cautions included staying at least 20 feet away from downed power lines and never

using a portable generator inside a home or business due to the carbon monoxide they emit.

Moving forward, in an attempt to prevent similar occurrences in the future, DTE plans to spend between \$750 million and \$1 billion to replace and upgrade infrastructure with the latest technology.

Additionally, the company plans to spend \$150 to \$200 million per year to reach its goal of more extensive tree trimming along power lines.

4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

Pair of honors the latest of Pointer's accomplishments

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Of the abundance of accomplishments in which Tom Shafer has taken part — 26 successful bank mergers and acquisitions, being named a 2019 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year and receiving Distinguished Alumni honors from his alma mater Hillsdale College among them — the one that brings the biggest sparkle to his eye is being wed to Mary, “my bride,” for 37 years.

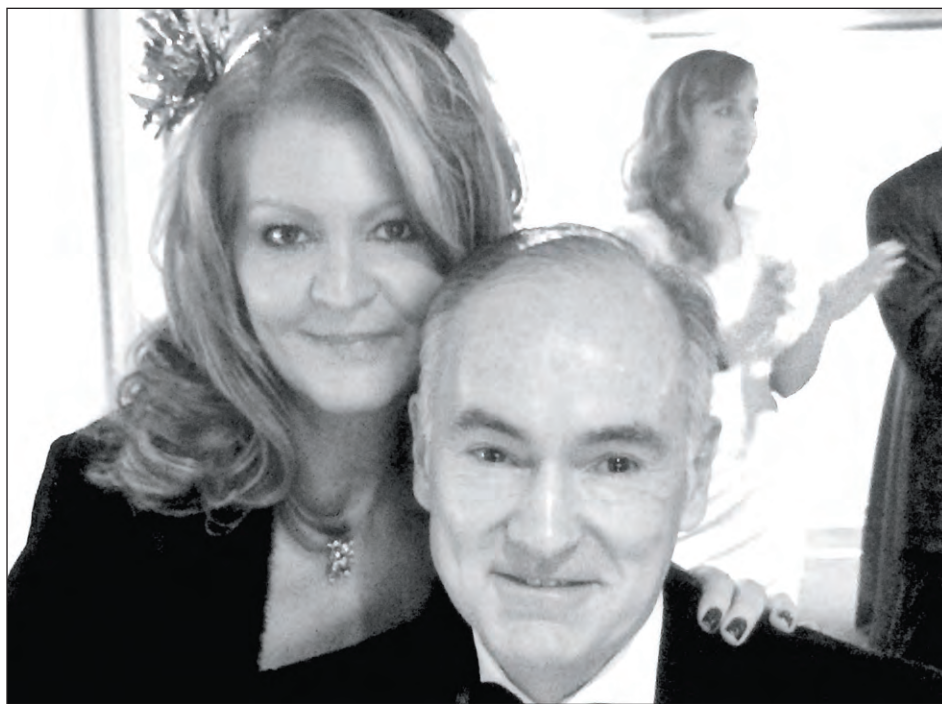
Shafer, a Grosse Pointe Farms resident, grew up in Birmingham and attended Detroit Country Day School before heading off to Hillsdale, where he earned a degree in business and political economy and, perhaps more importantly, met his future wife.

“I had a great college experience there,” he said. “College leaves a significant imprint on most people, but Mary and I met at Hillsdale, so there’s a deeper significance for us.”

The Shafers — parents to Elliot (married to Killeen) and Kate and grandparents to 9-month-old Thomas — will return to Hillsdale to celebrate his Distinguished Alumni award during homecoming weekend this fall. It will be the latest in a long list of accolades for the longtime banker. All of them he credits to those around him.

“While I am honored by the recent recognition I have received, I believe this recognition is truly a testament to the great team of professionals that I have had the opportunity to work with and what we have accomplished together,” he said. “One of my favorite quotes is one that Ronald Reagan kept on his desk, ‘There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn’t mind who gets the credit.’”

Shafer also credited his Entrepreneur of the Year award to his team. One of 27 finalists, he was among 10 winners in the Michigan and Northwest Ohio region moving on to



Mary and Tom Shafer.

the national level. “Nobody does this on their own. ... I received it really based on the efforts of our team.”

The team continues to steadily grow and has adapted well through changes the last 10 years, Shafer said, including the 2016 merger between Talmer Bank & Trust and Chemical Bank.

Shafer currently is vice chairman of the board at Chemical Financial Corp., serves as president and CEO of Chemical Bank and will be president, COO and director of TCF National Bank after the current merger, which is expected to be finalized by Aug. 1.

Banking is a career Shafer said he was fortunate to fall into.

“I graduated in 1981,” he said. “It was the height of the recession with inflation and unemployment at record levels.”

He started his career with Michigan National Bank of Detroit in its credit group.

“When I joined the banking industry in 1981, it was the most stable business in America,” Shafer said. “The first five years really was training — building skills, understanding the business and learning. I was fortunate to work for people and a program that helped train and develop me. I worked for

people I had respect for. ... I’ve been fortunate at every turn of my career.”

Shafer said he stayed in banking because of the people involved.

“I love the banking business,” he said. “I have been extremely fortunate to work with some of the best professionals in the industry whose expertise and knowledge is second to none. It is often said that nothing is more important to people than their health and financial well-being and that is why I am thankful for the opportunity that I have had to make a meaningful difference for others. Unfortunately, I think the banking industry sometimes gets a bad rap, but I am proud of the impact that we have had on local communities and families.”

Shafer has been with Chemical Bank nine years. Chemical, he explained, is a product of the 2016 merger with Talmer and Talmer was the product of “buying failed companies from 2010 to 2016,” he said. “We created a statewide organization with the merger with Chemical.”

He said Chemical and Talmer were great partners for each other, each offering what the other needed.

“You need a business plan to run a company,” Shafer said, “knowing your strengths and where

you need to make investments. Because we are in a consolidating industry, picking great merger partners is a way to help fill in areas where you need help. You always want to be acquisition ready but not use that as a strategy. If a thoughtful merger hits the radar, you want to be able to move. All the merger activity is meaningless if you don’t remember it is all about building great customer relationships and being a great place to develop careers.

“With the TCF merger, my 26th, we identify the strengths of each organization and focus on keeping the talent that got us here. Our current merger will create the best organization I have been associated with, by far.”

Shafer was one of the early executives when Talmer was being organized.

“The financial crisis that began in 2008 had a devastating impact on very good financial organizations that didn’t have the resources to weather the incredible storm in front of them,” he said. “The idea was to invest in these troubled institutions, most of them local community banks, in order to give them a second chance to serve their local communities and grow as the economy improved.

“Citizens First Bank in



Shafer, center, and other Entrepreneur of the Year winners hoist their awards.

Port Huron was the first bank acquired,” he continued. “Each bank after that allowed us to expand our footprint, add additional talent, expertise and services and ultimately strengthen the fabric of our organization. We felt like we had an opportunity to build a different kind of bank by not only focusing on superior execution and customer service, but by also having one eye on the horizon.”

With more change on the horizon, Shafer said he has high expectations.

“While the integration of Chemical and TCF over the next year is going to be a full-time job, we are excited about the opportunity to provide customers with an expanded geography, enhanced product offerings and additional economic development and philanthropic support,” he said. “In addition, our team members will be able to experience expanded career opportunities and growth as they work to create the leading Midwest bank. And while there will definitely be a lot of moving parts, our experience with our 25 previous integrations has allowed us to develop a process where our frontline professionals can stay focused on serving our customers.”

More growth also is planned following the recent announcement of Chemical’s intention to build a new corporate headquarters in Detroit. The \$105 million, 20-story building will be built on Woodward across from

Comerica Park and will allow the company to be more impactful in southeast Michigan, Shafer said.

“I’ve been very fortunate in my life and career,” he said. “I know that I am where I am in my career today because of the willingness of thousands of team members to believe in a vision and then go above and beyond to make it a reality.”

Most notably, he said, it’s the unwavering support he has received from his wife, Mary, that has made all the difference.

“Despite moving the family around and at times having to live apart, sometimes in different states, she has always been right by my side and I truly appreciate the sacrifices that she has made,” he said. “I’m fortunate that when I drive to work in the morning, I’m excited to get there and when I drive home at night, I’m excited to be there as well.”

In addition to his banking career, Shafer is a past chairman of Detroit Public Television and current board member of the Detroit Regional Chamber.

“I’ve been very busy the last 10 years, but it’s all been exciting, challenging, even exhilarating.”

When he’s not at the office, Shafer enjoys playing golf, boating and time in Florida with family.

Looking to the future, Shafer referenced this year’s awards.

“I hope this isn’t my finish line,” he said. “I’ve got a lot more to give.”

PLANS:

Continued from page 1A

Cipriano recommended that rubber flooring, like the Detroit

Athletic Club has in its locker rooms, be applied over the top of the tile. The non-slip surface is raised off the ground allowing water to drain out from under it, which

would alleviate puddles of standing water.

The flooring is antimicrobial so bacteria doesn’t grow on it and it can be taken out as often as necessary to wash.

While removing and replacing the tile would cost upward of \$40,000, Councilman Matthew Seely estimated it would be about \$6,000 to cover all locker room and bath-

room floors with the rubber flooring.

Improving the look of the ceiling in the bathroom also was considered with Cipriano’s suggestion of applying a popcorn ceiling finish on the entire ceiling to take out the commercial look. Additionally, it was noted the showerheads are outdated and would be expensive to replace.

“Twenty years ago those products were a lot more expensive,” Cipriano said. “Today they’re manufactured at really great prices and they last and they’re good.”

Councilwoman Tina Ellis suggested getting at least a couple hand-held showerheads to accommodate mothers who want to rinse off small children without having to lift them up.

Cipriano estimated the suggested flooring, ceiling and showerhead fixes would cost no more than \$15,000.

A deep clean for the floors already had been scheduled for Tuesday, July 23, after hours by Triple F Services, which also cleans the bath-

houses at the Woods and Farms parks.

In a 4-3 passing vote, Seely moved to allocate no more than \$15,000 of the maintenance fund to address the concerns.

“We know we have a problem and we just have to figure out the appropriate remedy,” Kedzierski said.

Tuesday, Aug. 20 is the next meeting of the parks committee, during which recommendations are expected to be discussed.

In the meantime, it was decided that rubber flooring from FlooringInc will be installed in the ladies locker room on a trial basis.

The Shores also will purchase the recommended showerheads and review a firm quote from the ceiling contractors for approval once it comes through.

“The next step, and this is what we’re in the process of doing, is really deciding what it will take to maintain that level of expectation of clean ... because that’s what our residents need and that’s what our residents deserve,” Park Manager Alison Scarfone said.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Anonymous Good Samaritan offers \$10,000 matching gift to Grosse Pointe's Superwoman Fund



Maryam Whelan

Grosse Pointe, Michigan, July 14 After seeing a recent feature about the late Maryam Whelan's memorial Superwoman Fund (“One Tough Mudder”; June 26, 2019), a former Grosse Pointe resident has come forward with a bountiful surprise worthy of Old Saint Nick. The donor has agreed to match incoming gifts up to ten thousand dollars for the Superwoman Fund, a 501(c)3 charitable entity assisting impoverished women

with unmet needs during cancer treatment. The Superwoman Fund operates through the Henry Ford Health System's Game On Cancer program.

“Our family is overjoyed that this person would come forward without even knowing us,” said Kathy Whelan, Maryam Whelan's mother in law and co-trustee of the Superwoman Fund. “We hope this inspires people to donate, because their ten dollars becomes twenty dollars instantly.”

The Good Samaritan, who prefers to remain anonymous, stated that he wanted to honor Maryam Whelan's mission and assist Maryam's daughter's nanny, Kelly French Trierweiler, in achieving her goal of raising \$20,000 for the Superwoman Fund.

“This gift will change lives,” said Trierweiler of the matching donation. “We recently learned of a woman who rode her bike to and from chemotherapy treatments for two years before help was available. The Superwoman Fund exists to prevent anyone from having to endure such a thing.”

Lynn Vogt, Henry Ford Health System Development Office coordinator for The Superwoman Fund, offered some illustrative donation levels and their impacts as follows:

\$10-Round trip transportation for medical appointments.
\$100- Basic medical supplies that insurance may not cover. Durable medical equipment like compression sleeves, donut seats, walker, handrails, cane, medications, eyeglasses, gas for

the car.
\$300- Utilities- a month of heat and electric, a car payment, month of groceries.
\$500- Insurance (car or home), auto repairs, tires, appliances, bed, other furniture.
\$750+- mortgage, bridge a gap in insurance, rent.

“Every penny counts,” said Kathy Whelan. “On behalf of Maryam's family and all involved in the Superwoman Fund, I would like to thank all donors who help us ensure the continued success of this important and needed Fund.”

To take advantage of the matching gift opportunity for the Superwoman Fund, contact Lynn Vogt at the Henry Ford Health System Development Office, (313) 874-3994, or visit www.henryford.com/superwoman.

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Grosse Pointe Farms

Five-figure fraud

A caller alleging to be a representative from Chase Bank contacted a 77-year-old Farms man Friday, July 12, to say he was receiving a \$250 Norton Securities refund, but a deposit mistake had sent \$25,000 to his account.

The caller said the man would get an additional \$1,000 for his trouble and asked him to transfer \$23,000 back from his account.

The man did so and realized it was a scam after speaking with family members later.

Shell not pass

A 33-year-old Taylor man was delivering fuel to a Shell station on Mack at 9:26 p.m. Monday, July 15, when a vehicle attempted to pass by cones he had placed to keep vehicles from the area while he was filling the underground fuel tanks.

The man attempted to stop the vehicle by stepping in front of it, leading to a brief argument with the unknown driver who said he needed to get air for his tires.

The vehicle continued to move forward, striking the 33-year-old, though no injuries were reported.

At the threat of police, the vehicle drove away.

Umpire out a bike

At approximately 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 17, a 14-year-old Farms boy left his unsecured Giant-brand mountain bike at a bike rack in the rear parking lot of a middle school while he umpired a youth baseball game.

