

COVID-19 CASES UPDATE - 9/15			
	Cases	Deaths	
All Pointes	689 (+26)	36 (+0)	
Harper Woods	333 (+0)	35 (+0)	

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# Grosse Pointe News

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Gary Niehaus

## Niehaus announces retirement

By Mary Anne Brush  
Staff Writer

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — Gary Niehaus announced at the close of the regular meeting of the Board of Education Monday, Sept. 14 — held virtually — that 2020 will be his last year as superintendent of the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

“It’s the right time for a new

Board of Education to select a new superintendent like they did me,” he said. “By announcing now it gives the Board of Education an opportunity to get a search firm selected and interviews to be done for the upcoming 2020-21 school year.”

He said he made the decision to support his wife’s decision to pursue a career as president of a community college.

Paige Niehaus, who has a doctorate in education, currently serves as executive vice chancellor and chief innovation officer at Wayne County Community College District and has been actively seeking a position as a community college president.

“She has not landed a presidency yet, but the community college presidency is on its

way,” Niehaus said. “I want to support her career. She has been a faithful supporter of my superintendency. I will be the trailing spouse for the first time.”

The announcement gives the community, board and administrative team ample time to start a search for Niehaus’s replacement.”

See *RETIRE*, page 3A

## Library continues curbside pick-up

### Central, Woods construction projects nearing completion

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — While the Grosse Pointe Public Library’s Ewald branch will remain closed until December due to a redesign of the interior, curbside pick-up at the Central and Woods branches was expanded this week to include 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays and to coincide with the start of the school year.

When the two branches may return to inviting the public inside has yet to be determined, Library Director Jessica Keyser said, and will be based on outbreak numbers, as well as when administration determines it is safe to do so.

“We’ve been watching the trends and we’ve been communicating internally and with our patrons, doing our best to meet people’s needs as creatively and as completely as possible,” Keyser said. “We feel right now with the curb-

side and with our reference hotline and email and chat and our outreach services, we do feel like we’re able to complete a lot of services without actually having to bring people in the building.”

Additional reasoning for curbside pickup includes the space needed for staff to spread out throughout the buildings and social distance, as well as the amount of public space currently taken up by tables filled with books undergoing the four-day quarantine required once they’re returned.

“That’s based on studies that have been done to detect how long COVID-19 actually remains on hard surfaces and printed materials,” Keyser said.

The next phase of reopening will be called “grab and go” and give patrons the option to enter the building to get their materials, with a

See *LIBRARY*, page 3A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

## 9-11 remembrance

Flags representing each of the approximately 3,000 lives lost Sept. 11, 2001, were posted on Grosse Pointe South High School’s campus Friday to commemorate the 19th anniversary of this event. Flags were sponsored by the Grosse Pointe South chapter of Turning Point USA.

## Seventh-grader dies in shooting accident

By Mary Anne Brush  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — News of the shooting death of a seventh-grade student has shocked the Parcels Middle School communi-

ty and serves as a reminder of the importance of practicing gun safety in homes.

LaDamian Williams, 12, was shot and killed on Monday, Sept. 14, in Oak Park in what is being reported as an accident.

At approximately 12:30 p.m., officers were dispatched to a residence in Oak Park on a report of a shooting, according to a news release from Lt. Troy T. Taylor of the Oak Park Department of Public Safety. Officers,

along with emergency medical technicians, performed life-saving measures and transported Williams to Providence Hospital, where he was pronounced dead after

See *SHOOTING*, page 9A

## Park man indicted as part of international crime ring

By Eddie B. Allen Jr.  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — A Grosse Pointe Park man faces federal charges after the U.S. Department of Justice recently announced the shutdown of an international crime ring involving drug trafficking and the illegal shark fin trade.

Terry Shook was among 12

defendants and two businesses indicted for a range of offenses including mail and wire fraud conspiracy, conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute controlled substances and money laundering conspiracy. Shook is accused of drug trafficking in what authorities called “Operation Apex,” according to the indictment.

“Fearless and aggressive law

enforcement brought an end to this sprawling, transnational conspiracy. In the end, the size of the conspiracy was overwhelmed by a coordinated law enforcement effort to infiltrate, document and dismantle it,” said U.S. Attorney Bobby Christine. “United with our partner agencies, we have shut down an operation that fed a seemingly insatiable overseas

appetite for illegally traded wildlife and seized ill-gotten assets derived from that despicable criminal enterprise.”

The indictments, which follow a 10-year investigation, were issued through the Southern District of Georgia federal court, largely stemming from activity in the port of

See *INDICTED*, page 2A

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**Pointer of INTEREST**

See story, page 4A



**Ruth Azar**  
Home: Grosse Pointe Woods  
Second Mile Center founder  
recently received national  
Woman of Faith Award



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# Local entrepreneur says platform will change entertainment

By Eddie B. Allen Jr.  
Staff Writer

Described as the first of its kind, a local entrepreneur's vision for a technology and social networking platform will provide multiple entertainment, leisure and lifestyle experiences, collaborators in the effort announced.

Immersion4Media, Inc., or i4M, is Grosse Pointe Jeremy Tick's solution for bringing an initiative that blends retail with media and other virtual indulgences to the community and to millions beyond Michigan.

"What we're doing is creating a space that embodies an online world where all facets of

entertainment are amalgamated for sports, movies, shopping and more," said Tick, president and founding partner.

While the Monday, Sept. 14 announcement begins a six-month research and development phase, with i4M expected to officially launch in two years, the initiative already has drawn support from notable co-founding partner Jeff Gomez, the Hollywood filmmaker known for "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "Avatar." Gomez's transmedia technology will fuel i4M's user experiences, Tick said.

Gomez joined forces with Tick's Michigan-based Bespoke Film Group, which Tick

formed with Los Angeles film producer Laurie Stevens, also an i4M co-founder.

"It is truly exciting to partner with Jeremy Tick and his Bespoke Film Group in this new project," Gomez said. "The world has changed and new, more seamless social and entertainment experiences are needed online by a far greater range of people. This endeavor enables me to engage my entire team in creating 100 percent story-driven, immersive experiences — the first of their kind."

Cannes Film Festival award-winning producer and director Alfred Lowenheim, a fourth i4M co-founding partner, who will serve as its

CEO, called the venture a "project with its feet firmly planted in the future of entertainment."

An additional i4M co-founder is Whitney Pierce.

Tick compared the experience the platform will provide to a virtual version of the "Choose Your Own Adventure" book series, once popular with children.

An East Coast native, Tick's entertainment background includes launching a talent agency before relocating to Los Angeles. Later

while living in Washington, D.C., he and his wife visited her family in Ann Arbor, where Tick found



COURTESY PHOTO

Jeremy Tick

Michigan institutions, including the College for Creative Studies, and the legacy of Motown Records inspired Tick to serve an audience of local residents who value art, he said.

"I saw the opportunity to bring people entertainment and a quality of life that would not necessarily be available to them elsewhere," Tick added.

Led by what he calls "world-class management," i4M will not only entertain, but gen-

erate career opportunities, he said: "i4M will support and help Detroit and Michigan, in building creative, technology and support teams."

erate career opportunities, he said: "i4M will support and help Detroit and Michigan, in building creative, technology and support teams."

# Hollyfest

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## INDICTED:

Continued from page 1A

Savannah, which has been connected with illegal shark-finning. The "barbaric method" involves removing a shark's fins and throwing the shark back into the water when it can no longer swim, to become prey for other sharks, which are then captured, de-finned and also used as bait, said Barry L. Paschal, a DOJ spokesman. The fins are used to support a demand for shark fin soup, an Asian delicacy. The indictment does not accuse Shook of participating in shark-

finning, which jeopardizes certain species of protected wildlife. Shook could not be reached for comment and Paschal said court records did not specify whether he had retained an attorney.

"It's a pretty sprawling case, geographically, and in terms of the crimes that are alleged in it," Paschal said.

Accused conspirators reside in multiple areas of the United States, Hong Kong, Canada and Mexico. Seized during "Operation Apex" arrests and searches were more than \$3.9 million in multiple bank accounts; approximately

\$3 million in gold, silver and other valuable metals; \$1 million in diamonds; around 18,000 marijuana plants; firearms; more than six tons of shark fins and 18 illegally harvested totoaba fish bladders valued at \$180,000 each.

Shook's name was given as the source of \$170,640 in cash seized from two other defendants when they were stopped in February 2020, while traveling through Colorado after a meeting in Detroit, the indictment states.

Sentences including life imprisonment could result from "Operation Apex" convictions.

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# Prescription savings program to aid Wayne County residents

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**WAYNE COUNTY** — Wayne County residents who have lost their prescription coverage since March 13, and as a result of COVID-19, are now eligible for a free COVID-19 prescription savings program offered by pharmacy benefit manager SGRX, in partnership with Wayne County's HealthChoice department.

The financial assistance includes coverage for 50 percent of the copay of the individual's coinsurance for medications, with no limit on the number of medications, and a minimum of a 30-day supply. A maximum of \$1,000 is set per enrollee.

"Once you submit an application ... you will get a call within 24 hours," CEO of SGRX Ime Ekpenyong said. "An individual from our cus-

tomers service team will reach out, walk you through the process and try to identify where you're having your prescriptions filled currently, (then) reach out to the pharmacy to be able to help them identify which medications are needed immediately and also the cost of those prescriptions."

Funded by SGRX with a match from the county, the program is set to continue at least through the end of the year.

Additional services included are patient assistance program support, which gives access to drug manufacturers who provide additional assistance for those who are underinsured or uninsured; medication therapy management, which provides at no additional charge nurses, physicians and pharmacists for anyone who needs help managing their medications; and up to 80 per-

cent in savings on prescriptions via the county's health prescription savings program.

The Grosse Pointe Park-based organization also is committed to not leaving anyone behind. For those who do not meet the qualifications of the program, such as not having lost their job but still being underinsured, SGRX will assist by using its industry contacts to find pharmacy manufacturers, drug assistance, copay waivers or other means that can help in an individual's personal scenario.

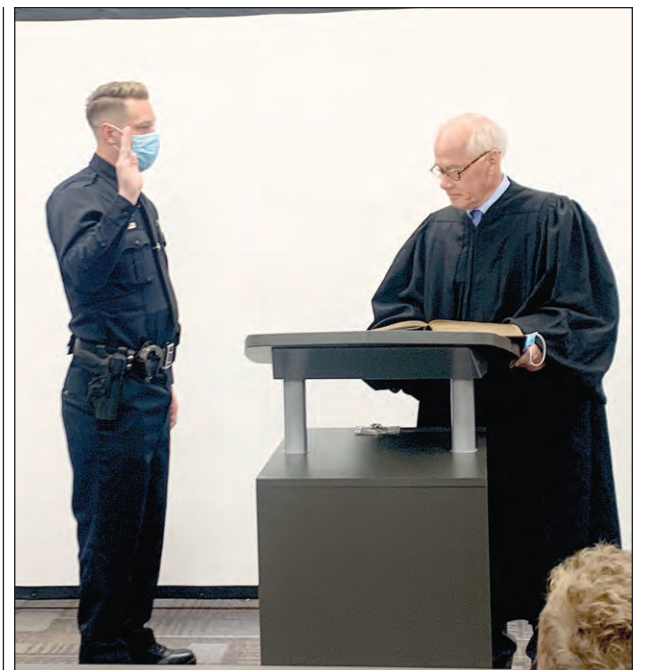
"I think the most important thing is we're not turning anyone away," Ekpenyong said. "If there's anyone who needs help with prescription coverage, we are in this business and we understand how expensive medications can be, especially for low-income families, so as long you're a Wayne County resident

and maybe you don't meet the qualifications, we will do our part to help any individual that reaches out."

Wayne County residents may apply online at [sgrxhealth.com](http://sgrxhealth.com) or through its customer service department at (866) 966-7479.

"Our intention is to expand it outside of Wayne County, but for right now, the first phase of it is just focusing on the county, especially because our county was, I think I can still say, was the hardest hit," Ekpenyong said. "... We were hit pretty hard, so we decided to dedicate our resources to this county first and then over time we're going to consider expanding to the rest of the state."

SGRX also is the pharmacy benefit manager for Wayne County's senior prescription program and its prescription savings program.



## Sworn in

City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety Officer Lucas Rucinski was sworn in at the new Mack Avenue public safety building Tuesday, Sept. 8, by Municipal Judge Russell Ethridge.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Rucinski's family also was in attendance. From left are his sister, Jenna; nephew, Damien; brother, Southfield officer Arthur III; niece, Amethyst; father, Arthur Jr.; Rucinski and mother, Della.

The flag flies half-staff over The War Memorial's garden while the sun rises over Lake St. Clair at the beginning of the remembrance service.



PHOTOS BY  
RENEE LANDUYT



Left, War Memorial Board of Directors Chairman Thomas Smith read the names of the 19 Michiganders who lost their lives in the 9/11 attacks. Right, Father Drew Van Culin gave the scripture and homily.

# Remembering those lost

The War Memorial hosted a service of remembrance Friday, Sept. 11, to commemorate the 19th anniversary of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Community members gathered on the back lawn in a socially distanced, outdoor environment to remember those lost in New York, Virginia and

Pennsylvania.

A moment of silence was held at 8:46 a.m., when American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into floors 93 to 99 of the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

Another moment of silence was held at 9:03 a.m., when United Airlines Flight 175 crashed into

floors 77 to 85 of the South Tower of the World Trade Center.

The 19 names of Michiganders who lost their lives that day also were read. Among them was David Alger, a member of the Alger family of Grosse Pointe, who was in his office at the World Trade Center when the attacks occurred.

## LIBRARY:

Continued from page 1A

30-minute time limit and masks required. Thirty-minute computer appointments also will

be available, with the computer stations spread out.

A reopening schedule of the phases with dates to be determined can be found on the library's website.

The construction of an outdoor community plaza at Central is expected to be complete by the end of September, with only the finishing touches currently left. At the Woods branch, a

new door and vestibule have been installed on the Mack side, but work still is being done on the canopy and lighting. Keyser estimated the project will be complete within a few weeks.

## RETIRE:

Continued from page 1A

ment before newly elected trustees — there are currently five open seats, with three incumbents running — take their oath of office in January 2021.

"I'll give you my best effort till the end and we'll see what happens with you and your pro-

cess of trying to get a board elected and getting a new superintendent in place for the 2020-21 school year," he said.

President Margaret Weertz, who admitted she had "a little notice on the news," shared a few of Niehaus's accomplishments in his five and a half years as superintendent and promised future accolades would come at

the appropriate time.

"I know you still have some time here," Weertz said. "But I do need to say, Dr. Niehaus, that you have really filled your mission here. You were a change agent and you are a change agent everywhere you work. We needed — and you pushed — to update our strategic plan to renovate every school. You hired almost a com-

pletely new administration, a new team. ... One of the first things you did was bring a company in to analyze the safety of our schools. And you updated technology. There is a long list and this is just the beginning of saying all that you've accomplished.

"I thank you very much, Gary," she added. "It's quite an announcement tonight."

## The Week Ahead

### MONDAY, SEPT. 21

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom.
- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe City Council meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom.

### TUESDAY, SEPT. 22

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom.

### WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 23

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Ethics Committee meeting, 7 p.m.

### THURSDAY, SEPT. 24

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Beautification Committee fall clean-up, 10 a.m. at Osius Park.

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## 4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

## Woods woman honored with national award

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Ruth Azar recently was one of three women to receive the Woman of Faith Award from the national Presbyterian Church. The denomination's highest honor for women, the award is given biannually to those whose lives exemplify their Christian commitment to witness, service and leadership. This year's award recognized women who disrupt systemic poverty.

Azar, a ruling elder at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, is the founder and executive director of the Second Mile Center in Detroit, which provides services that empower and strengthen people through various means without discrimination.

This is not the first time Azar has been honored for her work. She's earned the Spirit of Detroit Award; been awarded twice by the Detroit Police Department; received the Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Award and several other honors. However, the work for which she's been recognized is not what she first set out to do; it is what she was chosen to do, she said.

Azar was born in Detroit and spent her youth in Grosse Pointe, graduating from Grosse Pointe North High School.

"I started my career right from high school, thanks to two teachers at North who told me I should be an accountant," she said. "They could see my potential. They helped me get an interview with a CPA firm at the Buhl Building downtown. They were just two teachers who saw talent in a person."

