

COVID-19 CASES UPDATE - 9/22

	Cases	Deaths
All Pointes	711 (+22)	36 (+0)
Harper Woods	336 (+3)	35 (+0)

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Recall petition wording OK'd

Lee appeals, delays signature collection

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Wayne County Election Commission voted unanimously to approve language submitted for a recall petition against Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education President Margaret Weertz and Trustee Chris Lee.

The language was submitted to the commission Sept. 2, by Monica Palmer of Grosse Pointe Woods. A hearing was held via Zoom video conferencing Sept. 16, to determine if the language for the petition was factual and of sufficient clarity for voters to understand the course of conduct that is the basis of the recall.

All three members of the commission — Chairman Freddie G. Burton Jr., chief judge, Wayne County Probate Court; Secretary Cathy M. Garrett, Wayne County clerk; and member Eric Sabree, Wayne County treasurer — voted to approve the petition.

An earlier petition submitted by Palmer was unanimously rejected by the commission at a June 30 hearing due to a lack of clarity. The language on the second petition was adjusted accordingly.

See **RECALL**, page 10A



DRONE PHOTO BY JACK RYAN/SKYVIEW AERIAL PRODUCTIONS

Friday Night Lights

In the Sept. 3 issue of the Grosse Pointe News, we ran a photo of an empty Grosse Pointe South stadium, reporting there will be no “Friday Night Lights” for the Blue Devils — or Norsemen — this fall. Well, sports fans, we are happy to say we were wrong! With Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s lifting of the moratorium on football, and other fall sports, the Blue Devils stadium lights lit up last Friday night. As Sports Editor Bob St. John reports in this week’s paper, South began its pandemic-shortened 2020 season with a 24-14 upset win over visiting Romeo. Unfortunately, we are sad to report, Grosse Pointe North lost its season opener at Roseville, 18-8.

District prepares for students’ return

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System is preparing to welcome students back to buildings for face-to-face instruction after beginning the school year with remote learning.

The plan begins with the youngest and most at-risk learners, according to an email sent to parents by GPPSS Superintendent Gary Niehaus. It proposes a hybrid return, with students divided primarily by alphabet — allowing families to stay together — and attending school

every other day. On days they are not in face-to-face instruction, students will have asynchronous learning opportunities.

The GPPSS administration reviewed the work of the GPPSS Reopening Task Force, local safety data and school reopening plans in other districts following the direction by board President Margaret Weertz at the Sept. 14 regular meeting to provide a detailed plan to return students to school in a safe, face-to-face environment.

The plan — a working document presented to staff Sept. 22, for review

and feedback and to be shared with parents at a live-streamed town hall 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24 — is the result of that work. It is subject to change based on feedback, further governmental guidance and new information on local COVID-19 cases.

“We started to receive clarity from Wayne RESA, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Wayne County Health Department about how to go about reopening schools,” said Jon Dean, deputy superintendent for human resources and educational services. “We also

know face-to-face instruction is best for kids and if there are ways to do that safely, we’re going to do that every time.”

The timing for a return to face-to-face hybrid learning is:

- ◆ Monday, Oct. 12, Young 5, kindergarten and grades 1-2
- ◆ Monday, Oct. 19, grades 3-5
- ◆ Monday, Nov. 9, grades 6-12 (more details to follow)

This timeline is subject to change based on new information.

The plan coincides with the updated plan

See **RETURN**, page 2A



Shores hires new DPW director

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Following the retirement of 33-year Public Works director Brett Smith, the Shores council unanimously approved the hire of water department supervisor Michael Way into the position, during the city’s first Zoom meeting Tuesday, Sept. 15.

“I certainly hope to continue the high level of service that our residents have come to expect,”

See **DPW**, page 4A

City commences historic district study

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The historic preservation district research process has officially begun in the City.

In two unanimous votes during the meeting Monday, Sept. 21, council authorized the creation of a historic district study committee, designated

the areas of the city to be included in the study and executed a professional services agreement with Kidorf Preservation Consulting to carry out the phases of creating a historic district if and when the phases are approved by council.

The study area will encompass everything south of Maumee that is within the E-R zoning

district, as well as Lakeland from Maumee to St. Clair; University Place from Maumee to Jefferson; Washington from Maumee to Jefferson; Lincoln from Maumee to Jefferson; all of Rathbone Place and Woodland Place; lakefront homes; and the properties immediately adjacent to the lakefront homes on Donovan,

Wellington, Stratford and Elmsleigh.

“We are not approving this area as a historic district,” City Manager Pete Dame clarified. “We are approving this area to study as to what buildings in these blocks might justify creating one.”

Additionally, as the

See **STUDY**, page 4A

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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



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2A | PUBLIC SAFETY

City of Grosse Pointe

Grocery heist

While a manager attempted to stop her, a 30-year-old Detroit woman managed to drive off with \$400 worth of stolen groceries from a store in the 16000 block of Kercheval at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19.

When stopped shortly afterward by officers on Mack Avenue, she was apprehended after a foot chase and charged with second degree retail fraud and felony resist and obstruct by Wayne County.

Another unsuccessful attempt

A 62-year-old Detroit man and known suspect attempted to steal \$200 worth of meat from the same business in the 16000 block of Kercheval at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, by leaving out the loading dock.

A manager stopped the man from leaving with the cart and he was arrested by officers a short time later.

The man has been arrested several times in the City for similar crimes.

Operating while intoxicated

After being pulled over at Jefferson Avenue and Island Lane at 1:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, for driving with only one headlight, a 29-year-old Park man was observed to have slurred speech and bloodshot eyes.

A preliminary breath test found his blood alcohol content to be .25 per-

cent and he was arrested for operating while intoxicated.

Political signs recovered

Public safety recovered 25 political signs stolen from throughout the community by a juvenile. Anyone whose sign was taken should reach out to the GOP office in The Village, where the signs were returned.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Driving while license suspended

After being pulled over at Lakeshore Road and Woodland Shore Drive for driving with high beams on and traveling 48 mph, a 40-year-old Oak Park man was arrested at 7:48 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, when a LEIN search showed his license was suspended.

Slashed tire

A 78-year-old Lakeshore Road resident believes he was targeted for having a Trump decal on his vehicle, after a roadside technician discovered his tire had been slashed with a knife.

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Operating while intoxicated

After being pulled over for speeding 42 mph at 12:30 a.m. Monday, Sept. 14, a 25-year-old Woods man was arrested for operating while intoxicated. A preliminary breath test showed his blood alcohol content was .13 percent.

Disorderly person

A 35-year-old St. Clair Shores woman was reported for drunkenly throwing bottles around an alley in the 18000 block of Mack Avenue at 10:20 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14.

Facebook Marketplace fraud

When a 55-year-old Farms woman attempted to sell a computer on Facebook Marketplace to a man in California, she was told to pay \$92 in shipping costs, but sent the money through a spoof PayPal site.

Found key

A silver key was found on Mapleton Road and

Grosse Pointe Boulevard at 4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18.

Rental returns

A car rental company in the Farms contacted public safety when a vehicle was not returned last week. The 30-year-old Detroit woman told officers she had hit something and was trying to get the car fixed before returning it.

This is around the 10th similar occurrence within the city in the past month.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Car windows damaged

Two residents in the 700 block of Barrington and the 700 block of Middlesex reported their vehicle windows damaged in separate incidents sometime between 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11, and 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 12.

The Barrington resident discovered the driver-side quarter-panel window broken and a BB-sized hole on the vehicle, a Hyundai Kona. The Middlesex resident found the rear window of his Ford F-150 broken.

A third resident in the 1200 block of Berkshire

discovered the front windshield of his 2019 Volkswagen Jetta with 13 BB holes that had been left between 11 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11, and 1:50 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12.

Public safety is seeking suspects in all three incidents.

Fleeing and eluding

A 20-year-old Detroit man was arrested around 8:45 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, after refusing to stop for police, who attempted to detain him for speeding at Mack and Buckingham.

The driver abandoned the vehicle and fled on foot before he was arrested not far from the location. A 9 mm pistol was recovered near the vehicle.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Breaking and entering

A suspect is sought for breaking and entering at Woods Optical sometime between 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11, and 9:30 a.m. Monday, Sept. 14, after \$120 was taken and two offices had been rumbled.

The front door locking mechanism was removed and both the

front and rear entrances had been left unlocked when the incident was discovered.

Crabby criminal

A suspect is sought for stealing 16 cartons of crab legs from a market in the 20400 block of Mack around 2:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14.

The man, described as 30 to 40 years old, around 5 feet, 7 inches, Black and wearing a black hat, black T-shirt, black pants and glasses, was spotted filling Wal-Mart canvas bags with snow crab packages before exiting the store by prying open doors.

He fled in a silver Pontiac Grand Prix with a white female with pink hair in the passenger seat.

Bus damage

A suspect is sought for malicious destruction of property after two University Liggett School bus windows appeared to have been broken by a BB gun sometime between 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15, and 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, in the 1000 block of Cook.

The pellets appeared to have been fired from the athletic field. The windows are valued at \$800.

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

RETURN:

Continued from page 1A

for return to instruction for students with individualized education plans. Students with IEPs indicating “resource program” and/or ancillary services will receive in-person programs and services according to their contingency learning plan

on days they are scheduled to be in the building.

Students enrolled in GP Traditional who are not yet ready to return to face-to-face learning will have an opportunity the week of Sept. 28, to opt to stay in remote learning. One GP Virtual students will remain in remote learning.

GPPSS plans to accelerate the timeline and

shift from hybrid to full-time face-to-face instruction when the district reaches Phase 5 per the governor’s plan.

Following staff and parent input, the plan will be presented to the Board of Education at its regular meeting Monday, Sept. 27. It is available at gpschools.org under “District News.”

Safety procedures

◆ All students and staff will wear masks except when eating or drinking or outside.

◆ Staff will be provided necessary, appropriate personal protective equipment such as masks and face shields.

◆ Social distancing will be maintained using smaller class sizes. The average class size is 10, with no class larger than 15 students.

◆ Larger spaces will be used when possible.

◆ Students will work at individual work stations either at individual desks or at opposite ends of tables.

◆ Students will be provided a personal “foldable” shield when at tables.

◆ Students typically will spend the day with only their cohort of classmates.

◆ Students will do activities together and go to lunch and recess as a cohort.

◆ Special education service providers will “push-in” to support students in their cohort when possible.

◆ Regular hand washing will occur.

◆ Common touch-points in bathrooms will be wiped down throughout the day.

◆ Each building will be thoroughly cleaned each evening.

◆ Visitors will be restricted to the main office for necessary visits only.

◆ No volunteers will be permitted at school.

◆ Food service will be provided directly to the classroom.

GPPSS will follow guidance and direction from Wayne Regional Educational Service Agencies and the Wayne County Health Department on how to respond if a student or staff member is confirmed as COVID-19 positive, symptomatic pending a test or identified as a close contact. Go to gpschools.org for more information.

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PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID at Detroit, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$44.50 per year via mail in the Metro area, \$65 outside.

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The deadline for news copy is 3 p.m. Monday.

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The Week Ahead

- MONDAY, SEPT. 28**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park City Council meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Public Schools Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Correction

The article “PEG fees are out,” printed in the Sept. 10 Grosse Pointe News, should have read that the City of Grosse Pointe did not return its PEG fees to Comcast and hopes to provide them to the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

Peters makes his case for return to Senate

By Eddie B. Allen Jr.
Staff Writer



Sen. Gary Peters

He describes himself as a “new guy,” acknowledging the hurdles of his freshman status and membership in the U.S. Senate’s minority, but Democrat Gary Peters says he’s ready for another term.

Facing contention for his District seat from Republican John James, who was defeated in his last campaign against Sen. Debbie Stabenow, Peters wants to continue serving his home state.

“I want to continue the work that I’ve done over the last few years, bringing people together, passing legislation in a

bipartisan way, addressing issues that are important to Michigan,” he said.

Having served as a congressman, Peters became the only non-incumbent Democrat to win a Senate seat in 2014. Quality health care,

skilled trades training and environmental quality are among areas of Peters’ focus that he recently discussed during a “motorcycle tour” across the state. Among issues of interest to voters, particularly in the Grosse Pointes, Peters spoke of his efforts to keep Lake St. Clair clean, including having secured “a record amount of money” to address contamination. Peters has his eye on more than 200 toxic sites, he added.

While James’ campaign commercials have attacked him for a lack of attendance at Senate sessions and a pattern of disengagement, the incumbent points to bills

he helped bring to fruition, ranging from veteran apprenticeship, access to food and agriculture protection and small business advocacy. Peters cites his record of having enacted four standalone bills, more than any other Democratic senator during the Trump administration, and having passed nine bills through the Senate since 2019, more than any single senator in either party.

He calls James’ ads “clearly false” and “reprehensible,” pointing out that independent fact-checking analysts dispute the James campaign’s statements. In the nation’s current

racially charged climate, Peters said he plans to continue pursuing criminal justice coalition legislation he helped develop with around 50 percent Democratic and 50 percent Republican support.

“The way to address those challenges is really to bring people together,” he said. “Ultimately, the way we handle those challenges is to find common ground.”

A Navy Reserve veteran and Second Amendment supporter, Peters has been a firearm owner, but said he advocates “common sense regulations,” such as comprehensive background checks that close loopholes permitting

sales at gun shows. Other initiatives Peters supports include affordable housing, which he called “incredibly important” to Michigan.

“I don’t think it’s a federal role to require it, but I think we should incentivize it and make it possible,” he said.

Come Nov. 3, Peters said he’s ready to return to work with the support of Michigan residents.

“Ultimately, that’s what people want,” he said, “a senator who rolls up their sleeves and gets things done.”

Editor’s note: The John James campaign did not respond to multiple requests for an interview.

Road millage reaffirmed for ballot

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — An administrative informational Zoom meeting to focus on the details of a road millage to be placed on the Farms’ November ballot is planned for 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, with information to attend available on the city’s website.

Prior to that, a second public hearing on the matter was held during the council meeting Monday, Sept. 14, to uphold full transparency and allow residents another opportunity to voice their opinions.

With only one resident taking the opportunity to speak, stating concerns over retirees on fixed incomes and an opinion of not enough data being shown, the unanimous vote from the August meeting to approve the language and put it on the ballot was reaffirmed.

The 5-year millage in the amount of 2 mills would begin on the December tax bill and provide the city with an additional \$8.6 million to put toward road improvements. This would set the city millage rate at

16.95, which still would remain the lowest millage rate out of the five Pointes.

A condensed version of the presentation from the first public hearing also included the answers to frequently asked questions the city has received since, including that the roads selected for improvements will be based upon the PASER rating system — which rates road conditions, with one being the worst and 10 the best — and that if a certain street currently is not on the draft of a potential five-year plan, it does not mean it will not be touched. The city plans to continue allocating approximately \$500,000 each year toward road improvements.

“This is really an issue less about me than it is about we,” Councilman Lev Wood said. “This is an issue of how do we want our city’s roads to look for everyone and so I hope that as we go through this public hearing process and talking to residents about the benefits, that it is clear that this is a city-wide effort to improve the value of our roads in total, not just (to) make your particular road

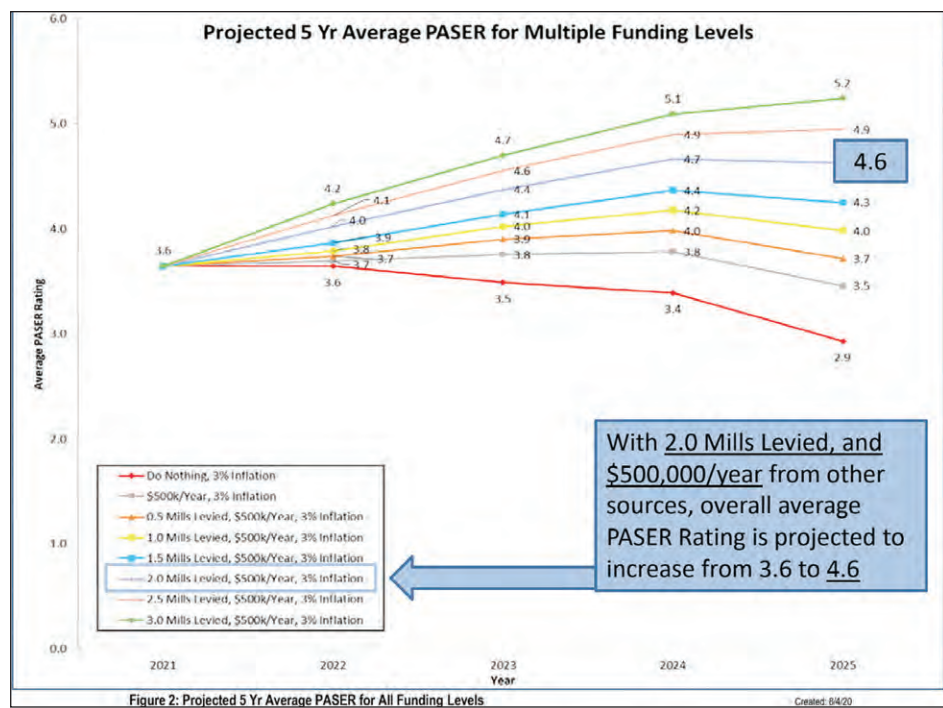


Figure 2: Projected 5 Yr Average PASER for All Funding Levels. GRAPH COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE FARMS

The PASER rating system determines the condition of roads, with a score of 10 being the best.

really perfect.” The city’s current overall PASER rating is 3.6. With the funding currently put toward roads annually, in 2025 the rating would be 3.5. The proposed millage is anticipated to bring the rating to 4.6.