He returned around 8:15 p.m. to find his bike with both wheels detached and the seat missing.

It wasn't me

A 37-year-old Farms man received a text message Tuesday, July 2, from someone claiming to be a representative of Chase Bank, informing him his bank cards were frozen and prompting him to release the hold on his accounts by entering his account information.

When the man and his wife checked their four Chase Bank accounts Wednesday, July 17, they found \$44,400 was missing.

An actual representative of the bank said unknown person(s) had withdrawn the money at a branch in Miami that day.

Korte appointed

St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center recently named Grosse Pointe resident William Korte to its board of trustees.

Korte is new to the organization. He said it was the center's volunteers that encouraged him to pursue board membership.

After working more than 40 years in the financial industry, Korte retired and is excited to dedicate more time to volunteering. It is especially significant he is working with an organization that benefits Detroit.

Korte's mission as a board member is to help the center continue being self-sustaining.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Missing child

A 15-year-old Park boy is suspected to have run away from his home on Waverly Lane on a blue bike around 2:30 a.m. Friday, July 19, after finding out he was going to be taken to a rehabilitation camp in South Carolina later in the morning. He has brown hair and braces and was wearing black shorts and an unknown T-shirt.

Unprovoked attack

A 29-year-old Farms man was mowing his front grass in the 300 block of Kerby around 8:30 a.m. Saturday, July 20, when his neighbor's pit bull got out of her control and ran at him.

The attack resulted in a laceration on his left bicep and a puncture wound on his chest before the dog was placed back in its home.

Resisting arrest

Around 5:49 p.m. Saturday, July 20, an officer noticed a vehicle matching the description from an earlier call regarding a group of kids smoking marijuana in a parked car.

After the vehicle on Lakeshore reached nearly 10 mph over the speed limit and a Secretary of State check showed an invalid plate, it was pulled over.

A LEIN check of the 26-year-old Detroit driver showed her insurance to be fraudulent, but when she was advised she was under arrest, she fought and screamed at the officers until they were able to get her in a patrol car.

Wrong place, wrong time

At 4:14 p.m. Sunday, July 21, a vehicle on westbound Mack was seen with no license plate, a non-functioning right brake light and a horizontally cracked front windshield. The 20-year-old Detroit man in the passenger seat also was not wearing a seatbelt.

At a traffic stop, the driver was cited for improper plate, no insurance and improper lane use before being cleared.

However, it was discov-

ered the passenger had a warrant out and was subsequently arrested.

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

City of Grosse Pointe

No new incident reports.

— Laurel Kraus
Report information about crimes to the City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety, (313) 886-3200.

Grosse Pointe Shores

No new incident reports.

— Laurel Kraus
Report information about crimes to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Sibling dispute

Officers were called to a house on Westbrook Court the afternoon of Saturday, July 6, after a 54-year-old Shelby Township woman went to her 59-year-old brother's house to discuss how the two were sharing the duties of taking care of their elderly father.

The brother was drinking and when an argument began, the woman called him an alcoholic and he threw the drink on her. When she went to leave, the man sprayed her with a garden hose before throwing her to the ground.

Weightlifting thief

A 71-year-old Woods man on Sunningdale returned from vacation Monday, July 15, to find his 100-pound metal planter box had been taken from his driveway.

Identity theft

An unknown suspect used a 23-year-old Woods woman's identity and debit card information to withdraw a total of \$12,000 from her savings account at three different Chase Bank locations in Miami on Wednesday, July 10.

When the suspect went

to a fourth location in an attempt to withdraw \$2,000 from the victim's checking account, her accounts were flagged and the transaction was declined.

Blame game

Around 7:53 p.m. Thursday, July 18, a 67-year-old Woods woman was driving west on Anita when she saw a truck traveling east at a high rate of speed with the driver on the phone.

When she pulled over next to two legally parked vehicles to allow the truck to pass, it struck her driver side mirror causing the glass to come out.

The truck did not stop immediately but when it did so, the driver called the woman obscenities and said she couldn't drive on his side of the road.

The man then drove off before officers arrived.

Fessing up

After an officer's radar indicated a vehicle on Vernier was traveling 55 mph at 11:58 p.m. Thursday, July 18, the car was pulled over.

The 27-year-old Woods driver immediately admitted to having three shots earlier and later added he also had a beer.

A preliminary breath test showed .18 blood alcohol content.

The man was arrested for liquor transport and operating under the influence of alcohol.

Shoe fraud

A 29-year-old Woods man made a \$370 shoe purchase on eBay Thursday, July 4, and later received notice he needed to send a second confirmation number to the company before the shoes would be delivered.

The man recognized this was against eBay policy and notified its fraud department, but the company told eBay it had already shipped the shoes to the man.

Under the influence

An officer noticed a vehicle driving in the closed construction lane on Vernier at 2:48 a.m. Sunday, July 21.

At a traffic stop, the 22-year-old Ypsilanti Township man refused to put out the tobacco product he was smoking and had glassy, red eyes.

He then refused to submit to the preliminary breath test and was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Fraud

A resident on Yorkshire reported to public safety at 6 p.m. Monday, July 15, he lost his wallet and later discovered his credit cards were being used in the area. The investigation is ongoing.

Resisting arrest

A 29-year-old male Detroit resident was arrested around 10:45 p.m. Friday, July 19, after a public safety lieutenant witnessed him disregard a red light at Kensington and Mack. After a traffic stop, the man refused to cooperate with officers and actively resisted police, for which he was arrested.

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



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6A | OPINION

Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Recalls, taxes, ballots, oh my

Amid the controversy of closing schools and rearranging the middle schools, the Board of Education has had to attend to the annual routine: approving the budget for the fiscal year that began July 1, OK'ing labor contracts and putting the next round of millage renewals on the ballot.

Voters will have to set any ill will aside this November when it comes to the millages. The Grosse Pointe Public School System depends on that revenue; it would be foolish for anyone — even those fighting hardest against the current board — to undercut the district's finances.

For starters, an operating millage renewal for 18 mills on non-homestead property is standard to every school district in the state. Under the Proposal A school finance plan that voters passed in 1994, the state assumes every district will pass it. And everyone has so far. If the tax is not levied by voters, the state just subtracts that amount from what it pays the district.

Combined with that is a renewal of the district's so-called hold-harmless tax; that tax revenue will also disappear if not renewed. The school administration estimates the two taxes raise \$22.3 million. (All homestead property owners also pay a 6-mill State Education Tax, which is not on the ballot.)

The other millage on the ballot supports the district's sinking fund and is expected to raise about \$3 million a year for five years.

A sinking fund typically covers repairs, such as replacing broken equipment, patching leaky roofs or doing relatively minor upgrades. Basically, the money goes for work that extends beyond routine maintenance but does not merit inclusion in a bond issue. A sinking fund is also more accessible in emergencies, compared to asking voters to approve a bond issue.

The board is asking voters to raise the sinking fund levy back to 1 mill, from the current 0.9687 after tax rollbacks since it was last approved.

Because of Michigan's convoluted tax laws, the ballot language sounds as if these are new proposals to add millages. But they are primarily renewals.

If anything, the communities supporting the Grosse Pointe school district would likely vote for higher taxes yet — something the state restricts under Proposal A.

That leaves schools dependent on decisions made in Lansing. And the state's elected officials have once again disrespected their constituents by not passing a budget before July 1, when most school districts and municipalities must approve their own budgets. In this case, that means the school board has set its spending plan based on the best guesstimate of what the state will supply for the next school year.

The state's new fiscal year starts Oct. 1, which allows for political lollygagging even as it leaves schools and cities in limbo. This year, the hold-up is road money, and how to raise it. The election last year of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who campaigned on fixing the roads, made it clear that voters expect a major repair program.

Gov. Whitmer bit the bullet with a plan for a 45-cent-per-gallon increase in the gas tax. Lawmakers aren't buying that, but none of their proposals have gotten traction either.

The worry for every community is that any solution will continue to divert money, either from the School Aid Fund (primarily via payments to universities, which once were supported entirely by the General Fund) or from revenue sharing to local governments, or both.

The school funding structure known as Proposal A is 25 years old and due for an overhaul, although no one should bet on that happening. The Headlee Amendment — the constitutional provision that requires tax-rate rollbacks — passed in 1978.

Taken together, they leave voters scrambling to understand why there are so many millage requests with such convoluted language. More important, as may be the case in the Grosse Pointe school district, voters sometimes wonder why they can't help their schools even more.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Pure Grosse Pointe

Emily Wolfe, an art teacher at Grosse Pointe South High School, finds peace painting plein air landscapes. July 8 wasn't too hot and the fishflies were taking a break, so she set up her easel and canvas on Lakeshore and painted a landscape of Harbor Hill in Grosse Pointe Farms. Wolfe has been at South five years and has been painting plein air around four years.

OUR VIEW

Provençal Road annexation

Marooned on what they view as the wrong side of the Grosse Pointe Farms-Woods border, seven Provençal Road homeowners are trying once again to rejigger the boundary line.

Although this definitely falls in the category of First World problems, the residents deserve some sympathy. Their front yards, driveways and mailboxes are in Grosse Pointe Farms, but their houses sit in Grosse Pointe Woods, which makes them Woods residents and taxpayers. Under a longstanding agreement, the Woods has sent money to the Farms to provide public services — garbage, snowplowing, police and fire protection, etc. — to those houses. They were even given Farms park passes.

The residents have tried and failed in the past to realign the border, which will save them some on taxes because the Farms' millage rate is lower than the Woods' rate. They also point out how minuscule their ties to the Woods are — they vote there but have more at stake in how the Farms government operates. Their Provençal Road neighbors on either side are in the Farms.

The complications at this point are many. After residents petitioned the State Boundary Commission last year to adjust the line, the Woods decided to exit the 1955 agreement that paid the Farms to provide services. For Woods garbage trucks, for example,

that means an extended ride through the Farms to drive down the same road as a Farms truck.

And for the seven Woods properties, the residents, who are used to having the Farms DPW workers on jitneys coming into their backyards and garages for their trash, now have to wheel out their bins to the curb. Again, not a Third World problem, but still they are the only seven out of 32 properties so encumbered.

For police and fire emergencies, response time will be impacted — 3.4-mile runs vs. 1.5. The Woods seems to be relying on mutual aid pacts to assume that Farms personnel will show up as well (and probably sooner, given the distances involved).

This month, the residents finally got their State Boundary Commission annexation hearing. The commission's recommendation is due next month; the final decision rests with the director of the state Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

The cost to Grosse Pointe Woods — about \$172,000 last year in city, school and county taxes — is not minimal. But it's also good to realize that the settlement history of the Grosse Pointes does not always jibe with the simplicity of straight lines. (The Harper Woods-Grosse Pointe Woods border goes through some people's houses, for example).

In the Provençal case, a seven-house jog in the boundary seems reasonable.

OUR VIEW

Going long in the Shores

Grosse Pointe Shores credits itself with being the smallest of the Pointes, yet it has the longest name, even before anyone remembers that it is technically the "Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, a Michigan City."

Recently the online magazine insider.com decided to sleuth out the 20 cities with the longest names around the country. By the website's count, "Village of Grosse Pointe Shores" came in fifth. Apparently "a Michigan city" didn't get attached in the U.S. Census Bureau data they searched.

If the 13 letters in "a Michigan city" had been included, the Shores could claim 40 letters and vault

past the other four cities: two with 30 letters (both in California) and one each with 29 letters and 28 letters (in Texas and Florida, respectively).

The top four names are hyphenated, suggesting they resulted from mergers between communities that couldn't bear to lose their identity. (Imagine the Pointes combining into Grosse Pointe City-Farms-Park-Shores-Woods and you'll have the idea.)

But the Shores inflicted this mouthful on itself, writing the name into its charter when it switched its governance from village to city in 2009. At least checks, according to the court webpage, can be made out to "Grosse Pointe Shores." Phew!

LETTERS

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

Power outages

To the Editor:

I have lived most of my life in Michigan, spending just a few years in Colorado for college and in California for work. I am very proud to be a

Michigander and very proud of my home state and hometown.

What I am not proud of is our lack of progress and modernization of our utilities. I am constantly seeing ... AT&T burying fiber optic cables

for faster internet service, my own city and others replacing aging water mains and storm sewers.

What I do not see is DTE out upgrading their (electrical) systems. I don't see them burying their lines as they have in outer Oakland County.

I have to wonder, with the rate increases we have had over the past few years, why hasn't any notable progress been made? We still have massive power outages after nearly every wind storm.

Some 600,000 people losing power is not an act of God, it's an act of negligence. More people lost power from these

wind storms than did from all of Hurricane Florence last year.

Why did we have so many lines damaged when the corresponding area in Canada had less than 12,000 people without power?

It's time to put DTE to the test. It's time for consequences for their lack of upgrading and for just sitting on their aging infrastructure for years.

We have no choice in our area for electricity other than DTE; we are forced to live with their mediocrity and lack of modernization.

Please force consequences on them.

See LETTERS, page 7A

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I SAY By Renee Landuyt

Getting older can be fun



If someone asked you what comes to mind when you hear the word “aging,” what would you say? I put that question out to friends of different ages and got some interesting responses.

“A journey through life,” a friend said. Another said, “Wisdom. Become the wise old woman, the sage.” Yet another said, “Somewhere between AARP and the Golden Girls.” Other responses were “maturity,” “patience and not caring about what others think,” “slowing down,”

“my mirror,” “getting older” and “frustration about needing help with things that used to be effortless solo projects.”

It’s interesting how our own age and situation can color our ideas of aging. When I asked the question, I was thinking of human aging, but was surprised to get responses beyond that, like “Michigan’s infrastructure,” “wine, bourbon and beer” and “something failing, in need of repair, worn.”

Perception can steer our direction. You won’t get the same response to the word “aging” from a 20-year-old as you would from someone in their 40s, 50s and up.

No one wants to be thought of as old, but as you age, things change. We are surprised the first time someone calls

us ma’am, when an ache or pain shows up out of nowhere and we laugh about going out earlier now because when we were younger we didn’t go out until 10 p.m.