After several years working downtown, she took her talent for

accounting to a firm in Southfield before going "out on my own," she said. The then-part-time college student decided to start a family and so put the brakes on her education.

"I have two natural children and a bunch of kids I've taken into my home," she said. "I've never fostered. I got guardianship of one child; with another I got full custody. And there are another five kids I brought into my home and raised as my own. They were all in high school when I got them. ... People don't realize that even in Grosse Pointe, we have children who need a home."

Providing a place of love and support for youth is a large part of what the Second Mile Center is about. It seems a natural fit now, but was never part of the plan.

"I was minding my own business," Azar said. "I was an accountant. Then God put a call on my life to do this and I agreed to take the call, to open a center on the east side of Detroit. I thought all I was going to do was open it and leave."

Azar created a five-year business plan and presented it to the board of the Presbyterian Church, "because it was their building God called me to use," she said. "I told them this is the building we'd like to have, this is the plan and then I thought I'd walk. But God did not release me."

Azar decided to take the call and became the center's executive director. She then felt led to attend seminary and became a certified ruling elder.

"I passed the exam to be a pastor, so I'm the pastor and executive director — and the fundraiser, building maintenance, etc. It was not something I chose to do, but it's something I was called to do."

Serving one of the most violent ZIP codes in the city, the Second Mile Center offers free after-school programs; a summer day camp; clothing, goods and baby needs; Monday Night Community Dinner; mobile health fair; computer lab; field trips; missions and learning opportunities, as well as job placement and other services focused on youth.

"We take 3-year-olds who are potty-trained up through high school," Azar said. "We're constantly feeding them, giving them clothing, giving them guidance. We teach them morals. We teach the Bible. Our job is to tell them they can be the change. If they want to change ... they've got to give back to the community and we teach them how."

Azar also teaches them American Sign Language, which they use to perform for church groups. They often are asked to perform in other states, which provides a valuable learning experience for them.

"We show them the world and they meet people who don't look just like them," she said. "I call it breaking down walls."

"We're there to help in any way we can," Azar said, noting the nonprofit averages 200 registered children each year, as well as more than 100 unregistered children. It also has a homeless population it helps clothe and feed.

In 2007, the year she opened the Second Mile Center, Azar, who is Arabic, was one of four women honored in Detroit Black Pages, celebrating women of color making a difference in the community.

"It's hard for me to accept awards," she said. "It's not me doing it; it's God doing it. I just keep listening to his voice and doing what he tells me to do."

"There's a song, 'We All



COURTESY PHOTO

Ruth Azar recently received the 2020 Woman of Faith Award from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Bleed the Same.' That's who we are," she added. "I don't care what color you are. Where's your heart? I see who you are. I'm looking, always, for Jesus Christ in every person. I teach that to the children. We shouldn't be confined; we were born to be social and loving to each other."

Her most recent recognition, the Woman of Faith Award, came as a surprise. Azar said she didn't ask for any of the honors she's received, but is grateful for all of them. Being recognized locally and nationally for a call placed on her life was a far cry from what the former motorcycle gang member saw for herself at one time.

"I did not believe in God for 30 years," she said. "As a 9-year-old, my dad died. My neighbor told me ... that my dad was needed by somebody else, that God needed him. We were immigrants. My mom did not speak English well. It was frightening; there was no one to take care of

me and provide for us. I resented God for it. I blamed him, as did my mom. He left me with what I considered to be nobody."

Then, after the birth of her first child, Azar lost several pregnancies and was told by many experts she'd never be able to conceive again.

"But in 1993, I was pregnant," she recalled. "I called the doctor and asked, 'How can that be?' He said, 'We are not God, Ruth.'"

The statement had an impact on Azar, much like the one made by her neighbor. Right then and there, she made a pact with God: "If you give me this child, I will raise this child in the church."

During her pregnancy, Azar was bedridden four months and was in and out of the hospital. She was told the baby likely wouldn't be "normal" and was advised to have an abortion.

She chose not to — and gave birth to a healthy son. Then she followed through with her promise. "My bargain with God was to take him to

church," she said. "Because of him, I started looking for a church and my faith grew. And it kept growing and growing and then I felt a call on my life."

"I can't believe God waited so long, but he did. And I'm honored as heck with it."

Azar, who has yet to take a day off this year, said the mission at the center has gotten broader since the onset of the coronavirus and she's spent much time collecting, sorting and delivering food to families — especially those with COVID-19 — to keep them out of grocery stores.

"People came to me before, but now I go to them," she said. "But that's what God has chosen for me. I'm thankful he picked me. I'm honored with that."

When she does find time to relax, Azar, who has been married four years to Scott Matthews, enjoys watching sports, especially football and tennis.

"Saturday mornings, if at all possible, you will find me watching College Game Day," she said. "For over 20 years with my family I have been attending the Florida State University homecoming game. Last year, I completed an item on my bucket list by attending the U.S. Open in New York."

Azar said she loves public speaking and is available to talk to local groups about her mission. Those interested should email thesecondmilecenter@gmail.com or call (313) 245-5252.

"I encourage others with, 'If you can believe it and you can see it, then you can achieve it,'" she said.

"One of my favorite quotes is from Edward Everett Hale, which I (also) believe I live my life by: 'I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.'"

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## City of Grosse Pointe

## Larceny

During the past week, a number of political signs have been removed from residences in the 700 and 900 blocks of Washington, as well as the 600 block of Lakeland.

There are no suspects at this time; however, public safety said if caught, the suspect(s) will be charged with a crime.

## ID theft

A resident of the 700 block of Rivard reported Thursday, Sept. 10, that an unknown person used his Social Security number and other personal information to open an account at the Navy Federal Credit Union.

This is the second incident in which the resident has had his identity stolen. A similar circumstance also occurred in 2012.

— Jody McVeigh

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

## Grosse Pointe Woods

## Thwarted thieves

A 36-year-old Grosse Pointe Park man and a 63-year-old Detroit man were arrested around 1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10, after the pair was caught attempting to steal liquor from a nearby drug store.

One of the suspects dropped two vodka bottles after he was confronted for hiding the alcohol inside his shirt.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

They then fled the store in a gray Nissan, traveling eastbound on Vernier where they passed a public safety vehicle.

The suspects fled on foot after public safety located them a short distance away.

One man was taken into custody in the 500 block of Heather Lane after dropping drug paraphernalia in a yard. The second suspect was arrested after he was spotted by a Harper Woods public safety officer near the location where he'd first fled on foot.

Additional charges for the first suspect include fleeing and eluding and habitual offender.

## Malicious destruction

A resident of the 2000 block of Stanhope discovered the rear window of the vehicle in his driveway shattered after it had been parked from around 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9, to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10. No contents were reported missing from the vehicle.

— Eddie B. Allen Jr.

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

## Grosse Pointe Park

## Fleeing police

A suspect described as a black man with a goatee, wearing an orange

hooded sweatshirt and driving a black four-door Nissan Rogue is sought for fleeing and eluding around 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10.

The driver sped away from the Mack and Courville intersection after an officer tried to detain him for speeding. He then fled on foot, leaving a gun and marijuana in the vehicle.

## Food package poached

A package was stolen from a porch in the 1300 block of Lakepointe between 6 and 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11. The resident said the item had come from the Veterans Administration food program.

— Eddie B. Allen Jr.

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

## Grosse Pointe Shores

## Operating while intoxicated

A 28-year-old Inkster man was arrested for operating while under the influence around 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9, at Crestwood and Lakeshore. He'd been traveling 32 miles per hour beyond the speed limit and continuously changed lanes until he struck a median, damaging his tire's cap.

Public safety took the

suspect to the hospital for a blood draw after an odor of alcohol was detected, but he became combative and had to be restrained. He was later jailed.

## Flat wrong

A 34-year-old Grosse Pointe Park man was arrested for operating while intoxicated around 2:45 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, at Lakeshore and Fontana after he was observed driving on a flat tire. An officer was dispatched to find the suspect parked, slurring his speech and with watery, bloodshot eyes.

— Eddie B. Allen Jr.  
*Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.*

## Grosse Pointe Farms

## Operating while intoxicated

A 31-year-old South Carolina man was arrested for operating while intoxicated and carrying a concealed weapon after he was spotted speeding in a construction zone on Lakeshore near Moran at 2:25 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8.

The suspect was pulled over while driving eastbound and an officer detected the smell of intoxicants and observed slurred speech and glossy eyes. Two

pints of vodka, one of which was open, were found in the vehicle, along with a loaded 9-mm pistol in the glove box.

The suspect failed field sobriety tests and faces charges including his second time operating while intoxicated.

## Out on a limb

A Moran resident reported Tuesday, Sept. 8, that sometime between Friday, Aug. 28, and Monday, Aug. 31, a branch of the resident's tree had been cut and taken by someone who fled. The suspect is unknown.

## Extended rentals

A 2019 Dodge Charger and a 2019 Toyota Camry both were reported missing Wednesday, Sept. 9, from a car rental branch on Mack after a five-day grace period elapsed.

The Camry, which had been leased to a 29-year-old Clinton Township man, was later left at the branch location after hours with front-end damage and without the key to the vehicle.

The Charger's driver is a 26-year-old woman from Novi, who faces a

possible stolen auto charge.

## Gun, marijuana discovered

A 20-year-old man with a warrant from Harper Woods was arrested around 2 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 13, on Mack near Bournemout after the sedan he was operating was stopped because no headlights or tail lights were activated.

An officer observed the passenger not wearing a seatbelt before the driver informed the officer there was a jar of marijuana, which was found in the car, along with marijuana in bags for distribution.

The officer ordered the occupants to put their hands up when a mini Draco with a 30-round magazine was spotted in the car. The driver told the officer the firearm belonged to his father and that the driver kept it for protection after having been shot.

A substantial amount of cash in various denominations also was discovered.

— Eddie B. Allen Jr.

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



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\*Based on 2019 market share data/hospital discharges, January 2019-December 2019.



**Ascension  
St. John**

## 6A | OPINION

## Grosse Pointe News

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16980 KERCHEVAL AVE., GROSSE POINTE, MI 48230  
PHONE: (313) 882-6900 FAX: (313) 882-1585  
E-MAIL: EDITOR@GROSSEPOINTENEWS.COM

ROBERT B. EDGAR: Founder and Publisher (1940 - 1979)

JOHN MINNIS: Publisher

TERRY MINNIS: Vice President

JODY MCVEIGH: Editor

## OUR VIEW

## 'Friday Night Lights' a go

As the high school football season debuts this week, including in Grosse Pointe, reasonable people may well be asking whether the "Friday Night Lights" allure balances out the risks. Football, after all, is a contact sport that draws fans who also may not be able to keep themselves properly masked and distanced.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer basically laid out the path for the return of football earlier this month, even though cases of COVID-19 have not completely settled down after escalating post-Memorial Day. She did so with several caveats — caveats that hopefully will not be ignored.

But the No. 1 caveat, from the chief medical executive for the state, fell by the wayside from the get-go: "Based on current data," Dr. Joneigh Khaldun said in a statement, "contact sports create a high risk of COVID-19 transmission and (the state health department) strongly recommends against participating in them at this time. ... COVID-19 is still a very real threat to our families."

Not that anyone paid much attention. The Michigan High School Athletic Association immediately reinstated football.

Besides football, the sports considered to have the most contact and resulting danger are basketball and soccer. Basketball, in particular, seems like a no-go, given that even the pros couldn't figure out how to do it without going into a tightly restricted bubble.

Whitmer apparently is hoping to mitigate some of the problem with an executive order requiring athletes to wear face coverings when competing if they can't maintain a six-foot distance from other players (swimmers and divers having an obvious exemption).

For fans, the new rules include limits on crowd size. And even if they can't get into the stands, students almost surely will congregate somewhere on Friday nights.

That's actually one argument for allowing football: As fraught as it is with opportunities for infection, an outdoor event might be less threatening than having teens throned together in basements, ride around in groups or socialize in other self-sabotaging ways.

As has happened with the revving-up of college communities around the state, high school students may well kick off another round of coronavirus cases, much closer to home. The weather will force more people indoors soon enough, too.

## OUR VIEW

## Ethics in Shores

Perhaps the mostly off-again ethics committee supposedly at work in Grosse Pointe Shores can finally get down to business now that the mayor and the city clerk have both resigned.

Councilman Matt Seely also should resign.

The whole idea of an ordinance or guidance on ethical behavior would seem to be for citizens to be able to outline their expectations for their elected officials. Surely they need to hear the opinions of those officials, and of appointed officers, too — indeed, of any one affected by new rules.

But the committee deserves the chance to study and deliberate without undue influence from those who would be regulated.

Councilman Seely has said his participation makes sense since the council must eventually approve any ordinance. But if that were the main point, why not just have the council serve as an ad hoc ethics committee?

There is, of course, no guarantee that the council will approve anything from an outside committee. But surely most citizens had a relatively unfettered approach in mind, at least for the initial proposal.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROB LUBERA

## Pure Grosse Pointe

Dr. Richard J. Lubera, right, sent us this photo of his "socially distanced quartet" as an example of Grosse Pointers adapting and making the best during this difficult time. From left are Sylvelin Bouwman, cello; Terese Edelstein, violin; Kristi Hansen, viola; and Dr. Richard J. Lubera, violin.

## OUR VIEW

## Main Street gets down to work

With a solid cohort of members appointed to its Main Street board, the City of Grosse Pointe appears poised to let the process blossom. The chief hurdle may be getting the word out again.

The Main Street program, supported by the state of Michigan, helps communities focus their energies and strategies for the benefit of their downtowns. It requires an active board to lead the process, augmented by the work of other committees with wide volunteer participation from residents.

The city already has a base of interested people, according to Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak, as she referred to people who stepped up during the initial stage when the city was preparing its application. "We will be contacting all of those folks to get them

on committees and working," she said.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many people's lives have changed considerably since the application process got underway last year — as have the ways that committees meet and the processes they employ. That suggests recanvassing the community for committee participants. The broader the input, and commitment, to Main Street projects and goals, the stronger the final result will be. The process should feel open and inviting.

The Main Street program involves identifying a vision that outlines the community's identity and expectations, but stays grounded within local economic realities. That can be a daunting task under any circumstances; it may be even more difficult during a pandemic. It will be smart to have as many viewpoints as possible, with multiple entry points for volunteers and suggestions.

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

## What is a 'newspaper'?

For "legal" or "public" notices required by law regarding certain activities of municipalities and public school boards, the term "newspaper" is very specific. Currently, the Grosse Pointe News is the only weekly newspaper in Grosse Pointe that meets that definition.

Under Public Act 247 of 1963, a "newspaper":

(a) has a bona fide list of paying subscribers or has been published at not less than weekly intervals in the same community without interruption for at least 2 years, and

(b) has been published and of general circulation at not less than weekly intervals without interruption for at least 1 year in the county, township, city, village or district where the notice is required to be published. A newspaper shall not lose eligibility for interruption of continuous publication because of acts of God, labor disputes or because of military

service of the publisher ... MCL691.1051(1).

With many of our advertisers forced to close due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, our revenue at the Grosse Pointe News dropped significantly. No one would have faulted us had we ceased to publish — as some weekly newspapers did — until businesses opened back up.

However, we knew that if we missed even one issue, we would not be able to accept legal and public notices, and our municipalities and public school district would have been forced to publish them in the Detroit newspapers.

(And, no, there is no legal foundation for calling the coronavirus pandemic an "act of God.")

Fortunately, we have a good working relationship with our city clerks and schools, and they know the law. We stand by to support our municipalities and public school district as Grosse Pointe's only "newspaper" of record.

## 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.

## Teachers are heroes, too

To the Editor:

The pandemic has given us new definitions for the word "hero." Yes, of course, our first responders fit the definition.

However, we have also come to realize that the hero moniker needs to be expanded to include

our healthcare workers, grocery clerks, restaurant wait staff, mail carriers and everyone else whose job involves contact with the public.

Yes, we have minimized risk with mask wearing, social distancing and testing, but the risk is still there, just reduced.

Often forgotten are the teachers. In our commu-

nity the religious and independent schools have gone back to in-class learning. Every day these dedicated professionals are teaching full classrooms of students. Social distancing is nearly impossible, mask wearing probably hazardous, especially with the youngsters.