“We would be hopeful that we would be able to raise that even farther, but this is a very conser-

vative estimate,” Controller and Treasurer Debra Peck Lichtenberg said.

With an average home value of \$400,000 with a \$200,000 taxable value, the 2-mill increase would cost the average taxpayer \$400 annually, she added.

“We had great debates on whether this was enough or whether this was too much, quite

frankly, but we’ve got to do something about our infrastructure,” Councilman John Gillooly said. “We’ve got to do something for the residents whose basements are flooding. We’ve got to make sure the roads are acceptable to those who live and travel within the city of Grosse Pointe Farms each and every day.”

Absentee voters urged to act early

By Eddie B. Allen Jr.
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — City Clerk Lisa Hathaway has a message to absentee voters: Don’t wait around. With the Nov. 3 election approaching, part of Hathaway’s prescription for ensuring accuracy is having Woods residents — and all Michigan residents — submit their applications to vote absentee and then turn in completed ballots to their local clerks immediately after voting.

Not only would early turnaround help election workers preserve the integrity of the process, Hathaway said it would spare the workers some stress.

“It would assist election administrators from the perspective of avoiding receipt of large quantities of absentee ballots at

See VOTE, page 4A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The manhole is being enlarged to make future maintenance more accessible.

Kerby likely to remain closed two more weeks

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — The closure of Kerby Road at Mack due to an AT&T manhole construction project is expected to last another two weeks.

“We’re actively in conversations with them to try and get them to speed it up,” Farms Director of Public Services Matthew Baka said.

The project was meant to replace fibers when residents in the area lost ser-

vice, but grew significantly in scale when the company decided to resize the small manhole to make future repairs more accessible.

“That’s why they got in there in the first place and then once they got in there, it was really difficult to access and they had to make the hole bigger,” Baka explained, “so it just created a real kind of much larger project than they expected, I think.”

Because the work has to

See KERBY, page 4A

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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

For the love of interior design

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

When Fatima Beacham moved to Ohio to be an au pair for a year before starting college, she never intended to meet her husband and remain in the U.S., eventually moving to Grosse Pointe Park 16 years ago.

Born and raised in Madrid, Spain, her father had encouraged her to take the gap year and strengthen her English skills. The father of the family she stayed with, who owned an architect firm, then inspired her to pursue a career in interior design.

"He showed me around and it kind of sparked something," Beacham said. "I always loved to do things with my hands and draw, so ... I really feel like it was just meant to be, like I was put on that path."

After moving to the area, largely due to acclaim for the school system as her family grew to five children, Beacham joined the team at architect firm Quinn Evans four years ago.

"It's funny because



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FATIMA BEACHAM

Fatima Beacham is the lead point for the construction projects taking place at the three Grosse Pointe Public Library branches.

when I was in Spain before and when I married my husband, I thought, 'Oh, it's going to be so great when we have our kids and they get into the yellow school

bus and saying goodbye,' and we ended up in a place where there's no school buses," she joked. "I was like, 'Are you kidding me?' and thought that was really funny."

As the senior lead designer for Michigan, Beacham is the lead point for design and construction projects currently taking place at all three branches of the Grosse Pointe Public Library. She also has worked on other area libraries including Clinton-Macomb, Glen Lake and Alpena.

"Since my kids were very little, I used to take them to the library twice a week," she said of her love for the projects. "It was almost like taking them to TCBY. 'If you don't behave, we don't go to the library.'"

She also is involved with a large-scale renovation of the Smithsonian National Air Space Museum. While it is the D.C. office's project, she is helping with furniture and finishes in the remodel of cafe spaces, the planetarium, offices and more.

"For interior design, it's pretty amazing that what you do is actually you're changing the way someone feels when they walk into a building," Beacham explained, "so the interior architecture, the finishes, the furni-



Beacham and her family in the home where she grew up in Madrid, Spain.

ture, the acoustics, lighting, everything that you see inside of the building ... you can influence how someone feels from the moment they walk in."

Another recent notable project was renovating the lounge and waiting area of Amtrak's Ann Arbor location and the VIP lounge in Los Angeles, which reminded Beacham of life in Spain where train systems are plentiful.

Recently, she said, life in the U.S. has grown a bit more similar to what she remembers.

"Here it's always go, go, go, work and on the weekends you were trying to deflate and catch up with the stuff you didn't get to do during the week or clean the house," she explained, "and I think in Spain

everything gets accomplished but at a different pace. It's not that it doesn't get done. It's not that people are lazy. There's no siestas. But it's just people work hard in the week, but on the weekend it's all family time.

"But I think if I can say something good came out of (the pandemic), it has changed the pace a little bit, for everything."

Looking toward the future, Beacham hopes to continue growing in knowledge, experiences and opportunities, but considers herself very lucky.

"My family is my priority in life," she said. "At this time in my life, with my wonderful husband of 28 years and my five amazing kids, I couldn't ask for anything more."



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The road closed sign on Kerby right before Mack.

KERBY:

Continued from page 3A

do with a utility, he added, the company did not have to get the city's permis-

sion to conduct it.

AT&T work also is being done in a manhole near Moross and Mack in the city, but the location does not interfere with traffic.

VOTE:

Continued from page 3A

the last minute," she said.

Hathaway recently shared ideas for improving the AV process, which included a public service announcement, with Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, stressing that early submission of ballots helps overcome potential mail delays and aids in timely processing, and that early submission also allows the clerks'

offices to assist with lost applications, so "immediate corrections can be made."

Observations and challenges Hathaway shared with Benson about Woods voter participation in the August primary election included:

- ◆ The 87.5 percent, or 4,755 absentee ballots, returned of the 5,765 issued reflected a lower return percentage, which is normally in the mid-90-percent range or greater.

- ◆ Almost 20 percent of total absentee ballots weren't returned until after 6 p.m. Election Day.

- ◆ 363 ballots weren't received until 8 p.m. on Election Day after they were retrieved from the ballot drop box.

- ◆ Election workers labored to process and reconcile almost 800 AV ballots until around 10:30 p.m. Election Day, delaying the completion of receiving boards' part in the process until around 2:15 a.m.

Early response and submissions can help voters "avoid last-minute processing corrections and having to make an in-person visit to the clerk's office," Hathaway added.

"Accuracy is my first priority on election night, as well as that of my chairs and co-chairs," she said.

Information about absentee voting and the general voting process will be further published and promoted through Hathaway's office.

DPW:

Continued from page 1A

Way said. "Our DPW service is pretty much second to none. We strive to provide our residents a top-notch service and I certainly hope to continue

that. Being here for when the residents need us is something that we're known for."

Having worked at the Shores since he was 15 years old, Way was the city's full-time master gardener 13 years before he began running the

water and sewer department in October 2018. He also was union vice president and steward for around 10 years prior to being hired as director, and remains sitting on the pension commission, which is voted on by current employees who are in the retirement system.

With an applied engineering degree from Michigan State University, in a way tailor-made for public service, he said, Way is equipped with the skills to facilitate communication between city engineers and the council and residents.

"I wouldn't say it was a goal of mine when I was 15, but when I started here full time 15 years ago and I had my degree,

it was a definite goal of mine to be the director," he said. "I suppose not everybody can say they've reached their goal and I'm pretty excited and happy that I've gotten here. (I'm) excited to see what else the future holds for me here at Grosse Pointe Shores."

Goals for his time as director include continuing the successes of Smith, as well as the good relationships with surrounding communities, and efficiently spending city funds when necessary.

"You're in good hands with Michael Way and I'd like to offer him congratulations," Smith said to the council. "I'm sure he

will make you proud and he has already made me proud."

Nick Rudd, who has been with the Shores eight years full time, is taking over the position of water department supervisor.

The city's finance committee also is working to fill the finance officer/treasurer position, as Rhonda Ricketts will retire Oct. 21. Cathy Hall, a Woods resident and CPA with 28 years of

experience in finance and accounting, was extended a conditional offer of employment during the meeting following a 6-1 vote, with Councilman Doug Kucyk opposed.

The terms and conditions of her employment will need to be approved by council before she is hired.

The Shores still has not filled its city manager position since Mark Wollenweber retired in October.

STUDY:

Continued from page 1A

study proceeds, areas adjacent to the designated areas may be added if their inclusion is deemed to be merited.

The historic district study committee will be created and appointed at a future meeting after the city solicits volunteers, including those with architectural experience, from the community. The Grosse Pointe Historical Society will assist with identifying potential members, as is required by state law.

"That committee will then recommend to city council whether or not to have a historic district and if so, what the boundaries of it would be or whether there should be two historic districts," Dame explained, "so this is just the start of an intense review."

Kidorf Preservation

Consulting, which conducted the initial preliminary city-wide assessment of what areas would qualify for a historic district on behalf of the historical society in 2011, will begin the process by conducting a detailed inventory of historical assets. This first phase will cost the city \$17,772.

If the process continues to move forward with authorization from council, Kidorf also will draft the ordinance to be implemented, work with the state historic preservation office to get approvals and adopt design standards to be enforced by the historic preservation commission. The total cost of all phases would be approximately \$25,000.

"Future phases after the study are dependent on whether the council wishes to proceed through all of them," Dame said.

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City of **Grosse Pointe Farms**, Michigan
Notice of Informational Meeting
Regarding Road Funding

Via ZOOM | October 1, 2020 | 7:00 pm

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE FARMS ADMINISTRATION will hold an Informational Meeting regarding road funding on October 1, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. virtually via ZOOM.

Meeting ID: 851 9953 1734

Passcode: 393925

Call-In Option: 1-646-558-8656 (Same Passcode)

All interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Time will be allotted for public comment and questions. If you are unable to be present at the Informational Meeting, please submit your written comments to the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 90 Kerby Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236, by September 25, 2020.

Note: Anyone planning to attend the meeting who has need of special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is asked to contact the City Clerk's Office at 313-885-6600 forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

Derrick Kozicki,
City Clerk

GPN: 9/24/2020

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For our children, let's come together and fix our Grosse Pointe School System!

Let's bring back Excellence!



Cynthia Pangborn

- Voice of reason on the board asking the tough questions.
- Unwavering advocate for public education.
- Not afraid to challenge administration and board members opinions.
- Return 5th grade to elementary school. Open Trombly and Poupard Elementary schools.



Lauren Nowicki

- Advocate for disenfranchised groups and reconfiguration. Science teacher, Instructional coach and Title I coach.
- Parent of 3 students and 1 toddler hoping for Early Child Care.
- Return 5th grade to elementary school.
- Open Trombly and Poupard Elementary schools.



Lisa Papas

- Educator teaching students in classroom — not employed by GP school system.
- Varied business experience in management.
- Parent of 4 graduates and 2 current high school students at Grosse Pointe South.
- Return 5th grade to elementary schools.
- Open Trombly and Poupard Elementary schools.

LET'S COME TOGETHER FOR OUR KIDS & STOP RECONFIGURATION

*Based on research, the majority of school parents oppose reconfiguration.

Target Insyght Research states 58% of parents oppose this move.

Parents are concerned their kids are growing up too fast and being bullied in Middle School.

As Parents, we need to work on moving these small children back into walkable Elementary Schools to protect them.

**Call the candidates:
Pangborn, Nowicki and Papas and tell them
to protect our young children from going
into middle school before 6th grade.**

*Research done 9/14 thru 9/18 in all five Grosse Pointes by Target Insyght Research Company, LLC

Let's bring back excellence into our Grosse Pointe Schools!

We have to bring back excellence in our schools!

Pangborn • Nowicki • Papas

Paid for with regulated funds by Taxpayers for GP Schools-501C4

P.O. Box 361278 Grosse Pointe, MI 48236



6A | OPINION

Grosse Pointe News

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY POINTE NEWS INCORPORATED
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OUR VIEW

School board leads election

If you haven't decided how to vote in the presidential election, you won't find any help here.

What you will find today is coverage of what matters locally: the election to fill five of the seven seats on the Board of Education for the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

The election is in two sections:

◆ Four seats open for four-year terms. Of the board members now holding the seats, two are running for re-election. Thirteen challengers have filed.

◆ One seat open to fill the remaining two years of a term of a board member who resigned nearly a year ago. The board appointed a replacement member, who now seeks official election to the seat. He faces two challengers.

This crowded field may or may not set a record for interest in school board seats, but it clearly marks a point where almost anything could happen with the schools. Voters need to take this election seriously.

School reconfiguration and continuation of remote learning because of the COVID-19 pandemic are hot topics. The district's superintendent announced Sept. 14 that he would leave at the end of this school year, adding another potential inflection point as the search begins to replace him.

Profiles of the candidates in a special section in this week's paper represent more than seven hours of Zoom interviews. You can also see candidate interviews conducted by the Grosse Pointe League of Women Voters via the league's website at lvwgrossepointe.org.

On this page, you'll find the Grosse Pointe News' view of two other local issues on the Nov. 3 ballot: a road millage request by Grosse Pointe Farms and a renewal request for a countywide school enhancement millage from Wayne RESA.

Don't wait to start educating yourself. The school board election, in particular, will shape the community for years to come.

Our survey

On pages 8&9A in this week's newspaper, you will find the results of a random sample survey of 400 residents of the Grosse Pointe Public School System conducted in August by the reputable EPIC-MRA polling firm in Lansing and commissioned by the Grosse Pointe News.

We decided to conduct the survey at this time in order to gauge public sentiment concerning the school district prior to the Nov. 3 General Election that features 17 candidates vying for five seats on the school board. The results of the election will determine the fate of the district for at least the next four years. Depending on what slate of candidates get elected, everything the current board has done — school closings, reconfiguration and remote learning during the pandemic — could all be undone.

We also were concerned about an anonymous postcard being sent to all homes in the district raising questions about the district's finances, management, school board and quality of education.

While the survey is complex and will take a while to unpack and interpret, we can safely conclude that a majority of respondents gave passing grades to the district, school board and Superintendent Gary Niehaus (discarding undecided respondents).

A majority of respondents also agreed with elementary school closings due to declining enrollment. They did not, however, agree with reconfiguration, i.e., moving fifth graders to middle schools.

So take your time, comb through the results and look for further stories, analysis and commentary in the weeks ahead approaching the election.

And most important, VOTE! Absentee ballots can still be obtained and all polls will be open Nov. 3.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Pure Grosse Pointe

Red sky at night, sailor's delight! Grosse Pointe News staff photographer Renee Landuyt captured this shot shortly before sunset recently at the Windmill Pointe Park marina. Unfortunately, the photo is made even more beautiful by the smoke of rampaging fires on the West Coast. We send our thoughts and prayers.

OUR VIEW

Say 'Yes' to fixing Farms roads

Grosse Pointe Farms voters should take advantage of their opportunity Nov. 3 to bring their streets into better condition.

The ballot — at its end, among the proposals — will ask Farms voters to approve a new 2-mill levy devoted exclusively to roads. That will raise nearly \$1.7 million a year, on top of the \$500,000 from regular revenues that the city has been spending and, according to City Manager Shane Reeside, plans to continue to spend each year.

As with the other Pointes that have approved extra road millage, the Farms has found that current spending won't keep up with the pace of deterioration. Additional spending at the 2-mill level will allow the city to make headway.