But we also know it is OK to slow down, that we don’t have to go 100 mph daily and to have fun doing whatever that means for you right now. Comfort and comfortable become our good friends.

It is said that our lives are not determined by what happens to us but how we react to what happens. And if we are lucky enough, the one thing that happens to all of us is aging.

Now you might not think aging is a good thing, but think about the alternative. Being grateful to be alive no matter what your age

and to embrace the difference each year brings is a good way to have a happier life as we age.

Attitude can be everything and it can make or break us. We can have a strong mindset and belief that we can do more than we think. A positive mindset can make a world of difference. Will it solve everything? No, but it can help overcome issues or at least help us feel better during the process.

Lately I’ve seen a lot of articles on how to not only live to an older age, but how to love it and enjoy your time at any age.

I recently read about a 92-year-old woman who finished a marathon that took her 7 hours, 20 minutes. Wow. She believed she could do it, physically prepared for

it and held the mindset she could accomplish it. Good for her.

I don’t want to run a marathon now, let alone at 92 — I prefer swimming, walking, dancing — but we all have things we want to accomplish and it can be as intense or relaxed as we want it to be.

Color your grays? Cosmetic surgery? What is vanity worth?

There is no denying we live in a youth-obsessed world that tells us we need to do everything we can to stay younger looking, including injecting botulism-related bacteria (Botox) into our faces to reduce wrinkles. Though reportedly safe, why would anyone be OK with that?

Basically, we are being told we no longer matter

if we look older.

Getting older can be fun; we have more stories, and we don’t care about little things we used to think were a big deal.

You are in charge of your life, and no matter what decade you are in, you can start right this minute, if you haven’t already, to live a better life as you age.

We can make small changes like using non-toxic cleaners or cosmetics without chemicals, eating organic when possible, laughing with friends, making new friends, walking, meditating, going places or reading a book.

Do what makes your heart happy. Live by what you want, not by what others are doing. It’s your life and “aging” should not be a bad word. Be grateful for every breath, every sunrise. Age is just a number.

YESTERDAY’S HEADLINES

1944

75 years ago this week

◆ SWIM-HUNGRY KIDS JOYFUL AGAIN:

The swimming ban which has weighed down more heavily on the Pointe youngsters’ summer vacation enjoyment than anything that ever previously befell the community has at last been completely lifted in all the Pointe communities.

The ban was implemented while waiting for proper disposal of sewage in Macomb County.

COMMON GARBAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM SEEN AS NECESSITY: The garbage disposal problem will confront all the Pointe villages before long.

The Park village’s

experience illustrates the problem. Until less than a month ago, the Park garbage was carted to a piggery in Sterling Township in Macomb County, about 14 miles from here.

Recently, local opposition to the unsanitary conditions caused by the piggery led to its shutdown and now the Park is compelled to truck its garbage to another place about 30 miles distant, north and east of Mount Clemens. This, of course, makes the garbage disposal problem much more expensive.

Recently, the Park village manager has been agitating for a common disposal system for all of the Pointes. The most modern practice, he says, is to encourage the grinding up of the garbage in the homes and its dumping into the sewer

along with household sewage refuse, whence it is collected into settling tanks at a central treatment plant and the materials made into a valuable fertilizer.

Obituaries: U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Robert Cyrus Kennedy

1969

50 years ago this week

◆ UNIVERSITY SCHOOL, LIGGETT CONSOLIDATION ANNOUNCED BY BOARDS OF TRUSTEES: The Boards of Trustees of Grosse Pointe University School and The Liggett School have announced the consolidation, as of July 1, of the two institutions forming University Liggett School.

The decision was made

after intensive study of the community and its needs and the economics and philosophy of independent education.

◆ FARMS PUSHES METER PROGRAM: The Farms council approved the purchase of 105 new parking meters, in carrying out the city’s second phase of a five-year program to replace obsolete meters.

Obituaries: George Leo Cassidy, Theresa C. Johnsen, Bertha Maples, Sophia Schrage, Owen R. Skelton, Emory B. Wickline

1994

25 years ago this week

◆ NO GROUP HOME FOR THE WOODS: It came as a big surprise to Wayne Community Living Service to learn that the Michigan Department of Social

Services thought their company was planning an adult foster care facility in Grosse Pointe Woods. Especially since months ago, Wayne CLS decided to put a facility in the city.

They had looked at purchasing a home on Blossom Lane, but decided the home needed too many expensive alterations to make it suitable for an adult foster care home.

◆ TIME NEAR FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING:

School finance reform, the advent of a district library and other pressing issues have overshadowed a matter that has been simmering in the Grosse Pointe schools for more than a year.

At issue is the pair of 80-year-old buildings on St. Clair in the City of Grosse Pointe that have been home to the school district’s administrative offices for 60 years.

Over the years, the issue of selling the aging buildings and relocating the offices has surfaced repeatedly.

Obituaries: Dorothy Becker Neal, Loraine Florence Ortwein, Albert D. Thomas, Luella M.

Schuur, Lois M. Sheahan

2009

10 years ago this week

◆ VANDALS HIT LIGGETT CAMPUS: Vandals struck two buses and a building at University Liggett School last weekend.

Windows on two buses were smashed and the athletic fieldhouse, located just yards from the buses at the Cook Road campus, was entered and heavily damaged.

◆ PARKING CURBED ON CADIEUX: State transportation officials have denied requests to restore parking on Cadieux.

The decision means Cadieux residents can no longer park curbside, even when a current \$400,000 resurfacing project from Jefferson to Kercheval concludes this summer.

Eighty percent of construction is being funded by a federal grant that forbids parking on roads as narrow as Cadieux.

Obituaries: John Robert Dillaman, Bette Ann Hart, Linda J. Knuebel, Thomas Rohr, Irene A. Shannon, Joyce Oetjens Wambold
—Karen Fontanive

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

Currently there are no repercussions for these extended outages; there should be. They certainly don’t wait to turn our power off if we don’t pay!

FRANCES BANKA
Grosse Pointe

Profanity on the ballfield

To the Editor:

It is now OK per the Grosse Pointe public school administration for school employees to confront each other with profanity and not lose their jobs. I assume it is also OK in front of women, children, mothers, grandparents and students.

This is what happened between Grosse Pointe North and South during a state baseball playoff game when the North coach confronted the South coach in front of women, children, mothers, grandparents and students — and he still has his job.

It is video recorded and can be found on social media.

Another North coach taunted an opposing student athlete, and that is considered appropriate also?

Is it also acceptable behavior for students of the school system to use this language when they are interacting with teachers, administrators and other students on school grounds? If not, why not?

As a former Grosse Pointe football coach for over 10 years, it never entered my mind to confront an opponent in this manner. I just assumed it was a fireable offense. I work in healthcare, now for over 40 years, and know it is a fireable offense.

I have been in contact with administrators at North and have also talked to the superintendent about this despicable behavior and they are OK with this. They just can’t admit they made a mistake hiring this man that has acted in this classless manner.

These aren’t the life lessons I tried to teach our children when I had the chance to coach them. Every year I would thank the parents for let-

ting me be involved with their children. I knew it was a privilege, one that I needed to earn every year.

This man lost that privilege. To allow a man like this to be around our children is not only a disgrace, but also contrary and, quite frankly, dangerous to our children.

I have seen this kind of behavior incite violence, which this almost did, and whose fault would that be? If this occurs and it results in violence, what would a lawyer think knowing the school system was already alerted about this man’s volatile character and allowed him to stay employed?

RICHARD SCHROEDER
Grosse Pointe Park

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HUMBLE AND HUMAN

Impressionist Era Treasures from the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and the Detroit Institute of Arts, an Exhibition in Honor of Ralph C. Wilson, Jr.

June 26—October 13, 2019

Humble and Human: Impressionist Era Treasures from the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and the Detroit Institute of Arts, An Exhibition in Honor of Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. is organized by the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York. The exhibition is made possible by the generous support of the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation.

RW RALPH C. WILSON, JR. FOUNDATION

This exhibition is a part of the Bonnie Ann Larson Modern European Masters Series.

Portrait of Postman Roulin, 1888, Vincent van Gogh, Dutch, oil on canvas, Detroit Institute of Arts, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Buhl Ford II.

DIA DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

TEACHERS IN THE SUMMERTIME

This article is part of a series on teachers spending time in the summer to enhance their knowledge and enrich their classrooms for the benefit of their students.

South Tower adviser explores innovative approaches to journalism

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

Kaitlin Edgerton will begin her fourth year as adviser for Grosse Pointe South High School's newspaper, The Tower, and online edition, The Tower Pulse, with new ideas to engage aspiring young journalists.

Edgerton was among 23 journalism teachers across the country selected to participate in a new week-long workshop at Kent State University July 14 to 20. Sponsored by the Knight Foundation-endowed Center for Scholastic Journalism, the workshop is geared toward those who want to get ahead of the curve and learn about innovative concepts in media, according to a news release.

The teachers, representing 16 different states, were chosen from a large pool of applicants to attend an all-expense-



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAITLIN EDGERTON

Tower adviser Kaitlin Edgerton, front row far left, was among 23 journalism teachers across the country selected to participate in the Center for Scholastic Journalism workshop at Kent State University.

paid, immersive, hands-on experience. Edgerton was the only representative from Michigan.

Teachers spent time on Kent's campus exploring data reporting and visualization, content engagement across all platforms,

virtual and augmented reality and other ways to take their students to the next level.

Edgerton said she is excited to apply these advanced topics in the classroom this coming school year.

Of particular interest to her is podcasting, a popular trend in journalism. Edgerton plans to write a grant to purchase equipment for The Tower to expand and reach its audience through this audio media.

Applying solutions-based journalism is another area Edgerton hopes to explore next year.

The concept is to have "students look at a problem and not just saying, 'here is a problem,' but seeing what kind of solutions they can come up with looking at data and seeing what other people have done to solve it and applying that to a more positive approach to their writing," Edgerton said.

Examples of solutions-based journalism, according to Edgerton's blog post inspired by the CSJ workshop, include not solving world hunger, but repurposing extra food from the school cafeteria; focusing on types of smoking cessation programs that work best for young people in a story on vaping; and, as part of an article on the environment, including ways students and schools can help reduce their carbon footprint.

These approaches provide "a way for (students) to have a voice as well," Edgerton said.

Not long after returning from Kent State in Ohio, Edgerton is headed to Michigan State University to teach a class on feature writing to journalism students at the annual Michigan Interscholastic Press Association summer journalism workshop July 28 to Aug. 1.

From there, it's back to South to work with next year's Tower staff on the summer edition before school begins.

Outside of the classroom, Edgerton contributes to the journalism field as MIPA's vice president and was among six new curriculum leaders selected by the Journalism Education Association to work on the 2019-2020 curriculum initiative.

Edgerton received her JEA Certified Journalism Educator status in 2017.

School board appoints new CFO

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

The Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education unanimously approved the appointment of Robert Maleszyk as new deputy superintendent of business operations and support services at its regular meeting July 15. The position became available when former Deputy Superintendent Lisa Abbey announced her decision to retire June 30, after three years of service to the district.

Maleszyk comes to the district with more than 27 years of experience in accounting, budgeting and finance as a certified public accountant. His background includes extensive auditing, budgeting, general ledger, costing, disbursements, internal control, accounting research and financial statement preparation. "Rob is the recommended candidate by Dr. Niehaus," said Jon Dean, deputy superintendent of educational services. "... We ran several rounds of interviews and Rob quickly rose to the top and we couldn't be more excited about him. He has a strong



PHOTO BY MARY ANNE BRUSH

Robert Maleszyk

background in accounting and in particular in the municipal sector.

"While he does not have any direct school experience, the reality is in the municipal world it's very similar to our world because they're levying taxes and revenue and dealing with federal grants and state grants, etc.," Dean added. "We really feel like he is going to be a great fit for us in our work."

Maleszyk served as city controller for the City of Warren from 2010 to the present. Previous experience includes three years as director of accounting

for the City Acceptance Corp., seven years at Ford Motor Co. as manager of land development, five years as director of corporate accounting at Henry Ford Health System and four years as senior accountant at Deloitte & Touche.

He has a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Central Michigan University. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants, National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association, National Association of Stock Plan Professionals and Michigan Government Financial Officers Association.

"I wanted to thank the board for all your service and dedication to this community," Maleszyk said. "I can't wait to join your vision for what you want Grosse Pointe schools to continue to be and improve."

He will begin the new position Monday, Aug. 5.

Board votes to renew millages

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

At its regular meeting July 15, the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education voted unanimously to put two millages on the ballot for renewal at the Nov. 5 election.

One motion was to approve the sinking fund millage and the other an operating millage. While technically referred to as "a restoration and extension" in the ballot language rather than a renewal, neither represents an increase in taxes.

The sinking fund, which generates approximately \$2.6 million or \$2.7 million annually, is used for maintenance projects, Superintendent Gary Niehaus said. Examples he cited were patching roofs, replacing boilers and fixing water mains.

"There's going to be people who question, now that you've got your bond fund, why would you need a sinking fund? The bottom line is maintenance is not something you can do with bond money," Niehaus said. "We need both of those funds."

In November 2018, the district passed a \$111 critical needs bond referen-

dum. The two-series, 20-year bond was to be issued in 2019 and 2022 and represented a proposed increase of 1.5 mills. Included in the bond proposal were roofing, masonry, plumbing, bathrooms, electrical, safety, secure vestibule entrances, cabling, network infrastructure and energy/operational savings.

The sinking fund ballot proposal requests that voters "restore and extend the authority of the Grosse Pointe Public School System to levy a sinking fund millage last approved by voters in 2014 and which expired with the 2019 levy."

According to the ballot language, "Of the 1.00 mill, .9687 constitutes a renewal of the expired authorization."

"We can't call it a renewal because of the Headlee Override," said Deputy Superintendent of Educational Services Jon Dean. "But it is a renewal. A Headlee Override involves asking the voters to approve raising the millage rate to its original rate after it has been forced to be rolled back because of growth in property values."