These teachers risk their health every day just by walking into their classrooms. These dedicated men and women deserve the gratitude and support of our entire community.

THANK YOU, TEACHERS!  
BOB GARVEY  
Grosse Pointe Park

## More tolerance needed

To the Editor:

I am writing to let my

neighbors of Grosse Pointe know that it is not acceptable to throw your dog's poop bag at my political sign. This is the second time this woman has done it and I was able to see her do it. I yelled at her and she just kept walking her dog, like I deserved it.

I live in the Woods on Roslyn and see signs for both parties and respect their opinions and never thought it proper to desecrate someone's political sign.

I am proud of who I am voting for, as I'm sure the other side is proud of who they support.

We need to be more tolerant of each other. You see a sign you don't like, grit your teeth and keep walking and I'll do the same.

PAULA BALDWIN  
Grosse Pointe Woods

## POINTE NEWS INCORPORATED

Member Michigan Press Association,  
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EDITORIAL  
(313) 882-6900

Jody McVeigh:  
Editor

Bob St. John:  
Sports Editor

Eddie B. Allen Jr.:  
Staff Writer

Mary Anne Brush:  
Staff Writer

Laurel Kraus:  
Staff Writer

Elizabeth Martin:  
Staff Writer

Renee Landuyt:  
Staff Photographer

Barb Arrigo:  
Editorial Writer

CIRCULATION  
(313) 343-5578

Kristin Martin Duus

PRODUCTION  
(313) 343-5573

Ken Schop:  
Production Manager

John Pigott:  
IT Manager

Patty Dressler

David Hughes

Donna Zetterlund

ADVERTISING  
(313) 882-3500

Shelley Owens:  
Advertising Manager

Paul V. Biondi:  
Account Executive

Steve Saigh:  
Account Executive

Julie R. Sutton:  
Account Executive

Melanie Mahoney:  
Administrative Assistant

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I SAY By Laurel Kraus

# Blessings in the worst times



Recently, I was involved in my first car accident and it was somewhat of a “get thrown in the deep end and find out if you can swim” situation. It may have been nice to dip my toes in the water by backing into someone at the grocery store or sliding on ice into a street sign first, but instead I was traveling 70 mph on I-94.

I’m making light of it, of course, but it was honestly a fairly horrific experience.

While traveling in the center lane in the middle of the day, a pickup truck on the right pulled into my lane directly on top of me. With another car on my left, I had nowhere to go and ultimately was thrown into the cement divider before being sent back into the middle of the highway sideways.

I wasn’t sure whether I would write about this, because just thinking of it leaves me feeling deeply unsettled, but I also felt I would be remiss to not acknowl-

edge the blessings that were involved.

What was then, and is still now, more shocking to me than the severity of the accident was that beyond some real soreness and friction burn from the seatbelt, I walked away without a scratch.

My car did not roll, my front airbag did not go off and how two lanes of vehicles going 70 mph managed to avoid me when I came to rest in the middle of the highway is beyond me. When a situation so incredibly defies logic like this, to me that clearly means God was involved.

I also have been left

with a deep impression of the kindness of strangers.

Multiple people got out of their cars to check on me and make sure no one else was in the vehicle, while others stopped and waited for the police to arrive with their hazards on so no one would approach the scene too quickly.

Even the truck driver, who said he just did not see me, took responsibility and honestly told the officers what took place.

The most lasting impression, however, is from St. Clair Shores Officer Percy, who wrote up my report and gave me a lift to his station

where my sister picked me up.

Since I was clearly in a state of shock and somewhat running on autopilot, he made every effort to keep me from dwelling on what was taking place, through the most random jokes, sarcastic remarks and conversations — such as why pop from fast food places is so much better than from a can, for example.

The experience has made me really consider all that officers do above and beyond their job descriptions. It has me thinking about the officer who offered to lead the way when my grandma got lost on the

way to visit her sister at an area hospital a few months back and how officers in the City volunteer their time to periodically check in with older residents.

While in many ways I’d prefer to forget the accident ever happened, I am unbelievably thankful to God and to Officer Percy, that I experienced the absolute best version of one of the worst situations I’ve been thrown into.

“Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest,” Joshua 1:9.

## YESTERDAY’S HEADLINES

### 1945

75 years ago this week

**BURNING LEAVES ON STREET BANNED:** Park residents who burn leaves on the village pavement will be prosecuted, according to Chief of Police Henry W. Piel. Piel said this practice has ruined a lot of Park pavement and with a lot of new street resurfacing done in the village this year, it must be stopped.

### 1970

50 years ago this week

**POLICE FIND POT PLANTINGS:** Recently Pointe police have uncovered a few stands of cannabis plants in the area. The cannabis sativa is an Indian hemp plant whose flowering tops and leaves are used to make marijuana. In the city of Grosse Pointe Park last week some 324 plants were uncovered and subsequently destroyed. Plantings also have been found in the Woods. Sources tell the News that marijuana and hashish usage is currently on the upswing in the Pointes.

**HOCKEY GROUP’S PLEAS AIRED:** The City of Grosse Pointe Council once again gave the

Grosse Pointe Hockey Association the opportunity to discuss its plan for locating a Community Sports Center on the Board of Education-owned Elworthy Field. However, in a letter dated June 24, the council indicated that after careful study and review of the proposal and consultation with the city planners, it felt a larger site at another location would be better suited to serve all the Pointes.

*Obituaries: Orison S. White, Bessie L. Pedlow, Arthur W. Erskitz M.D., Agnes G. Benoit, Cornelius R. Brogan, William L. Johnson, Leo S. Shrader, Donald C.*

*Clark, Joseph Michael Vacante IX, Catherine Russel Peck*

### 1995

25 years ago this week.

**LIGHTS SOUGHT FOR NORTH GAMES:**

In an effort to achieve parity with Grosse Pointe South, superintendent of Grosse Pointe schools Ed Shine will present a proposal to the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council that would allow the school system to set up lights several times a year for night football games at Grosse Pointe North High

School.

*Obituaries: Rosemary McDonald Dykema, Kathryn Lake Dasef, Dennis F. White, Marie S. Sitarski, John Francis Meehan, Catherine M. Lindeman, Lula M. Hummel, Joseph Henry Reinman, Ross E. Kogel, Ann Thomson Powers, William Raymond DeWitte*

### 2010

10 years ago this week

**FINCHAM GETS COUNCIL’S NOD:**

Al “Skip” Fincham is almost officially the city administrator in Grosse Pointe Woods. Acting on a recommendation from the Compensation and

Evaluation Committee, the city council approved his appointment Sept. 20, pending final contract approval.

**P L A Y S C A P E**

**PURCHASED:** A private organization is paying for a playscape at Kerby Field. The only cost to Grosse Pointe Farms is public works labor to help prepare the site and planting a few barrier trees along a nearby residential property lines. The playscape is the Farms Foundation’s latest enhancement to Kerby Field.

*Obituaries: Burma Purdy, The Rev. Lloyd Thiel, Steven William Swan, James G. Winfield, Jean Terese Pankau, Helen Inman, Paul Chappell Reed, Jim Schudel*

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8A | SCHOOLS

# League of Women Voters hosts panel forum

## Board candidates address challenges ahead

By Mary Anne Brush  
Staff Writer

Candidates for the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education had an early opportunity to make their views known to voters before the general election Nov. 3. The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe hosted two candidate forum sessions via Zoom Sept. 9, with eight candidates participating in each. The sessions may be viewed at [lvwgrossepointe.org](http://lvwgrossepointe.org).

Competing for a four-year seat on the board are

incumbent Kathleen Abke, a licensed professional counselor, of Grosse Pointe Woods; George Bailey, an architect and business owner, of Grosse Pointe Woods; David Brumbaugh, a career data analyst, of Grosse Pointe Park; Dr. Christopher D'Angelo, an emergency physician, of Grosse Pointe Park; Cynthia Douglas, executive assistant to the Commission — Wayne County, of Grosse Pointe Woods; Jennifer Goossen, constituent services coordinator for Congresswoman Brenda

Lawrence, of Grosse Pointe Woods; Ahmed Ismail, a business person, of Grosse Pointe Woods; James Joseph, an attorney, of the City of Grosse Pointe; Keersten Colleen Kassab, an attorney, of the City of Grosse Pointe; Lauren Nowicki, a former teacher, of Grosse Pointe Park; incumbent Cindy Pangborn, a retired Realtor, of the City of Grosse Pointe; Lisa Papas, a high school and middle school music teacher for Hamtramck Public Schools, of Grosse Pointe Farms; Shareef Simateka, a turnaround management and financial restructuring consultant, of Grosse Pointe Park; and Colleen Worden, an attorney and

assistant prosecutor for the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office — Special Victims Unit, of Grosse Pointe Woods.

Vying for a two-year term are incumbent Joseph Herd, retired deputy chief, United States Probation, Eastern District of Michigan, of Grosse Pointe Woods; John Steininger, retired business owner, of Grosse Pointe Farms; and Theresa Vogler, a home care assistant, of Grosse Pointe Park.

The forums were moderated by Sue Acton, LWV-GP president-elect. Each question was posed to five of the eight candidates in a round robin format. For the final question, each candidate was

given the opportunity to select among the questions they were not asked. Candidates also gave opening and closing statements.

Sixteen of the 17 candidates participated. While Pangborn planned to join the forum, she experienced technical difficulties, according to LWV-GP President Judy Florian.

In addressing the most critical issue facing GPPSS, candidates agreed the pandemic had exacerbated the district's financial situation.

"We're talking about a completely changed landscape from what the school district anticipated even eight months ago," D'Angelos said.

The pandemic "is everywhere," Nowicki said. "No matter who you talk to ... somebody is affected by it in some way, shape or form. Right now it's primarily our kids who are suffering. How would I solve it? Clearly I can't solve the pandemic. But I think there are some things we could have done as a district — and I would do moving forward — to get our kids back to school."

Getting students back to school for face-to-face learning was the first order of business for Kassab as well.

"Ninety percent of all schools in the state of Michigan were able to provide a face-to-face option for their districts," she said. "We were not able to do it. I don't understand why we were not able to do that. I would say administration (is) lagging behind and that is the first priority."

Other concerns revolved around budget constraints, taking care of students with special needs, supporting teachers and reconfiguration.

"I've been opposed since day one to the reconfiguration," Papas said. "While I had considered school closures, when we found additional money in the budget that appeared ... I believe we need to reopen those elementary schools to have walkable schools. We need our fifth grade back in the elementary schools. Then we need to make a comprehensive plan for this district so we have boundaries so that schools are not overcrowded."

"Obviously the pandemic is difficult to ignore, but long term it's the financial stability of the district and sustain-

ability," Simateka said. "... Reconfiguration was borne of those concerns, but we don't have the data that is needed and didn't do the analysis that is needed to make any decisions or even truly understand what the problem is."

Candidates also were asked to evaluate the GPPSS curriculum and how it compares to peer districts.

"We have to make sure our curriculum works for all our students," Joseph said. "... There are students that are being left behind."

In Goossen's view, the curriculum needs to be adapted to reflect an increasingly diverse student body from different backgrounds.

"I think our curriculum is outstanding," Abke said. "Not perfect, but every time they go back and evaluate curriculum for a particular subject they gather experts in the field — our teachers and administrators — and they explore for quite some time what they can do better. I've seen improved science, English, math curriculum. Our science curriculum has just improved because they made it accessible to all students in a blended-type setting as opposed to separating kids out. There's always room for improvement, but I'm proud that we use our experts — our teachers who we trust — to make things better."

"I feel like we have always been a destination district," Steininger said. "We compare favorably with all our peer districts. We certainly turn out a top-quality graduate. But that doesn't mean we can rest on our laurels."

"I've seen a variety of curriculums throughout my education — schools that teach to the test," D'Angelo said. "... I'm not an educator, but I would like to hear from the educators — our teachers, our staff — how they would like to benchmark."

"I believe years ago we did have a top-district school," Vogler said. "I don't believe we have (that) now. I think we have some wonderful teachers, but I don't think we're meeting standards. Yes, we have a lot of kids who are graduating and going into wonderful job positions, but I do think our curriculum needs to

See FORUM, page 9A

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**Greek Salad with Salmon**  
Organic Romaine, Organic Red Onions, Organic Grape Tomatoes, Cucumber, Beets, Kalamata Olives, Feta, Salmon, with Greek Dressing



**Rainbow Salad (v)**  
Organic Romaine, Red Cabbage, Carrots, Organic Red, Yellow, and Orange Peppers, Organic Grape Tomato, Cucumbers, Organic Edamame, Radish, with Honey Ginger Dressing



**Southwest Chicken Salad**  
Organic Romaine, Organic Red Onion, Organic Red & Yellow Peppers, Black Beans, Corn, Green Onion, Black Olives, Mexican Mix Cheese, Tortilla Strips, ABF Chicken, with Chipotle Ranch Dressing



**Strawberry Walnut Salad (v)**  
Organic Spring Mix, Organic Spinach, Organic Strawberries, Organic Red Onion, Blue Cheese, with Fat Free Balsamic Vinaigrette Dressing



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PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

## Pick-me-up

On Monday, Sept. 14, in keeping with COVID-19 safety protocols, elementary school students throughout the Grosse Pointe Public School System picked up school supplies and materials for remote learning from building parking lots. Pictured is Monteith Elementary School first-grader Andrew Hendrickson with his teacher, Elizabeth Wang.

## SHOOTING:

Continued from page 1A

doctors and hospital staff continued lifesaving measures.

A preliminary investigation determined there were juveniles playing with a gun in the home, which resulted in the shooting. Oak Park investigators are still interviewing witnesses and occupants of the residence to determine the chain of events leading up to this tragedy, according to the release.

The case was presented to the Oakland County Prosecutors Office and a decision was made to charge the 15-year-old male suspect

as a juvenile with manslaughter. A hearing took place virtually at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15, at the Oakland County Children's Village.

"There are no words to share how profoundly sad we feel," Parcels Principal Dan Hartley wrote in an email to the Parcels community. "LaDamian was a fun-loving, charismatic young man who loved to laugh and make others do the same. He was a conscientious student who had a contagious smile that would light up a room. Our hearts and prayers go out to LaDamian's family and friends."

Hartley urged families to acknowledge their children's grief, which

may show up in different ways or trigger a traumatic incident or past loss, and seek professional guidance if necessary, including by contacting the school. He also sent a link containing information parents could use to discuss the tragedy with their children.

"One of the best ways we can help our children is to be an active listener, acknowledge their feelings and maintain daily routines while supporting their grieving process," he wrote. "I would encourage you to follow your normal routine at home as well. If you notice that your child(ren), or any others, need additional support,

please inform their teacher, school social worker, counselor or an administrator."

He added Parcels staff is working with students, staff, parents and the community to determine how best to remember the 12-year-old and an appropriate time for the community to come together to support the Williams family.

Cards, notes, posters or other memorial materials will be collected and delivered to the family. A box is located outside the Parcels main gym doors in the Sunningdale parking lot from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Thursday, Sept. 17, and from 8:30 a.m. to noon Friday, Sept. 18.

## FORUM:

Continued from page 8A

be challenged."

Responding to the financial constraints caused by the COVID pandemic, candidates were asked what their approach would be to offset this loss in funding. "The disruption to our budget caused by loss of funding and potential loss of enrollment ... is going to put a tremendous amount of stress on our ability to deliver the same robust education our families are used to," Brumbaugh said.

Ismail suggested talking to other districts about their plans.

"In Grosse Pointe, we spend a lot of time reinventing the wheel," he said. "... Another thing we don't do is we don't listen to the staff very well. The staff can be an incredible resource. ... I think we need to have a mechanism set up where staff can give us input directly. I think the biggest thing is we have to think out of the box. We can't be as myopic as we have been in the past."

Said D'Angelo, "I think we need a very measured approach to getting our district back to face to face and in doing so the financial considerations need to be part of that. How can we do it so that we're still providing quality education to our staff and providing a quality experience? ... This is how the district has really failed. The plan has changed several times. They haven't reached out to the right experts."

"We're all under a crunch to keep this quality district that we have together and keep moving forward," Bailey said. "Hard decisions have been made and will continue to have to be made because of the budget constraints."