Streets rated poor include major sections of through routes such as Kercheval Avenue and Kerby Road, along with many a side street.

The average homeowner can expect to pay about \$400 a year with this millage in place. That estimate comes from an average home value of about \$400,000, with a maximum taxable value of \$200,000. Although the ballot language refers to the millage as based on assessed value, City Manager Reeside says most residents will pay the 2 mills on their lower taxable value.

Over the five years, the Farms should be able to raise its overall road rating from 3.6 to 4.6 on a 10-point rating system for roads. While this may not seem huge, it beats the alternative of no new spending — a scenario under which the rating would actually fall at the end of the same period.

Good streets are often worth the investment just in savings on car repairs, and pavement fixes done sooner rather than later also tend to save money over the long haul. For Farms residents, a "yes" on the millage is a wise choice.

OUR VIEW

Wayne RESA millage a bonus

Renewal is in order for the school enhancement millage that appears on the Nov. 3 ballot. This regional millage is overseen by Wayne RESA, the county's intermediate school district, and directly benefits the great majority of children in the county as it is allocated back to public schools on a per-student basis.

Because this is a renewal of the 2 mills homeowners have been paying every year since voters first approved it in 2016, this levy represents no new costs. The only change is that students at charter schools will now also benefit from the allocation, a decision made by the Michigan Legislature a couple of years back.

That means the per-pupil allocation will decline in dollar value: from \$370 now to an estimated \$300 under the renewed levy. Based on last year's enrollment, Wayne County has about 62,000 students in charter schools, also sometimes called public school academies, in addition to the roughly 208,000 students in its 33 districts.

The Grosse Pointes, as usual, are a donor community in this equation, presumably even more so with the inclusion of charter students. But all schools and all districts need the boost, given how poorly the state has been funding schools.

And no matter which school the students in Wayne County attend, they will grow into the workers who keep society functioning here as well as in other parts of the county and the state. The skills needed during the direst days of the COVID-19 spread — the whole range, in hospitals alone, from doctors to nurses to lab techs to well-trained cleaning crews — only emphasize how important K-12 education is to prepare each rising generation.

For most districts, including the Grosse Pointe Public School System, the regional millage has been a godsend, according to Wayne RESA Superintendent Randy Liepa. Districts have used the money for everything from digging their way out of debt to launching career education, he said.

In Grosse Pointe's case, the annual amount — which peaked at \$3.3 million in the 2018-19 school year — went into building up the district's fund balance. That decision to build up reserves has paid off during the financial uncertainty caused by the pandemic.

The enhancement levy, if renewed, will run for six years. Under Michigan's school finance regime, this regional millage remains the only way a school district can augment its operating revenue. Voters should again give it their blessing.

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OUR VIEW

We bid you adieu, Dr. Niehaus

Gary Niehaus deserves the best wishes of the community as he makes a graceful exit from the top job in the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

Superintendent Niehaus announced Sept. 14 that he will leave at the end of the current school year. That gives the Board of Education time to set up a search committee and then shape the search around the aims of incoming school board members who take office as a result of the Nov. 3 election. Five of the seven board seats are on the ballot, with three

incumbents seeking re-election.

Controversy has swirled throughout the district as the board decided last year to close two elementary schools and move fifth graders from the elementary schools to the middle schools. More recently, the remote start of the 2020-21 school year has also resulted in split opinions as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

Dr. Niehaus came to the district in the spring of 2015, with previous experience as a superintendent. He now

See DR. NIEHAUS, page 7A

I SAY By Eddie B. Allen Jr.

10 reminders why voting matters



Pointe Woods City Clerk Lisa Hathaway, urge those who want to stay home and still have their ballots counted to act sooner than later to avoid the likelihood of absentee mail delays and other complications.

Long lines and large crowds can be thought of as more than a mere inconvenience this election season. For those of us already battling anxiety related to public health concerns, the thought of too many bodies in one place might present the temptation to avoid polling sites.

A recent change to Michigan law allows absentee voting for any reason, but the timeline for requesting applications and getting the process underway is narrowing.

Election coordinators and officials, like Grosse

But for anyone still reluctant about requesting applications, masking up to get out or doing whatever's necessary to safely and effectively participate in this crucial election Nov. 3, here are 10 reminders of sacrifices that came with the idea that the right to vote could not be denied. These sacrifices were made in even more perilous times:

◆ Nos. 1-5: Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson and Carol Denise McNair weren't even old enough to vote on Sept. 15, 1963. The day they were

killed by 19 sticks of dynamite at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala. — aka "Bombingham" due to the number of explosion-related hate crimes — recently was remembered, 57 years later.

The girls, whose ages ranged from 11 to 14, were changing into their choir robes that Sunday morning when the evil planted by Ku Klux Klan affiliated lunatics was detonated. One of the children was decapitated by the force of the blast.

A fifth child, Sarah Collins, the younger sibling of Addie Mae, lost an eye. As many as 20 other people were wounded or injured.

Their offense? In the eyes of racist opponents, it was attending service at a church that became known for registering

Black voters.

◆ No. 6: "But that was the South," you tell yourself. "Yes, it was tragic, but things like that didn't affect people in Michigan." Well, Viola Liuzzo's family would beg to differ.

So supportive of the need for equal rights was the Wayne State University student and Detroit mother that she informed her husband and children she'd be traveling to Selma, Ala., in 1965, just days shy of her 40th birthday. Instead of celebrating the date, Liuzzo died at 39 after a series of events that led to a call by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to support voting rights for Blacks throughout the region.

Liuzzo's assignment to drive a teenage fellow civil rights worker to Selma earned her a bul-

let to the face, fired from a passing vehicle on Highway 80. Her body was returned to Detroit where her funeral drew King, Walter Reuther and Jimmy Hoffa, among other mourners.

◆ No. 7: James Reeb was a year younger than Liuzzo and also from the North. A Massachusetts minister, who, like Liuzzo, happened to be white, he was drawn to Selma in 1965, for the same goal of activism to ensure voter equality.

For his efforts he was beaten within an inch of his life by three white supremacists. The city's Black hospital lacked adequate resources to save Reeb from his injuries, and the segregated white hospital took the rather extraordinary step of denying service to a white patient, leading to his death.

◆ Nos. 8-10: James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, an interracial trio of activists, disappeared in 1964 and later were found murdered in one of the most notorious civil rights era hate crimes.

Their Mississippi shooting deaths, which were aided by a sheriff, came during what had been dubbed Freedom Summer, a campaign largely focused on enforcing voting rights. The men became widely known as martyrs.

The majority of these deaths resulted in convictions and some form of justice, but that's not the point. Courage to exercise a vital right, despite unfavorable circumstances like those in which we live, is more achievable with a little reminding.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1945 1970

75 years ago this week 50 years ago this week

RIOT ROUSES POINTE: An outbreak of hoodlumism at the Grosse Pointe High School has aroused the public and police officials and the latter are determined that it will be stamped out immediately. Scores of youngsters have been questioned and a number have admitted participating in an outburst that amounted to a riot on Fisher on Sept. 19.

As police describe the affair, it grew out of arguments which started in the Tower lunchroom on Fisher, opposite the high school. Altercations between students and Lena Chkeroff, owner of the lunchroom, have been frequent in the past.

Obituaries: John R. Kerby

BANDIT DIES, OFFICER SHOT: A suspected bank robber was fatally wounded and a Park policeman was shot in the left arm in an exchange of gunfire on Charlevoix, between Wayburn and Alter, Detroit.

The officer, whose vision was obscured, was taken by surprise when the gunman aimed and fired four times. One bullet hit him, one hit the sidewalk and ricochet, nearly hitting him, and another whizzed across the street and embedded in the front door of a house.

FUR ROBBERS PULL JOB: Some \$16,700 worth of valuable furs were stolen from The Walton-Pierce shop on Kercheval, in a daring

daylight robbery. Employees in the store were unaware that a theft had taken place until City police contacted them after a suspicious businessman reported seeing two females and one male loading a car with furs before fleeing north on St. Clair.

Obituaries: Howard Bernard Knaggs Jr., Dr. Stanley C. Fenton, Cheryl Sandercock, Betty J. Lauth, Fred A. Lehmann, Emily Drinkwater, Olga L. Steiner, Marie L. Schwikert, Lydia Edstrom

1995

25 years ago this week

VILLAGE GRILLE GETS LIQUOR LICENSE: "So far, so good," is how Dan Lemanske described business at his restaurant, The Village Grille, since opening last December. Now that he has a full Class C liquor license, things should be even better.

DEVILS TAILBACK BREAKS RECORD: The switch to tailback is bringing out the best in Grosse Pointe South senior Matt Agnone. Agnone rushed for a school-record 312 yards last weekend, but it wasn't quite enough to

save the Blue Devils from dropping a 34-28 decision to Fraser in a MAC crossover game.

Obituaries: Margaret Joan Blanchard, Frederick O. Volkman, Ursula Klobuchar, Sebastian J. Buffa, Ross E. Kogel, Florence H. Lamont, Timothy J. Kirchner, Carlos B. Rivera, Lewis J. Novak, Loujane H. Beynon, Anne Cooley

2010

10 years ago this week

CROOK LIFTS CANDIDATE'S LAPTOP: John Hauler, the Republican candidate to represent the Grosse Pointes in Congress, can add to his resume of civic involvement being the victim of a crime. Laptop computers belonging to him and his campaign aid were stolen last week from the Republican Fix It Michigan office at Pointe Plaza on Mack and Moross.

Obituaries: Thomas Ambrose Carey, Philip H. Leon, George Charles Fuller, Steven William Swan, Melvin William Frederick, Richard Bills Marsh, Erbin Dunbar Wattles, Michael James Brennan M.D., Mary Raven

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.

Opinion vs. facts

To the Editor:

By now, many people in the community have received anonymous postcards and, more recently, one developed by a slate of candidates running for the Grosse Pointe Board of Education.

There's an old saying, "You are entitled to your own opinion, but not your own facts."

Many of these postcards have made the claim that the district has mismanaged money and the error was found on the 2019-20 audit.

What's more disturbing to me is that three of these candidates have served on the Board of Education and understand the 2019-20 audit

has not been conducted yet. It will be completed in October and be publicly presented to the Board of Education in November at a public meeting of the board. If they are misrepresenting this piece of information, what else has been misrepresented?

This administration expects to end the fiscal year with at least a 15 percent fund equity. This is the minimum recommendation from accounting firms across Michigan to school districts in this state.

In accordance with the "formula" in the employee contracts, our staff will benefit from this financial stewardship. Due to operational savings from the

See LETTERS, page 9A

DR. NIEHAUS:

Continued from page 6A

intends to become the "trailing spouse" while his wife, Paige Niehaus, a vice chancellor at the Wayne County Community College District, pursues her goal of leading a community college.

As board President Margaret Weertz noted, Dr. Niehaus' tenure also includes a successful bond election to update the district's buildings and technology — projects that started in earnest this summer.

Superintendents often become the focal point for dissatisfaction, but Dr. Niehaus got an A or B grade from 43 percent of respondents in the EPIC-MRA poll conducted for the Grosse Pointe News. That compares with only 20 percent who gave him a D or F. Considering that a quarter of respondents chose not to answer, he would appear to have support among well over half of those who have an opinion.

That's a decent position for a superintendent to be in, both to meet the challenges here during the next few months and to continue what will hopefully be a productive career.

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GROSSE POINTE NEWS/EPIC-MRA SURVEY OF GPPSS RESIDENTS

SURVEY RESPONSES — 400 SAMPLE — ERROR ±4.9%

Polling Dates: Aug. 19-24, 2020

Conducted by live interviewers — included 40% cell phones

___01. In what local public school district do you currently reside?

100% Grosse Pointe Public School System

___02. Over the past few years, would you say that the quality of a kindergarten through 12th grade education provided by the Grosse Pointe Public School System has improved, gotten worse, or remained about the same?

16% Improved
19% Gotten worse
46% Stayed about the same
19% Undecided/Refused

___03. Overall, including all state and local funds, do you think the Grosse Pointe Public School System has too much, too little, or about the right amount of funding it needs to provide a quality education for its students?

5% Much too much funding
5% Somewhat too much funding
10% TOTAL TOO MUCH
45% About the right amount of funding
36% TOTAL TOO LITTLE
26% Somewhat too little funding
10% Much too little funding
9% Undecided/Refused

___04. Overall, how would you rate the job that the Grosse Pointe Public School System has done managing district finances? Would you give the district a positive rating of excellent or pretty good, or a negative rating of just fair or poor?

16% Excellent
42% Pretty good
58% TOTAL POSITIVE
35% TOTAL NEGATIVE
19% Just fair
16% Poor
7% Undecided/Refused

___05. Students are usually given grades of A, B, C, D, or F for the quality of their work -- with "A" standing for excellent, "B" for good, "C" for average, "D" for below average, and "F" for failure. Overall, what grade would you give the Grosse Pointe Public School System for the quality of education it provides students - an A, B, C, D, or F?

44% A
33% B
77% TOTAL ABOVE AVERAGE
12% C
8% TOTAL BELOW AVERAGE
4% D
4% F
3% Undecided/Refused

Now I would like to read a list groups and individuals associated with the Grosse Pointe Public School System. For each, please tell me if you would give that group or individual a grade of A, B, C, D, or F? The first one is ...

___06. Superintendent Gary Niehaus.
Without Undecided N=299

18% A 24%
25% B 4%
43% TOTAL ABOVE AVERAGE 58%
12% C 15%
20% TOTAL BELOW AVERAGE 15%
8% D 11%
12% F 16%
25% Undecided/Refused

___07. The Grosse Pointe Education Association - the local teacher's union.
Without Undecided N=285

25% A 35%
23% B 32%
48% TOTAL ABOVE AVERAGE 67%
13% C 18%
10% TOTAL BELOW AVERAGE 15%
5% D 8%
5% F 7%
29% Undecided/Refused

___08. School principals.

Without Undecided N=319

34% A 43%
26% B 32%
60% TOTAL ABOVE AVERAGE 75%
12% C 15%
8% TOTAL BELOW AVERAGE 10%
4% D 5%
4% F 5%
20% Undecided/Refused

___09. Deputy Superintendent Jon Dean.

Without Undecided N=234

15% A 27%
17% B 29%
32% TOTAL ABOVE AVERAGE 56%
12% C 20%
14% TOTAL BELOW AVERAGE 25%
4% D 7%
10% F 18%
42% Undecided/Refused

___10. Classroom teachers.

Without Undecided N=340

53% A 62%
26% B 30%
79% TOTAL ABOVE AVERAGE 92%
4% C 4%
2% TOTAL BELOW AVERAGE 4%
1% D 2%
1% F 2%
15% Undecided/Refused

___11. The Grosse Pointe Public School's School Board.

Without Undecided N=337

16% A 19%
31% B 36%
47% TOTAL ABOVE AVERAGE 55%
16% C 20%
21% TOTAL BELOW AVERAGE 25%
11% D 13%
10% F 12%
16% Undecided/Refused

___12. Over the past year or so, efforts have been made to recall members of the Grosse Pointe Public Schools school board. Based on what you may know, or what you have read or heard, do you Approve or Disapprove of these about these efforts to recall members of the school board?

21% Strongly approve
17% Somewhat approve
38% TOTAL APPROVE
40% TOTAL DISAPPROVE
10% Somewhat disapprove
30% Strongly disapprove
22% Undecided/Refused

___13. Based on what you know, would you say that student enrollment in the Grosse Pointe Public School System has increased, decreased or remained about the same over the past few years?

0% Increased a lot
4% Increased some
4% TOTAL INCREASED
21% Remained about the same
69% TOTAL DECREASED
48% Decreased some
21% Decreased a lot
6% Undecided/Refused

___14. As you may know, under Michigan's schools of choice program, parents are free to send their child to another local public school district if that school district participates in the schools of choice program and has room to accept more students. School districts that participate in the program must also accept non-resident students from other public school districts. Currently, the Grosse Pointe Public School System does not participate in the schools of choice program. Based on what you know or have heard or read about Michigan's schools of choice program, do you approve or disapprove of the Grosse Pointe Public School System's decision not to participate in that program?