The Headlee Override was a response to the Headlee Amendment, approved by voters as an amendment to the

Michigan Constitution.

The Headlee Amendment includes a number of provisions related to state and local taxes, including requiring voter approval for any local tax increases or new taxes established after Headlee was approved, limiting property tax revenue resulting from property tax assessment increases and limiting revenue collected to the amount the millage originally was to generate (with factor for inflation).

The operating millage restoration and extension is a levy up to 18 mills for general school district operating purposes on taxable non-homestead property.

Also on the ballot is renewal of the up to 7.8763 mills "hold harmless" levy on homestead (principal residences) properties.

Generating approximately \$22 million, these levies make up about 20 percent of the district's budget, according to Dean.

"This is our actual operating millage," Dean said. "The state of Michigan assumes that we're going to levy these mills. If we do not levy these mills, we don't get the full foundation allowance per child."



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Kids 4 Kids



PHOTOS BY MARY ANNE BRUSH

PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER PIERIN

Families across Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods hosted lemonade stands the weekend of July 13 and 14 to raise money for Michigan Support Circle and We GP — Welcoming Everyone Grosse Pointe — in support of rights for immigrants and refugees and in protest of human detention camps. “Kids 4 Kids” stands popped up along Grosse Pointe Boulevard and Moran in Grosse Pointe Farms; Audubon and Kercheval and Pemberton in Grosse Pointe Park; Cadieux and St. Clair and Maumee in the City of Grosse Pointe; Beaufait, Holiday and Hollywood in Grosse Pointe Woods; and the corner of Rolandale and Bournemouth in Harper Woods.

Combined with other events throughout the weekend, including a community stand at Christ Church Grosse Pointe and a Lights for Liberty march in Detroit Friday, July 12, the 13 stands hosted by Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods families raised more than \$3,000 for Immigrant Families Together, according to We GP President Shannon Byrne.

To donate, go to gofundme.com/immigrantfamilies-together-general-fund.

Clockwise from top left, Cam and Gemma Munson’s lemonade stand on Pemberton in Grosse Pointe Park offered free neck massages in addition to lemonade; a sign on the Munsons’ stand; Chase Havlik, left, and Franklin Pierin hosted a lemonade stand on the corner of Grosse Pointe Boulevard and Kerby in Grosse Pointe Farms; Madeline and Amelia Unkel’s stand was located on Grosse Pointe Boulevard and Cloverly in the Farms.

PRIDE OF THE POINTES

John Schulte of the City of Grosse Pointe was named to the Dean’s List for the spring semester at Baldwin Wallace University. He is a graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School.

The following area students were named to the Dean’s List for the spring 2019 semester at Baylor University: **Maxwell Stricker** of the City of Grosse Pointe; **Mark Cimmarrusti** of Grosse Pointe Farms; **Alexander Kalmar** and **Hannah Lemanski** of Grosse Pointe Park; and **Kamilla Berns** of Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆◆◆ **Hannah Garey** earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from the University of the South in

May. She is the daughter of **Kirkland Garey** of Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆◆◆ **Mackenzie Clark** of Grosse Pointe Woods and **Casey Jackowski** of the City of Grosse Pointe made the President’s List for the second semester of 2018-19 at Miami University. The President’s List recognizes undergraduate students ranked in the top three percent within each division for that semester.

◆◆◆ The following area students were named to the Dean’s List at Miami University for the second semester of 2018-19: **Caroline Calcaterra**, **Connor Mallegg** and **Maranda Saigh** of the City of Grosse Pointe; **Jacqueline Kopicki** and

Michael Lesha of Grosse Pointe Woods; **Halle Mogk** of Grosse Pointe Park; and **Angelo Pendolino** of Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆◆◆ **Donna Lockhart** of Grosse Pointe Farms graduated from Tulane University in May 2019, earning a Master of Jurisprudence from the School of Law.

◆◆◆ **Jennifer Moy** of the City of Grosse Pointe and **Lauren Fleckenstein** of Grosse Pointe Farms were named to the Dean’s List for the spring 2019 semester at Fairfield University.

◆◆◆ Grosse Pointe Shores resident **Dominick Procopio** was named to the Dean’s List at the University of

Massachusetts Lowell for the spring 2019 semester.

◆◆◆ **Ethan Reeside** of the City of Grosse Pointe was named to the Champlain College Dean’s List for the spring 2019 semester. He is majoring in business administration.

◆◆◆ The following area students graduated from Central Michigan University in May 2019: **Leela Chandrasekar** and **John Scott** from the City of Grosse Pointe; **Emmett Hynous**, **Claire Stevenson** and **Hannah Tripp** from Grosse Pointe Farms; **Claire Berg**, **Jacob Dessinger**, **Rachel Glenn** and **Madison Hunter** from Grosse Pointe Park; **Kimberly Cooper**, **Philip Aufdemberge**, **Louis Saravolatz** and **Michael**

Schneider from Grosse Pointe Shores; and **Joshua Champney**, **Madison Gafa**, **Tyler Goode**, **Andrew Hauler**, **Julia Henderson**, **Zachary Josefiak**, **Rolf Mammen**, **LaShawn McBride**, **Shannon McEnroe**, **Amy Meier** and **Kelsey Parafin** from Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆◆◆ The following area students received honors at Central Michigan University: **Jessica Boehmer** and **Claire Stevenson** from Grosse Pointe Farms; **Sarah Buttiglieri** and **Holly Daywalt** from Grosse Pointe Park; and **Lily Adzigian**, **Alec Bessette**, **Shannon McEnroe**, **Kelsey Parafin**, **Josephine Riley** and **Jordan White** from Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆◆◆ The following area students graduated from Grand Valley State University in April 2019:

Meagan Beach, **David Gerlach**, **Coleman Harrison**, **Carter Harrison**, **Chaya Krolikowski**, **Ryan Liagre**, **Hannah Nihem** and **Natalie Schunk** from the City of Grosse Pointe; and **Catherine Brieden**, **Luke Kirtley**, **John Martin** and **Ethan Teranes** from Grosse Pointe Park.

◆◆◆ The following area students graduated from Miami University in May 2019: **Charlie Fordon** and **Maranda Saigh** of the City of Grosse Pointe; **Cameron Mogk** of Grosse Pointe Park; and **Mackenzie Clark** and **Jacqueline Kopicki** of Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆◆◆ **Peter Gritsas** graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in musical theater from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in May 2019. The Woods resident graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School.

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<p>JUST \$721-10% =\$649!! SAVE \$200!!</p> <p>18 MONTH PROMOTIONAL FINANCING!*</p> <p>Whirlpool Stainless Steel Range</p> <p>FEATURES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frozen bake technology • 5 smooth top elements • 5.3 cu. ft.  <p>WFE525S0HZ</p> <p>NEXT DAY DELIVERY!*</p>	<p>ONLY \$777-10% =\$699!! EACH SAVE \$200!! EACH</p> <p>18 MONTH PROMOTIONAL FINANCING!*</p> <p>Whirlpool Front Load Laundry</p> <p>FEATURES:</p> <p>WASHER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.5 cu. ft. • Sanitize cycle • Quick wash cycle <p>DRYER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.4 cu. ft. • Wrinkle shield option • Ecoboost option  <p>WFW5620HW • WED5620HW</p> <p>NEXT DAY DELIVERY!*</p>	<p>JUST \$3332-10% =\$2999!! SAVE \$864!!</p> <p>18 MONTH PROMOTIONAL FINANCING!*</p> <p>4-PIECE STAINLESS STEEL SUITE</p> <p>MAYTAG FINGERPRINT RESISTANT!</p> <p>DIMENSIONS: W 35 5/8" x D 35 1/4" x H 70 1/8"</p> <p>REFRIGERATOR: 25 cu. ft., external water & ice, 6 door bins (MF12570FZ) RANGE: 5.3 cu. ft., precision cooking system, 5 radiant elements (MER6600FZ) DISHWASHER: Full console, hard food disposer, 50 dBA quiet (MOB4949SHZ) OVER-THE-RANGE MICROWAVE: 1.7 cu. ft., 2-speed venting system, 1000 watts (MMV1174FZ)</p>  <p>NEXT DAY DELIVERY!*</p>
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Hands-on help Life Remodeled seeks volunteers Aug. 5-10

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Since 2014, Life Remodeled has improved the neighborhoods surrounding four Detroit schools, beautifying 1,589 blocks, repairing 188 homes and boarding up 2,018 abandoned houses with the help of more than 56,000 volunteers.

This year, the six-day project is planned Monday, Aug. 5, to Saturday, Aug. 10.

Grosse Pointe organizers have designated Wednesday, Aug. 7, as their day of service. Community members are invited to join representatives from various congregations, clubs and organizations who already have signed up.

“This is not just a garden club type of cleanup,” said Howard Hill, a member of Grosse Pointe Memorial Church helping recruit volunteers.

The main scope of this year’s project is clearing

blighted alleyways within four square miles of the Durfee Innovation Society, 2470 Collingwood, Detroit, where volunteers will meet before being deployed to various areas. Morning, afternoon and all-day shifts are available.

Hill, who has volunteered for Life Remodeled several years, said removing overgrown brush is a matter of safety, not just aesthetics. The residents are grateful, he said. Many of them see the work being done and join in, working side by side with volunteers.

The difference one day makes is evident, Hill added, noting the amount of trash and debris collected after eight hours of work.

“One house, we didn’t even know there was a house there until we cut away the brush,” he said.

Michael McDevitt, who works at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic

Church, was impressed by the sheer size of Life Remodeled last year, his first.

“It’s a large operation, well organized,” he said. “I enjoyed working with people. I’m glad that I had gone. We’ll enjoy being part of the Grosse Pointe group this year.”

McDevitt said the project is one of many St. Clare gets involved in, as the church is open to “making a difference and contributing in our immediate backyard and a little down the road.”

Though the Durfee neighborhood sees a lot of turnaround and boarded houses, it’s easy to see improvement, organizers said.

One of the biggest Life Remodeled efforts has been the repurposing of the former Durfee Elementary-Middle School into a hub for nonprofit organizations and for-profit businesses. The Durfee Innovation Society has seen tremendous growth since it opened last year.

“Renters are providing services for the immediate area,” McDevitt said. “When you volunteer for the day, you get exposed to what’s going on. You’re assigned to blight removal — that’s one facet — but there are multiple facets we’re working on.”

Added Hill, “There are other opportunities besides handling a rake. There are businesses, people putting offices down there. We’re getting (volunteers) down there to see what we can do.”

Rotary member Ted Everingham, who has been involved with Life Remodeled five years, said the tenants moving



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JAMES LADY

Last year’s Life Remodeled team from Grosse Pointe.



Judy Masserang, left, and Sarah Godbehere.



Sue Acton.



Howard Hill made a grisly discovery during a past project.



From left, Howard Hill, neighborhood resident Willy and Ted Everingham pose for a photo.

into the center are impressive. He makes it a point to stop in every few months to check on progress.

“Every time I visit, there’s more,” Everingham said. “They’re all trying to rebuild the community. ... It’s become a self-sustaining, viable neighborhood incubator.”

A significant sign of improvement this year is the program’s addition of activities for neighborhood residents during the six-day project: the Avengers Youth Mentoring Summer Camp for K-8 students; basketball camp for middle and high school students; a career fair; and Family Fun Day with activities, entertainment, carnival games and “the largest bounce house in the world.”

The Durfee neighborhood is the fourth Life Remodeled site, but the first multi-year site,

Everingham said. At each project, residents are asked what they’d like to see done, not told what they need.

“It provides encouragement to a lot of people,” McDevitt said. “It shows people care, that efforts are being made to make the neighborhood look better. It’s uplifting.”

To better explain the efforts of Life Remodeled, founder and CEO Chris Lambert will speak at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church at 9:15 a.m. Sunday, July 28, between services.

“When he tells his story,” Hill said, “it’s inspiring every time you hear it.”

There are opportunities apart from physical labor, including helping with registration and serving lunch, Hill said. Volunteers also are needed for the camp, career fair and Family Fun Day.

To volunteer with the Grosse Pointe group, sign up online at bit.ly/LifeRemodeled-GP-Aug7.

To volunteer for another day of the project, visit liferemodeled.com/volunteer.

Visit grossepointe-news.com for more information about the Durfee Innovation Society and its tenants.

2018 results

- Last year, 10,397 Life Remodeled volunteers:
- ◆ beautified 316 city blocks
 - ◆ boarded up 396 houses
 - ◆ cleared 102 alleyways
 - ◆ planted more than 700 trees, shrubs and perennials
 - ◆ built two community gardens and upgraded four more
 - ◆ installed 20 Little Free Libraries along Safe Routes
 - ◆ designated the safest routes to Durfee and Central schools with artwork
 - ◆ installed three new bus shelters
 - ◆ installed five grills and picnic tables at neighborhood parks
 - ◆ installed two sets of bleachers for the Central High School softball field
 - ◆ added neighborhood signage
 - ◆ significantly improved Central High School’s football facilities and equipment, including renovating the press box that had been vandalized, repairing the home bleachers and handicap ramps, installing a new scoreboard and helping get new uniforms and equipment for the team and headsets for the coaches.



Lynda Weiser, left, and Mary Huebner.

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2B | FEATURES

Mutt March makeup date is this Sunday

A soggy spring led to saturated grounds at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House last month, which prompted the rescheduling of some events at the historic estate.

Among them was the Michigan Humane Society's Mutt March, originally planned for early June.

Despite a few rainy days leading up to the rescheduled event, accuweather.com predicts that Sunday, July 28, will be dry and in the mid-80s with cloud coverage — not too shabby for the 2,000 or so guests and their four-legged friends expected to attend.

Registration begins at 8 a.m., followed by the walk at 9 a.m.; participants are welcome to start anytime between 9 a.m. and noon. Registration is free and includes a T-shirt, while supplies last.

A variety of course lengths up to 2.5 miles are available and water will be provided. New this year is a kids' area and a humane education station. The event also features a stage performance to celebrate the event's 30th anniversary.