Candidates also addressed concerns about equity and inclusion in the school district. "Diversity is so much more than just a race issue," Ismail said. "It has to do with our special needs kids. It has to do with our LBGQT kids. We have to set up a way for kids to talk with each other ... (and) set up a pathway for a parent or student to get help."

Abke pointed out the district has been addressing equity and inclusion with implicit bias training, restorative practices, a more equitable and inclusive curriculum and an anti-racism resolution passed recently by the board, that will "further direct the district to continue to go down that road ... because we can

always do better."

Bailey cited equity and inclusion as one of the top issues facing the district.

In Herd's view, issues of equity affect all students because everyone has both areas of strength and areas of weakness.

"In bringing up things that will help people be equitable, you're going to help everyone," he said.

Diversity in the GPPSS was not a concern for Kassab.

"I have a diverse family, but I don't feel it's really an issue in the district," she said. "I have never felt there were any challenges from my perspective."

Candidates also had an opportunity to share how their background qualifies them to effectively address budgets and financial policies.

Bailey said he would lean on his previous experience as a school board trustee.

Douglas said she served three mayors in the city of Detroit, currently works as an executive assistant to the Wayne County Commission and has 30 years of experience with government budgets.

Ismail's "value add" is his training with the Michigan Association of School Boards, work as a real estate developer and familiarity with school budgets, he said.

As a lawyer, Joseph said he works with large corporations including boards managing risk.

"This is what I do for a living and I can do it here," he said.

"I'm an educational specialist and I'm a liaison with Harper Woods for a Congressperson," Goossen said. "I understand the special nature of finance."

While Nowicki admitted she is "not a finance person," she has seven years of experience as a teacher and an administrator.

"I have two degrees from Wayne State," she said. "I would be more than happy to learn, look at it, review it. The numbers don't lie. We can look at them all together and with a good mix of candidates, I think that we can all bring something special to the table."

Kassab said she is an attorney, has a master's degree in international policy studies and a strong background in economics and finance.

Simaika has 20 years of financial experience as a commercial lender, investment banker and restructuring and turnaround consultant, along with experience as a financial turnaround

consultant providing day-to-day oversight and leadership in pursuing solutions.

In his former position, Herd, now retired, said he oversaw budgets, salaries and budgets for staff across the state.

Papas said she wears two hats as a teacher and a business owner.

Prior to being an assistant prosecutor, Worden was a municipal attorney for 16 years and oversaw the budgets of more than 30 municipalities, cities and townships in south-east Michigan.

Another opportunity for candidates to share their strengths and attributes was in response to a question about their ability to bring civility to a divisive time.

"I have shown through my professional work as well as my engagement with social media and in public with constituents that I am 100 percent transparent and I believe in engagement," Brumbaugh said. "I love talking with parents and hearing their problems and coming up with a solution."

"I'm trained in active listening techniques and I know how to take what someone says and translate it into an actionable piece of information and then give that to a decision-maker to help inform policy," Goossen said. "... I really care about people as well. It doesn't really matter what their political leanings are or if they disagree with me. ... I'm used to hearing from angry constituents."

Growing up as a first generation member of an immigrant family, Joseph said he knows "what it's like to be a little bit dif-

ferent. ... I know what it's like to have a neurodiverse household. ... I think the most important thing is wherever you are, whatever you look like, it starts with listening and problem-solving together because if you don't problem-solve together, you're not going to have a solution that includes everybody."

"First of all, I'm a consensus builder," Worden said. "I think the only way you can get anything done is to make sure that you get along with other people and I get along with other people very well. The other thing is that as a lawyer, I work in a very contentious atmosphere all the time. ... I think it's so important to act with civility and respect at all times and I would bring that to the board."

Steininger cited his experience as a board

president in 2010 and 2011 as evidence.

"The board that I headed was successful, it was cohesive though diverse, and it was instrumental in maintaining a level of educational excellence while facing the economic realities of the recession and state funding costs," he said. "That experience is instrumental in resolving issues of divisiveness that are currently raised within our community."

Douglas said as president of the GP-GW

NAACP, she has hosted a number of forums to discuss issues around racism and "how we can come together as a community. We just need to continually discuss these hard issues. It's a hard conversation to have, but we need to understand we need to have a safe space for everyone, especially our students. We as adults can agree to disagree."

Look for a special election section in the Sept. 24 edition of the Grosse Pointe News.

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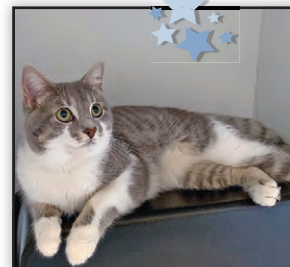
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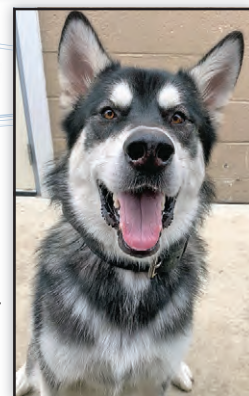
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## With some coffee and a dream

### Coffee sales aid Ugandan farmers, mountain gorillas

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

One cup of coffee can have a cascading impact felt across the world. So says the philosophy of the Grosse Pointe-based Noble Gorilla Foundation, set up recently as a 501(c)3 focused on bettering the livelihoods of coffee farmers in the gorilla habitat of southwest Uganda and, in turn, protecting the rainforest habitat and gorilla population by taking away the need to forage or poach for food.

"You've got to sustain the homes and the hearts of the people to then help sustain the habitat where the gorillas live," Director of Noble Gorilla Foundation Fiona Tanner Quinlan said, adding that around 500 of the 1,100 mountain gorillas left in the world live in southwest Uganda.

In partnership with the Gorilla Highlands Coffee Association in Uganda, the foundation works with approximately 2,400 farmers, many of whom have half-acre to one-acre farms, on ways to get more revenue for the two- to three-week process each crop takes. If the farmers are struggling, they may pick unripe cherries to get the quickest cash when they need it and only get a nominal amount of money for their effort. Bright red bracelets, the

color of ripe coffee cherries, from the foundation remind them that waiting brings far more reward.

Similar to the idea of "farm to table" in Michigan, the foundation also is working to set up direct trade roasted at origin, where the association roasts the coffee directly in Uganda and air freights it every month to Michigan. Since nearly 75 percent of the value of coffee is between the green bean and the roasted coffee, this method aims to keep the value within the country of origin.

The first shipment arrived Aug. 26, and will be available for purchase the week of Sept. 20, at Fresh Farms Market, as well as Church of the Messiah in Detroit, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on World Gorilla Day, Thursday, Sept. 24. Proceeds will go toward rainjacks, gumboots and



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FIONA TANNER QUINLAN

**Fiona Tanner Quinlan at the Gorilla Highlands Coffee headquarters in Kisoro, Uganda, which is being converted into a coffee shop and community center.**

head flashlights for 20 Uganda Wildlife Authority park rangers, who prevent poaching. Any additional donations will go toward further

purchases for more of the 100 rangers working in the area.

"It is just an initial shipment to see the difficulty and the reality of it, but if

we demonstrate that we can do this, it's a wonderful opportunity to buy directly and support that," Tanner said. "We will have an internet-based sales strategy sooner or later on the Gorilla Highlands Coffee (website), which will be linked into the foundation's website."

Falling under the umbrella of its efforts to better the livelihoods of the Ugandan farmers currently are four main projects: Poachers to Protectors of Mountain Gorillas, Gorilla Highlands Coffee Clubs, House of Bwindi Fashion and Crafts, and the Kawacare Health Program.

Poachers to Protectors was born in June in response to the sharp loss of income from coffee and tourism due to COVID-19 and aimed to prevent farmers from hunting for bush meat. More than 100 of the foundation's farmers with the best practices were sent vegetable seeds, chickens and goats, with the intention that the first of the new animals born would be given to the next family



who hadn't received anything in the first round.

Through Gorilla Highlands Coffee Clubs, the foundation will work with its second boarding school this year to provide coffee seedlings through the Uganda Coffee Development Authority. Ninth-grade students will then commit to learning to grow and harvest the coffee, which will be ready to be harvested by the time they're seniors. The foundation will then purchase the coffee at direct trade prices and the students' revenues will go toward supporting 70 to 80 percent of their college tuition.

"If you get the younger generations really in love with their land, then you're going to have the stewardship that passes generation to generation," Tanner said, "and they'll maintain that stewardship and maintain that balance, which is so important for the habitats and for those living in places like this."

Since 60 percent of the farmers involved are women, the House of Bwindi Fashion and Crafts program teaches them to sew and create items tourists might want to buy. This year, the team will show the women how to sew school uniforms for their children.

The fourth project, the Kawacare Health Program, currently provides Gorilla Highlands Coffee Association team



Tanner and some of the farmers in the co-op with the coffee drying racks.

See COFFEE, page 2B



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LIZ DEBELISO

## Moment of reflection

Staff working both morning and afternoon shifts at Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe gathered Aug. 31, to briefly reflect on and celebrate the lives of patients and staff who have lost their lives to COVID-19.



The Rev. Rich Bartoszek says a few words during Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe's Moment of Reflection Aug. 31.



Eight Beaumont hospitals took part in the coordinated effort, including the Grosse Pointe hospital.

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# AREA ACTIVITIES

## The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers the following programs.

- ◆ On the Gogh Studio, "The Pumpkin Patch," 1 to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22, with instructor Michelle Boggess. Cost is \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members. Participation is limited to 10.

- ◆ A Matter of Balance, 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 22 to Oct. 15, with facilitator Rosa Hunter. Participation is limited to 10.

- ◆ Movie, "The Farewell," 12:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25. Member cost is \$7 for lunch and the movie, \$2 for snacks and the movie. Nonmember cost is \$10 for lunch and the movie, \$3 for snacks and the movie.

- ◆ Occupational Therapy Program, via Zoom, 1 to 2 p.m. Mondays or Fridays, Sept. 28 to Nov. 16, with facilitator Melissa Peters.

- ◆ Euchre, 2:30 to 4 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays.

- ◆ Bingo, 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning Oct. 6. Cost is \$2 for members, \$7 for non-members.

## Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

- ◆ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, Henry Ford Medical Center-Cottage, 159 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

- ◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 21800 Marter, St. Clair Shores.

- ◆ 7:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, Ascension St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.

- ◆ 1 to 6:45 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22, Tompkins Community Center, 14920 Windmill Pointe, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ 11:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

- ◆ 1 to 6:45 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29, Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church, 8625 E. Jefferson, Detroit.

- ◆ 1 to 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30, Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, 211 Moross, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Register at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

## Gilda's Club Lake House

Gilda's Club's Lake House location, 23500 Pare, St. Clair Shores, hosts the following virtual programs:

- ◆ 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, Finding Your Way Bereavement Group.

- ◆ 1:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28, Lake House Social Hour.

- ◆ 5:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28, Family Bereavement Group.

Register at [gildasclubdetroit.org/events/calendar](http://gildasclubdetroit.org/events/calendar).

## Lakeshore Senior Living

A Lakeshore Anchors Alzheimer's fundraiser takes place 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22, outside at Lakeshore Senior Living, 28802 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores. The event features a bake sale. Proceeds benefit the Alzheimer's Association. Call (586) 218-6228 for more details.

## CARE

CARE of Southeastern Michigan, a leader in substance use prevention and recovery more than 40 years, offers a series of Facebook Live events during September. The following events begin at noon.

- ◆ Tuesday, Sept. 22 — Having Fun in Recovery

- ◆ Tuesday, Sept. 29 — Narcan Importance

## Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting virtually at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23. The meeting features a presentation on the club survey. Visit [grossepointerotary.org](http://grossepointerotary.org) for information.

## Library

The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts the following virtual programs:

- ◆ Nonfiction Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17. "Crisis in the Red Zone" by Richard Preston will be discussed.

- ◆ Family Yoga, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, with teacher Kathleen Wolney.

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Library Board of Trustees meeting, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, at Central Library, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms

- ◆ Pet Toys Workshop, 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26. Christen from Pet Supplies Plus shares

how to make DIY pet toys.

- ◆ 4th Monday Book Discussion, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28. "Born a Crime," by Trevor Noah will be discussed.

- ◆ Storytime with Miss Melissa, for ages 2 to 5, all day Tuesday, Sept. 29.

- ◆ Discovering Dinosaurs with the University of Michigan Museum of Natural History, 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29.

- ◆ Virtual Book Discussion of "Celestial Bodies," by Jokha Alharthi, 8 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29.

- ◆ Storytime with Miss Rachel, for ages 2 to 5, all day Wednesday, Sept. 30.

Register at [grossepointelibrary.org](http://grossepointelibrary.org) or call (313) 640-4775.

## GPAA

The Grosse Pointe Artists Association hosts the following programs:

- ◆ Plein air workshop with Janet Almstadt-Davison, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, in the gardens at Detroit Abloom.

- ◆ Portrait Painting Workshop in oil with Robert Maniscalco, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 16 and 17.

- ◆ The GPAA's artmaking group for veterans has begun meeting 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, under a tent on the front lawn of The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Walk-ins are welcome, but advanced registration is suggested.

- ◆ The entry deadline for the association's "Soul Searching" exhibition is Monday, Sept. 28. Curator and educator Grace Serra is the juror. The hybrid show will feature virtual presentations and safe/small group viewings.

Register at [grossepointteartcenter.org](http://grossepointteartcenter.org) or call (313) 881-3454.

## Toastmasters

Northeastern Toastmasters meets via Zoom at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month. Call (313) 720-8444 for the link and password.

## NAMI

The National Alliance on Mental Illness Metro Peer-Led Recovery Support Group, for people living with mental health issues, meets virtually at 7 p.m. every Monday. There is no cost to participate. Call Lisa at (805) 450-1994 or email [lisa.jones@mentalhealth.org](mailto:lisa.jones@mentalhealth.org).

# Seniors invited to stop and smell the roses

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

The Healthy Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods coalition invites families to honor their loved ones during an outing at Detroit Abloom.

"A Garden Oasis for Seniors & Friends" takes place 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, at the popular cut-flower farm, located at 248 Manistique in Detroit.

"We are encouraging families to get together to honor their family elders with a special photo in the garden," said Suzy Berschback, the coalition's project manager. "Often we don't have a special picture of our seniors as seniors. Working with Detroit Area Agency on Aging, we think that is important."

The event asks families to bring a "special loved one for a fresh-air outing" or "discover this garden getaway on your own." It provides an

open-air opportunity to listen for and share treasured memories, reduce pandemic-influenced social isolation and capture the moment with a photograph.

"Research tells us that environments can increase or reduce our stress, which in turn impacts our bodies," Berschback said. "What you are seeing, hearing, experiencing at any moment is changing not only your mood, but how your nervous, endocrine and immune systems are working. Being in nature, or even viewing scenes of nature, reduces anger, fear and stress and increases pleasant feelings. Exposure to nature not only makes you feel better emotionally, it contributes to your physical well-being, reducing blood pressure, heart rate, muscle tension and the production of stress hormones."

Of course, in light of the ongoing pandemic, measures will be in place to assure a safe gathering.

"We are asking people to come in small groups with their senior, wear masks and socially distance," Berschback said. "There will be a hand-washing station as needed."

Guests are invited to bring their own cameras, or photos will be taken by a volunteer photographer and then uploaded for guests to download from the Detroit Abloom Facebook page.

"You can take your mask off as you take your photos in the garden," Berschback added. "There's plenty of room and 500 dahlias will be in bloom — plenty of locations for a special family photo."

A rain date has been set for Saturday, Oct. 3. More details may be found online at [detroitabloom.com](http://detroitabloom.com) or by calling (313) 446-4444, Ext. 5858.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FIONA TANNER QUINLAN

The foundation delivered vegetable seeds, chickens and goats to 120 coffee farmers in June, while they struggled with loss of income due to COVID-19.

## COFFEE:

Continued from page 1B

members with health insurance and aims to roll out the program for another 50 farmers each year. The insurance costs \$150 per farmer and is paid for by donations.

"We don't have a lot of resources, but we just keep doing it," Tanner said. "We just believe that if we do it, we're going to

break on through and we're going to create a momentum that people will hear about what we're doing (and) people that want to support can support us through the foundation."

Tanner's future goals for the foundation, run by herself and her husband, John Quinlan, include seeing all 2,400 farmers gain health insurance and have access to tuition fees for their children, as

well as seeing Gorilla Highlands Coffee become consistently available within the United States as a specialty coffee.