56% Strongly approve
14% Somewhat approve
70% TOTAL APPROVE
23% TOTAL DISAPPROVE
11% Somewhat disapprove
12% Strongly disapprove
7% Undecided/Refused

___15. In November 2018, the Grosse Pointe Public School System placed an \$111 million bond proposal on the general election ballot. Thinking back to that election, did you vote YES in favor of the bond proposal, or NO to oppose it?

56% Voted YES
32% Voted NO
7% Cannot recall
2% Did not vote
3% Undecided/Refused

___16. In November 2019, the Grosse Pointe Public School System [also] placed a proposal on the general election ballot to renew their existing non-homestead operating and hold harmless millages for a period of 5 years. Thinking back to that election, did you vote YES in favor of the proposal, or NO to oppose it?

63% Voted YES
18% Voted NO
15% Cannot recall how I voted
1% Did not vote
3% Refused

___17. In November 2019, the Grosse Pointe Public School System [also] placed a proposal on the general election ballot to renew their existing sinking fund for a period of 5 years. Thinking back to that election, did you vote YES in favor of the proposal, or NO to oppose it?

61% Voted YES
19% Voted NO
15% Cannot recall how I voted
2% Did not note
3% Refused

Over the past eight years, the Grosse Pointe Public School System has experienced a decline in student enrollment at an average rate of about 100 students per year. Based on the per pupil allowance from the state, this decline in enrollment has meant the district has lost just under \$8 million in state school aid funding over that time. In June of 2019, to address both declining enrollment and declining state funding, the Grosse Pointe Public Schools School Board voted to close two elementary schools. One of these is ...

___18. Trombly Elementary School in Grosse Pointe Park. Based on what you know or have heard or read about it, do you favor or oppose the School Board's decision to close this school?

30% Strongly favor
21% Somewhat favor
51% TOTAL FAVOR
42% TOTAL OPPOSE
11% Somewhat oppose
31% Strongly oppose
7% Undecided/Refused

The other elementary school selected for closure was ...

___19. Poupard Elementary School in Harper Woods. Based on what you know or have heard or read about it, do you favor or oppose the School Board's decision to close this school?

29% Strongly favor
20% Somewhat favor
49% TOTAL FAVOR
42% TOTAL OPPOSE
8% Somewhat oppose
34% Strongly oppose
9% Undecided/Refused

___20. As part of the same action, in addition to closing two of the district's elementary schools, the Grosse Pointe Public School System School Board voted to reconfigure the district's grade distribution so that Kindergarten through 4th grade students would remain in the elementary school buildings, but 5th grade students would be moved to the middle school buildings along with 6th through 8th grade students. Based on what you know, do you favor or oppose the School Board's decision to reconfigure the district's grade distribution in this way?

18% Strongly favor
19% Somewhat favor
37% TOTAL FAVOR
54% TOTAL OPPOSE
9% Somewhat oppose
45% Strongly oppose
9% Undecided/Refused

___21. Generally speaking, do you favor or oppose closing schools in order to address declining enrollment in local school districts?

29% Strongly favor
25% Somewhat favor
54% TOTAL FAVOR
35% TOTAL OPPOSE
17% Somewhat oppose
18% Strongly oppose
11% Undecided/Refused

___22. Generally speaking, do you favor or oppose closing schools in order to help save money and balance a school district's budget?

26% Strongly favor
25% Somewhat favor
51% TOTAL FAVOR
38% TOTAL OPPOSE
20% Somewhat oppose
18% Strongly oppose
11% Undecided/Refused

Thinking again about the Grosse Pointe Public School System School Board's decision to close two elementary schools, if the decision was made to ...

___23. ... close one of the district's *middle* schools instead, would you have favored or opposed that decision?

15% Strongly favored
15% Somewhat favored
30% TOTAL FAVORED
50% TOTAL OPPOSED
14% Somewhat opposed
36% Strongly opposed
20% Undecided/Refused

What if the decision was made to ...

___24. ... close one of the district's *high* schools instead, would you have favored or opposed that decision?

5% Strongly favored
5% Somewhat favored
10% TOTAL FAVORED
79% TOTAL OPPOSED
13% Somewhat opposed
66% Strongly opposed
11% Undecided/Refused

___25. Over the past several years, some school districts have converted an existing school building into a specialized International Baccalaureate or Advanced Placement School. Under this proposal, with enrollment space permitting, such a school would allow students from other school districts to "test in" to the school and, if accepted based on those test scores, those students from other school districts could pay tuition in order to attend the specialized International Baccalaureate or Advanced Placement School offered by the local district. Based on this brief description, would you favor or oppose the conversion of an existing middle school into a specialized International Baccalaureate or Advanced Placement School which would be offered through the Grosse Pointe School System?

27% Strongly favor
24% Somewhat favor
51% TOTAL FAVOR
41% TOTAL OPPOSE
10% Somewhat oppose
31% Strongly oppose
8% Undecided/Refused

Moving to the Grosse Pointe Public School System's reaction to the COVID 19 pandemic ...

___26. Based on what you know, how would you rate the job done by the district for their response to the coronavirus? Overall, would you give the Grosse Pointe Public School System a "positive" rating of excellent or pretty good, or a "negative" rating of just fair or poor, for their response to the coronavirus outbreak, including the decision to close down in-person attendance for children in March of this year?

29% Excellent
33% Pretty good
62% TOTAL POSITIVE
32% TOTAL NEGATIVE
12% Just fair
20% Poor
6% Undecided/Refused

___27. After the decision was made to close down the schools, based on your personal experience with your children or what you have heard or read about the experience of other parents, how would you rate the job done by the district in providing remote learning and education opportunities over the Internet? Would you give the Grosse Pointe Public School System a "positive" rating of excellent or pretty good, or a "negative" rating of just fair or poor, for the job done by teachers and staff providing online virtual learning to students in the district?

17% Excellent
32% Pretty good
49% TOTAL POSITIVE
32% TOTAL NEGATIVE
16% Just fair
16% Poor
19% Undecided/Refused

28. As you may know, the Grosse Pointe Public School System recently announced that district will begin the 2020-2021 school year with remote learning only, and plans to gradually reintroduce students to in-person learning over time as public health and safety conditions permit. Based on what you know about this plan, do you favor or oppose the district's decision to begin the school year with remote learning only?
- 52% Strongly favor
13% Somewhat favor
65% TOTAL FAVOR
31% TOTAL OPPOSE
6% Somewhat oppose
25% Strongly oppose
4% Undecided/Refused
29. Putting aside the district's recent decision to begin the 2020-2021 school year with remote learning only, which of the following statements best describes when you think it makes the most sense for schools to reopen with in-person classroom learning?
- 25% In August or September this year when schools would usually start the school year
24% Later this fall in October or November
14% Not until early next year
29% Or, not until there are medicines to effectively treat COVID-19 or there is an effective vaccine to prevent the virus
8% Undecided/Refused
30. Which of the following statements best describes how you believe elementary schools should have been allowed to reopen for the school year?
- N=101
38% Students should have been allowed to participate in the same kind of in-person classroom settings that were used before the coronavirus crisis hit Michigan.
56% In-person classroom settings could have been used, but with social distancing practices in place, and the use of masks required for students, teachers and staff.
6% Undecided/Refused
31. Which of the following statements best describes how you believe middle schools should have been allowed to reopen for the school year?
- N=101
38% Students should have been allowed to participate in the same kind of in-person classroom settings that were used before the coronavirus crisis hit Michigan.
58% In-person classroom settings could have been used, but with social distancing practices in place, and the use of masks required for students, teachers and staff.
4% Undecided/Refused
32. Which of the following statements best describes how you believe high schools should have been allowed to reopen for the school year?
- N=101
34% Students should have been allowed to participate in the same kind of in-person classroom settings that were used before the coronavirus crisis hit Michigan.
64% In-person classroom settings could have been used, but with social distancing practices in place, and the use of masks required for students, teachers and staff.
4% Undecided/Refused
33. In light of the decision by the Grosse Pointe Public School System's decision to begin the school year with remote learning only, which of the following statements comes closest to your view regarding middle and high school extracurricular activities; such as band, music, and sports?
- 24% All extracurricular activities should be allowed to take place just as they did before the coronavirus crisis hit Michigan.
63% All extracurricular activities should be indefinitely postponed until in-person learning can safely resume in the schools.
13% Undecided/Refused

34. Where do you get most of your information about the Grosse Pointe Public School System?
- 25% The Grosse Pointe News
17% General word-of-mouth
7% Television
7% The Grosse Pointe Public School System web site
6% Other parents with children in the district
5% Own children/other students
5% School district or building newsletters/notes/flyers/print correspondence from the district
4% Facebook
4% The Detroit Free Press
4% The Grosse Pointe Times
3% Board of education members/meetings
2% "Robocall or Robotext" (the e-mail and auto call system used by the district)
2% Teachers/Parent-teacher conferences
2% The Detroit News
1% PTA, PTO, parent organizations
1% Radio
1% School district administrators
1% Support staff members (bus drivers, secretaries, food service, custodians, etc.)
1% Twitter
1% Other
1% Undecided/Refused
35. Including yourself, how many people currently reside in your household?
- 14% One
31% Two
17% Three
21% Four
17% Five or More
0% Undecided/Refused
36. Are you, or is anyone else in the household, the parent, guardian, or grandparent of one or more students that currently attend the Grosse Pointe Public School System?
- 23% Yes, parent
1% Yes, guardian
8% Yes, grandparent
9% Yes, more than one
41% TOTAL HAS GPPSS STUDENTS
59% No, have no children in GPPSS
0% Undecided/Refused
37. What grade or grades in school will your children (or grand children) attend during the 2020-2021 school year?
- N=163
5% Pre-kindergarten
29% K through 4th grade
31% 5th through 8th grade
34% 9th through 12th grade
0% Not yet in school
1% Undecided/Refused
38. Which schools will your children (or grand children) attend during the 2020-2021 school year?
- N=163
16% North High School
21% South High School
11% Brownell Middle School
14% Parcels Middle School
4% Pierce Middle School
5% Defer Elementary
7% Ferry Elementary
2% Kerby Elementary
2% Maire Elementary
3% Mason Elementary
5% Monteith Elementary
0% Poupard Elementary
5% Richard Elementary
0% Trombly Elementary
1% Barnes
1% St. Paul Catholic
0% Other (less than 1% each)
3% Undecided/Refused
39. Which of the following categories your age would fall?
- 19% 18 to 34
24% 35 to 49
29% 50 to 64
27% 65 and over
1% Undecided/Refused
40. Do you currently own or rent your primary residence in Grosse Pointe?
- 89% Own/Buying
6% Rent/Lease
5% Undecided/Refused
41. What is the last grade or level of schooling you completed?
- 1% 1st to 11th Grade
6% High School Graduate
1% Non-college post high school (technical training)
12% Some college
46% College graduate
33% Post graduate school
1% Undecided/Refused

LETTERS:

Continued from page 7A

end of the 2019-20 fiscal year, our budget will be in good shape, even with the \$175 per-pupil cut enacted by the state Legislature at the end of the fiscal year. This puts the district in a position to weather the possible \$600 per-pupil cut in the 2020-21 budget as the result of the pandemic. This could equate to a \$4.3 million loss.

The money the district received from the Cares Act will impact next year's budget as well; that money would equate to approximately \$2.5 million to the positive for the district, still leaving a \$1.8 million deficit — one the district will be able to survive with minimal impact to the classroom and our staff.

This district has an audit year after year. The findings are always public and all financial documents are posted on the district website per the law. The district had a clean audit for the 2018-19 fiscal year. This is one of the highest designations a district can achieve.

JUDY GAFA
Treasurer, GPPSS Board of Education

Madness

To the Editor:
Several weeks ago while I was on my front yard watering the lawn, an older woman drove by, rolled down her window and shouted, "You're making a big mistake!" Startled, I wondered what kind of possible mistake might I be mak-

ing when watering the lawn.

Upon reflection, I soon concluded that the woman was upset about the ... President 2020 yard sign.

On Sept. 17 while I was again watering the lawn, the older woman drove by once again and this time shouted, "Dummy!"

How sad that someone ... believes she has a right to drive down the street harassing people. I am reminded of a quotation from H. L. Mencken, "As democracy is perfected, the office of president represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people...."

If Mencken were alive today, he might have added, "And mad folks ... will shout and harass you from the streets."

DR. CHARLES D. HANSON
Grosse Pointe Farms

Where oh where

To the Editor:
... has the code enforcer gone? Where oh where can they be? I like dogs. I like most dog owners. I can appreciate some codes, but NOT those that serve no purpose, those otherwise unenforced.

Picture these recurring scenes (which I could not capture on my phone as I was biking): An adult with a dog (whether leashed or even unleashed) situated almost directly behind the "No Dogs Allowed" sign on the local playground, accompanied by children (some masked, others unmasked) playing at a short distance (albeit more than six feet) and, finally, a code enforcer vehicle, driving by without stopping.

These all occurred in tandem most recently on Saturday, Sept. 19, but are sadly repeated almost daily now. Even before COVID came a-calling the "coders" had sufficient foresight to "curb" dog owners from allowing dogs to "do their business" in the vicinity of children playing.

This, in an attempt to keep the area free from contamination and the children safe. But the lack of compliance, the underappreciation of the role of animals in spreading disease and lack of enforcement by local officials has gone "viral" in our community.

WILLIAM C. IRVING, PH.D.
Human Behaviorist

Many thanks

To the Editor:
Thanks so much for mentioning the Stars and Stripes in your Sept. 10 edition. Having served 14 years in Europe during my military career, the S&S was our daily news feed for things going on back home, similar to reading the News/Free/Wall Street Journal.

A day did not pass when we would go pick one up at the book store on base or passed one around the office. I am thankful that the funding will go on for our troops to have their daily dose from home.


I am a current subscriber to the S&S digital edition and it keeps me abreast of all theaters' (Europe, Asia, etc.) news. Proud having been published once in a Sunday addition.

DOUG KUCYK
Grosse Pointe Shores

The opinions expressed in letters are not necessarily views shared by the Grosse Pointe News.

If your insurance agent has not contacted you about Michigan No Fault reform yet ...

SHAME ON THEM!



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ULS opens doors to in-person learning

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

Two weeks after opening day Tuesday, Sept. 8, University Liggett School students and staff are settling into the new safety protocols required for face-to-face learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Cautious optimism is the spirit of the day,” Head of School Bart Bronk said.

Bronk attributes the success to spending “a lot of time planning and preparing. ... We’re learning as we go — so far, so good.”

It also helps that students from the youngest learners on up are cooperating with safety protocols, he added.

“I think any time you implement restrictive protocols, you worry about your youngest ones who typically might not comply and you worry about your seniors. All of our student groups have been really wonderful about learning the new protocols and moving about the building in new ways.”

Teachers, too, he noted, have stepped up to the challenge with added responsibilities for cleaning, maintaining safety in their classrooms and teaching in-person and digital learners simultaneously.

For example, fifth-grade teacher Jennifer Barthel has a hybrid classroom, meaning some of her students are in class while others are remote. In her case, only one of her 18 students is learning remotely, but



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ULS

Kindergarten students Elliet Swanson and Mia Fozo enjoy the tire swing on the first day of school. All students in kindergarten to grade 12 are required to wear masks during the day while on campus. Lower school students keep their masks on during recess if they’re not socially distant.

Barthel includes the student in all activities using an iPad on a swivel and a microphone on a lanyard that follows her wherever she goes.

Including her remote learner requires a little more preparation, but the results are worth it, she said.

“By putting in that time, it makes the day run so much more smoothly,” she said. “... It’s really cool to see the fruits of your labors coming through.”

While the weather is nice, students put on their rubber boots — Barthel’s most recent suggestion due to wet grass — grab their portable desks and head to one of the outdoor learning centers on campus. These include canopies with tarps for smaller group work and 27 large, wedding-style tents with

chairs and dry-erase boards for classroom learning.

Indoors, plexiglass on the desks provides one more layer of protection. Teachers also have been provided with KN95 masks, regular 3-ply masks, disposable surgical masks, goggles and face shields.

Barthel said the students’ response has been great.

“They’re so happy to be back in the classroom,” she said. “I can’t believe how awesome these children are. They’re complying with their masks. They follow the rules — which makes my job so easy.”

A key to her success so far is “keeping it positive,” she added. “Keeping it fun because it is a little bit strange and daunting, but if you mix a little humor with it, it goes a long way.”

For Phillip Moss, chair of the department of creative and performing arts, preparation for the start of the school year began in August with virtual auditions for the fall production by Zoom.