This year's event will be led by three grand

marshals: Alfalfa, the Cairn terrier of Grosse Pointe Farms resident Joe Stolarski; Cricket, the Maltese mix of Grosse Pointe Park resident Kathy Lightbody; and Barry, the shepherd mix of St. Clair Shores resident Jennifer Stockwell.

Mutt March is the Michigan Humane Society's fundraiser for animals that need support. Donations help the society rescue neglected and abandoned animals, initiate cruelty investigations and provide medicine, food and shelter for animals in their care.

Dogs participating in Mutt March must be on a leash or in a carrier at all times; owners must be prepared to clean up after their animals. Owners also should be able to present up-to-date vaccination records if asked.

The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House is located at 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

The event is presented by Sellers Subaru.

For more information or to fundraise or register a team, visit bit.ly/2YLRNSR.

— Jody McVeigh



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KAREN LOVE

Volunteers plan for, left, and work at, above, the urban orchard.

Northeast Guidance Center has urban orchard

By Karen Love
Guest Writer

Located in a food desert where the majority of citizens suffer from diabetes and high blood pressure — and in the midst of fast food operations and gas stations where one can literally pick up a slice of “quickly prepared” pizza or a fried drumstick — is Northeast Guidance Center's urban garden, located directly behind the Motor City Clubhouse on Connor.

The urban garden is a project of Motor City Clubhouse and has been around more than 10 years. The garden yields fresh vegetables and a number of fruit trees, including apple, peach, apricot and pear trees, along with a grape arbor, strawberries and raspberries. Items from the garden and orchard will

be available at a farm stand in the urban garden. Donations are welcome. In addition, this summer the community may visit Northeast Guidance Center's farm stand during the Tuesday Market at Eastern Market.

Recently, Northeast Guidance Center was awarded a grant from the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation of Pittsburgh and planted a variety of 35 fruit trees and four blueberry bushes. The foundation, an award-winning international nonprofit charity, is dedicated to planting fruit trees to alleviate world hunger, combat global warming and improve the surrounding air, soil and water. Its unique mission benefits environment, human health and animal welfare — all at once. In partnership with

the foundation are the makers of vitafusion®, the No. 1 adult gummy vitamin brand. Together, their goal is to plant, cultivate and sustain more than 200,000 nutrient-rich fruit trees by 2020, with the ultimate goal of increasing access to healthy foods.

Northeast Guidance Center's newly planted fruit trees will produce fruit in three years. “Cross-pollination with different varieties, such as the Frostbite and Liberty, is required,” said Sharon Common, fund development officer, “and our volunteers and staff planted trees that will bear early and late fruit.”

Approximately 20 volunteers worked in teams of two or three and included Northeast Guidance Center's Motor City Club members, administrative staff and

community volunteers, who worked alongside James Kaechele and Lizzy Rainey, Fruit Tree Planting Foundation program manager, respectively, to get the job done.

Northeast Guidance Center President and CEO Sherry McRill said, “Our vision as a leader in the community is to meet the needs of the people where we serve mentally, emotionally and physically. If by providing an oasis of vegetables and fruit from our urban garden meets those needs and aids in building a healthier community, then we have met that vision.”

For more information about the urban garden or how to get involved, contact Common at (313) 510-1723 or scommon@norguidance.org.

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AREA ACTIVITIES

NAACP

Representatives of the ACLU and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights will answer questions regarding the next steps of the Grosse Pointe

Public School System reconfiguration plans during the next meeting of the Grosse Pointe-Harper Woods NAACP, from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 25, at the Harper Woods College and Career Institute, 20570 Kelly, Harper Woods.

Libraries

The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts the following programs at its branches:

Central — 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, (313) 343-2074

◆ The Intergalactic Summer Reading Magic Spectacular with Jeff Wawrzaszek, 2 p.m. Monday, July 29.

◆ Tween Art Lab — Space Craft, 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 30.

Ewald — 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park, (313) 821-8830

◆ Drop-In Crafts, 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, July 29.

Woods — 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods, (313) 343-2072

◆ Summer STEM, featuring Space is Out of this World at 2 p.m. and Awesome Astronauts at 4 p.m. Thursday, July 25.

◆ It's all Fun and Games, 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, July 30.

BNI

The Business Network International Pipeline Chapter meets at 7 a.m. Friday, July 26, at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 20338 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Call Ryan Marier at (313) 638-7526.

The Business Network International East Side Launchpad Chapter meets at 7 a.m. Wednesday, July 31, at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods. Call Beth at (313) 690-5723.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe meets at 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 31, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, 788 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores. Megan Gunnell of the Thriving Well Institute speaks. Cost is \$10 and includes snacks; a cash bar is available. Visit grossepointerotary.org.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 31, University Liggett School, 1045 Cook, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 31, City of St. Clair Shores, 27600 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores.

PFLAG

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 1, at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, City of Grosse Pointe. For information, email pflaggp@gmail.com.

Reunion

Grosse Pointe High School's 50th reunion begins Friday, Aug. 2, at Assumption Cultural Center. Cost is \$35; all are welcome. It continues Saturday, Aug. 3, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. Cost is \$100; the event is for 1969 alumni and their guests only. Cost for Friday and Saturday combined is \$125. The final event takes place Sunday, Aug. 4, at the Detroit Yacht Club. Attendees should bring their own lunches. Mail checks, payable to GPHS Class of 1969, P.O. Box 99394, 2944 Livernois Rd., Troy, MI 48099. For information, email Elaine Slasinski Auchter at gphigh1969@gmail.com.

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June 26—October 13, 2019

Humble and Human: Impressionist Era Treasures from the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and the Detroit Institute of Arts, An Exhibition in Honor of Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. is organized by the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York. The exhibition is made possible by the generous support of the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation.

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This exhibition is a part of the Bonnie Ann Larson Modern European Masters Series.

Woman Sewing, ca. 1879, Berthe Morisot, French, oil on canvas. Collection Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York. Fellows for Life Fund, 1926 (1926-3).

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Book helps therapists become 'LGBTQ informed'

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

In the wake of Pride Month, Grosse Pointe Woods resident Joe Kort Ph.D. is promoting his latest book, "LGBTQ Clients in Therapy: Clinical Issues and Treatment Strategies."

The book is meant to help therapists grow from being "gay friendly" to being "LGBTQ informed," said Kort, a social worker and therapist with 34 years of experience.

Kort specializes in LGBTQ issues. He got into the profession for personal reasons.

"I was in therapy at 14," said Kort, who is gay. "He helped me so much. I remember thinking, 'I want to be in that chair. I want to do what he's doing.'"

"Even though it was helpful, people didn't know a lot about (being gay)," he continued. "It was the '70s; it was (considered) a sickness. But things are changing a lot. People are seeing us as less than just 'the sexual act.' We're more dimensional."

In his early career, Kort worked with patients experiencing sexual traumas and addictions, but currently helps people find sexual health.

"Sexual health is being shame-free — not shameless, but shame-free — of negativity, about your body, about your sexual interests, using correct language. It's the idea of raising awareness of what healthy male and female sexual expression is. We're helping couples have healthy sexual con-



COURTESY PHOTO

Joe Kort Ph.D.

versations."

Healthy conversations also are important when it comes to parents talking to their children about sex in a manner that's age appropriate — what to say and how to say it — no matter their sexual identity.

"We all grew up suppressed," Kort said of LGBTQ people. "Children are taught to be straight and cisgender, which is the opposite of transgender. Children don't have permission to know (differently). That causes trauma. Other kids are dating and having crushes, but the separation is that each LGBT has a very different experience. The stress is the same as being an invisible minority."

Kort said he hopes people learn more awareness and sensitivity from his book.

"Clients would say to me, 'I don't want to leave my therapist; I love her, but she doesn't get it,'" he said. "So I say, 'Let me

help her get it.'" Kort said the book also could be helpful to therapists working with parents of LGBTQ people.

"It's educational, but it's clinical too," he said.

In his own practice, Kort asks parents what they'll say if their child "comes out" as LGBTQ. Often, parents wonder why the possibility should be considered.

"Because you might say (derogatory) things about other kids," Kort explained. "If your child is gay, that leaves a shame imprint."

"There are unexamined issues, but the parents' problem is their own problem, not the child's problem," he continued. "The therapist's job is to work with the parents so they're not adding burden to the child."

Kort said he's hopeful about more people becoming LGBTQ informed, but only if people are willing to look, learn and listen. Too often, he noted, pornography is the most common form of sex education.

"That should scare every single person in this country," he said. Parents trying to limit access to porn isn't making a difference. "Kids will still look. The onus is on the parent to teach the child sexual literacy."

"Identities are changing. Every day there's a different gender identity, different sexual identity,"

he continued. "My response is, this is the job description of a teenager. They're confused about everything — about college, about getting a job, about tuition. ... They're doing their job."

Kort's Royal Oak practice, The Center for Relationship and Sexual Help, employs 13 therapists who range in diversity. From black and transgender to orthodox religious, straight and gay, the therapists specialize in sex and sexuality. The diversity among them allows clients a level of comfort.

"We do a lot of couples work," Kort said. "Couples come in with desire discrepancies. We give them a place to talk about it."

"We don't work with sex offenders," he continued. "We only work with people who are non-offending."

Kort also is working with Detroit Podcast to launch his own podcast, "Smart Sex, Smart Love." Guests include researchers, scientists, therapists and others who will "really let people know what they think is abnormal is actually normal," Kort said. "The podcast gives me the opportunity to educate. I educate only one person at a time in my therapy room. The podcast is many more at a time."

Kort, who is married, often travels for work, training therapists what he teaches in his book.

"Therapists who are untrained are working with clients about what sex health is for them,

not the client," he said.

"The LGBT part is the thrust of my work, but I work with everyone; 75 percent of my practice is straight," he said. "Couples often fight over contracts they've never made. Especially around sex. They've predetermined what sexual conduct looks like, but never made it known. My goal is to get people talking about sexual health."

With different gender identities abounding — like non-binary, when a child decides they're not male or female, or maybe they're male one day and female the next — Kort said it's important for parents to sit down with their child, "just to welcome each identity and talk to the child to find out what it means to them. ... It's up to the parent to be curious and not frightened; be supportive."

"The support of a par-

ent predicts whether the child attempts to commit suicide or not," he continued. "I tell parents, 'Do you want an LGBT child or a dead child?' You don't have to accept it wholeheartedly and throw a big coming-out party. But it means you sit with your child and let them tell you who they are."

Statistically, 30 percent of LGBTQ and 41 percent of transgender children attempt suicide, Kort said.

"Things get better for teens only after they come out," he said. "Before, there's nobody helping to channel their narrative. After, there's hope."

"You don't have to lie. There is no normal. Normal is you."

"LGBTQ Clients in Therapy" is available on amazon.com. For more information about Kort, visit joe Kort.com.

The Helm golf outing is July 29

The Helm at the Boll Life Center hosts its "Fore" The Helm golf invitational Monday, July 29, at Lochmoor Club, 1018 Sunningdale, Grosse Pointe Woods.

The day includes golf, food, contests and more, all in support of The Helm. Registration opens at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at noon and a 1 p.m. shotgun start. At 5 p.m., cocktails are followed by dinner, a live auction and awards — presented to the top men's, women's and mixed teams.

Sponsorships are available for foursomes, holes and contests.

For registration, sponsorship opportunities or more information, call Peter Poulos at (313) 649-2104 or email ppoulos@helmlife.org.

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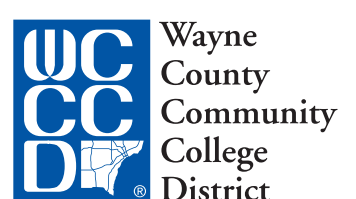
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Going green: GPPL steps up recycling efforts

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Grosse Pointe Public Library for years has encouraged and offered household recycling of paper, plastic and glass and, occasionally, cardboard.

Adding to its eco-friendly operations, when Jessica Keyser became library director three years ago, she set in motion a lightbulb replacement plan.

"She had us replace all the old halogen bulbs with LED lights," said Kim Hart, operations manager. "We've done about half at Central so far. We plan to keep updating as we can."

LED lights last longer, consume less electricity,

put out less heat and are quieter than halogen bulbs, making the reading areas at Central branch "much more pleasant in all ways," Hart said.

In addition to these ongoing efforts, several staff members decided there was more to be done.

So in March, they formed the Green Team.

"We talked about how important the environment is and felt we could do more," said Hart, a Green Team member. "It's important because we're trying to set a good example in the community. We're making little changes to make an impact. If you make a few small changes, it adds up. And I think this

community is very interested in environmental issues."

The team already has implemented efforts toward making a difference.

For example, there's a new water bottle refill station at Central, near the drinking fountain. It tracks the number of plastic bottles that would have been used had the station not been installed. It has eliminated 14,000 plastic bottles so far this year, Hart said.

The library also no longer uses plastic water bottles at any of its programs and uses only biodegradable coffee cups and lids. Patrons have been asked to bring their own travel mugs with

lids and the library uses only biodegradable k-cups.

According to the National Coffee Association, 41 percent of Americans use plastic, single-use k-cups, which are difficult to recycle and end up in landfills. In one month, the library used more than 150 biodegradable k-cups at its three locations and is on track to remove 1,800 plastic k-cups from the waste system, Hart said.

More plans are in motion, she added, including an energy audit by the library's HVAC service provider, who is looking to identify problem areas with energy.

"Central has been done," Hart said. "Ewald

and Woods will be done in the next few months."

Bottle refill stations also will be added at the other two branches.

The team also is in the research stages of using eco-friendly cleaning products and lawn fertilizers, offering battery recycling and promoting carpooling, biking and walking to the library.

"Not a lot of staff do it yet, but our patrons do it a lot," Hart said.

The Green Team — Maria Almaguer, Rachel Charette, Laney Corrado, Kathleen Gallagher, Danis Houser, Catherine Ricard, Melissa Rizer, Deborah Roseborough and Hart — brainstorm then research their ideas, implementing what they can.