Plans to bring in the coffee with a potential commercial distributor in the U.S. were well underway before the pandemic tampered with them.

"If coffee is such an everyday necessity to people, then why not take that opportunity to spend the money on a coffee that will actually make an impact and a difference?" Tanner asked.

Those interested may visit [noblegorilla.org](http://noblegorilla.org) or [gorillahighlandscoffee.com](http://gorillahighlandscoffee.com) for more information or to make donations. There also is an option to sign up to be notified when the coffee becomes available in Michigan.

"I know that if I just keep planting the seeds and doing what I'm doing, that other things will continue to grow, (which) is one of my favorite beliefs," Tanner said. "I plant a seed, someone else can help me water it, but it's God and it's light that makes it grow."

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## Correction

The article, "Junior League invites visitors to 2020 Designers' Show House," in the Sept. 10 Grosse Pointe News should have read the general manager of Detroit Health Department's Environmental Health oversees environmental health and food safety concerns in the city of Detroit.

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# Neighborhood Club resumes operations

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

After six long months, the Neighborhood Club reopened its facility Sept. 9, to members and monthly pass holders. Continuously reviewing guidelines from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the organization is ready to offer its programming in a safe environment.

"It was a tough six months," said Stu Alderman, executive director of the Neighborhood Club. "We never thought that we would have been closed for six months when we were first forced to close in mid-March. As a community nonprofit, we feel fortunate that we have weathered the storm during this uncharted time."

During the closure, staff met weekly and examined how to continue to provide services and programs to the community. First, some virtual fitness classes were offered; eventually a handful of outdoor classes were implemented.

"Summer provided an opportunity for more programming where we successfully offered a summer day camp, youth soccer clinic, field hockey clinic and adult softball," Alderman said. "Staff always was anticipating an opening date."

Alderman said his staff continues to think outside the box and is offering new programs this fall, in addition to its traditional youth programs



Sue Hobbs wears a mask as she uses a treadmill.

like flag football, soccer and lacrosse.

"New this fall is a field hockey program for girls in grades 2-8; a Tiny Tikes soccer clinic; and also a new Learning Pod Camp room rental program," Alderman said. "This offers an adult leader to work with up to eight students on their schoolwork in our boardroom for three hours and 15 minutes, which includes one half-hour of open gym time at the end of the camp."

Those interested should email [kevin@neighborhoodclub.org](mailto:kevin@neighborhoodclub.org) for information.

As part of its reopening announcement, the Neighborhood Club detailed some changes that have been made, including health guidelines and safety precautions. While members and monthly pass holders are welcome to visit, guest and day passes have been temporarily suspended. Everyone in the building must wear a

face covering over their nose and mouth. Check-in is entirely touch-free using key fobs or the Neighborhood Club app; keypads are not available. Patrons are asked to bring their own water bottles, as drinking fountains are not available, and come dressed for their workout, as locker rooms also are not available. Additionally, lobby chairs have been removed and coffee service is suspended.

Modifications also have been made to the Neighborhood Club's layout. Fitness equipment has been set 6 to 10 feet apart and cycle bikes have been relocated to the gym. As such, open basketball and pickleball have been temporarily suspended. Also, to prevent the spread of germs, fans are not in use, members are asked to bring their own mats and a "used" rack for weights and equipment is available so staff may disinfect accordingly.

The aquatic center is open to lap swim only, with one person allowed per lane. Staggered times must be reserved three days in advance at [neighborhoodclub.org](http://neighborhoodclub.org). Some locker room restrictions have been put in place as well.

Group exercise classes currently are available outdoors and virtually, in addition to a limited number of indoor classes. However, outdoor classes

end Sept. 30, at which time classes will move to the gym. There will be plenty of time between classes for staff to clean the room and equipment, Alderman said.

To further ensure health and safety, the facility's heating and cooling systems have been professionally cleaned, and staff will frequently clean and disinfect the building throughout the day, including bathrooms.

"We are thrilled to reopen our doors to the community," Alderman said. "It's like our second grand opening of the facility, similar to when we opened the building in 2013. It is exciting to see smiling faces back at the Neighborhood Club. Safety and cleanliness have always been a top priority for the Neighborhood Club and this will continue to be a major emphasis."



The Neighborhood Club welcomes back members.

"We have exceeded the minimum requirements in the governor's executive order in social distancing our fitness equipment; staff is sanitizing the equipment and the facility throughout the day and deep cleaning at the end of the day; and we will continue to add more indoor fitness classes in the near future and add more aquatic programs also."

Alderman noted a recent inspection by the Wayne County Health Department yielded positive results.

"The inspector was thoroughly impressed

with how we prepared, including going above and beyond her expectations," he said. "(She said) we are a model site for others to see how we complied with the requirements."

Since its closure, the Neighborhood Club has not charged members; charging will resume with an Oct. 1 billing date. Those not ready to return as recurring members may email [katie@neighborhoodclub.org](mailto:katie@neighborhoodclub.org) to place their accounts on temporary freeze. Tours of the facility to see what preparations have been made are available.



Plexiglas has been added to the front desk.



Cycle bikes have been relocated and properly spaced in the gym.



The Neighborhood Club hopes to continue adding indoor fitness classes as permitted.

## Lavins Activity, Meade Fitness centers to open soon

Grosse Pointe Park's Lavins Activity Center and Meade Fitness Center will reopen in the next couple of weeks.

Once a specific date has been determined, the city will post an updated notification.

When they open, the centers will function at a restricted 25 percent capacity; therefore, members will have to reserve an 80-minute workout time the day

before a workout on the City website, similar to how the pool operated this past season.

All members will be credited for the time lost due to the building closure.

When returning to the fitness center for the first time, members are required to check in at the front desk to reactivate their memberships and request that the time lost due to the building closure be

credited forward on their membership.

Along with membership reactivation, all members will be asked to sign a COVID-19 Safety Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk form for city records. Members also will be asked a few simple health questions and have their temperatures checked each time they visit, before entering the fitness center.

Also, in accordance

with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's executive order, members will be required to wear masks

at all times in the fitness center, including while working out.

For more information,

call (313) 822-2812, Ext. 300 or visit [grossepointepark.org/departments/parks\\_recreation](http://grossepointepark.org/departments/parks_recreation).

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# OBITUARIES

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

## Nicholas Avouris

Nicholas Avouris, 91, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020. He was born March 1, 1929.

Nicholas was the loving husband of Nitsa Avouris for 64 years. He also is survived by his daughter, Denise Tzavellas (Dimitri), and their children, Pantel and Nicholas; son, Nicholas, and his children, Dimitri, Alexander, Sophia and Nicholas; and sister, Mary Olga Vickery. He was predeceased by six brothers and sisters.

Nicholas was a devoted husband, loving father, uncle and proud grandfather. He and his wife, Nitsa, were the founders of Nitsa's Draperies and Interiors, which has been in business more than 65 years.

A funeral service took place Saturday, Sept. 12, at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, St. Clair Shores, followed by interment at Clinton Grove Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Assumption's Philoptochos chapter are appreciated at [goasumption.org/philoptochos](http://goasumption.org/philoptochos).

Share a memory at [ahpeters.com](http://ahpeters.com).

## Allan Newton Spaulding

Longtime Grosse Pointe resident Allan Newton Spaulding passed away Thursday, Dec. 19, 2019. Born Dec. 18, 1945, Al was the only child of Vivian and George Spaulding, both now deceased.

Al grew up in Grosse Pointe Farms in the 1950s and 1960s and enjoyed everything this loving community had to offer. His favorite memories included riding his bike, playing baseball and hockey at Kerby Field, playing basketball with neighborhood friends and riding paper routes to earn money for hamburgers at the Farms Grill. He had lots of kids to play with and wonderful summers at Pier Park. It was the best of Grosse Pointe and Al loved it all.

Though Al enjoyed friendly pickup games most, he went on to join the newly formed Grosse Pointe Farms Little League, playing his way to pitcher and catcher along with hitting some home runs for The White Sox and The Reds. He had great memories of teammates and kind coaching dads who made the league such a success. His mom, Vivian, played every Detroit Tigers game on the radio with Ernie Harwell and kept her own scoresheets for Allan. Al later sponsored and coached a Neighborhood Club girl's softball team, The Pointe Steelers, for his two daughters.

As a teenager, Al chose to work, date, drive around and support his habits of eating out and wearing nice clothes by working at The Campus Shop, Carl Sterr on The Hill, Saks Fifth Avenue and Stroh's Brewery, the best job he ever had, he said. With work breaks every hour and available

bottle "shorts" to consume, Stroh beat Chrysler's steel furnaces, which only lasted a week or maybe just a shift. Al was funny, quick and always positive in the new day.

Al attended Kerby and Brownell schools when they were brand new. He attended Columbia Military Academy and finished his junior and senior years with the Grosse Pointe High School Class of 1964. A dedicated Sparty, he graduated from Michigan State University at the height of the Vietnam War with a degree in business administration. Friends described "Big Al" as never getting angry despite the challenges of roommates. In graduate school at Wayne State University, Al studied math education while he taught math to middle school students in Detroit. Al was challenged by teaching; he was glad to move on to business and sales for Black & Decker, Atlanta Stove Works and Chicago Specialty Mfg. Co. He enjoyed the freedom of being on the road in a company car, a food stipend, writing sales orders and securing friendly business relationships throughout Michigan. In his travels, he loved checking out antique stores for old clocks and collector finds.

A diving accident in 1982 changed Al's life suddenly and forever. He managed to find independence again with support from his family, friends and church, many supportive medical friends and his will to use all he had to make a comeback. Al's positive spirit, quick mind and friendly humor helped see him through to be a founding integral part of Pointe Steel Sales Inc., his pride and joy. He lived 37 years using a wheelchair and rarely let his handicap hold him back.

Al and Jane Warren, Grosse Pointe High School Class of 1966, were married at Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church in 1970; a great reception was held at The Roostertail. Al and Jane lived in Grosse Pointe most of their 49-year marriage. In 2013, they moved with their poodle, Louey, to Carefree, Ariz., to find warmth and peace in Al's final years. He always missed Grosse Pointe, but winters were colder and snow too difficult to navigate in a wheelchair. He still loved to drive and find hamburger spots with old Grosse Pointe friends who lived in the West. His happy day came when Detroit Coney Island opened in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Al is survived by his wife, Jane; daughters, Annemarie Spaulding and Kristina Cuellar (Angel); grandchildren, Luna and Sol Cuellar; sister-in-law, Ann Warren MacDonald (Mike); brother-in-law, William J. Warren (Christine); a beloved niece and three nephews; and grand-dog, Bella.

Al's many helpers, aides and doctors who

looked out for him over the years always will be appreciated and loved, his family said.

Al's ashes will be buried with his parents at the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church memorial garden.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a Life Celebration for Al's family and friends will take place at a later date. Al's family notes that good friends are forever and they hope that date is soon.

## Richard Irving Grady

Richard Irving Grady passed away Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2020. He was born July 15, 1930, in Old Town, Maine, to Robert Fulton Grady and Ava Osborne Johnson.

Dick acted as the information systems management department head for the majority of his career at Detroit Edison. He had five children with the late Patricia A. Grady, to whom he was married 25 years. In January 1977, Dick married Betty Elizabeth Cathey.

Richard is survived by his wife, Betty Grady; children, Kathy Grady, David Grady, Steven Grady (Barbara) and Gregory Grady (Rosemary); and grandchildren, Max, Eric, Steven, James, Jon, Jamie, Joseph and Michael. He was predeceased by his parents; brother, Reginald; son, Jason M. Grady; and grandson, Robert Grady.

A funeral service took place Friday, Sept. 11, at St. Michael Episcopal Church, Grosse Pointe Woods, followed by interment at Resurrection Cemetery.

Share a memory at [ahpeters.com](http://ahpeters.com)

## Ann E. Gordon

Ann Elizabeth Gordon, nee Reiter, 78, died suddenly Friday, Sept. 4, 2020. A longtime resident of Grosse Pointe Woods, she joins her late husband, David Gordon, at White Chapel Memorial Cemetery. No public services are planned.

Ann Reiter was born April 11, 1942, in Johnstown, PA. She graduated from Bucknell University in 1964, with honors in English literature, and received her master's degree in library science in 1965, from the University of Michigan. Her entire career was spent with the Detroit Public Library, where she became head librarian of the downtown branch. She was active in the UAW as well, serving on numerous labor committees, which is where she met David Gordon.

Throughout her life, Ann was a prolific reader; she loved books and research. Her other passion was horses, especially her own Odette and Rocco. She was a past member of the Grosse Pointe Hunt Club and remained active throughout her life with dressage horses. Ann's friends



Nicholas Avouris



Allan N. Spaulding



Richard Irving Grady



Ann E. Gordon



Suzanne Howell



Michael J. Cairns

say she was smart, had a wicked sense of humor and a big heart.

Ann is survived by her brother, James Reiter (Eddie) of Lafayette, CA; stepson, Jeff Gordon (Leigh Ann) of St. Louis, Mo.; stepdaughters, Cindy Gray Howey of Lake Orion and Pam Coutilish of New York City; and grandchildren, nieces, nephews, as well as a great-grandson.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Biden for President campaign.

## Suzanne Howell

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Suzanne Howell, nee Hickey, died peacefully Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020. She was 86.

Suzanne was born Oct. 2, 1933, in Chicago, to Matthew J. and Naomi Hickey, now both deceased. She was the dearest sister of the late John (Jaye), Matthew III, Thomas (Catherine), Jerome (Denise) and Naomi Hickey.

A graduate of Woodlands Academy and Manhattanville College, Sue furthered her education at the University of Windsor with a master's degree in religious studies.

Sue was the beloved mother of Sheila Crandall (Robert), Walter III (Christine), Sally Fitzpatrick (Henry Dunn), Matthew (Julie Wagner) and son-in-law, the late Martin Fitzpatrick; loving "Grandma Sue" to William Crandall (Michelle), Robert Crandall Jr. (Stefanie); J. Brady Howell, Sara Fanger (Michael), Ian Howell, Suzanne Russell (Charles), Katherine Fitzpatrick, Cameron Howell and Eric Howell; and the best "G.G." to four boys.

Sue enjoyed being active, was an avid tennis player and in later years played a lot of golf. She also enjoyed years of playing bridge. She was a member of the Country Club of Detroit, Junior League of Detroit, Art to the Schools, St. Paul Altar Society and Children of Mary.

A private funeral Mass is being held and a celebration of life will take place in spring 2021.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the St. Paul Educational Trust Fund, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236; or to Misericordia Home, Heart of Mercy



Ruthann Inoue



Stacy A. Ward Lanzon

Center, 6300 N. Ridge, Chicago, IL 60660.

Share a memory at [verheyden.org](http://verheyden.org).

## Michael J. Cairns

Michael J. Cairns of Farmington Hills passed away Monday, Sept. 7, 2020, at age 58.

He was born June 18, 1962, in Grosse Pointe.

Mr. Cairns was the loving husband of Rosemary for 31 years; devoted father of Stefanie Hebden (Bradford), Kevin (Maggie), Christina Charland (Patrick) and Julianne; cherished brother of Robert, Mary Pat Michalzuk, Terry (Anne) and Catherine Grace (Aaron); and dear son of Frank (Geri) and the late Therese. He also leaves many nieces, nephews and friends.

Mr. Cairns has been laid to rest at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Karmanos Cancer Institute in his name.

Share a memory at [mccabefuneralhome.com](http://mccabefuneralhome.com).

## Ruthann Inoue

Former Grosse Pointe Woods resident Ruthann "Ruth" Inoue died at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2020, due to complications related to COPD and kidney failure. She was 75.

At her request, no service was held.

Ruth was born Dec. 4, 1943, to Phillip and Ellen Larson and was the second youngest of their seven children. Ruth greatly enjoyed her career as a nurse, especially her time spent in the neonatal ICU, and often spoke of her work with pride and warmth. In addition, Ruth was a creative and resourceful cook and seamstress. Her omelets and Swedish meatballs were second to none and she would sew elaborate Halloween costumes for her children.

Always an avid reader, Ruth greatly enjoyed murder mysteries. Toward the latter part of her life, Ruth was an avid follower of current events, holding strong opinions regarding politics and social/racial justice.