Moss said he feels fortunate ULS was one of the few schools in Michigan able to finish its theater season last spring. Liggett Players closed the curtain on Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “Cinderella” right before the governor announced the stay-at-home order due to the new coronavirus.

recall.

“Our seniors got their big show in just before everything shut down,” Moss said. “Since that time, there’s been a ton of work done with the state theater association, choir association and band and orchestra associations in terms of the due diligence (needed) to be able to continue to play music and do the other things we do in the performing arts. It’s a different world.”

These protocols include limiting the number of performers on stage and audience members in the theater.

“We have done our best to be true to what we want to do, but at the same time adhere to strict guidelines to ensure safety for all involved,” he said.

Last spring, Moss and student leaders met to discuss options for the next school year and decided the safest option was to produce a play with a small cast. They selected “Steel Magnolias,” a five-person show.

Students will rehearse on Zoom. The goal is to have live performances with social distancing and limit the audience in a 390-seat theater to 70 or 75.

The second choice, based on what is possible according to science and the best information available, is to present a simulcast with no audience and the third choice

is a Zoom reading.

“We are really reaching out with the opportunity to be flexible and pivot as needed and work with the best science to make sure everyone stays safe and healthy,” Moss said. “The cool part with masking and social distancing is we can still find that sweet spot — which education is all about — where teachers and students can exchange ideas and push learning forward.”

“It’s great to see the kids again and to be doing something creative and thoughtful and reaching for the stars like we always do,” he added.

For Bronk, a highlight of the first week was seeing teachers respond to these challenges and evolve.

“My mandate to them was to start good and get a little better every day and if we do that we’ll be serving the kids really well,” he said.

“Unsung heroes” in need of special recognition, he added, are the administration, facilities and technology teams who worked all summer to retrofit classrooms, set up outdoor spaces, expand outdoor Wi-Fi, build custom plexiglass dividers for every classroom and develop safety

protocols, such as temperature checks and verbal screenings each morning for every student and online screenings for faculty and staff before they enter the building.

More than 40 hand-sanitizing stations are set up around the school, each office and classroom has a cleaning and sanitizing basket and the school hired additional cleaning staff to disinfect high-touch areas throughout the day.

From the day the governor’s safety plan was released, the opening school committee “really worked tirelessly in executing a vision on how we could do this successfully at Liggett,” Bronk said. “Their hard work in advance has really allowed us to operate successfully thus far.”

Noting the unpredictability and unknowns of the current environment, Bronk is taking things “day to day and week to week.”

“We’re not overconfident by any means,” he said. “We all know this is a learning exercise and we’re learning and adjusting as we go. We’re going to do everything we can to deliver the educational experiences kids deserve and keep everybody safe.”



Upper school students Lexi Gormely and Hannah Wheatley talk in the library during a break in their schedules. Tables have been outfitted with plexiglass and rearranged to allow for maximum social distancing.



Sixth-grader Ava Noecker sits behind a plexiglass divider in middle school English class during the opening week of school.

RECALL:

Continued from page 1A

The reasons for the recall to be listed on the petition were: Weertz and Lee voted on June 24, 2019, in favor of reconfiguring elementary and middle schools in the GPPSS; on Sept. 29, 2019, they voted to approve construction contracts with Rocket Fiber costing \$2.1 million; and on Jan. 27, they voted to extend GPPSS Superintendent Gary Niehaus’s contract.

According to guidance issued by the Michigan Association of School Boards, reasons for recall of a school board member are not limited to misfeasance, malfeasance or nonfeasance in office. School board members may be recalled simply based on positions taken or votes cast in the course of fulfilling their official duties.

Palmer, Weertz and Lee were given the opportunity to make a statement

prior to the vote.

“I’m asking the commission to approve the petition language as presented,” Palmer said. “I brought this similar recall petition language forward before, but I think there was an issue with the clarity on one of them, so we made that correction and it should be clear.”

Palmer’s attorney, Michael Alan Schwartz, also addressed the commission.

“The electorate is going to decide whether or not the person or persons involved should be recalled or not,” Schwartz said. “The only thing that we look at here today is whether or not the statement that is contained on the recall petition is sufficiently clear that anybody who is subject to recall can understand what it is that is being alleged.”

“I never met Mrs. Palmer and I don’t know what she has against me,” Weertz said. “It would be common cour-

tesy if she called and told me her grievances. I actually believe this is a well-funded group that wants to undo the democratic process. Perhaps this is funded by a Lansing PAC and people against public education. I do not know.

“I have been elected twice,” she continued. “The most recent, I got 12,000 votes. I came in first by 1,000 votes. I am well-esteemed in this community and work hard to make good, solid decisions for the district. I do it for no personal aggrandizement. I have never taken the board stipend, a free meal or ticket. I believe these folks, including Mrs. Palmer, should simply put in the hard work, effort and fundraising to win at the ballot box like I did. If you are a good person, it is not hard to win friends and influence people. Instead, this is simply harassment over what she and her group cannot accomplish on their own.”

Lee, too, called the

recall petition harassment. Neither Weertz nor Lee had representation at the hearing.

According to an email from Palmer, “Petitions will begin circulation soon. There will be a ballot question committee created to fund the recall expenses.”

She added the recall will go on the ballot sometime in 2021 and she is requesting information from the Wayne County Clerk’s Office for further details.

Regarding a “community group” referenced in a news release from Barlow Communications, Palmer responded this group is made up of “friends, parents, community members who feel their voices have not been heard by the board members in question.”

She added she is not and has never “worked with the person(s) who filed the previous recall of (Judy) Gafa, (Christopher) Profeta and (Kathy) Abke, or any PAC active in the com-

munity at that time.”

Lee said he is filing an appeal with the third circuit court. He has 10 days after the ruling to do so.

“There were three items why I’m being recalled,” Lee said. “One of them (claims) I voted to extend the superintendent’s contract, which I didn’t do because I was absent.”

Minutes from the Jan. 27 meeting reflect Lee was not present during the vote to approve a one-year extension — with no salary adjustments included — of the executive administrator contracts through the 2021-22 school year. The motion passed 5-1 without Lee’s participation.

Since the commission voted to approve the recall petition language on Lee and Weertz together, Lee said the appeal may impact the ruling for Weertz as well.

If the decision is appealed, petition signatures cannot be collected until either the circuit court rules on the case or

40 days pass, whichever is sooner, according to the Michigan legislature.

Completed petitions must have 7,646 signatures from qualified voters — 25 percent of the total number of voters within the school district who voted in the most recent gubernatorial election.

If sufficient signatures are collected and the county clerk determines the recall petition is sufficient, the clerk will place the recall on the next May or November regular election date. The election must occur at least 95 days after the petition was filed. The incumbents are automatically candidates for the office along with any challengers.

The expenses of conducting an election for the recall of a school board member are paid by the school district. The term of office of a board member elected to replace a recalled member is for the balance of the unexpired term.

ELECTION

16A PRIDE OF THE POINTES

School board candidates address challenges ahead

Seventeen candidates vying for five seats — 14 for a four-year term and three for a two-year term — on the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education shared with the Grosse Pointe News during individual Zoom interviews their views on the main challenges facing the school district, ideas for managing those challenges, their reasons for running and what makes them uniquely qualified to serve.

The hot topics were the new coronavirus pandemic and its impact on face-to-face versus remote learning, budgetary issues and the controversial reconfiguration resulting in the closure of two elementary schools and fifth grade move from elementary to middle school.

Candidates agreed — for a host of reasons — schools of choice is not the right approach for the school district. Opinions varied on when face-to-

face learning should resume. Similarly, while candidates concurred school closures were not desirable, views ranged on which schools, if any, should close, with some candidates supporting closures in the face of declining enrollment and budget constraints and others advocating for walkable neighborhood schools. Opinions also ranged on the fifth grade move.

—Mary Anne Brush

4-year term



Kathleen M.M. Abke

Incumbent
Age: 53

City: Grosse Pointe Woods
Education: B.A., communications and M.A., counseling, Oakland University

Profession: Licensed professional counselor; Pontiac Public Schools, Turning Point, Lutheran Child & Family Services, Common Ground Crisis Center; counseling supervisor; private and at Oakland University; communications: Campbell Ewald, Aegis Publishing, Performance Resource Press, Allied Film & Video

Volunteer activities: BOE trustee, secretary, vice president, facilities chair, blue ribbon committee member; Mason Elementary PTO president, vice president, BOE observer, Fall Festival chair, Spring Tin Can Auction chair, room parent; Parcels PTO Bazaar volunteer; Grosse Pointe North volunteer; Little League Baseball coach, A, AA, AAA, Junior & Senior leagues for Woods-Shores and Farms-City; Boy Scouts of America — Cake Bake chair and volunteer; Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society

Kathleen Abke is running for a second term on the board because she wants to complete the work started during her tenure.

"I believe in the work

we've been doing," she said. "I know some parts of the community are not happy with the changes that have been made, but we've built up fund equity, we've reconfigured the building situation so that resources can get to more kids in a more efficient and effective way.

"We are working really hard — and the administration is too — on issues of equity, which I think are really important," she added. "And I want to see that work continue. I want to be a part of that."

Abke was appointed to the board to fill a vacancy and was elected in 2016. Having previously served as secretary, she currently is vice president and chairs the facilities committee. Her volunteer work with the school district includes having served as PTO president and vice president at Mason Elementary School.

It was while watching the process as a Mason PTO board observer Abke first became interested in joining the board. While each year there were issues, "This has been a really contentious last four years because so many changes have happened," she noted.

For example, the decision to close Poupard and Trombly elementary schools and move fifth grade to middle school in response to declining enrollment was a controversial one.

"Nobody on the board favored closing schools, period," Abke said. "But it was what we had to do when we went from 12,000 to just over 7,000 students. Our resources were spread too thin."

Abke added she was excited about the fifth

grade move to middle school because "fifth grade isn't changing; it's moving buildings. But they still have the same fifth-grade experience they had in elementary school. However, they have more (extracurricular) options now."

Having had the opportunity to work closely with central administration during some turbulent times, Abke praised the administrators' response, in particular to reconfiguration and the pandemic.

The reconfiguration process, she noted, involved significant input from the community while during the pandemic, teachers and students "had to turn on a dime" to transition to online learning following the governor's stay-at-home order.

"There was no preparation. It happened immediately," Abke said. "And we looked at what worked and what didn't work and the district has spent a tremendous amount of time looking at how can we do this better."

While she agrees classroom learning is better for students, she supports the district's decision to begin the school year remotely.

Abke believes she is qualified to continue to serve the school district due to her experience as a board member, her dedication as a longtime parent, passion for the job and expertise as a counselor advocating for children.

"Kids absolutely need to be the focus when we make these big decisions," she said. "I think it's important for the community to know that's what's important to me and will continue to be important to me."



George Bailey

Age: 47

City: Grosse Pointe Woods
Education: Master of Architecture, Texas Tech University (5-year continuous program)

Profession: 25+ year career in architecture; owner, Bailey-Built, PLLC

Volunteer activities: GPPSS Bond Oversight Committee member; GPPSS Educational Programs Leadership Council member; Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission vice chair; Woods Historical Commission treasurer (2019), member (2018-2019) and volunteer (current); GPPSS Blue Ribbon Committee member; Parcels Middle School PTO and Grosse Pointe North High School Parents Club volunteer and board observer; North varsity football and Red Barons varsity football volunteer assistant coach; St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church CYO boys basketball coach; Michigan High School Football Coaches Association member.

Memberships: American Institute of Architects, Detroit chapter

Upon arriving in Michigan the summer of 2017, George Bailey wasted no time getting involved in the community, adding to a long list of prior volunteer activities while he and

his family lived in Dallas and abroad. This included serving on a school board for an international school in Israel, where he was heavily involved in delivering a 5-year strategic plan.

As an architect, Bailey is used to taking a big-picture view to arrive at creative and sustainable solutions. Serving on the five-member bond oversight advisory committee — a committee formed to oversee the \$111 million in bond projects approved by voters in November 2018 — has given him an insider's look into the changes underway.

Living abroad also has contributed to a broader perspective he hopes to share as a board member to address the issues facing the school district.

Top among these are declining enrollment which, tied directly to funding, impacts the district's programming and operational needs, he said.

"And then we have this pandemic on our hands, which we've been told is going to (result in) even further budget cuts," he added. "And so hard decisions had to be made and I think there's going to be even harder decisions coming forward the next couple of years."

Closing schools to address this decline is a "hot button issue with a lot of folks," Bailey said. The key to moving forward, in his view, is a board that is fiscally responsible and diligent in keeping fund equity — currently at 15 percent — in place, while maintaining and preserving programs and staffing.

Bailey was a member of the blue ribbon committee formed in 2019 to serve as a community sounding board for the reconfiguration process. While he didn't agree with the decision to close Poupard and Trombly elementary schools specifically, he recognized the need to focus resources on programs and staffing.

"I'm in the building business, but I would rather sacrifice the buildings and provide the (funding) for the quality programming for the kids, the teachers," he said.

Another top issue — and a difficult, but necessary, conversation, in his view — is about race, equity and inclusion.

"To me, equity and inclusion also means the kids in school that don't have a voice, kids that are quiet and shy, that are going through struggles — whether it's LGBTQ+, their identity — and those who have special needs and don't always express themselves and the things they need," he said.

His goal is to give voice to members of the community who may not have felt heard and to be part of "the new conversation where we're moving forward, not backwards," he said.

"I think if we stop, we listen, we talk to one another — even the folks we disagree with — and have those hard conversations, we will get ourselves in a better place where we can then come together to make these hard decisions," he said. "...I think that's going to be a really uphill battle, but I'm ready to help with that."

See PROFILES, page 12A

Endorsements in for Board of Ed candidates

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

Four Michigan Education Association-affiliated unions and the Grosse Pointe Democratic Club have announced their endorsements for the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education election in November.

For the four-year term, the Grosse Pointe Education Association, Grosse Pointe Educational Paraprofessional Association, Grosse Pointe Plante Association and Grosse Pointe Association of Educational Office

Personnel are jointly endorsing David Brumbaugh, Cynthia Douglas, Cindy Pangborn and Shareef Simaika for the four-year term and Theresa Vogler for the two-year term.

Ten members of the four employee unions made their selections after seven hours of interviews and additional review of the candidates' social media footprint and websites, according to Christopher Pratt, GPEA president and screening and recommendation chairman.

Historically, the Grosse Pointe Administrators Association has not

endorsed school board candidates, but this year, the majority of the membership voted to recommend a slate of candidates.

"With everything going on and our superintendent resigning, we felt it was important for our organization to have a voice," GPAA President Dan Hartley said.

The selection process was still underway at press time.

The Grosse Pointe Democratic Club released its endorsements Sept. 18. Their recommended candidates are Kathleen Abke, David Brumbaugh, Cynthia

Douglas and Colleen Worden for the four-year term and Joseph Herd for the two-year term.

"All of the candidates that the club endorsed will continue the progress of inclusion, transparency and sound policies," club President Gary Bresnehan said in a news release. "Each of them will bring an expertise and approach that will maintain the excellence of our school system, while moving forward with much-needed reforms."

According to Colton Dale, 2nd vice president and communications chair, the endorsement

process included written responses and "lightning round" Zoom interviews.

The endorsement committee sought candidates who had a commitment to "upholding values of public education and strengthening public education, but also making sure that the Grosse Pointe Public School System is a welcoming, inviting environment for everybody regardless of income level or ability or where you live in the district," Dale said.

Candidates also needed to be highly qualified and bring a fresh perspective to the board, he added.

To view the Grosse Pointe Democratic Club's full list of 2020 general election endorsements, visit gpdems.com/endorsements.

The Eastside Republican Club traditionally doesn't endorse non-partisan school board candidates, according to ERC Chairman Dave Schumacher.

"Our members believe in the following propositions: fifth grade belongs in elementary school; walkable neighborhood elementary schools; reassessing the reconfiguration plan; responsible budgeting; and safe in-person instruction."

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PROFILES:

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David Brumbaugh

Age: 39

City: Grosse Pointe Park
Education: B.A., international relations and political philosophy, James Madison College at Michigan State University; M.A., government, University of Texas at Austin

Professional background: Career data analyst and expert in national security and public safety; worked transnational crime issues for CIA for defense intelligence approximately 10 years, including multiple tours in Afghanistan; moved to the fusion center at Michigan State Police and led team responsible for threats and hazards on the east side of the state, outside of Detroit, including school safety and data-driven technology projects. Currently in an analytic role with the federal government.