"I think it's great," Hart said. "We're all super excited about it. Even people who are not necessarily on the team are giving us their ideas of what we can do."

Next spring, the Green Team is hosting a zero-waste program on Earth Day, April 22.

"A local woman went 30 days without making any trash," Hart said. "She'll be sharing the 50 best practices to reduce household trash."

"There's a million things we can do," she continued. "I know we can't do everything because of cost and time constraints, but we're identifying things we can do."

For more information, call (313) 343-2074.

Ford House will 'bee' abuzz for Pollinator Palooza

Things with wings are good for the garden. Find out why at Ford House's Pollinator Palooza from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3. The historic estate will be abuzz with hands-on family activities, live animal demonstrations and learning opportunities celebrating the creatures that pollinate flowers, plants and crops — from butterflies and bees to ladybugs, bats and birds.

Children and adults alike will learn from local experts from Detroit Hives, Leslie Science & Nature Center, the Michigan Department of Natural Resource's

Outdoor Adventure Center and the education team at Ford House.

Live bats are part of a demonstration by Leslie Science & Nature Center and Detroit Hives brings a beehive to the event. At the Ladybug Meet and Greet, guests may observe and release the beneficial bugs, then mingle with Michigan-native butterflies in Ford House's own butterfly enclosure. Visitors also are invited to speak with artists doing encaustic painting using melted beeswax.

Through the event, Ford House aims to engage and educate the



COURTESY PHOTO

Costumed youngsters hold butterflies during a previous Pollinator Palooza.

community about the challenges facing local pollinator populations

and get people excited about supporting pollinators in their own backyards. Young ones are invited to bring their

wings and dress like butterflies, bees, bats and birds while enjoying face painting, learning stations and more.

"Pollinator Palooza is a great opportunity for kids to explore the many creatures that sustain our ecosystems," said Emily Weiss, Ford House education programs coordinator. "The experience is a meaningful and worthwhile extension of the estate's commitment to environmental stewardship."

At Ford House, supporting local pollinator populations is a year-round passion. The 87-acre estate boasts nationally recognized landscapes full of polli-

nator-friendly plants native to Michigan and cares for six beehives, among other efforts. In 2018, the organization took the Pollinator Pledge, an initiative led by the MotorCities National Heritage Area in affiliation with the National Park Service, joining a coalition of organizations across metro Detroit committed to fostering pollinator habitats.

Pollinator Palooza tickets are available at fordhouse.org or by calling (313) 884-4222. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for children, and free for ages 2 and younger. Ford House members receive a discounted ticket price.

and get people excited about supporting pollinators in their own backyards. Young ones are invited to bring their

celebrates Rolls-Royce, Ferrari and the 100th anniversary of Bentley Motors. The field opens to general admission ticket holders at 10 a.m. Public parking is available at Canton High School, 8415 N. Canton Center, with shuttle service to the Inn at St. John's. Shuttle service is free with advance purchase of tickets by Wednesday, July 24. Tickets at the gate Sunday cost \$45, plus an additional \$10 for parking. For more information, visit concourseusa.org.

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Concours car show is July 28

One of the premier vintage auto shows in the country — Concours d'Elegance of America — returns to the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth for a three-day auto enthusiast paradise, July 26 to 28.

Special car shows, a world-class automotive art exhibition, seminars and other events lead up to the main event Sunday showcasing nearly 300 classic, rare and magnificent automobiles from around the nation, including cars owned by Grosse Pointers Robert Heide and Dick Ruzzin. Heide will show his

2017 Jaguar F-Type in the Super Car Category, while Ruzzin will display his 1969 De Tomaso in the Mangusts American Power — Foreign Styling Category.

The last decade, Concours organizers have expanded the concept of the show so all kinds of vehicles from every era can be seen and enjoyed. The event features everything from new multi-million-dollar hypercars and supercars to one-cylinder horseless carriages from the late 1800s and everything in between.

The 2019 Concours

celebrates Rolls-Royce, Ferrari and the 100th anniversary of Bentley Motors.

The field opens to general admission ticket holders at 10 a.m.

Public parking is available at Canton High School, 8415 N. Canton Center, with shuttle service to the Inn at St. John's. Shuttle service is free with advance purchase of tickets by Wednesday, July 24.

Tickets at the gate Sunday cost \$45, plus an additional \$10 for parking.

For more information, visit concourseusa.org.

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ENGAGEMENTS

Brown-Bartz

Rick and Kathy Brown of Grosse Pointe Woods announce the engagement of their daughter, Alexandra Brown, to Dane Bartz, son of Sherry and Rick Eckhardt of Romeo.

A May 2021 wedding is planned.

Miss Brown earned a Bachelor of Science degree in health and exercise science from Oakland University and a Master of Science degree in exercise physiology and adult fitness from the University of Akron. She is the owner/director of wellness at Linked Fit.

Mr. Bartz earned a Bachelor of Science degree in health and exercise science from Oakland University and a Master of Science degree in exercise physiology and adult fitness from the University of Akron. He is a research assistant working toward a doctorate degree at Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions in Utah. He is the owner/director of Linked Fit.

MacGriff-Woods

Scott and Mindy MacGriff of Montgomery County, Md., formerly of Grosse Pointe Farms, announce the engagement of their son, Spencer Edwards MacGriff, to Emily Kay Woods, daughter of

Laurie and William Huddleston of Winchester, Tenn., and Michael and Elizabeth Woods of Mountain Brook, Ala.

An October 2019 wedding is planned.

Miss Woods earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Alabama. She is a global expedition advisor, based in Chicago.

Mr. MacGriff earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Johns Hopkins University and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Michigan Ross School of Business. He is a mergers and acquisition consultant with Ernst & Young in Chicago.

Switalski-Hammond

Tom and Carol Switalski of Grosse Pointe Park announce the engagement of their daughter, Megan Lynn Switalski, to Bradley Emerson Hammond, son of Robert and Karen Hammond of Flat Rock.

A September 2019 wedding is planned.

Miss Switalski earned a Bachelor of Science degree in packaging from Michigan State University. She is a product and sourcing manager at Pet Supplies Plus headquarters.

Mr. Hammond is a firefighter and paramedic in Waterford Township.

Szymanski-Gula

David and Jackie Szymanski of Grosse Pointe Park announce the engagement of their daughter, Nicole, to Jason Gula, son of Gary and Cindy Gula of Grosse Pointe Shores.

A June 2020 wedding is planned.

Miss Szymanski earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Wayne State University. She is an administrative assistant at the Wayne County Medical Examiners Office.

Mr. Gula earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Western Michigan University. He is vice president of Eldorado Development and Building Company.

Tafflinger-Purnell-Fisher

Former Grosse Pointe residents Steve and Linda Tafflinger of St. Clair Shores announce the engagement of their daughter, Lauren Tafflinger, to Thomas Purnell-Fisher, son of Sandra Purnell of Enterprise, Ore., and the late Walter Fisher.

A September 2019 wedding is planned.

Ms. Tafflinger, a 2005 graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School, earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Communication Arts



Dane Bartz and Alexandra Brown



Bradley Emerson Hammond and Megan Lynn Switalski



Emily Kay Woods and Spencer Edwards MacGriff



Jason Gula and Nicole Szymanski



Lauren Tafflinger and Thomas Purnell-Fisher

and Sciences at Michigan State University. She is director of production, research and development at Rothy's in San Francisco, Calif.

Mr. Purnell-Fisher earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in cinema-television from the University of Southern California. He is the founder and CEO of Quanta, located in San Francisco.

Getting honest about mental illness

According to the National Alliance on Mental Health Issues, approximately one in five adults in the U.S. experiences mental illness in a given year. That's nearly 44 million people. But only 41 percent of those people receive mental health services.

Beaumont Family Medicine physician Asha Shajahan M.D., says it's important to remember if you feel depressed or anxious to think of it as an illness.

"It's tough to break through the stigma of embarrassment that trails mental health," Shajahan said. "But we need to start thinking of mental illness on the same level as diabetes or cancer. You're supposed to go to the doctor when you're sick."

Shajahan said having an honest discussion with your doctor will help them figure out if you need a therapist, medication or psychiatrist. A lot of times, patients make an appointment with their physician for other complaints: abdominal pain, heart palpitations, trouble sleeping, etc. Talking to your physician about how you're physically feeling can help gauge how your mental health is affecting your body.

However, if you're not sure you're ready to make an appointment, there are other things you can try. "If you're struggling with feelings of unrest, anxiety or depression, try joining a workplace wellness program, journaling, exer-



cise or get outside more," Shajahan said. "All these things can help boost the chemicals in your brain to help you start feeling better."

Shajahan also recommends online screening tools to help you better understand your mental well-being. Mental Health America provides a self-screening tool to determine if you are experiencing symptoms of a mental health condition such as anxiety or depression. If you screen positive, it may be time to talk with your physician or seek professional help.

Luckily, many health insurance plans have some sort of mental health care coverage. If not, look for free resources that may be available to you. Check with your human resources department to see if your employer has a workplace wellness program.

Whatever way you decide to pursue your mental health, know it's

an important aspect of your physical well-being and life. Taking care of your mind is just as important as taking care of your heart, lungs or any other vital organ.

If you think you're in danger of hurting yourself or others, get help now. Visit the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline or call (800) 273-8255.

Healthy Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods is a Beaumont Health initia-

tive that targets the priority health needs in the community that are derived from a Community Health Needs Assessment. For more information, contact Suzy Berschback at suzanne.berchback@beaumont.org. The men-

tal health and substance abuse task forces are led by Mary Jo Harris, community organizer for CARE of Southeastern Michigan, mharris@careofsem.com. Connect on Facebook at Healthy Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods.

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6B | FEATURES

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.

Karen Lee Cooksey

Karen Lee Cooksey, 75, passed away peacefully Friday, July 19, 2019, after an extended battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Karen was born April 10, 1944, to Dale and Bernice Wagner. As she sometimes proudly remarked, Karen was a farm girl, raised near Marietta, Ohio. After graduating from Marietta High School in 1961, she earned a bachelor's degree in education from Bowling Green State University in 1965 and a master's degree in home economics from Eastern Michigan University in 1983.

She and Bill, her husband of 51 years, met and married in McArthur, Ohio. Shortly thereafter, they moved to Michigan, where they raised two sons, Brad and Greg, first in Plymouth and then in Grosse Pointe Woods, where they lived 21 years. Looking forward to retirement, they downsized to a condo in Fraser in 2001.

Karen was a devoted mother and consummate homemaker and wife. She was an outstanding cook and expert seamstress. She rarely sat down, always involved in some project or activity. She served 10 years as the girls tennis coach at Grosse Pointe North High School and for 16 years was in charge of food service at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church. The latter included overseeing the preparation of meals for many special events and a weekly ecumenical breakfast attended by upwards of 100 men.

Karen was happiest when associating with her many tennis and golf friends. She was a past member of Plum Hollow Golf Club, Lochmoor Club, Scalawags Golf Club and Colonial Country Club in Fort Myers, Fla. Later, she found her greatest joy in life participating in numerous activities with her three grandsons, who especially relished her pancakes and lively Go Fish games in Florida.

Karen is survived by her husband and life partner, Bill; sons, Brad and Greg (Kalli); grandchildren, Will, Charlie, Niko and Jasmine; siblings, Faye Patrick and Alan Wagner, and many loving nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents; sister, Ferne Henthorn and brother, Daryl Wagner.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 27, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Visitation begins at 10 a.m. at the church. A reception follows the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or the church.

Share a memory at wujukcalcaterra.com.



Dorothy Sarah Lane Denomme

Dorothy Sarah Lane Denomme, 106, passed away Monday, July 15, 2019.

Born Dec. 25, 1912, in New Baltimore, to Bart and Minnie Lane, Dorothy moved with her family to Detroit when she was 2. She experienced life in a rapidly growing and vibrant city. Belle Isle was her playground. She would board the Tashmoo Ferry for a day trip to Harsen's Island and ride the Detroit Interurban Line to visit friends and family in New Baltimore. Her lifelong interests included music, history, geography and the arts. And she loved baseball. She saw Ty Cobb play.

Dorothy married Gerald Denomme in 1933 and they spent 60 years building a life together with their eight children. Dorothy was smart, attractive, stylish and funny. She was prompt, precise and articulate, with an impeccable sense of fashion. She was a stout Irish Catholic with a razor sharp wit. She was a great cook, learning traditional French country-style cooking first-hand from her mother. Her coveted recipe file safely rests with family members.

After Jerry died in 1993, Dorothy pursued her interests in music and history by attending lectures and concerts. She read with abandon and made herself knowledgeable on myriad subjects. She was a member of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society and Grosse Pointe Questers 147, of which she served as chapter president. She was a member of the St. Paul Altar Society, lector at Sunday Mass for many years and extraordinary minister, bringing communion to the homebound.

Even after age 100, Dorothy enjoyed life and was remarkably self-sufficient. She traveled to visit family and friends and continued to drive until she was nearly 103.

In addition to her husband, Dorothy was predeceased by her parents and sisters, Betty and Mary Ellon.

She is survived by her children, Carolyn Burstein (Sander), Tom Denomme (Barbara), Bill Denomme (Patricia), Jeanne Miller (Clark), Mary-Kaye Newell (the late Charlie), Jim Denomme (the late Martha), John Denomme (Mary) and Larry Denomme (Wendy); grandchildren, Susan, Mark, Amanda, William, Michael, Tom, James, Meighan, Sarah, Matt, Shannon and Melanie; 15 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild and countless loving nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass was celebrated July 20 at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Donations may be made to the Capuchins, 1820 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48236.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Karen McCauley Hostetter

Former Grosse Pointe resident Karen McCauley Hostetter, 79, passed away Thursday, June 6, 2019.

Born April 9, 1940, in Detroit, to Francis McCauley and Gertrude Hintz McCauley, Karen graduated in 1958 from Grosse Pointe High School. She then graduated from Mary Washington College at the University of Virginia in 1962 before moving back to Detroit.