Ruth is survived by three sisters, Janet, Jackie and MaryEllen; three of her children, Lisa, Hajime "Jim" and Anne "Annie"; and six grandchildren, Ari, Mason, Sloane, Alexandra "Allie," Yiyi and Arya.

Ruth was predeceased by her son, Kenji "Kenny" Inoue and an infant daughter.

## Stacy Allison Ward Lanzon

Grosse Pointe Park resident Stacy Allison Ward Lanzon passed away Sunday, Nov. 10, 2019, at home. Born Feb. 27, 1961, in Detroit, she was 58.

Stacy was a former resident of Shelby Township, where she graduated from Eisenhower High School in 1979. She also was a former resident of Hilton Head, S.C.

Stacy held positions at Lanzon Painting Co., and Comerica Bank and was an in-home caregiver.

She enjoyed cooking, biking, bowling and painting.

Stacy is survived by her husband, Keith Lanzon; children, Joseph E. Ward, Winston Ward and Michael A. Lanzon; grandchildren, William, Lilly, Jaxon, Skyla and Kayleigh Ward; sister, Jody Kelchner Ward; and stepmother, Sheri Kelchner. She was predeceased by her parents, Ralph E. Kelchner and Diana Lee Gross; and sister, Sheryl Lynn Kelchner.

A funeral ceremony and interment took place Sept. 15, at Acacia Park Cemetery, Beverly Hills, Mich.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Leukemia Research Foundation, [allbloodcancers.org/donate](http://allbloodcancers.org/donate).

See OBITS, page 5B

## OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

## Holly L. Burns

Holly L. Burns, 56, of Grosse Pointe Farms passed away at her home Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2020.

Holly was born Dec. 18, 1964, in Ann Arbor, to Phyllis A. and Frederick L. Kerslake, both now deceased. She earned Bachelor of Business Administration and Master of Business Administration degrees from Eastern Michigan University.

Holly held various positions throughout her career, including pharmaceutical 401B auditor for Beaumont Health System, owner of Heritage Bay nautical gift shop in St. Clair Shores, account manager and nuclear pharmacy sales consultant at Cardinal Health, health systems account manager at AmerisourceBergen, territory manager of pharmaceuticals for Bausch & Lomb, and sales and marketing manager for Ferndale Laboratories Inc.

Holly was a member of Detroit Yacht Club, Grosse Pointe Sail Club, Grosse Pointe Garden Club, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church and Grosse Pointe Farms Boat Club. She enjoyed sailing, sailboat racing and anything related to water, as well as attending theater, concerts and social events. She also loved her pet dog.

Holly is survived by her sister, Kim Narhi (Tim); nephews, John (Michelle) and their son, Wilhelm Narhi, and Leigh (Felicia) and their son, Stanley Narhi.

Celebration of Life ceremonies take place at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms; and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, at Windmill Pointe Park, 14920 Windmill Pointe Dr., Grosse Pointe Park. Masks are required at both ceremonies; guests are asked to bring a chair to the Windmill Pointe Park ceremony.

## Meggan M. Pope

Grosse Pointe Park resident Meggan M. Pope passed away suddenly Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020, in Grosse Pointe. She was born Jan. 9, 1971, in Minneapolis.

A graduate of River Falls High School in Wisconsin, Meggan attended the University of Minnesota Duluth and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications from the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire.

She built a highly distinguished career as an executive producer in the field of business meetings and events at BI Worldwide in Minneapolis and Detroit, and at Jack Morton Worldwide in Detroit, which included noted productions in Paris, Istanbul, Gothenburg and New York City.

Meggan had a lifelong passion for nature and was a true steward of the earth. She relocated to the Detroit area in 1998, where she found her life partner and an intense interest in sailboat racing.

Meggan married

Andrew Morlan of Grosse Pointe Park in 2006.

She and Andrew captained their sailboat, Avatar, 16 years, including the Port Huron-to-Mackinac Race. Her tenacity, integrity and competitiveness were renowned.

Meggan also was a wine and single-malt scotch enthusiast and loved to travel, which she often combined to great satisfaction.

Meggan is survived by her husband, Andrew; mother, Mary Jane Manion; brother, Matthew (Lori); niece, Skyla; nephew, Broxton; parents-in-law, Judy and Gordon Morlan; niece, Sarah Morlan; and nephew, Alexander Morlan. She was predeceased by her father, Dr. George M. Pope, in 2019.

A Celebration of Life gathering takes place at 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, at Patterson Park, Grosse Pointe Park.

## Maurice J. Greenia

Maurice Joseph Greenia was born at home Feb. 17, 1928, in Detroit, to Herbert and Helen Greenia. On Saturday, Sept. 5, 2020, at age 92, he died at his Grosse Pointe Park home surrounded by family. In between these dates, he enjoyed a well-lived life.

Maurice grew up in Detroit, the third of five children, including his sister, Irma, and brothers, Claude, Paul (Brother Conrad, Cistercian Trappist) and Ralph. In 1945, he graduated from St. Rose High School and at age 17, quickly joined the Merchant Marine in the waning days of World War II, during which he served in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. In late 1946, he left the Merchant Marine to join the Army and served as a radio repairman.

In 1948, he returned to Detroit and continued his courtship of Elizabeth "Betty" White, whom he met as a teen when they both were members of the Third Order of St. Francis. Maurice enrolled at the University of Detroit in the engineering school, but his thirst for knowledge and desire to share and teach led him to switch his major to education.

He graduated from the University of Detroit in 1952, and on Aug. 9, 1952, married the love of his life, Betty White. Together they raised nine children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. They lived in Detroit 30 years before moving to Grosse Pointe in the 1980s.

Maurice began his career as a science teacher for Detroit Public Schools. He shared his lifelong love of inquiry and discovery with his students, often creating hands-on tools and models to show them how electricity, magnetism and other scientific principles worked.

Maurice was endlessly curious and always seeking to learn more—even in the final hours of his life. He was a voracious reader. As a young man he was involved in local theater groups, acting in and helping produce plays by Shaw, Shakespeare, Molière and others, and during

the remainder of his life he performed dramatic recitations from memory as the need arose. He was a proud member of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America and was always quick to burst into song. In Maurice and Betty's later years, a visitor to his home often would find them on the couch, holding hands, as Maurice sang to his love.

In 1965 — as his family grew — Maurice left Detroit Public Schools for a career at Detroit Edison. There he developed and taught employee training programs on a wide range of topics and procedures. It was a perfect fit for an endlessly curious man who firmly believed that if you really wanted to understand something, you should try explaining it to someone else. He retired in 1992 to explore the mysteries of fluid dynamics, siphons, fish tanks and atmospheric pressure. He held several patents and completed his final patent application during his last week of life.

Maurice lost his wife of 67 years, Betty Greenia, in June 2020. Maurice is survived by his children, Maurice Jr. (Jennifer), Thomas, Dennis (Ann), Trish (the late Tim Knoll), Matthew (Nancy), Timothy (Gail), Michael, Joseph and Peg Sulek (the late Paul Sulek); grandchildren, Matthew, Heather, Justin, Leila, Elizabeth, Louisa, Thomas, Corinna and Victoria; and great-grandchildren, Georgia and Camila.

A funeral Mass for Maurice was celebrated Sept. 9, by Father Tim Pelc at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, Grosse Pointe Park. Interment took place at Mt. Elliott Cemetery, Detroit.

Memorial donations may be made to the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph, 1820 Mount Elliott St., Detroit, MI 48207, the capuchins.org/donate; or the Father Solanus Guild, 1780 Mount Elliott Street, Detroit, MI 48207, solanuscenter.org/donate.

## Leander R. McCormick-Goodhart

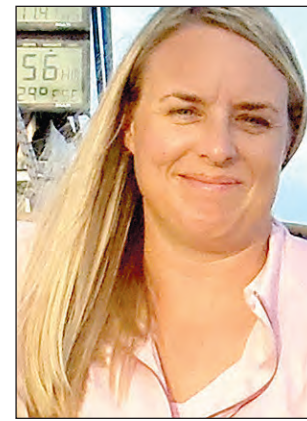
Leander "Andy" R. McCormick-Goodhart, formerly of Grosse Pointe, died Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020, in Portland, Ore. He was born Nov. 10, 1952, in Washington, D.C., to Leander H. McCormick-Goodhart and Gloria Rickel McCormick-Goodhart, both now deceased.

There will be no service; his ashes will be scattered at the H.F. Bar Ranch in Saddlestring, Wyo.

Andy attended Blue Ridge School in Virginia, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Adrian College and attended Walsh College. He was a former member of the Grosse Pointe Artists Association, The Oregon Society of Artists and North Clackamas Arts Guild. He also was the inspiration behind the Willamette Falls School of Art, which provides tuition-free, high-quality art education to serious art students.



Holly L. Burns



Meggan M. Pope



Maurice J. Greenia



L. McCormick-Goodhart



Varoujan Kachadourian

Andy was an accomplished artist, having created award-winning paintings of Oregon landscapes and nautical themes. Before his life was altered by multiple sclerosis, he was a beloved crew member of Anchorage Launch Services, a company dedicated to the safe transportation of bar pilots and crew members navigating the Columbia River.

Andy is survived by his brother, Mark H. McCormick-Goodhart (Annmarie); sister, Lorone G. McCormick-Goodhart (Steven Knudsen); niece, Julie McCormick-Goodhart; and nephews, David McCormick-Goodhart (Bethany), Matthew McCormick-Goodhart and Mark McCormick-Goodhart (Tessie), Severin Knudsen (Emily), Colton Knudsen and Jens Knudsen (Sarah). He also is survived by three grandnieces and one grandnephew.

Contributions in Andy's memory may be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, nation almsociety.org.

## Varoujan "Dan" Kachadourian

Metro Detroit entrepreneur and Grosse Pointe Shores resident Varoujan "Dan" Kachadourian died Monday, Aug. 31, 2020, from complications of pneumonia at Select Specialty Hospital in Ascension St. John in Detroit.

The son of Armenian immigrants who fled to the United States after the 1915 Armenian Genocide, Kachadourian was born in Highland Park in 1934. As a boy, he fought to recover from polio in his leg, relearned to walk and went on to play and coach baseball.

Kachadourian worked at his parents' Satisfactory Lunch restaurant — renamed J&M Bar in 1952 — which was located on Second Avenue, north of what is now the Davison Expressway. It was there he started his love for Detroiters and business, helping his family serve meals largely to factory workers from Ford Motor Co.'s Highland Park Assembly Plant.

In 1960, Kachadourian, with his brother John, opened the Parkmont Party Store in downtown Detroit. He was proud to start his own Detroit business and purchase property in his beloved city.

Kachadourian studied at the Detroit College of Law, then turned his focus toward commercial real estate in 1972, when he opened Mr. Stadium Coin Laundry in Ann Arbor, near the University of Michigan's "Big House."

His ad campaigns for Mr. Stadium became legendary in Ann Arbor, as did the laundromat's award and blue logo

T-shirts, which became iconic among University of Michigan students and gained national attention in 2005, when Kevin Costner wore one in "The Upside of Anger."

The Detroit News voted Mr. Stadium Coin Laundry the Best Campus Laundromat — an honor of which Kachadourian was very proud, as he always strived to make his customers feel at home. He enjoyed getting to know them and was proud to see their loyalty.

The last 20 years, Kachadourian continued to expand his idea of creating a U of M football tailgate park in Mr. Stadium's lot. For each home game, 75 vehicles full of Wolverine football fans continue to gather there for the camaraderie, cooking and community he created.

Kachadourian, through his K&K Investment Co., later purchased and developed other pieces of commercial real estate in Washtenaw and Oakland counties and constructed one of the first homes built in Bloomfield Hills' Wabeek neighborhood.

In the 1990s, Kachadourian teamed with St. Andrew's Hall developer Blair McGowan to form the West of Woodward coalition to combat the demolition of the J.L. Hudson's building.

A lover of Detroit architecture, he also was active in preserving Detroit's Masonic Temple. Kachadourian was a past president of the Detroit Masonic

Temple's board of trustees, a 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason and a Shriner. He worked to raise funds for the Shriners Hospitals helping children get specialty orthopedic care just like he needed as a child with polio. He also was active in promoting the Masonic program for dyslexic children.

Proud of his Armenian heritage, Kachadourian was a member of the 100 Hyes organization, which raises money for Armenians who are becoming new U.S. citizens. He also was a member of the Men's Club of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, Huron River Club and The Windsor Club. He had a passion for golf, especially with his grandsons and cherished friends.

Dan Kachadourian is survived by his wife of 55 years, Lillian; daughter, Gail Kachadourian Howe (Wes Howe); grandsons, Jack and Paul Howe; brothers, John Kachadourian (Pat) and Robert Kachadourian; nephews, Larry Kachadourian, David Kachadourian (Charise), Ara Kachadourian (Anahit) and Grant Gilezan (Krisztina); niece, Gay Tosch (Paul Tosch); and grandnieces, Charlotte Tosch, Holly Gilezan and Lauren Gilezan.

A private funeral service was held at St. John Armenian Church in Southfield. He was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in Detroit.

A Celebration of Kachadourian's life is planned for 2021.

**CITY OF HARPER WOODS  
POLICE DEPARTMENT  
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
NOTICE  
AUCTION OF IMPOUNDED/ABANDONED  
VEHICLES**

Pursuant to PA 104, an auction will be held on September 30, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. at Woods Towing, located at 22755 Lexington, Eastpointe, MI. The following impounded/abandoned vehicles will be auctioned:

2005 Ford Mustang	1ZVFT82H655108830
2007 Lincoln MKX	2LMDU68C47BJ20531
2016 Mini Bike	A6M12AAAPGWB01050
2002 Buick Century	2G4WS52J221154848
2012 Chevy Malibu	1G1ZB5E08CF346265
2013 Ford Focus	1FADP3F23DL342706
2017 Coleman Mini Bike	LWGPCML08HA046083
2008 Toyota Corolla	2T1BR32E58C890697
2005 Chevy Cobalt	1G1AL52F057522189
1999 Chevy Lumina	2G1WL52M6X9184190
2002 Dodge Stratus	1B3EL46R02N192067
2007 VW Jetta	3VWPF71K17M091287

The above vehicles can be viewed 1/2 hour prior to the auction, at Woods Towing. Payment by cash or certified check only. Cars listed may be pulled or released prior to the auction by the Harper Woods Police Department.

Sgt. Thomas Teatsorth  
Traffic Safety Section

POSTED: Sept. 14, 2020  
PUBLISHED: Sept. 17, 2020

A copy of this notice can be viewed on [www.harperwoodscity.org](http://www.harperwoodscity.org) under Public Notices.

**6B | CHURCHES**

# St. Ambrose hosts 30th annual – and first virtual – Oysterfest Sept. 28

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

“COVID-19 has forced everyone to make difficult decisions and learn to cope with an ever-changing social and civic landscape. And that’s the unfortunate situation with the Oysterfest this year,” said Fr. Tim Pelc, pastor at St. Ambrose Catholic Church.

The longstanding community tradition — which annually brings a dynamic mix of food, families and live entertainment to Grosse Pointe Park — will take on a new format this year when it returns Monday, Sept. 28.

“We didn’t want to completely cancel the event — after all, this is the 30th anniversary of Oysterfest at St. Ambrose — because of its tremendous community-building impact,” Pelc said. “It is truly one of the signature events of late summer on Kercheval in the Park. So we took a cue from other local nonprofits and came up with the 30th annual (and first virtual) Oysterfest.”

To create a virtual event, the church put

together some of the best elements of Oysterfest, said coordinator Peggy O’Connor, including the sounds of the Bob Mervak Trio, a raffle with cash prizes, a great selection of beer and wine by the bottle, peel-and-eat shrimp and, of course, fresh oysters.

“We’ll miss our loyal restaurants/food vendors, but we will prepare some Oysterfest favorites — including pasta from Antonio’s Restaurant, pulled pork and mac and cheese from the ARK kitchen, Chef Ken Lefevre’s seafood chowder, pasta and a choice of desserts — and package everything up for online ordering and curbside pickup,” O’Connor said.

“So while patrons won’t be able to mingle with their friends and neighbors like they have done at Oysterfest, we will livestream the entire event and ask people to check in with us via Facebook Live,” she added. “Food and drinks will be pre-ordered and ready for pickup in the tent next to Atwater in the Park. We’re partnering with Mark Rieth and



Atwater this year to use their outdoor patio for the band and oyster shucking, which we will also show on livestream. The evening will end with a raffle of 10 \$1,000 cash prizes.”