Volunteer activities: Chair, Community Early Education Working Group; Lion Den leader and Pack Committee member, Cub Scout Pack 86; chair, Camp Greilick staff alumni committee.

David Brumbaugh started paying close attention to the Board of Education during the reconfiguration process and is one of the architects of the early childhood center plan, presented to the board and administration for consideration as an alternative to closing elementary schools.

The premise was with fifth graders moving to middle school as part of the reconfiguration, additional ground-floor space in the nine elementary schools could be used for for-profit satellite early childhood classrooms. While the board ultimately did not pursue this concept, the idea evolved into repur-

posing Trombly as a dedicated early childhood center for the 2020-21 school year.

"I thought it was a creative way to solve a lot of problems in the district. And it would be something that would really help with a lot of community issues," he said.

In Brumbaugh's view, these issues include the COVID-19 public health practices and a looming enrollment and budget crisis exacerbated by the pandemic.

"I think it's important to think outside the box and come up with creative solutions, but one of those creative solutions is just pacing," he said. "A lot of the problems that I think really upset people during reconfiguration could have been solved by just implementing it over a three- to five-year time horizon, which we were in a budgetary position before COVID to be able to do."

The proposal he and a group of residents put together was an attempt to "strategically solve a number of problems in a way that grows our school programs and better helps young families move to the district" as an alternative to closing schools, he said.

Having chosen to actively involve himself in the process, Brumbaugh believes more community engagement would be beneficial to the board and administration.

While he "would like to see the board be a lot more proactive" in addressing the issues, he recognizes the need to strike a balance between strategically overseeing the district and "getting into the day-to-day business of picking out door locks or deciding what tables to buy or what particular math curriculum to implement."

Brumbaugh said he appreciates the time curriculum directors and other members of the administrative team devoted to the ECC plan, even if the outcome was not what he sought. This relationship also gave him an appreciation for the challenges they face.

"They are profoundly overtaxed by the amount of work in front of them and different expectations," he said.

As a board member,

he hopes to leverage these relationships to further the initiatives he started and help the district tackle future challenges.

"There are a lot of big problems that the administration will admit that they just don't have a good solution for," Brumbaugh said. "I think that if we're in a crisis, it's time for all hands on deck and it's incumbent upon me, if I have the skills that can help with that, to put up my hand and ask to help. So that's why I'm here."



Dr. Christopher D'Angelo

Age: 40

City: Grosse Pointe Park
Education: B.S., biology, University of Michigan; M.H.S.A., health management and policy, University of Michigan School of Public Health; D.O., Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Profession: Emergency physician at Henry Ford Health System

Volunteer activities: PTO member and volunteer; Neighborhood Club youth soccer coach; Grosse Pointe Park Community Garden volunteer; Medical College Admission Test tutor; trail crew volunteer, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

Memberships: American Osteopathic Association, American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians, American College of Healthcare Executives, Little Pointers for Diversity

Dr. Christopher D'Angelo became invested in working with the school board and administration during the reconfiguration process. Taking an objective, independent approach, he used his training in health administration to conduct a data-driven analysis in his quest for

answers.

When Plante Moran CRESA consultants said enrollment numbers would remain low for several years, he surveyed local pediatrician offices to demonstrate numbers were higher than predicted.

When the board proposed an array of reconfiguration scenarios, including closing three or more elementary schools, he presented a capacity analysis study indicating it wasn't possible to close more than two elementary schools and retain ample classroom space for future enrollment.

And when the board voted to close two elementary schools, he created a finance decision analysis showing these savings yielded no savings.

"I understand it's a difficult process," D'Angelo said. "I will give (the board and administration) credit for starting the process. It's a community that traditionally is resistant to change in general. ... They opened the conversation, they came to a conclusion. I don't agree it's the right conclusion for very specific reasons."

The most significant of these is his belief the district missed the mark on financial viability.

Beyond these fiscal challenges, D'Angelo's focus is on the quality of education and safety of students and staff.

As a physician, he supports the remote start to the school year in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

"I think that there's too much uncertainty surrounding face-to-face learning," he said. "... We're just not ready. We don't know how bad the fall spike will be. ... When we can proceed and say we're protecting staff and families ... then OK. It's time. But right now it's not the time."

At the same time, he faults the administration for lack of creativity in finding solutions and devising a comprehensive plan to keep staff and students safe to expedite face-to-face learning when the time comes.

In general, however, he credits the administration for effort, whether that involves reconfiguration or the response to the pandemic.

"I know they try," he said. "And I do think the resources are spread very thin. I do believe that people are trying to do their best and I try to work with them. But when they receive feedback, I don't think they've been very open. ... I think they've been kind of set on this path they set. I think that the administration leads the board instead of the board supplementing and complementing the administration. And that's what I would hope to do."

"I'm one of the hardest workers out there," he added. "You can criticize me for questioning (the process) ... but I just want to know that we're making decisions for the right reasons. And I've worked very hard to look at the right objective measures, to make decisions for the right reasons. I want people to see past the politics of the board and ... look at which candidates are going to do the work and do it for the right reasons."



Cynthia Douglas

Age: 61

City: Grosse Pointe Woods
Education: B.A., business, M.A., administration, Central Michigan University

Profession: Executive assistant to the Commission — Wayne County

Volunteer activities: Advantage Living Center, Metro Detroit Compassionate Action Network, Wayne County Food Distribution, Meals on Wheels

Memberships: Grosse Pointes-Harper Woods NAACP Branch

As president of the Grosse Pointes-Harper Woods NAACP Branch, Cynthia Douglas is used to serving as a voice for those who may feel disenfranchised or left out of the conversation. As a member of the reconfiguration blue ribbon committee, she witnessed issues that came to light which, in her view, were left unaddressed in the process.

Her top priorities for the school district are cultural competency, equitable education for all children and bridging the achievement gaps while supporting teachers and making sure students have the resources they need.

In the midst of COVID-19, the digital divide also is of concern to her.

"Not all of our students have access to the internet," she said. "I was talking to someone and they said they had to drive to a location where they could pick up internet service because they don't have it in their home. ... We should not have people in our community that need to drive to a location outside their home to be able to teach their children."

Douglas is running because she is seeking better representation on the school board.

"I go to school board meetings — and no disrespect against any of the board members, they're doing their job and they're doing the best they can, and they're in that position because they were voted to be in that position. But I don't see me and it's not a representation of the community. I want to be inclusive of everyone."

"Everyone has a right to an education and everyone has a right to be represented," she added.

She also wants to make sure teachers are protected during tight financial times and not "sacrificed in order to pass a budget." While she commends the quality of the teaching staff, she said she would like to increase diversity and attract "qualified teachers of color" to the school district.

Douglas added she is passionate about everything she does, "especially when it comes to the community and with children. Children are everything. We need them; they're going to be our leaders in a minute. ... They're the ones who are going to be leading us and making decisions and the only way

that they are going to be prepared for that is to be able to have an environment that is safe and welcoming and equitable to all children."

She believes she offers a wealth of knowledge and a fresh perspective to the board.

"We can always do better," she said. "... I'm just excited to be considered to be a part of this school board. I'm excited and willing to put in the hard work that needs to make this community even better than what it is. It's a matter of being progressive. It's a matter of moving things forward. And for 2021, and the future of our children, that's what I'm here for — to make sure that everything is equitable, that everybody gets the education that they deserve and to provide for teachers and support them, however we can."



Jennifer Goossen

Age: 39

City: Grosse Pointe Woods
Education: B.A. degrees in philosophy and marketing, Wayne State University; graduate research at WSU

Profession: Constituent services coordinator for Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence; serves as the office's district education specialist and liaison to the five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods

Volunteer activities: Southeast Michigan Jobs with Justice; Ruth Ellis Center; Jews for Justice; Detroit Action; ACLU of Michigan; Council of Bishops; Council of Baptist Pastors; American Muslim Human Rights Council; Michigan Liberation; Grosse Pointes-Harper Woods branch of the NAACP; NAACP Detroit; LGBT Detroit; The Poor People's Campaign; We the People of Michigan; MOSES; Metro-Detroit A. Philip Randolph Institute; We GP; Eastside Community Network; Detroit Justice Project; reading and literacy tutor for under-resourced adults and children for more than 20 years; victims' advocate for survivors of domestic violence.

Memberships: League of Women Voters, Detroit board; Wayne County outreach coordinator for Voters Not Politicians campaign; Grosse Pointe Democratic Club; Michigan's Mighty 14th District Democrats

Jennifer Goossen specializes in listening to constituents. As a long-time public servant, her career is focused on listening to people and translating what they say "into something that a person who has some power can use, can incorporate or at least think about as they make their decisions," she said. "... I've got skills in being able to hear people who aren't exactly like me."

This includes consensus building.

See PROFILES, page 13A

Teachers and Support Staff for
 Grosse Pointe Public School System
 have recommended the following candidates
 for the Grosse Pointe Board of Education:

4 Year Term:
 David Brumbaugh
 Cynthia M. Douglas
 Cindy Pangborn
 Shareef Simaika

2 Year Term:
 Theresa Vogler

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PROFILES:

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"I'm used to people yelling at me," Goossen said. "I'm able to sift through all that and find an actionable item. ... You need to be able to respond to that in a compassionate way without taking it personally. I've been doing that for a living."

While Goossen views the response to the pandemic as one of the biggest issues facing the

school district, she hopes to use it as "an opportunity to reevaluate our priorities and our methods as educators, and even as parents and the community. We can ask: What is our theory of change? I think it's a great idea to make plans that begin by considering the people who will be most impacted by whatever you decide to do."

The next top issue, in her view, is creating an environment of inclusiveness.

"That's not to say that I think everybody in Grosse Pointe is racist or homophobic," she said. "I think that most people are kind and don't want to be bigoted, but it's not necessarily the overt offenses that create the environment. That's toxic sometimes for people who aren't in the majority groups."

Goossen said her focus will be on maintaining what works in the school district — and why families move to Grosse Pointe — while consider-

ing where change may be beneficial.

"If we plan these changes, they don't have to be traumatic or jarring as long as there's good planning that goes into it."

As a single mother with three school-age children, Goossen is running to be the voice of change, as well as a voice for those who may feel disenfranchised. Had the reconfiguration process, for example, "started first with the most vulnerable or the most impacted people ... it would have

made things a lot clearer and we would have done better," she said.

"I'm not trying to vilainize (people)," she added. "I don't think anyone (on the board) made any of these decisions callously, but I do think ... there's a lack of representation of working single parents like me."

What the school board needs above all, she said, is "a trustee who listens to parents and families and can translate their input

into action. And when I look at the current school board, I see professionals who truly care about our kids, but I don't see myself and that's a problem. ... I know what it's like to feel powerless and at the mercy of people up on a stage who have absolute influence over one of the most important aspects of my kid's life. And I would want someone like me up on that stage."

See PROFILES, page 14A

Think our school system is broken?

We think so. Here's our "Fix It" List:

- ◆ **CHANGE MANAGEMENT STYLE FROM BEING REACTIONARY TO BE BEING PROACTIVE.** A good example of our reactionary style is our weak back-to-school COVID "non-plan" plan. Compare it to the plans from Bloomfield Hills or Forest Hills and you'll see what we mean! A hybrid plan allowing both in-school and online options for our students should have been in effect by now!
- ◆ **RE-OPEN POUPARD AND TROMBLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.** If we want our community to thrive, we have to attract young families away from other more centrally located communities. The ONE asset we have over any other school system is our walkable elementary schools. With the extra overhead that has been added as a result of the reconfiguration, the savings touted from closing these schools don't really exist anymore. These schools need to be re-opened for the 2021-22 school year.
- ◆ **RETURN FIFTH GRADE TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.** Our fifth grade children belong with other children, not with young teenagers. We need to develop a phased plan for returning fifth grade to our elementary schools.
- ◆ **EXPAND EARLY CHILDHOOD AND PRE-SCHOOL OFFERINGS.** Young families need these services—we need young families. We need to expand our programming to fill the excess space in our elementary schools, with services priced on a cost neutral basis.
- ◆ **GET OUR ACCOUNTING UNDER CONTROL.** Our auditors found a \$4 million difference between our books and their audit. This is unacceptable. We need to install private sector controls fitting of the \$100 million business we are—NOW!
- ◆ **EMPOWER OUR STAFF TO SHARE THEIR INSIGHT.** Right now, our staff members are afraid to share their opinions if they aren't in line with those of our administration. This is unacceptable—our school board needs their valuable input! A staff feedback system needs to be put in place so that we can learn from their experiences and make Grosse Pointe a better school system!
- ◆ **EMBRACE OUR COMMUNITY AND ADVANCE EQUITY.** Our school system is a melting pot of students from all different backgrounds. We need to put plans in place so that we all embrace our diversity and assure that equity is at the forefront of our decision-making processes. We need to assure that every student can reach for the stars and get there with our support!
- ◆ **SHARE IDEAS LIKE NEIGHBORS, NOT STRANGERS.** We need to schedule regular Town Hall meetings where residents can ask board members questions AND actually get answers from board members and administrators, eyeball-to-eyeball.

Ask yourself...have any of the other school board candidates actually committed to fixing anything you think is broken?

We have the inside knowledge and expertise to fix the "Fix It" list!



Cindy Pangborn

Public Education and Transparency Advocate

Cindy's board service defines the word "endurance". Despite the road blocks put in front of her, she continues to fight for transparency in everything our school board does.

Cindy is committed to getting our students safely back in school as soon as possible. She is especially concerned about the lack of urgency the system has placed on restoring services for our special needs children.

Cindy feels that opening Poupard and Trombly will make us a "young family friendly" district.

Have a question? Contact Cindy at: www.cindypangborn.org!

Why vote for these candidates?

The perfect school board is NOT seven well meaning residents with the same backgrounds who never question anything. A school board that "rubber-stamps" administration requests is a recipe for failure that leads to mediocrity.

Instead, we need a school board comprised of members with skills that **BALANCE** and **COMPLETE** each other and aren't afraid to question the status quo. The board members you elect have to be able to **THINK OUTSIDE OF THE BOX** on how we can make our schools better for our students and our community. Last, but not least, they need to treat their constituents and each other with **RESPECT** and not with **RUDENESS** and disdain.

These five board candidates are proven leaders who are ready to roll up their sleeves and fix the "Fix It" List!

John Steininger

Proven Leadership Skills



Being a 65 year resident of the Pointes gives John a historical perspective on our schools that our school board needs. His education degree and his business experience gained through his ownership of Grosse Pointe Moving and Storage bring two additional skill sets our board needs.

Having sponsored more than 200 Neighborhood Club youth teams, John is an advocate of our athletics programs. His business skills have raised more than \$700,000 for the Grosse Pointe South Grid Iron Club to date.

Have a question? Contact John at: [313-822-4400](tel:313-822-4400)!



Ahmed Ismail

School Operation and Governance Expertise

With 50+ classes on school system governance and operation under his belt, it's no wonder that school board members from around the State continually look to Ahmed for advice!

Of the 4,000+ school board members serving today, only 113 have received a higher level of award for their school governance training than Ahmed. Our school board needs his expertise!

Having grown up in and having owned a business in Grosse Pointe for 40+ years, Ahmed knows our values. Let's put him to work for us!

Have a question? Contact Ahmed at: www.ahmedismail.org!



Lisa Papas

Teacher, Parent and Business Manager

Lisa's experience as a full time teacher is essential to our new school board's skill sets. She knows first-hand what our students and staff need to be successful.

Being a current GPPSS parent and being on the management team of a local business are the icing on the cake of Lisa's skill sets!

Lisa is an advocate of the Arts. She is also adamant that our special needs students and their families be provided the services they were receiving pre-COVID as soon as humanly possible.

Have a question? Contact Lisa at: www.lisapapas.org!

Lauren Nowicki

Passionate Parent and Former Educator



Being a stay-at-home mom with four young children along with being a former educator gives Lauren a unique, much needed perspective on our school board. Focusing on the best possible teaching and learning for all of our students is what Lauren is all about.

Lauren wants to make sure that we create a positive, supportive workplace for our staff and students. She is passionate about re-opening Trombly and Poupard and on expanding our pre-school and early childhood programs!