While living in Grosse Pointe Farms for the better part of 40 years, Karen was active within the Pointe Garden Club and Country Club of Detroit. She relocated to Cape Cod in 2002 and then to Atlanta in 2009.

Karen is survived by her sons, Thomas Miles Hostetter of Marshfield, Mass., and Robert Parker Hostetter of Atlanta, Ga., and grandchildren, Megan, Thomas, Ensley and William.

She was predeceased by her husband, Paul Miles Hostetter and son, William Charles Hostetter, and her ashes will be interred with them Monday, Aug. 19, at Oakland Cemetery, Sandusky, Ohio.

Donations may be made to Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research at michaeljfox.org or the American Diabetes Association at diabetes.org.

Byron J. Nichols II

St. Clair Shores resident Byron J. "John" Nichols II, 76, passed away Thursday, July 18, 2019.

He was the devoted son of Byron J. and Jean Nichols, who predeceased him; dearest father of Kelly Reynolds (Ben) of Grosse Pointe Farms and Anders Soderberg (Laura) of Harrison Township; proud grandfather of Molly, Michael, Nicklas and Melena Reynolds and Frederick Soderberg; dear brother of Bruce R. Nichols (Mary Ann); uncle of Bruce Jr., Anne Nicholls (George) and Ellen Casazza (Andrew) and great uncle to Rosalie and Ted Nicholls.

John was born March 1943, in St. Louis, Mo., and moved to Grosse Pointe in 1953. After graduating from Grosse Pointe High School in 1962, he drove Dodge factory-sponsored quarter-mile drag race cars during the early days of the National Hot Rod Association. Upon graduation from Western Michigan University, he served in the U.S. Army. He was assigned to the 7th Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment and served a 13-month tour in Vietnam from 1968 through 1969.

John was an auto racing enthusiast from boyhood, avid boater and gentleman farmer. He demonstrated compassion toward animals throughout his life. He had many friends along



Karen Lee Cooksey



Dorothy Lane Denomme



Byron J. Nichols II

the Nautical Mile in St. Clair Shores.

A memorial gathering will be scheduled in the future.

Donations may be made to American Veterans at amvets.org or the Michigan Humane Society at michiganhumane.org.

Betty Jean Morris

Betty Jean Morris, 85, passed away Wednesday, July 17, 2019.

Betty was born Aug. 27, 1933, and grew up on a farm in the little town of Bark River in the Upper Peninsula, but her dreams were far larger than that little town. Once she saved enough money, she went off to Northern Michigan University to become a teacher. After two years at Northern, she was hired as a kindergarten teacher at Wheat School in St. Clair Shores. She had 100 kindergartners her first year teaching. She finished her undergraduate degree at Wayne State University and worked on her master's at the University of Michigan. She taught pre-school, first and second grade, as well as music.

Betty married Richard Morris in 1958 and together they had two daughters. They were married more than 20 years. As her girls were getting older, Betty entered the real estate community in Grosse Pointe. She worked for R. G. Edgar and Associates, as well as Tappen and Associates. She went from Realtor to broker and helped run both offices. She loved working with first time home buyers, teaching them about real estate. She was in the business nearly 30 years.

Betty was an active member of Grosse Pointe Theatre, Judalaires and Bay Indies Players. She found a great love in Wendell "Jake" Jacobson. They spent many happy years traveling both here and abroad. They also loved spending time at their home in Venice, Fla.

Betty, a lifelong Lutheran, loved her congregation St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Grosse Pointe Farms. She happily served on council and as chairman of the organ committee that raised funds to purchase and restore the Holtkamp pipe organ. She was a passionate member of the choir.

Betty is survived by her daughters, Gretchen Archinal (Thomas) and Karyl Eckerle (Kevin) and grandchildren, Noah and Benji Eckerle and Stephen, Sam and Maggie Archinal.

She was predeceased by her parents, Cecilia Fredrika and Harold Alexander McNaughtan and sister, Kathryn Dahl.

A celebration of her life will be at 5:30 p.m.



Betty Jean Morris



Beverly June Stevenson

Thursday, July 25, at St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, 375 Lothrop, Grosse Pointe Farms. Visitation begins at 4:30 p.m.

Donations may be made to St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church Music Fund, 375 Lothrop, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236 or Henry Ford Neonatal Unit or Henry Ford Transplant Institute at henryford.com/development/make-a-gift.

Donald R. Sazama

Donald R. Sazama, 73, of Bonita Springs, Fla., passed away Monday, July 15, 2019. He previously lived in Byron Center and throughout the years, also lived in Grosse Pointe, Hilton Head Island, S.C., Reisterstown, Md. and Fremont, Neb.

Born Dec. 11, 1945, in Osmond, Neb., to Jerry and Leona (Spes) Sazama, Don was an Eagle Scout. He graduated from Midland College with a degree in business and later earned his CPA certificate. Mr. Sazama's career started as a public accountant before becoming president and CEO of Pioneer Steel Corp. and Pioneer Die Sets, positions he held until recently. For several years, he was on the board of directors of Midland College.

As an avid recreational race car driver and instructor, Don traveled the country racing his Porsche. Past memberships include the Grosse Pointe Kiwanis Club, Grosse Pointe Crisis Club, Western Michigan Porsche Club of America and Corvette Club of Baltimore. Don also enjoyed reading, completing The Wall Street Journal Weekend crossword puzzle, playing golf and boating.

Don is survived by his wife of 51 years, Helen L. (nee Bass) Sazama; children, Gretchen Kirkpatrick (Doug) of West Bloomfield, CJ Sazama of Austin, Texas, and Melinda Sazama of Naples, Fla.; brother, Randy Sazama (DelNor) of Fremont, Neb.; three granddaughters and two grandsons.

In addition to his parents, Don was predeceased by his brother, Jim Sazama and one granddaughter.

Share a memory at ShikanyFuneralHome.com.

Beverly June Stevenson

Beverly June Stevenson, 88, of Grand Ledge, died Sunday, July 14, 2019.

Born Oct. 21, 1930, in Detroit, to Earl Berry and Leone Huggler Berry, Beverly attended Detroit Public Schools and graduated from Edwin Denby High School.

On Feb. 24, 1951, Beverly and John S. Stevenson were married. Their first home was in Harper Woods and she and John had four sons. She was active in the Boy Scouts and PTA at Poupard Elementary School. The couple subsequently lived in Grosse Pointe Shores 37 years.

Beverly was proud to be a wife, mother and grandmother. She was an efficient homemaker and loved to entertain. Her favorite pastimes were reading and counted cross stitch. For many years, she was a volunteer for the American Red Cross. A longtime member of Yachtswomen, she served as president, as well as varied offices. For more than 40 years, she was a member of the Presbyterian Women's Association and was a past president and served in other capacities.

In 1992, Beverly and her husband became members of Grosse Pointe Memorial Church. Inurnment will be in the church's columbarium.

Beverly is survived by her sons, Mark R. (Martha) of Palo Alto, Calif., Scott T. (Deborah) of Grand Ledge and Dean A. (Sarah) of the City of Grosse Pointe and adored granddaughters, Ashley, Lauren, Michelle, Kara, Claire and Hannah.

She was predeceased by her husband, John S.; son, John; parents and brother, Calvin E. Berry of Genesee.

Donations may be made to the Capuchins at thecapuchins.org or Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

Arrangements were handled by the Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home in Grand Ledge. Share a memory at holihanatkin.com.

OBITUARIES:

Continued from page 6B

Mary Anne Peysner

Mary Anne Peysner, nee Stuhldreher, 87, a resident of The Rivers in Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away Tuesday, July 16, 2019, following an illness.

Mary Anne was born June 9, 1932, in Detroit, to Louis G. and Ethel E. Stuhldreher. The family lived in Detroit until 1941 when they moved to a newly constructed home on Lochmoor Street in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Mary Anne attended St. Paul on the Lake High School. Thereafter, she matriculated at the University of Detroit School of Dentistry where she earned a degree in dental hygiene. While at U of D, Mary Anne met fellow student and aspiring dentist, Henry A. "Hank" Peysner. The couple married Aug. 1, 1953.

Mary Anne and Hank decided St. Clair Shores would be a great place to start both a family and a dental practice. They moved into a house on Burton Street and built a modest dental clinic at Jefferson and 11 Mile. The couple worked side by side in that clinic until their retirements in 1987.

As their means improved, they and several partners developed the former Torrey Estate property in Grosse Pointe Shores from Lakeshore to what became the east half of Stonehurst. Mary Anne and Hank's payoff were two lots — one on Sheldon and the other next door on Stonehurst. They first built a home on Sheldon in 1964. Several years later, they built their second home on the Stonehurst lot and moved the 100 or so feet where they lived until shortly before their retirement.

Mary Anne and Hank raised four children — Pam, Mark, Rick and Cindy. In 1969 the family joined the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club and spent many summers touring the Great Lakes on their cabin cruiser. The most memorable trips were cruising the cold, clear waters of Lake Huron, Georgian Bay in Canada and trips to Cedar Point and Put-in-Bay on Lake Erie. Outside of boating season, the family traveled extensively, with Florida and Las Vegas being frequent destinations. One of Mary Anne's favorite stories was being in a Palm Springs restaurant with friends when Frank Sinatra happened to walk by their table. Sinatra commented on the "four beautiful blondes" and sent them a bottle of champagne.

As the "crew" (i.e. children) went off to college, the allure of boating diminished. Mary Anne and Hank dedicated more and more time to golf and playing cards and eventually joined Lochmoor Club. Mary Anne was active in the women's golf league and enjoyed the companionship, fresh air and exercise the links offered.

Following retirement, Mary Anne and Hank moved to Woodhaven Country Club in Palm Desert, Calif., where they could enjoy warm weather, golf, casinos and flea markets year round. Mary Anne continued her golfing career by joining the women's golf league. Woodhaven's fabulous golf course, five swimming pools and breathtaking views of the distant snow-capped mountains ensured the couple's grandchildren made many trips to "the desert" for visits.

Following 20 pleasant and relaxing years in the desert, Hank's declining



Mary Anne Peysner

health and the couple's desire to spend more time with their grandchildren brought the couple back to Michigan in 2007. Mary Anne lost her beloved Hank in 2012.

Mary Anne found the greatest pleasure in spending time with her family and friends as well as the companionship and unconditional love of her noisy mutts, Vegas and Ginger.

Mary Anne was the mother of Pamela Voss (Paul Michael), Mark Peysner (Kadra), Richard Peysner and Cynthia Squiers (Robert); grandmother of Elyse Perkins, Christopher Perkins, Hank Peysner (Jarvie), Monique-Terese Squiers M.D., the late Matthew Peysner, Lt.j.g. Robert Squiers and Michael "Tory" Voss and sister of Bonnie Gurnham (Jeffrey).

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 27, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 21620 Mack, St. Clair Shores. Visitation begins at 9:30 a.m. at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Mary Anne and her grandson, Matt, to the Jamie Daniels Foundation, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Ste. 218, Detroit, MI 48202 or at jamiedanielsfoundation.org/donate.

PASTOR'S CORNER By the Rev. Ben Van Arragon

Where work went wrong

The following is one of a series of meditations on the relationship between faith and work.

My best friend took a year off after his college graduation to make money for college. He spent that year working shifts at a manufacturing facility. Though the work paid well, it was tedious. His colleagues spent their breaks counting the days until retirement. For many of them, work was empty toil. The creation account of Genesis 1 implies we were made by God to desire — and delight in — work. When and how did work go wrong?

The first humans lived in a paradise that provided for their needs. They were free to enjoy God's company and God's creation. God set one boundary: Do not eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. This single boundary raised a singular suspicion: God is withholding something good. The first humans transgressed God's boundary. Their sin alienated them from God and propelled them from paradise. God told them that the immediate consequence would be the corruption of

work: "By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground ... for you are dust and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). That which should have been pure joy — bringing new life from the womb and the soil — became painful toil. Human life became a desperate bid for survival.

But at the end of Genesis 3, God promises to reverse the effects of the curse. God promises a savior who will defeat death, reconcile humanity to God and restore the goodness of every facet of human life — work included. This promised savior is Jesus Christ, who says among other things, "I have come that (you) may have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10).

When Jesus redeems humanity, he also redeems work. No longer a means of keeping death at bay, our work can once again become a means of caring for creation and communing with the creator.

Van Arragon is pastor at the First Christian Reformed Church of Detroit, Grosse Pointe Park.



Kayak the canals of St. Ambrose

Not many parishes enjoy waterways like St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Park.

The church is offering guided two-hour kayak canal tours in August. Kayakers will paddle out to the Detroit River, around Grayhaven Island, past the Fisher Mansion and by the waterfront residences of Jefferson Chalmers. This tour is great for beginners and experienced kayakers alike.

Kayaking tours are scheduled Saturday, Aug. 3, and Saturday, Aug. 10. Launch is at noon both days from the Detroit River Sports headquarters, 14601 Riverside Blvd., Detroit.

Cost is \$45 per kayaker. Participants

may choose between single and tandem kayaks, though there are a limited number of tandems.

A \$20 post-excursion meal is catered by award-winning Chef Reva Constantine of the Great Lakes Culinary Center in Southfield. The event ends with 4 p.m. Mass at St. Ambrose, 15020 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Park.

This private tour is professionally conducted by Detroit River Sports. Kayaks and safety equipment is provided.

Call (313) 822-2814 to register or email stambrose@comcast.net for more information.

CHURCH EVENTS

St. Paul AME

The St. Paul AME Steward Board presents The All White Praise Party Concert, featuring Denard McClary, at 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3, at the church, 1385 Wayburn, Grosse Pointe Park. Vendors and food

are available beginning at 4 p.m. Cost is \$15. Guests are asked to wear all white. For information, call (313) 466-3183.

St. Clare

St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401

Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park, hosts the Bible Camp, "Jesus is the Light," from 9:30 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday, Aug. 12 to 16. The camp, for ages 3 to 9, includes Bible lessons, music, crafts, physical activity and lunch. Cost is \$25 per child and financial assistance is available. Call Sr. K. Avery at (313) 647-5110 or email skavery@stclarem.org.