Raffle tickets are \$10 per ticket.

The festivities — including carryouts, live

music and the raffle — take place 5 to 8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28, with the livestreamed portion beginning at 6 p.m.

To make sure everyone is operating within proper health and safety guidelines, all volunteers will be screened prior to working the event; will assemble carryout orders

from tables at least six feet apart; and will wear masks and gloves, O’Connor said.

“The plan is for people to pull up in front of the tent on Kercheval and runners will take out the orders,” she added. “If people want to park and walk up to the tent to pick up the order, they will

need to be wearing their masks.”

Funds raised during Oysterfest support programs and events for parish youth and the surrounding community. Orders may be placed online at [st-ambrose-oysterfest.com](http://st-ambrose-oysterfest.com) or by calling (313) 822-2814.

“Our parishioners and neighbors have been wonderful at continuing to support St. Ambrose throughout the pandemic,” O’Connor said, adding that the event “will be a great way to acknowledge that and to remind people that we are still a strong and vibrant community and that we are still here for people. We’ve already heard from people who are planning small family Oysterfest parties in their backyard, planning to watch the livestream and order carryouts — and we think that’s a great idea. And where else can you watch live oyster shucking on a Monday night?”

Added Pelc: “We may need Oysterfest more than ever because it symbolizes Ambrosians doing what we do best — being together for others.”

## Christ Church hosts carillon recital Sept. 19

Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, hosts a carillon recital at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, performed by Joseph D. Daniel.

Daniel is a freelance musician whose reputation for musical excellence keeps him busy as a composer, performer, clinician and accompanist throughout the state of Michigan. In addition to his musical endeavors, Daniel serves on board of the University of Michigan LGBTQ Alumni Association.

An adjunct faculty member at Washtenaw Community College from 2011-17, Daniel

taught voice, piano, musical theater and music theory. He also founded and directed the WCC Chamber Singers, a comprehensive choral program comprised of five unique ensembles with nearly 100 students involved.

While at WCC, he hosted District 12 choral festivals and the WCC Chamber Singers participated in Michigan Community College Choir festivals. He is increasingly in demand as an orchestral keyboard musician with many local and regional orchestras, with a particular interest in playing harpsichord and celesta.

In 2012, he performed with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra as part of the AVANTI Summer Program. He also performs with many local community theater companies as music director and pit musician.

Daniel made his professional performance debut in 2001, with concerts in France and Germany, and has since played recitals throughout Michigan and Texas. He also has made appearances in California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Wisconsin. Daniel completed his

Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor as the final pupil of the late Dr. Robert Glasgow. Prior to his doctoral study, he earned dual master’s degrees in organ and carillon performance also from the University of Michigan. He is a published composer whose works have been performed around the globe.

Daniel is Artist in Residence at Christ Church Grosse Pointe.

Optimal listening for the carillon is from the church’s columbarium or front lawn.

For more information, call (313) 885-4842.



Joseph D. Daniel

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8:15 & 10:45 a.m. - Worship Service  
9:30 a.m. - Bible Study  
10:45 a.m. - Sunday School

**MONDAY**  
7 p.m. - Worship Service  
2nd & 4th Monday of the Month

**WEDNESDAY**  
10 a.m. - Bible Study

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

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# Musician releases second album

## Third and fourth albums on the way

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Kevin O'Brien has much to celebrate.

On top of the July 1 release of his second solo album, "Microwave Love," the 14-year Grosse Pointe Park resident is on the cusp of signing with a major record label.

The deal will have him touring this fall, but he hopes to share his talents locally with a CD release party at the Cadieux Café before he hits the road. Those details still are in development, but O'Brien plans to donate a portion of the evening's proceeds to support suicide awareness, a cause near and dear to his heart.

Music has long been a part of O'Brien's life. He began singing at age 6, when he was part of the Texas Boys Choir in Fort Worth. He also sang during high school, performed in several school

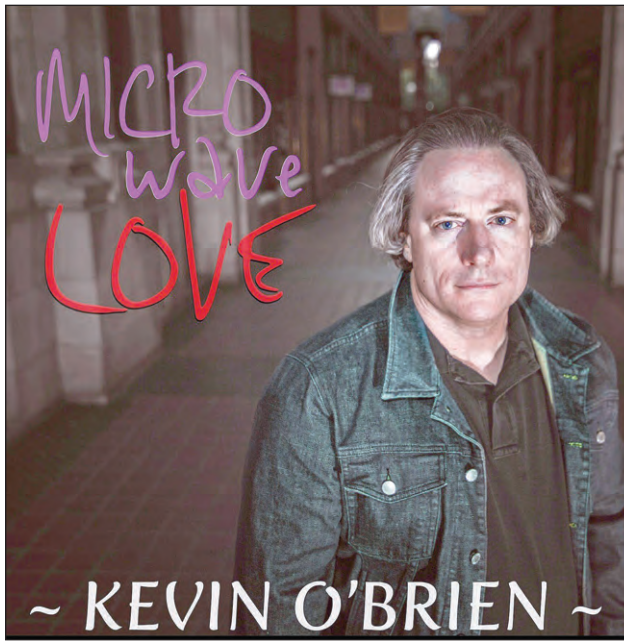
musicals and formed a cover band at age 17.

At 20, he started his first original band and has been cultivating his style ever since. He likens his sound to a mix of The Rolling Stones, Dave Matthews Band and U2.

"I take my songwriting very seriously," he said, noting he's worked with some of the best musicians in the country, including members of Filter and Smashing Pumpkins. "I hope to bring joy and laughter to people through song. I feel I've been blessed; it's an honor to be an instrument of God."

O'Brien is no stranger to success in music. In 2013, a song off his first album, "Flickering Love," was nominated for Song of the Year, a song- and lyric-writing competition. "It was voted on by Gwen Stefani; Lenny Kravitz heard my song."

Though his song wasn't selected to win,



The cover of O'Brien's latest album, "Microwave Love."

"that told me I have what a lot of people don't have," he said. "I can write a song — a good song."

His song-writing abilities are showcased in his latest album, "Microwave Love." The title reflects "how we want our love done immediately. I'd been listening to the Stones, listening to funk and local music. ... I wrote the music in my head; I could hear all the parts, so I put it all together. It's about wanting love to happen immediately."

Though the album's title implies immediacy, "Microwave Love" was written and recorded years ago. O'Brien was prompted to remaster the tracks and release the album after a friend debuted a solo album last fall.

O'Brien's new album has gotten positive feedback since it was released and he's received great support from friends — many of them musicians, including members of the Eastside Jam Collective, of which he's been a fixture the last couple years. The EJC is a collaborative of local musicians who gather monthly for a "hootenanny in the Park." O'Brien — who also plays guitar, bass and piano — has received encouragement for his efforts by EJC founders Todd Wire and Missy Kinyon, he said.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KEVIN O'BRIEN

Kevin O'Brien is in the process of signing with a major record label.

With an abundance of time during the COVID-19 shutdown, O'Brien has written and recorded enough music for two more albums, which he plans to release in the next few months. His third album is titled "Barefoot."

Later this fall, O'Brien plans to move to Texas, touring as he goes, and returning to Grosse Pointe next spring with more live music.

In the meantime, he's busy with his children, Cullen and Margaret, as well as his day job. He recently started his own business — Oconsulting.com — bringing with him nearly 30 years of experience with various phone carriers.

"I sell all the carriers,"

he said. "I use my expertise to help companies pick the right carrier. I help with cyber security, bandwidth needs. I'm a consultant who helps companies solve their tech problems."

That tech experience has helped with "Microwave Love," O'Brien's first digital-only release.

"Releasing an album these days is different than it was 20 or 25 years ago," he said. "The album is on iTunes, you can stream it on Apple Music, on Spotify, even on TikTok — all the streaming services."

"It's really nice to see these songs ... on iTunes and hear them on my phone," he said. "It's quite an experience."



O'Brien onstage at the Cabbage Patch Saloon.

### CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 10, 2020

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Valerie Kindle at 5:00 P.M.

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

#### MOTIONS PASSED

- 1) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held July 13, 2020 and furthermore receive and file the minutes of the Special City Council meeting held on June 29, 2020, Special City Council meeting held on July 27, 2020, Election Commission meeting held on July 13, 2020, and the Board of Review meeting held on July 21, 2020.
- 2) To Receive and File the 2019 Audit/Financial Report as submitted by the City's Auditors, Plante & Moran and also receive and file their management report.
- 3) To designate Mayor Kindle as the City's official delegate, and Mayor Pro tem Costantino as the alternate delegate at the Michigan Municipal League's Annual Meeting to be held September 29 through October 2, 2020.
- 4) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

#### RESOLUTION PASSED

- 1) to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda: (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 119710 through 119920 in the amount of \$1,218,886.25 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) approve payment to Wayne County in the amount of \$282,781.45 for the operation and maintenance of the Milk River Drain for July through September 2020 and \$88,960.98 for the City's proportionate share of the funding of the construction project for a total of \$371,742.43. (3) approve payment to Optimum Contracting Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$12,875.00 for the renovations and repair work at 19960 Lancaster as part of the CDBG rehab loan project. (4) approve payment to SafeBuilt, Inc. in the amount of \$34,403.60 for the contractual building department services performed during the month of June 2020. (5) approve payment to WCA Assessing in the amount of \$5,354.33 for the contractual assessing services performed during the month of August 2020. (6) approve payment to Elaine Frost, P.C. in the amount of \$9,847.50 for the professional services provided by the arbitrator in the Act 312 arbitration proceedings. (7) approve payment to Core and Main in the amount of \$6,230.19 for the purchase of water main and water system repair parts. (8) approve payment to Nu Appearance Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of \$15,054.24 for contractual lawn cutting and weed maintenance in various areas of the City, including City Hall, the annexes, Library and the Parks and also for mainbreak restorations and lawn cuttings at various residential homes. (9) approve payment in the amount of \$9,200.00 to Guardian Sewers for their assistance with several watermain breaks at various residential locations. (10) approve payment to Oakland County Information Technology in the amount of \$6,865.75 for fees relative to the CLEMIS computer system utilized by the Police Department. (11) approve payment to Greater Detroit Heating and Cooling in the amount of \$14,502.95 for the emergency repairs to the A/C compressor unit at City Hall.
- 2) to approve the extension of the 2018 Concrete Pavement Repair Project as submitted by L. Anthony in the amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 for 2020.
- 3) to approve the purchase of forty (40) Glock 45 handguns and the necessary accessories from C.M.P. Distributors, Inc. in the amount of \$33,062.50, with \$15,030.00 to be applied to this balance as store credit and \$13,680.00 to be applied as a trade-in amount, for a final total cost of \$4,352.50.
- 4) to approve the modification of the terms of all full-time, union exempt employees' agreements with regard to active members health care benefits to be consistent with those benefits provided all other union employees, and further to authorize wage increases for all full-time union exempt employees including a one-time bonus for the following positions: Deputy Finance Director, Deputy Treasurer, City Clerk, Economic and Community Development Director, Library Director, Librarian, Administrative Assistant to the DPW Superintendent and the Director of Public Safety.
- 5) to join the member communities of the Milk River Drain Board and approve the issuance of bonds to generate approximately \$6,385,000.00 in cost overruns for the Milk River Improvement Project to be paid out over a twenty (20) year span.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, September 17, 2020

### CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 27, 2020

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Valerie Kindle at 5:00 P.M.

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

#### MOTIONS PASSED

- 1) To adjourn to executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation; COAM v. City of Harper Woods and Jobs for Harper Woods, et. al., v. City of Harper Woods, et.al. and to discuss a collective bargaining issue and a legal opinion on a personnel matter.
- 2) That the agenda of the special City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, September 17, 2020

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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held at 8 a.m., on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 before the Grosse Pointe Shores Planning Commission. Please check website prior to meeting for virtual ZOOM meeting instructions.

- The petitioner at 21 Webber Place is requesting a split and combination of a rear L-shaped parcel which will be combined to 605 Lake Shore Road. The division and subsequent combination will result in 2 parcels as currently exist but in a more four-sided configuration. Currently 21 Webber Place has 6 sides and 605 Lake Shore Road has 1 side. Section 16-265a3 does not permit unusual shaped lot splits. Approval of this request will eliminate the L-shaped lot that currently exists.

Plans of the proposed project are available for your viewing at the Office of the City Clerk, 795 Lake Shore Road, during normal business hours Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Bruce Nichols, City Clerk

Published: Grosse Pointe News: 09/17/2020

8B | FEATURES

Drew Hess, Max McPartlin, Charlie McPartlin and Jenna Hess tied two hammocks together.



# Camping pandemic-style

The Grosse Pointe Parks and Recreation Department hosted this year's annual Camp Wind-y-mill pandemic-style; Campsites were spaced further apart, registration was limited to 35 families and large bonfires were prohibited.

Each family was provided a welcome bag of marshmallows, skewers and cookies to make s'mores at their private campsites. An outdoor movie was shown on a large screen on the tennis court, where families brought their own chairs and were encouraged to socially distance.

Camp Wind-y-mill took place Sept. 11 to 13, with each family opting to stay one or two nights. Carryout breakfast options were picked up at the atrium and taken back to campsite or back home.



Lainey Luyk, Nicole Luyk, Hudson Miller and Kenzie Luyk have fun around the campsite.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Youngsters Maddie Mulligan, Thomas Robinson, Lucy Robinson, Harlow Britsan and Delaney Mulligan roast hot dogs at their campsite under adult supervision.



PHOTO BY JACK RYAN

Wind-y-mill campers were treated to a nighttime movie on the tennis courts.



PHOTO BY JACK RYAN

Campers enjoyed live music during the weekend event.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Addison Allemon and her sister Paige sit inside the cozy, very comfy looking tent ready for the campout.

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# SPORTS

FOOTBALL

## Ready to go

North, South and ULS back on the gridiron PAGE 2C

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### Cross country

#### GROSSE POINTE NORTH

## Running with gusto

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe North girls cross-country team lost its season opener last week, falling 18-40 to Utica.

The meet was run at Vernier Hill.

"Utica has a great team with three top runners that really showed their talent today," head coach Scott Cooper said. "They took the first few top spots but we were right behind them with our numbers. We have a smaller squad this year with only 50 runners as

opposed to the usual 70 or so. COVID-19, I am sure, is to blame."

The Norsemen's top runners were Annaliese Thomas, Elise Nyquist, Anna Lisa Lynch, Becca Moin, Julia Riley, Penny Roustemis, Evelyn Riley, Drew Lovell, Dani Lubinski and Sophie Rochon.

"This year's team is a great group of girls who have not yet once complained about masking up," Cooper said. "They run with their masks on their arm ready to put it back on when they are grouped together again.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT COOPER

**Annaliese Thomas and Elise Nyquist leading the Norsemen this season.**

It is an awesome group of seniors with a lot of talent."

Returning letter winners are Lynch, Nyquist, Sophia Dragich, Moin, Evelyn Riley, Julia Riley,

Eryn Cosgrove and Lubinski.

"We have some great new freshmen additions that we are excited to see what they will add to our team," Cooper added.

### Soccer

#### NORTH VS. SOUTH

## Norsemen edge rival

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe North vs. Grosse Pointe South boys rivalry took on a new level of importance last week.

It was the first game of the season for both teams since the early non-conference portion of the slate was canceled to due COVID-19 concerns.

In the end, host North came away with a 3-2 victory.

"We follow the RTL, which means refuse to lose, mentality," North head coach Brad VandeVorde said.

The Blue Devils grabbed a 1-0 lead just eight minutes into the game when Rene' Robert scored.

"We kind of deflated in those situations last year, but not tonight," VandeVorde said. "South is a well-coached team under Francesco

(Cilano), so we knew they would be ready. "I'm proud of the guys for how they responded. It was a physical game, and we played well enough to beat a good team. Playing your rival in the first game of the season was tough during this COVID season."

Prior to the game, Cilano said his players were ready and they were happy to finally play a game instead of practice, even if it was against rival North.

Each goaltender,

Bennett Smihal for South and Liam McEnroe for North, played large roles in the game.

Both were outstanding, making big saves on shots that appeared to be goals.