Have a question? Contact Lauren at: <https://92550.campaignpartner.net/home>!

Use your five votes to fix the "Fix It" List!

Let's get back on track! Support these five candidates with your votes and by posting their signs!

Order your lawn signs by calling 313-343-9060 (leave a message) or visit <https://bit.ly/gpsigns>

14A | ELECTION

PROFILES:

Continued from page 13A



Ahmed Ismail

Age: 67

City: Grosse Pointe Woods
Education: Grosse Pointe Public Schools

Profession: Business person

Volunteer activities: Special Kids (photographer), Grosse Pointe South choir (photographer), school board member mentor for board members around the state

Memberships: Michigan Association of School Boards

Two years ago, Ahmed Ismail decided not to run for re-election to the Board of Education. Since then he has experienced a change of heart.

Ismail was first elected to a four-year term in 2004, and re-elected in 2008. In 2009, he resigned due to health issues. He ran again in 2014, and won the four-year seat.

He hopes to bring institutional history to the board.

"As far as what's been done in the past and frankly with the decisions that are going to have to happen in the next year, you need to have somebody with some expertise, that's gone to some kind of training (and has) some involvement with other school boards to know what they're doing," he said. "And you can't do this in a vacuum. ... You've got to be looking outside the box and searching for any possible solution."

Ismail wasn't on the board during the reconfiguration process, but he doesn't approve of the results.

"I don't think closing any of the elementary (schools) is a smart move," he said. "That's our feeder program."

Similarly, he views the fifth-grade move to middle schools as a "snowball effect" that doesn't solve the problem.

While Ismail said he doesn't know all the people running, there are four or five he has confidence in. A few others strike him as "one agenda" candidates.

"When you join the board, what your personal opinion is goes right in a trash can," he said. "If you're going to do your job right, it has to be what's best for the community, not what's best for your family. ... And that's hard for people to do."

Ismail believes he is the right person for the job because he grew up in Grosse Pointe, knows "what the schools used to be" and has experience and training as a board member.

"I'm probably the most accessible person in the school system," he said. "... And the biggest thing I have to offer is my statewide connections and my training and the formal education I've had in school board governance."

"Every board has to be

balanced," he added. "... What makes a great board is you have different varying skill sets that represent your community. ... I'm hoping when this is all done, whether I'm elected or not, we end up with a balanced board. That's going to be huge this time around. ... I hope that voters research the candidates and that they look for candidates that will treat each other with respect. Not only (each other) as board members, but also the public. It's very easy to forget that you work for the community. They don't work for you. ... You have to have people who are down in the trenches and are willing to talk to people and be open and accessible. And I hope people will see that I care about the community I'm deeply committed to. Everything I have is from this community. I hope I can pitch in and help make things better."



James Joseph

Age: 32

City: City of Grosse Pointe
Education: B.S., Hillsdale College; J.D., University of Michigan

Profession: Commissioned officer in the U.S. Naval Reserves (no endorsement implied by the Department of the Navy or the Department of Defense); attorney (practice focused on commercial litigation and investigations). Prior to law school, served as an analyst in the nonprofit space where work included evaluation of grant applications and measuring the effectiveness of grants after the fact

Volunteer activities: Pro bono representations focusing on issues that block economic advancement such as record expungements and eviction proceedings; hundreds of hours spent in immigration court advocating for refugees and asylum seekers from communist, totalitarian states on behalf of men and women who had to flee their home countries because of their religion or sexuality.

Memberships: Detroit Bar Association, Federalist Society

James Joseph knows what it's like to be different. He grew up in an immigrant household with a single working mother for whom English wasn't her first language. He is keenly aware of how a school district can be set up with a certain family structure in mind while making it harder for others to succeed.

Joseph and his wife moved to Grosse Pointe because they were seeking an environment offering opportunities for both their neurotypical son and son who is on the autism spectrum. Joseph's goal is a school system where no one is left behind and there are solutions that work for everybody.

A year ago, he would have said the biggest challenge facing the

school district was reconfiguration. Today, it's the pandemic.

"It's good to remember that you don't know what your biggest challenge will be next year," he said. "And obviously right now, the biggest challenge is how to get children back in school safely and effectively given a pandemic. So those challenges are the ones that are right in front of our faces, but even if both of those go away in a year, I think our district is still trying to come up with how to have an equitable district and diverse district moving forward."

Joseph said he didn't oppose the school closures.

In his view, "If we woke up tomorrow and all our buildings were gone, we would still have the same great school district because we still have the same parents. We still have the same students. And we still have the people that care about our kids who can give (them) the services that they need. (But) if we woke up tomorrow and the buildings were here, but all those people were gone, we would be lost."

"As much as I would love the solution that preserves the integrity of all these buildings and their traditions and lets every kid walk to school, what's most important?" he continued. "We're dealing with shrinking budgets. I don't want to lose services for kids that need them, whether it's AP calculus or it's speech therapy or whether it's just helping somebody learn how to eat their own food without difficulty. Our schools do so much. And I think that on the list of priorities, the buildings are underneath those. I wish there was a limitless pie to pull the budget from, but it doesn't look like there is."

Joseph also believes the move of fifth graders to middle school was "a reasonable approach."

"I think that the fifth grade combining with the sixth grade in the middle school provides some good opportunities to help with that transition and make that a longer transition period," he said.

Joseph believes his day-to-day job solving problems for clients and helping organizations manage challenges uniquely qualifies him to serve as a trustee. His goal is to guide future decisions built around an equitable, inclusive school district with a focus on finding solutions that include all students.



Keersten Colleen Kassab

Age: 48

City: City of Grosse Pointe
Education: B.A., international relations, and M.A., international policy studies, Monterey Institute of International Studies; J.D., University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

Profession: Attorney

Keersten Kassab has been a resident of the City of Grosse Pointe more than 25 years and is passionate

about neighborhood schools. She believes strong schools equal a strong community and wants to restore trust and transparency to the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

She is running because five open seats on the school board have left a void and she hopes to fill that void with the honest and responsible leadership she believes she can provide.

Kassab's first priority is the safety and welfare of students. She wants to make the best use of facilities to offer students as many opportunities as possible.

In her view, the Grosse Pointe Public School System "is not maximizing its potential and is losing its position as one of the best school systems in the state. The Pointes' neighborhood schools and unique traditional character are a strong building block for a strong community."

Kassab hopes to prioritize the needs of the community and is committed to making the school system "stronger and better than ever."

The largest challenges facing the school district, in her view, are the pandemic, budgetary issues and the reconfiguration.

Regarding face-to-face versus remote learning during the pandemic, Kassab sees it as "a very personal decision for all families, but I do believe we should have the choice to have person-to-person classes this fall."

Kassab also was not in favor of the reconfiguration. Had she been forced to choose two schools to close, it would have been Poupard and Trombly, but she thinks there was another way to handle the budget issue without closing schools.

She also was opposed to moving fifth graders from elementary to middle school.

"It's not good for the emotional development of children," she said. "It's not a good separation. We have a lot of issues even with sixth grade and middle school. It's a better division emotionally and developmentally for children to have the younger kids separated from the older kids. And it also helps families as far as the local walkable neighborhood schools, which I think is the cornerstone of the growth of the Grosse Pointes."

Kassab recognizes serving on the school board is "a thankless job."

"I think they did the best that they could, but they left a big mess, to be honest. And I think the community feeling — that I feel — (is) that they went through the motions of trying to let everyone be heard and participate, but they really had their own agenda going because I don't think that the community was heard at all."

Kassab decided to step up to fill "the void that was being left by all of the members leaving. ... I felt that no one was stepping up to take responsibility and I decided to offer my services. I'm an attorney. I have a strong background in finance and economics. I'm a parent. I've been a Grosse Pointe resident for many years. I feel the school system isn't what it was."



Lauren Nowicki

Age: 38

City: Grosse Pointe Park
Education: Bachelor's and master's degrees from Wayne State University

Profession: Currently a stay-at-home mom; seven years of experience as an educator includes working as a teacher, Title I coach and curriculum director

Volunteer activities: Variety of volunteer activities for schools of three elementary-aged children

Memberships: Trombly PTO, founder of Save Our Schools campaign

Lauren Nowicki and her husband moved their family from St. Clair Shores to Grosse Pointe Park two years ago for the schools. Class sizes were increasing in their children's school and the choice was either private school or relocating.

Having heard about the bond referendum at Trombly's back-to-school night, Nowicki and her husband voted in favor of it because they believed the building updates were necessary.

It was during the reconfiguration process, in particular school closure discussions, when Nowicki realized she needed to pay attention and started attending board meetings.

"I think the biggest issue with the reconfiguration that I had all along ... was at the end of the day, the plan didn't satisfy the budget needs," she said. "So we were supposed to trim \$2.4 million, if I remember correctly. And we only trimmed half of that. So this process has been awful for everybody who's affected. And to think that we are going to go through this a second time is bad."

Nowicki attributes this to poor planning.

"I think there were opportunities lost," she said. "We could have tried the (early childhood center) program (putting preschool satellite classrooms into elementary schools). We could have tried to add some more young 5's. ... I think there were other things we could have done to mitigate some of the problems before we came up with a half solution."

Nowicki also opposes moving fifth graders into middle school.

"I have not found one article that says that that would be beneficial educationally in any way," she said. "At the start they talked about how it was going to increase educational opportunities. They can say it until they're blue in the face, but it did not. Instead, my son got an extra gym class or band. To me, I don't see that as an added (opportunity).

They're already getting gym class and they already had band in fifth grade at the elementary. So to me, that's filling a schedule."

Nowicki started a Save our Schools Facebook page in October 2019. She began meeting regularly with parents and organized several protests at board meetings to put the brakes on reconfiguration.

"As a former educator, I'm watching how this is unfolding and it's just not what's best for kids," she said. "It's not what's best for staff and it's not what's best for the community."

Nowicki's other major concern is making sure teachers' voices are heard.

"I think they are kind of pushed to the side and I don't think they have a very positive work environment," she said. "And that's one of the things I would like to try to change for them. I would like to change that fear into motivation into innovation into collaborative thinking."

"They're already great," she added. "I'm not saying that they need to get better, but ... people are willing to put in extra work when they feel valued and that's where we need to get."



Cindy Pangborn

Incumbent

Age: 73

City: City of Grosse Pointe
Education: A.A., Northwood University, Central Michigan

Profession: Retired Grosse Pointe Realtor; past work experience included K-12 general music and instrumental music teacher, Grosse Pointe adult education instructor in design, remodeling, dealing with contractors; varied responsibilities in family-owned business

Volunteer activities: Served in a variety of volunteer capacities in GPPSS, from PTO officer to 26 years as a room mother

Cindy Pangborn is a lifelong Grosse Pointer and has been part of the Grosse Pointe Public School System for a long time as a student, parent, grandparent and trustee.

She first joined the board in 1995, and served until 1999. She was re-elected in 2009, and has served consecutive terms since then.

Pangborn believes she is qualified to continue to serve because of her long history with the school district and business background.

Top on Pangborn's list of concerns is the coronavirus and the administration's handling of this crisis.

"Frankly, I don't think we've done enough soon enough. And so some of my other concerns have been lowered on the list

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PROFILES:

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of things because of the immediacy of what we have to do about getting kids back in school," she said.

Among her other disappointments is not having "any in-depth talks among board members at a work meeting or special meeting where we got into not only the facts, but all the minutiae that it takes to get a child educated in this time. ... We have received what is happening from our administration and then we just sort of vote yes or no. But we have not been in the planning stage on this and in many other things for the last two years and this is my concern.

"I would say in general, we are acting reactive," she added. "We are not acting proactive every time there's a problem. We solve it for the week, not for the duration of what the system needs ... and that's across the board on many, many topics."

Pangborn also is disappointed in what she views as a "mediocre curriculum," the school district's decline in state rankings, the lack of efforts to attract families to Grosse Pointe and increase enrollment, and her sense students are leaving the school district.

"We do not advertise how good we are," she said. "We do not advertise things like forensic sciences, medical sciences. ... No attempt was made to bring new people into our school."

While Pangborn has witnessed division in the community during her tenure on the board, the last year during the reconfiguration process has been particularly difficult, she said.

"I have never seen our school system so split and so much pressure put on parents," she said.

She attributes this to the administration's "divide and conquer philosophy" and a diminished role of the board over the past few years.

"We have a board that has given carte blanche to our administration so that many of our decisions are made at the administrative level," she said. "When it comes to the board, we are just rubber stamping. And that's one of the reasons why we had not developed a very large and detailed game plan.

"Having lived here my whole life, gone to school here, my kids in school here, my grandkids in school here, I am not only frustrated, but very worried about the state of affairs of our (school) system," she added.



Lisa Papas

Age: 53
City: City of Grosse Pointe
Education: B.A., music education with minor in political science, Wayne State University

Profession: High school and middle school music teacher, Hamtramck Public Schools; K-12 certification; decade of experience in Title I districts, including charter and public schools

Volunteer activities: Parents of six children who are graduates or current students in GPPSS; parent volunteer for various events, activities and field trips; served on principal interview committee for Brownell Middle School; directed Grosse Pointe South choir for Assumption Greek Festival; founding director of Greek Language and Culture School at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral (partnered with Wayne State University to provide instruction in Modern Greek language and culture for tuition-based program); choir member of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral; Eastside FC and formerly GPSA travel soccer team manager; classroom volunteer; Boy Scout den mother; Girl Scout leader; Neighborhood Club girls' soccer coach; backstage coordinator for Turning Point Dance Studio recital; La Leche League leader

Memberships: Previous member of Michigan School Vocal Music Association

Top on Lisa Papa's list of priorities for the school district is to turn around declining enrollment. Second is to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a parent and teacher, she sees both points of view on online versus in-person learning.

"There are parents that absolutely want virtual and teachers that are afraid or have concerns about going back into the classroom," she said. "And I understand there are also people that have jobs that need to have a place for their children and childcare. We've kind of built our American system around schools serving that (role). So I think making a plan to go back into our buildings has to be really thought out."

Also on her list is fiscal responsibility, bond spending and the reconfiguration.

Papas's views on school closings changed through the course of the reconfiguration. While she agreed schools may need to be closed to address declining enrollment, she's not in favor of the plan the district came up with, in particular moving fifth graders to middle school.

"I don't think it's a developmentally appropriate situation for our fifth graders," she said, adding she has taught sixth grade at the middle school level.

"They are very young. And so to put fifth graders into a schedule with multiple moving parts — I think there will undoubtedly be some kids that will handle it well, but I think there

will be a lot of children that are going to struggle with that."

She also is concerned about closing schools during a pandemic and the possibility of disenfranchising students at the two schools selected for closure.

Papas believes in maintaining a walking district, which is one of the reasons she and her husband moved to Grosse Pointe to raise their family.

She is running for school board because she generally has been displeased with some of the board's actions.

"I don't think they've been as accessible to the community as they could be and to the parents," she said. "At the same time, I have total respect for everybody who gives their time. Because it's a thankless job. It takes hours and hours of their time. ... I just disagree with some of the decision-making that's gone on."

Papas believes she offers a different perspective as a teacher and longtime parent in the district. She also would like to see greater communication, which is something she would offer as a board member.

"I would like to see the board pose more questions for administration," she said. "One of my biggest concerns is that I feel our Board of Education has been basically rubber stamping everything the administration has brought out. And I think one of the functions of a school board is, not to be combative — that doesn't accomplish anything — but I think challenging and asking questions and reviewing decisions (is important). That's what a Board of Education does. You have to be the voice of the community."

"We need a voice," she added. "And so here I am."



Shareef Simaika

Age: 44
City: Grosse Pointe Park
Education: B.A., finance, Michigan State University
Profession: Director of the turnaround and restructuring practice at a Michigan-based corporate advisory firm; previously vice president, commercial lending at Comerica Bank, including 10 years of restructuring experience

Memberships: Certified Turnaround Professional since 2008 and an active member of Turnaround Management Association, Association for Corporate Growth and the American Bankruptcy Institute

The biggest issue facing the district, in

Shareef Simaika's view, isn't among those most commonly cited, like budgetary issues, the reconfiguration or even questions on how to best deliver education in the face of a pandemic.

For Simaika, the biggest issue is the lack of diverse skills and leadership necessary to ensure a strong school system for years to come.