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SPORTS

SAILING

Mackinac results

Grosse Pointers finish
annual race PAGE 2C

2C GOLF | 3-4C CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Baseball

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL

Teammates off to play in college

Kopicki heads to Miami, Ohio

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

University Liggett School graduate Billy Kopicki has put in the time, fielding thousands of ground balls and hitting thousands of balls off a tee to fulfill a childhood dream — play college baseball.

The 18-year-old Grosse Pointe Woods resident accepted an athletic scholarship from head coach Danny Hayden to play his college ball at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

The Redhawks finished the season 37-19 overall and 15-11 in the Mid-American Conference, playing against the likes of Central Michigan, Eastern Michigan and Western Michigan.

“Miami checked all of my boxes for what I wanted in a college,” Kopicki said. “They are a great academic school, have a good baseball program and a head coach



PHOTO BY RENATO JAMETT

University Liggett School 2019 graduate Billy Kopicki is playing his college baseball for the University of Miami, Ohio.

who will make sure I grow as a student-athlete, not just an athlete. “My comfort level at the campus was high, so I felt this was my ideal fit. My sister (Jacqueline) recently graduated from Miami, so my mom (Nicole) and dad (William) have been on the campus a lot and we know how good the education is and how special the campus is.

“I’m excited to start, but a little nervous, too. It will all be fun. I know time management will be huge to make it through playing sports and getting my school work finished. I’ll make it work.” “We are proud of Billy. He has a unique mindset for a young man, he has the ability to make small goals and complete them

See KOPICKI, page 2C

Banaszewski ready for LTU

By Anna Post
Special Writer

When definitive life plans transform into new ventures, the common saying: “The art of life lies in constant readjustment” applies.

For 2018 University Liggett School graduate Kellen Banaszewski, this mantra also deems true.

Before recently committing to Lawrence Tech University, the Knights’ second baseman had other plans in mind — to attend Grand Valley State University in the fall, where he was going to attempt to walk onto the Lakers baseball team.

While his plans to play ball at GVSU may have changed, Banaszewski still chased his dream of playing at the collegiate level.

“(After) playing four years with Liggett, I’ve always been curious to see how I would perform at the college level, or even if I could thrive,” Banaszewski said. “Baseball is just something I’ve loved my entire



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNA POST

University Liggett School 2019 graduate Kellen Banaszewski is playing college baseball at Lawrence Technological University.

life ... something I grew up with since I can remember. Playing at the college level is something every ballplayer should dream of.”

With that in mind, Banaszewski continued

to follow his pursuit, and soon landed himself a spot on the LTU Blue Devils’ roster, where he will major in mechanical engineering.

See KELLEN, page 2C

Baseball

LITTLE LEAGUE



PHOTO BY TONYA DAWKINS

Title winners

Both the Grosse Pointe Park Little League 8U and 9U tournament teams won the district championship title on Thursday, July 11, at Kerby Field. The championship games were played on side by side fields. The Park 9U team won beating Grosse Pointe Farms-City 7-1 and then came over to cheer on the 8U team who was playing its final inning against Lac St. Clair. The 8U Grosse Pointe Park team won 12-2 and when they won the 9U team rushed the field to help them celebrate. Team members for the 9U team are Manager Chip Lemmen, coaches Tim Simmons, Amanda Pata and Mike Markijohn, and players Will Martin, Henry Wiegand, Pablo San Miguel, Luke Brennan, Nate Lemmen, Cole Parlangeli, Zack Markijohn, Zack Hayes, Marshall Pata, Preston Simmons, Ana Kozak, Harry Wessels and Adrian Lancaster. The members of the 8U team are players Nick Andrews, Dylan Augspurger, Nate Bejin, Max Coats, Micah Dawkins, Rocco Deschaine, Natty Green, Knox Krieter, Zach Nyenhuis, Miles Quinn, Ben Ryan, Connor Sharp and Gordon Williams; and the coaches are Ben Coats, Josh Nyenhuis, Jeff Sharp, Sean Green, Matt Bejin and Joe Williams.

Fencing

Pointers medal

Several Grosse Pointe residents helped the Renaissance fencing club earn seven medals at recent national championships, including two gold medals, making the Troy-based foil club third in the nation for the medal count.

City of Grosse Pointe’s Jeidus Deseranno took the gold medal in the Y10 men’s foil event comprised of 154 fencers. Y12 men’s foil featured Deseranno placing seventh in a field of 275

competitors.

Grosse Pointe Park resident Liam Reeves finished 42nd.

Finally in Y14 men’s foil, Deseranno again made the final eight with a seventh-place finish out of 335 participants. Deseranno also won top honors for finishing the season ranked first in the Y12 point standings.

Miranda Freedman of the City of Grosse Pointe placed 22nd in the Division 1 women’s foil event to move her up to

the 13th rank in the United States in the Under 17 category.

The national Division 1 event was the first Olympic selection event for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

Renaissance Fencing Club has been offering classes and lessons to students of all ages since 1996. Contact manager Ann Marsh-Senic at ann@renaissancefencing.com or (248) 515-0973 for more information.

NORTH & SOUTH

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Every high school athlete needs an annual physical to participate in athletics, and Ascension St. John makes the process easier by hosting mass physicals at your local high school.

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The cost is \$25 and the Michigan High School Athletic Association physical forms are provided. They can also be downloaded at mhsaa.com.

Parents are not required to attend, but

encouraged to be present. If not in attendance a parent signature is required on the physical card and the student heart check form.

Physicals obtained at all the dates provided are valid for the 2019-2020 school year.

This event is considered an out-of-pocket expense. Cash or check only. Make checks payable to Ascension St. John Hospital.

Licensed athletic trainers, physical therapists, registered nurses and physicians will be on-site.

Here is the list of days and schools: Monday,

Aug. 5, at L’Anse Creuse North High School, 23700 21 Mile Road, use main entrance, which is door 1; Tuesday, Aug. 6, at Grosse Pointe North High School, 707 Vernier, use gym entrance; Wednesday, Aug. 7, at L’Anse Creuse High School, 38495 L’Anse Creuse Road, use main entrance, which is door 1; Thursday, Aug. 8, at Grosse Pointe South High School, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., use main gym entrance, which is door M; and Friday, Aug. 9, at Cousino High School, 30333 Hoover, use athletic entrance, which is door 39.

2C | SPORTS

KOPICKI:

Continued from page 1C

and then make another goal, complete that and keeps repeating this," his mother said. "He has focus and drive, a love for learning and a love for the game of baseball. Thousands of ground balls, hours in the batting cage working on his swing and having the ability to take the words and examples from his coaches have all helped him reach his goal of playing D1 baseball. Getting all A's or giving each class his best effort helped him to be accepted at a college where he can get a great education. The coaches and Miami University will help shape and prepare Billy for his next adventures. "As parents, watching your children do something they love is easy, and watching Billy play baseball has been a ton of fun. He gives all of himself on the field. We are excited for him."

Kopicki burst on the high school baseball scene for head coach Dan Cimini and ULS as a freshman. He started every game and helped the Knights win a state championship. His game has steadily improved through his high school career, and playing with high level travel teams each summer turned him into a highly recruited baseball player.

This year as a senior, Kopicki hit .411 with 37 hits, 15 doubles and 28 RBIs. He earned All-State First Team and played in the annual Michigan Baseball Coaches Association All-Star game at Comerica Park as one of the top players in the state of Michigan. Kopicki played Little League growing up before joining Jet Box out of Macomb. He also played for the Grosse Pointe Redhawks and now plays in the Great Lakes League in Ohio against current college players.

"I'm the youngest on my team, but that doesn't matter since we are all college players and the competition is fantastic," Kopicki said. "I face some very good pitchers, and this high intensity baseball is getting me ready for my freshman season at Miami."

He is 6 feet, 180 pounds, but Hayden said he wants him to bulk up to 195. As all colleges do, they send each player a workout to follow through the summer so they are ready for college in the fall.

"I have been working out and following my schedule, so I know I will be physically ready for fall ball," Kopicki said. "My coach wants me at 195, which will help me with my overall game."

He plans on majoring in international business and Chinese. He would love to play Major League



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE KOPICKI FAMILY

Billy Kopicki, left, and a Major League Baseball player he looks up to, Mike Trout, at the 2019 All-Star game in Cleveland.

Baseball, but if that dream doesn't happen he said he will have a great education to use.

During the recruiting process, Kopicki was pursued by the University of Michigan, Boston College, University of Cincinnati and Eastern Michigan.

"All of those colleges are great, but I felt a personal connection with the coaching staff at Miami," Kopicki said. He has his class sched-

ule for the fall semester and moves into his dorm near the end of August. Classes begin shortly after.

Kopicki's family has been heavily involved in athletics. His sister, Sophia, currently plays women's lacrosse for Siena Heights University, and his uncle, Joe Kopicki, played professional basketball for the Washington Bullets and Denver Nuggets in the early 1980s.

only offer suggestions or scenarios for him to consider," Joe said.

As Banaszewski awaits to pursue his athletic and academic journey in the fall, he can't help but hope for years of memorable experiences.

"What I wish to gain in my years at LTU is understanding what life is like when playing on a college sports team, bettering my engineering skills to prepare me for years after college (and) advancing my baseball skills and getting smarter every day, whether it's in the classroom or on the baseball field or even in the dorm," Banaszewski said.

Lawrence Tech plays a small fall schedule, consisting of seven games the final two weekends of September and four games the first weekend of October.

The season begins with a road trip Friday, Feb. 21, in Westfield, Ind., and they play the following day, Saturday, Feb. 22.

When speaking about their son's recent commitment, Kellen's parents, Joe and Cindy Banaszewski, exhibited their utmost praise — both in regards to his future endeavors on the field and in the classroom.

"I'm very happy for Kellen because he seems to be excited about his choice, Cindy said. "Ultimately, as a parent, you want your child to be happy but challenged when it comes to making a college decision. I think LTU will provide both."

Both Cindy and Joe credit their son's determination and independence throughout the recruitment process. While they were there to provide opinions and moral support, Kellen took matters into his own hands when it came to his final decision.

"I've always strived to raise Kellen to be responsible and accountable. To that end the decision was his to make, and I tried to

KELLEN:

Continued from page 1C

The LTU baseball team finished its historic season with a program record of 33 wins, and earned themselves third place in the NAIA — the team's best end to the season since the origination of the program.

With the Blue Devils' successes and the rapid maturation of the program to take into consideration, Banaszewski

was more so drawn to the team dynamic and coaching staff.

"The one thing that stuck out to me when hearing about the baseball program at LTU was coach Eldridge, Banaszewski said. "After hearing his baseball philosophy and the way he goes about running this baseball team, I'm extremely excited to have confidence in my coach and know that he will not only make me a better baseball player, but a better human being."

City of **Grosse Pointe**, Michigan

PUBLIC NOTICE - ORDINANCE NO. 440

Please take notice that the City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe has passed Ordinance No. 440 amending and restating Article IV, Chapter 66, Section 66-100 of the Grosse Pointe Code of Ordinances regarding small cell wireless facilities. This Ordinance will become effective ten days after the publication of this Notice. The complete text of Ordinance No. 440 is available at Grosse Pointe City Hall, 17147 Maumee, Grosse Pointe, MI, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am to 5 pm. Telephone 313-885-5800.

Julie E. Arthurs,
City Clerk

GPN: 7/25/19

Sailing

MACKINAC RACE

Mackinac race results

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

10. Robert Christoph, Loki.

Below are the top finisher from last weekend's 2019 Bell's Beer Bayview Mackinac Race.

Division II — Shore Course

1. Paul Van Tol, Eliminator.
2. Mark Miller, Comfortably Numb.
3. Cameron Paine, Underdog.
4. Steve Beeler and Tom Viagrass, 50/50.
5. Com. Jeff Henderson, Pirate.
6. Chris Cyrul, American Flyer.

Division I — Cove Island

1. Bill Martin, Stripes.
2. Bill Alcott and Tom Anderson, Equation.
3. Chris Saxton, Evolution.
4. Charles M. Bayer, Jr., Arctos.
5. Bruce Aikens, Talisman.
6. Rob Evans, Goat Rodeo.
7. Mark Symonds, Pterodactyl.
8. Chris Mallett, Synchronicity.
9. Wick Smith, Mostly Harmless.

Division III -Cove Multihul

1. Todd and Ryan Howe, Earth Voyager.
2. Ben Gougion and Alan Gurski, Adagio.
3. Tim Walli, Ollie.
4. Wayne Jurs, Vaite.

Golf

MICHIGAN

Ladies make state hall of fame

Six women were recently inducted into the MWGA Hall of Fame — Julia Baldwin, Debra Horning, Martha MacIntosh, Pat Meyers, Jeanne Myers and Debbie Williams-Hoak. Named Honorary Members were Judy Figa and Jean Murray. Cynthia Pinkard, MWGA President, presided over the ceremony.

Baldwin, a LPGA Teaching Professional, was acknowledged for her involvement in junior golf as a teacher and coach.

Horning was acknowledged for her service, administration, leadership and playing ability.

MacIntosh also was acknowledged for her service and leadership.

Meyers also was acknowledged for her service, administration and leadership. Myers is well-known and appreciated for her Rules Rug Presentation, has a very impressive list of accomplishments not only in Michigan, but also throughout the USA and

internationally. She was inducted into the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame in 2006 and received the GAM Distinguished Service Award in 2018.

Williams-Hoak was acknowledged for her playing ability, coaching, teaching and contributions to junior golf.

Figa was named an Honorary Member and has been a dedicated member of the MWGA since 1986. She has also been a member of the WMGA, GAM and the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame Committee.

Murray also was named an Honorary Member, is well-known for her playing ability as well as her service to the game. She won 10 MWGA State Championships and the very first GAM Women's Senior Championship.

For additional information about the MWGA Hall of Fame and the Michigan Women's Golf Association or to make a tax-deductible donation, visit them at mwgolf.org.

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