James Streberger scored for the Norsemen late in the first half to knot the game 1-1.

Late in the second half, the teams combined for three goals.

North took a 2-1 lead on a goal by Chris Valice,

and two minutes later Streberger tallied again to give the home squad a 3-1 lead.

The lead would shrink to one after Robert scored again for the Blue Devils, but it wouldn't be enough as they couldn't get another shot past McEnroe.

"This is a big win, but we will see South again and that will be another battle," VandeVorde said.

Later in the week, North hosted Sterling Heights Stevenson and lost 2-1.

They scored first when Thomas Sheffield tallied early in the first half.

The Titans scored the equalizer at the 17:26 mark and eventual game-winning goal at the 6:30 mark of the first half. Neither team scored in the second half.

North is 1-0 in the Macomb Area Conference White Division and 1-1 overall, while South is 0-1 in the White Division.

### Tennis

#### NORTH, SOUTH & UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL

## Rivals compete; ULS 1-0-1

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South boys tennis teams opened their league schedule last week with a rivalry match won by the host Blue Devils, 8-0.

The best match of the afternoon came at No. 2 singles where South's Corbin Ifkovits and North's Alex Muawad to a 7-6 first set.

Ifkovits won the second set 6-0 to win the match.

At No. 1 singles, South's Connor Stafford beat Simon Stallins 6-0, 6-0, and at No. 3 singles Luke Holowinski defeated Sahith Nannapaneni 6-1, 6-0.

Owen Sanford beat James Moussiaux 6-1, 6-2 at No. 4 singles.

It was the Blue Devils' Jacob Harris and Jackson Marchal beating

Mitchell Mills and Kaiden DePascale 6-1, 6-1 at No. 1 doubles, and Alex Prather and Blake Discher defeated Ben Zoila and Ethan Michalski 6-0, 6-0 at No. 2 doubles.

Will White and Will Sine won 6-0, 6-1 at No. 3 doubles, beating Simeon Nelson and Connor Tubbs, and John Mueller and Ethan Molitor lost 6-0, 6-1 to Matt Kornmeier and Joe Brennan at No. 4 doubles.

Last weekend the Norsemen hosted a quad and finished with four points.

Birmingham Seaholm won with 22 points, while U-D Jesuit had 18 and Holly had four.

Stallings, Muawad, Nannapaneni and Moussiaux each won a match against Holly.

Each of the four doubles matches against

Holly were close, with two losing in three sets, and the other two dropped tight matches in straight sets.

South is 1-1 overall and North is 2-3.

### Liggett results

The University Liggett School boys tennis team hosted Utica and Rochester last weekend, winning 7-1 and tying 4-4.

"It was a great day for tennis," head coach Mark Sobieralski said. "We had to move a few people around when we played Utica, but overall things were OK."

Against Rochester, William Cooksey and Gerry Sherer won their singles matches at the No. 1 and No. 4 flights.

Vince Maribao and Jacob Tomlinson won at No. 1 doubles, while Bennett French and Campbell Marchal won

at No. 3 doubles.

The Knights lost four close matches which resulted in the tie.

In the win over the Chieftains, Sebastien Courtright lost at No. 1 singles in a close match. Cooksey sat to rest a sore wrist.

George Anusbikian won at No. 2 singles, with Sherry and Tomlinson winning at No. 3 and No. 4 singles.

Tarun Jarial and Maribao won at No. 1 doubles, and Tommy Ugval and French won at No. 2 doubles.

At No. 3 doubles, it was Marchal and Brendan Connors winning, and at No. 4 doubles Rocco Scarfone and Alec Leonard won.

ULS is 6-2-2 overall, and host Birmingham Brother Rice Thursday, Sept. 17, before heading to Holly for a quad Saturday, Sept. 19.

### Field hockey

#### NORTH & SOUTH

## Each team opens with win

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe North and South girls field hockey teams finally played a real game last week.

After getting a couple of weeks of delays, the season started with the Blue Devils beating host Warren Regina 1-0 on a goal scored early in the second half by senior Kate Skupien.

She was set up from a break-out pass from senior Katherine Bsharah.

"We dominated the whole game," South head coach Jessie

Rouleau said. "We played on grass which slowed our passing game down a bit."

Junior goalkeeper Elise Charbonneau saw no shots on goal as the Blue Devils controlled a majority of the play.

The visitors had a second goal waived off. It was scored by senior Emma Reilly.

South is 1-0 in the Michigan Field Hockey Association Division 2 East standings.

Next for the Blue Devils is an away game Friday, Sept. 18, against Detroit Country Day, followed by a home game Monday, Sept. 21,

against Dearborn, and an away game Thursday, Sept. 24, against Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood.

North hosted Rockford and won 7-0 behind the four-goal outburst from senior Ashlyn Senter. She scored one goal in the first half and started the second half with three consecutive tallies.

"The girls played a good game," head coach Emma Yee said. "We finally had the opportunity to play a real game after canceling the first few games."

Senior Caleigh Murray and sophomores Katherine Listman and

Sophia Borowski also scored goals.

Setting up a majority of the goals was senior Erin Murphy, who played midfield.

"Erin really controlled the offense from midfield," Yee said.

Sophomore goalkeeper Lucy Driscoll earned the shutout in net as North is 1-0 overall.

Next for the Norsemen is a home game Friday, Sept. 18, against rival University Liggett School.

The Norsemen also host Farmington Monday, Sept. 21, and travel to Country Day on Wednesday, Sept. 23.

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

It took a few weeks, but the University Liggett School boys soccer team finally played a real game.

It wasn't a practice, but a real game as the Knights hosted Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest.

"It was nice to play a game and get everyone in the game," head coach David Dwaihy said. "We played well. We needed this. It was fun and the guys played well in our opener."

The Knights won 7-1. It was 4-1 at the half, and they added three more tallies in the second half. The Knights controlled a majority of the play in each half.

Freshman Claudio Cavallo scored just 68 seconds into the first half, off a pass from

senior Sheikh Mannah. Cavallo scored again 12 minutes later, with junior Doug Wood drawing the assist.

The Crusaders scored their lone goal to tighten things up, but senior Sawyer Szajenko tallied at the 8:30 mark to give the Knights a two-goal advantage.

Sophomore Mac Katz had the assist.

Manneh scored in the final three minutes of the first half to make it a 4-1 game.

In the second half, Cavallo, Manneh and Szajenko scored goals, with Katz getting two assists and senior Stewart Smith netting one.

Senior Sam Sword and junior Alex George shared goalkeeper duties. Sword played the first half and George the second.

ULS is 1-0 overall.

## Football

## GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

## Blue Devils have big challenge

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe South football team is ready for a big challenge this season, competing in the Macomb Area Conference Red Division.

After dominating the MAC White Division for four straight seasons, winning the title each year with perfect 5-0 records, the Blue Devils were moved up to the premier division in the MAC.

Head coach Tim Brandon brings an 86-49 record into his 14th season at the helm of the Blue Devils.

This season is different. Thanks to COVID-19, the season was



scheduled to start Aug. 27, but was pushed back to Sept. 18 with a home game against division foe Romeo.

The rest of the 2020 slate is an away game Friday, Sept. 25, against Utica Eisenhower; a home game Friday, Oct. 2, against Macomb Dakota; an away game Friday, Oct. 9, against Chippewa Valley; a home

game Friday, Oct. 16, against Warren Mott; and a regular-season ending away game Friday, Oct. 23, against rival Grosse Pointe North.

"Expectations are against very high for the 2020 Blue Devils," Brandon said. "Coming off four straight MAC White championships, this squad is working very hard and is in position to compete in the MAC Red. The potential is there for this team to achieve its season goals of beating North, winning the MAC Red, winning districts and beyond."

The predicted order of finish in the MAC Red is Chippewa Valley first, followed by Romeo,

South, Stevenson, Dakota and Eisenhower.

The offense has four returning starters, senior left guard Michael Murphy, senior right tackle Teddy Hilentzaris, junior wide receiver Will Johnson and senior half-back Jordan Johnson.

Other projected offensive starters are sophomore center Joe Labadie, sophomore right guard Peter Ulku, senior left tackle Thomas Hessburg, junior wide receiver Johnny Williamson, junior wide receiver Charlie Brandon and sophomore tailback Egan Sullivan.

The quarterback competition is open since Alex Shaheen graduated. Filling his shoes are

junior Jack Hall and sophomore Anthony Benard.

The return of Will Johnson at wide receiver gives the Blue Devils an advantage at the skill positions. Both running backs, Jordan Johnson and Jonathon Drake, and adding Sullivan to the mix gives the offense a diverse look.

On defense, returning starters are junior nose tackle Jack Taylor, senior defensive end Joe Klunder, Murphy at defensive end, senior linebacker Max Gavagan, Drake at linebacker, senior strong safety Luke Srebernak, senior free safety Justin Maccagnone and Will Johnson at corner.

Other projected defensive starters are junior tackle Jackson Lambert, junior linebacker Will Fannon and junior corner John Williamson.

Doing the kicking duties is senior Bennett Smihal, who is also the starting goalkeeper on the varsity soccer team.

The Blue Devils graduated several college-bound football players, so filling those holes is huge.

It's important to get off to a good start since making the state players will be a little different this season. Will it take four wins or maybe three?

The Blue Devils start the season hosting Romeo on Friday, Sept. 18.

## UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL

## ULS sets goals

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

Expectations are high this season for the University Liggett School football team.

A big change is long-time head coach Dan Cimini retired, and taking his place is football guru Tarif Kumasi.

Kumasi has been coaching high school football for 20 years, including a long-run head coach at Detroit Cesar Chavez Academy.

"After a thorough decision process, we are excited that Tarif will be joining our coaching staff," Athletic Director Alan Parish said. "Tarif is an exciting, dynamic, and offensively creative coach."

Leading the Knights are senior captains Malik Pierce, a wide receiver and cornerback, and Giorgio Malkoun, an offensive and defensive tackle.

"We are a 5-wide no back all pass no huddle offense," Kumasi said.

Hopefully, junior trans-



fer Carson Roose will start at quarterback.

The school is awaiting a ruling on his eligibility. Roose is 6 feet, 5 inches, and 210 pounds.

Returning sophomore brothers Ryan and Jack Jones, who are 6 feet, 3 inches tall and 185 pounds, join junior William Edwards, who is 6 feet, 3 inches and 210 pounds, and Pierce, as offensive standouts.

The offensive line is anchored by Malkoun, 6 feet, 4 inches, and 240 pounds, and junior offensive tackle Justin Nazarko, 6 feet, 3 inches, and 215 pounds.

Kumasi wants to spread the field and use his speedy, athletic skill position players to put up a ton of points.

Defensively, the Knights will use a 3-5-3 scheme under the direction of Defensive Coordinator Jermaine Calloway Sr.

"I believe we will be highly competitive in league play," Kumasi said. "Maybe middle of the pack. We will be very

exciting to watch."

The Knights start the Kumasi era with a 7 p.m. road game Friday, Sept. 18, against Riverview Gabriel Richard, and then host Mount Clemens at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26. Gabriel Richard is a league game.

The Knights play at Macomb Lutheran North at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2, before hosting Madison Heights Bishop Foley at 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9. Both are league games.

ULS was scheduled to play Saturday, Oct. 17, but their foe dropped football.

The Knights end the regular season at New Haven at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23.

"We have been practicing hard and are ready for the season to begin," Kumasi said. "I can see a lot of excitement on the field. I expect us to be an exciting team."

The Michigan High School Athletic Association said every team makes the playoffs and will start in district play.

## GROSSE POINTE NORTH

## Norsemen hope new division = wins

By Bob St. John  
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe North's football team has a different feel to it as it enters year No. 3 under head coach Joe Drouin.

"We're looking forward to the 2020 season," Drouin said. "There is something different in the air this year; even with the day by day, week by week uncertainty of the season, our guys are excited and working hard. We averaged about 50 guys at our summer conditioning workouts (Tuesday mornings and Wednesday nights during June and July)."

The Norsemen didn't win a game last fall. As a result of the past less than desirable results competing in the Macomb Area Conference White Division, the Norsemen moved down to the MAC Gold Division battling Warren Cousino, Eastpointe, Roseville, St. Clair and Warren Woods-Tower.

"We are returning 10 on defense," Drouin said. "We were inexperienced defensively last year and it showed. It was a trial by fire for most of our players. Coach (Dennis) Pascoe and Coach (Lucas) Lanzon spent the offseason working on simplifying our defensive scheme. We are hoping with more simplicity



there will be less thinking and more speed."

Look for senior defensive end Ray Bell to be the anchor of the defensive front while 3-year starter Colin Duffy will run the defensive backfield. Also look for returning junior Nick Robie in the secondary.

Robie and his fellow defensive backs will face three Division 1 recruits this season, Tyrell Henry at Roseville, Will Johnson at Grosse Pointe South and Tayshawn Trent at Woods-Tower.

"We brought in Coach Richard Cooper to work with the secondary," Drouin said. "Coop's strength is film breakdown and preparation. He was able to get film on every team we play this year and met with the defensive backs virtually once a week to go over tendencies of our opponents."

Another returner to watch is senior linebacker Tim Cleland, who has an old school gritty style of play, according to Drouin.

Another strength for the Norsemen is the offensive line, which returns everyone.

They are guards C.K. Klatt and Fred Dupree, who will be the only seniors on the line. Junior Corey Vardiman is moving from center to strong tackle to help sure up the running attack, while sophomore Ben Kesteloot slides over to center from guard.

"We were unable to run the ball last year with any success - when you have a mostly sophomore offensive line going against the teams we saw last year that will happen," Drouin said. "Coach (Dennis) Shubnell, Coach (Jeremy) Baldes and I worked on revamping the offense, and think we have something that will showcase the talents of the skill players we have."

Senior Kennard Williams will carry the bulk of the load at running back. Kennard is a solid mix of speed and strength.

Senior Joe Plieth will step in to lead the offense at quarterback. Plieth will have some prime targets to throw to, including junior tight end Ben Bessert.

Sophomore Kyle Armbruster will bring 4.5 speed to the split end position, and senior Ethan LaCroix will get his share of carries at the fullback position.

Mikey Zontini will handle the kicking responsibility for the third year in a row, and is also looking to get in on the offensive action at split end.

The Norsemen's six-game schedule starts with a road game Friday, Sept. 18, against Roseville, and follows with another road game Friday, Sept. 25, against St. Clair. Next is a home game Friday, Oct. 2, against Eastpointe, and then is a road game Friday, Oct. 9, against Warren Cousino.

The final two games are home against Fraser on Friday, Oct. 16, and home against rival Grosse Pointe South on Friday, Oct. 23.

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**King Crossword**  
 Solution for last week's puzzle 9/10/20

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

- ACROSS**
- 1 Amorphous mass
  - 5 Pouch
  - 8 Con job
  - 12 Portrayal
  - 13 Id counterpart
  - 14 Actress Jessica
  - 15 "The danger has passed"
  - 17 Borscht ingredient
  - 18 Shelton or Lively
  - 19 Chopping spree?
  - 21 Breakfast for many
  - 24 Jam ingredient?
  - 25 Treaty
  - 28 Teeny bit
  - 30 Cow's chaw
  - 33 Ostrich's cousin
  - 34 Small chalkboard
  - 35 Work with
  - 36 Suitable
  - 37 Gasp for air
- DOWN**
- 1 Snatch
  - 2 Take to the hammock
  - 3 — podrida
  - 4 St. Thomas
  - 5 Witness
  - 6 — Khan
  - 7 Stopper
  - 8 Israeli indigene
  - 9 Unambiguous
  - 10 Help a hood
  - 11 Partner
- 16 Journey segment
- 20 Pinnacle
- 22 Big bash
- 23 Rise
- 25 Pod dweller
- 26 Pump up the volume
- 27 Curtail
- 29 "Beetle Bailey" dog
- 31 NAFTA signatory
- 32 Society newcomer
- 34 Unwanted email
- 38 Tatletale
- 40 Nuisances
- 42 Stratego situation
- 43 — good example
- 44 Gator's kin
- 45 Catch sight of
- 47 Old portico
- 48 Australian parrot
- 49 Conclusions
- 52 Weeding need
- 53 Have

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**Weekly SUDOKU**  
 by Linda Thistle  
 Solution for last weeks puzzle 9/10/20

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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