With respect to the other concerns, "once we get collectively past COVID-19, the most important thing in my mind is to ensure that the long-term financial condition of the district remains healthy and sustainable. Without that, everything else becomes moot," he said.

Simaika decided to run for a seat on the board because he believes he has the necessary skill set other candidates lack.

As a turnaround management and financial restructuring consultant, Simaika has 20 years of experience working with companies — \$10 million to more than \$1 billion in revenue — "who get themselves into some sort of financial distress. And my job is to help them figure out why and then what to do about it and then help them execute."

While a school district is not a business, it is an enterprise, he added.

"Just like any other enterprise, you've got scarce resources you've got to figure out how to manage and do so in such a way that you can maximize the desired output. In business, that's profits. In school, that's education, which is obviously harder to measure, but the concept is the same.

"My concern is the board and administration don't always know what they don't know. From my perspective, watching the last few years, the process they went through was flawed," he continued. "... I firmly believe everybody's trying to do what they think is right for the district; I'm just really concerned that folks don't necessarily realize what has been missed (and) what wasn't taken into account."

Had the district hired him to conduct the study, "where they stopped is where I would have started," Simaika said. "And that's why I firmly believe that the process was flawed and there are so many things not taken into account. Again, it doesn't mean they came up with the wrong conclusion. It's just that there's no way I can support what was done with what's been presented."

This applies to the fifth-grade move to middle school as well.

"I think the data is highly mixed. I've done the research myself and I will admit there really isn't anything definitive one way or the other," he said. "... I feel that (fifth grade) is a bet-

ter fit for elementary, but that's just me personally. ... I respect those who disagree."

Simaika believes his financial and process-oriented background would add to "a highly functional, highly efficient board that can really be in the best position to review issues, engage in debate, recognize alternative solutions, get feedback from the community and put all that together to make the best decisions possible. And make sure we have really good, sustainable schools."



Colleen Worden

Age: 52
City: Grosse Pointe Woods

Education: B.A., Miami University; J.D., University of Detroit—Mercy School of Law

Profession: Assistant prosecutor, Macomb County Prosecutor's Office — Special Victims Unit; 23 years experience as an attorney

Volunteer activities: Grosse Pointe Public School System: Monteith PTO executive board for four years (planned and coordinated events for kids, parents and teachers; PTO communication coordinator; created student directory; planned teacher luncheons); Monteith fourth-grade promotion video committee co-chair; Monteith promotion parade chair; room mom for four years; Monteith Kindergarten Centers volunteer; Neighborhood Club girls' basketball coach

Memberships: State Bar of Michigan; Prosecutors' Association of Michigan; Police Officers Association of Michigan labor union

As a 25-year Grosse Pointe resident, Colleen Worden has lived in the Park, the City and, for the past 13 years, the Woods.

She became involved in the district as a volunteer when her daughter, now a fifth grader, was in kindergarten at Monteith Elementary School.

Worden started paying attention to board business during the reconfiguration, attending town halls and blue ribbon committee meetings.

During this process, she recognized difficult decisions needed to be made to reduce the footprint in response to more than a decade of declining enrollment from 12,000 to approximately 7,200 students.

"What I believe is that the quality of

schools is what makes our school district so amazing," Worden said. "It's not the quantity of the buildings and it's not the building that your child is placed in. What makes the Grosse Pointe Public School System so outstanding is the quality of the programs, the quality of our teachers and the quality of our resources.

"I don't think that keeping buildings open if we can't afford them is the best way to be financially responsible for the district," she added. "So the decision has been made by this board to close schools. And at this point, I think we need to move forward with this decision."

If elected, one way Worden would seek to improve the board is through increased communication.

"I think that parents like to know information in this district and they like to know details," she said. "And I think if I were a school board member, I might work a little harder ... to open the lines of communication."

In Worden's view, there are three challenges facing the district. The first is "getting our kids back to school safely and effectively."

The second is prioritizing the financial stability of the district, primarily because of COVID and its impact on the economy.

"I think it's really important to keep up our fund balance up to 10 percent," Worden said. "You have to be responsible to our taxpayers ... so when we are faced with cuts from the state and federal government, we have this savings account to preserve the programs, resources and teachers that make our district so fantastic."

The third is attracting and retaining high quality staff.

"I think that our teachers are the jewel of our district and we want to make sure that we always are looking out to protect them because that's really what makes our schools so excellent," she said.

Worden believes she brings a unique perspective through her volunteer work, experience as a parent and professional background. She also is conscientious and fiscally responsible, she said.

As a lawyer, she is trained to listen to all sides and come to a resolution. She believes she gets along well with people and is a consensus builder.

Finally, Worden said she is accustomed to facing difficult decisions as an assistant prosecutor in the special victims' unit of the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, where her main role is "to fight for kids every day."

While Sherry Betcher appears on the ballot as a candidate, she has suspended her campaign this election cycle.

2-year term



Joseph Herd

Incumbent

Age: 58

City: Grosse Pointe Woods

Education: B.A., Michigan State University; M.S.W., University of Michigan

Profession: Retired deputy chief, United States Probation, Eastern District of Michigan

Volunteer activities: Former associate pastor, Hope Community Church, Detroit

Joseph Herd wants to complete the term on the Board of Education he was unanimously appointed to in January.

Moreover, having retired at the end of June, he will have more time to devote to this role, he said.

Herd believes his professional experience as second in command of approximately 90 staff members covering half the state of Michigan has prepared him for dealing with different situations with people from a variety of backgrounds.

When making decisions and recommendations as deputy chief, U.S. probation to the judge, "I don't always get my way," he said. "And that's not a prerequisite to me being a part of a group. In fact, I think that's great that I don't always get my way. I'm not always right."

His 15 years as a parent — two sons graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School and a daughter currently attends Brownell Middle School — has further shaped his perspective.

"I've seen a lot of things in Grosse Pointe and it's not perfect, but it's the best that I've seen in terms of the academic atmosphere," he said. "I want to be in a position where I can support our great teachers and support our administrators as well. And make sure that we maintain the excellence that we've had in the past."

"I also want — to the extent that I can — to influence the tone of the conversation," he added. "If you turn on

any newscast, you could have the same information and based upon who's reporting it, you're going to get two different results. I'd like to have it where we talk again to one another. And maybe I can influence that from the school board so that we can make the best decisions for our children. Because one thing I think we can all agree upon is that education is paramount to success. And (not just) academic education; social education is equally important."

Herd wasn't on the board during the reconfiguration process, but he supports closing Poupard and Trombly elementary schools and moving fifth graders to middle school, because, "Grosse Pointe could not continue operating as though we had as many students as we had in the past. We were going to be continually operating at a deficit. One of the things that the board is faced with — one of the responsibilities that we have — is to maintain fiscal responsibility."

At the same time, he recognizes the emotional attachment people have to their schools.

"People have memories of those schools and they look at them as not only buildings, but places where they had events in their lives and their children advanced," he said. "There's going to be a transition period."

"There are a lot of challenges here with Grosse Pointe," Herd added. "There's a lot of variety here in Grosse Pointe. And if we don't utilize all of the people, we won't come up with as good a result as we would if we utilize people from all areas of Grosse Pointe, from all different backgrounds, which I think is important."



John Steininger

Age: 70

City: Grosse Pointe Farms

Education: B.S., education, Wayne State University

Profession: Retired,

former business owner (Grosse Pointe Moving & Storage)

Volunteer activities: Grosse Pointe South Gridiron Club, coupon book chairman (14 years)

Memberships: Detroit Athletic Club, Hundred Club of Detroit

John Steininger applied for the open seat on the Board of Education in January after former President Brian Summerfield resigned.

"I feel now as I felt then that for continuity's sake, there should be someone with extensive experience chosen for the vacant seat," he said. "The board felt otherwise and filled the vacancy with someone without experience."

By running to fill that two-year term now, Steininger is offering voters the opportunity to elect him to apply that experience to future board governance.

Steininger served on the board from 2008 to 2011, the last two years as president.

"My term of office coincided with the great recession and we were really up against it during that time period," he said. "We had a great, cohesive board. It didn't start out that way, but we worked together, found the common ground and worked through the funding shortfalls that we had. It was really fairly incredible that we made it through and we didn't miss a beat."

In the intervening years, Steininger has kept a close eye on the school district. He has been particularly displeased with the performance of the current board and administration to date, giving both "abysmal" ratings for lack of responsiveness.

He believes the board has "gotten so obsessed about the closures and moving forward with reconfiguration, they're failing to consider the pandemic and other things that are related that are ongoing."

As for Superintendent Gary Niehaus, "he gets his marching orders from the school board, but lately it's almost like the tail wagging the dog," Steininger said. "Some of these things that are pushed right through essentially on his recommendations I don't think are given adequate consideration or adequate inspection."

Steininger was the only one of the 17 candidates who did not vote in favor of the bond

referendum passed in November 2018, under Niehaus's watch.

"I don't think today people grasp how much \$110 million is," he said. "It's a tremendous amount of money that's going to have to be repaid over 30 years. How many of the people that are actually voting for it are going to be here in 30 years? Are they going to pay it off or are we saving it for the next two generations to pay off?"

Correcting the current course is not Steininger's sole motivation to run. He also strives to give back to the community that has given so much to him as a GPPSS student, 65-year resident and 40-year business owner, now retired.

"If my parents hadn't struggled to live here, I would never have received the education that has taken me this far in life," he said. "I want to continue that for all the kids that are growing up now. If they get an education from here, even if it's tough sledding for them — and it was tough sledding for me — if you just show up, you're going to learn something and hopefully you'll learn enough to propel you through the hard times ahead."



Theresa Vogler

Age: 55

City: Grosse Pointe Park

Education: Defer Elementary, Pierce Middle and Grosse Pointe South High schools and a few classes at Macomb Community College

Profession: Currently home care assistant with Home Care One; started working at age 19 for Eastland Security Police Department as an emergency dispatcher with stints at Builders

Square, Grosse Pointe Park and Michigan State Police; office assistant for Sheldon Investment Co.

Volunteer activities: Second grade catechism teacher at St. Clare of Montefalco; recording secretary for the PIC Committee at St. Clare of Montefalco; co-op parent and recording secretary at St. Clare preschool; elementary school room parent and field trip chaperone; Parcels Middle School life skills classroom and clinic volunteer and field trip chaperone; sewed costumes for Parcels choir and Grosse Pointe South choir and school musicals; chaperone for South choir competitions; costume chair for Grosse Pointe Theatre's Youth on Stage program.

Memberships: Grosse Pointe South Mothers' Club, Grosse Pointe South choir boosters, Grosse Pointe Theatre

According to Theresa Vogler, she is not political. She's "a parent who has felt that things have taken a turn for the worse and are not up front."

She believes "kids have been dismissed" and teachers "will not speak because they are afraid of repercussions from administration."

Vogler decided to run for the board after witnessing what she views as injustices.

"I often hear that if you don't like it, change it," she said. "Hopefully, I'm here to change it. This is all new to me, so I'm learning every day."

Vogler filed for the two-year rather than four-year term because her daughter is a sophomore at Grosse Pointe South High School and by her senior year, Vogler hopes to "concentrate on her and my family would be the main reason for that."

She may seek to serve longer because she doesn't believe "two years is going to be long enough to make changes."

Vogler is unhappy about the school closures and move of fifth graders from elementary to middle school as

part of the reconfiguration.

"Who is going to want to move into the south end of Grosse Pointe Park when they don't have a school for their family to go to? They have to walk across Jefferson and walk across Kercheval to go to the closest elementary school," she said. "And we're supposed to be a walking district."

Moreover, "fifth graders do not belong with eighth graders," she added. "There is a mental maturity there and they should not be in the same building. There are things said in the hallway that fifth graders do not need to hear. I've been in elementary and middle school and high school hallways and the language changes drastically when you get into middle school."

Included in her platform is marketing to Detroit "to build our cities and the school district up so families want to move here."

Vogler counts her ability to listen to opposing points of view among her main strengths.

"I don't throw my opinion into somebody's face and say that's the only opinion," she said. "And I will change my mind if you give me the facts. ... I'll listen to everybody. I may not agree, but I will listen."

Moreover, as a former emergency dispatcher, "the roof (may be) falling in" and she handles it "calmly and productively," she said.

"I've always just taken care of people and done what's right," she added.

Vogler said she is "just a mom that wants what's right for her community and her family. And when I say 'my family,' that's all the kids I've come in contact with through the years."

Through her work as a preschool teacher and with the Grosse Pointe Theatre Youth on Stage program and Grosse Pointe South's choir, she has been "involved with children since mine were young and I've always just wanted to take care of them. So I think that's where my main thing is — I'm coming from the heart."

Before you vote — what you need to know

◆ LWV'S VOTE411.org

Voters need simple, helpful tools to navigate the voting process and election day. Vote411.org is the nation's premiere, online election resource. Build a personalized voter guide by visiting Vote411.org, which provides voter guides and information on polling places, voting hours and tips about voting in Michigan.

◆ Absentee voting in Michigan

An important reminder: Thanks to the passage of Promote the Vote in 2018, Michigan now has "no-reason Absentee Voting." If you prefer to vote in the comfort of your own home, you may request an absentee ballot without needing a reason. Then either mail it in or drop it off with your local clerk.

For more information, visit lvvgrossepointe.org.

PRIDE OF THE POINTES

Jonathan Forbes of Grosse Pointe Park earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in August.

◆◆◆
Maria Fields of Grosse Pointe Park was among 267 students from across the country awarded the Stamps

Scholarship. Fields is attending the University of Michigan and plans to study engineering. Selected from more than 263,000 applications, the 15th class of Stamps Scholars was chosen through rigorous processes by their universities and colleges for their academic excellence, leadership experience,

dedication to service and exceptional character. The Stamps Scholarship covers up to the total estimated cost of attendance for four years of undergraduate study and also includes enrichment funds that scholars can use for academic and professional development ranging from study abroad to intern-

ships to independent research.

◆◆◆
Dana Koeppe, a 2009 graduate of Grosse Pointe North High School, received a Ph.D. in astronomy from Michigan State University in August. She will continue her research of galaxy clusters at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

◆◆◆
Katherine Satterfield of Grosse Pointe Park and **Jacqueline Veneri** of Grosse Pointe Woods were named to the Dean's List for the spring and summer 2020 semester at Grand Valley State University.

◆◆◆
Shane Richardson of the City of Grosse Pointe was awarded the

Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from The University of Alabama during the summer commencement July 31 to Aug. 2.

◆◆◆
Jacob Lifsy of Grosse Pointe Shores was recognized on Georgia Southern University's spring 2020 President's List.

Bond summer construction projects near completion

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

Finishing touches are being put on nearly \$30 million of bond summer construction projects, including approximately \$20 million worth of construction, \$2 million in roofing projects and \$7.5 million in technology, according to Robert Stempien, Plante Moran CRESA senior vice president.

Major building renovations took place at Grosse Pointe South High, Parcels Middle and Defer, Ferry and Monteith Elementary schools. Roofs were fully or partially replaced at Grosse Pointe North High and Pierce Middle schools in addition to Defer, Monteith and Parcels.

Other exterior projects completed this summer included a brand new Fisher plaza entry with new steps, landscaping, bike racks, benches and flagpoles flanking the plaza. An ADA-compliant sidewalk runs from Fisher Road to the secure vestibule entryway.

Interior renovations at the buildings include new doors, flooring, ceilings, lighting, lockers, painting, plumbing, restrooms, mechanical and electrical systems, classroom millwork and technology. At South and Monteith, the steam heating system was replaced with a hydronic system.

“Back in the day when they built these buildings, it was all steam,” Stempien said, adding hot water is a more efficient way to heat the building and maintain control of the heat source.

New technology includes classroom audiovisual equipment, video surveillance throughout the buildings and grounds, door access controls, new clocks, modified public address system and a new or upgraded wireless network.

At Parcels, the pool equipment room was replaced and the auditorium fully renovated, with new seating, house lighting, carpet tile flooring, a refinished existing stage floor, and painting of existing masonry walls



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

A raised plaza area at Grosse Pointe South’s Fisher Road entrance provides barrier-free access to the new secure vestibule complete with steps, ramp, flagpoles and a historical marker relocation.

and proscenium.

Stempien said he knew this project — paid for out of the sinking fund rather than a bond expenditure — would linger on past September because of the amount of work involved. Lighting is currently being installed, with seating to follow later in the month.

Construction included new secure vestibules and offices for Defer, Ferry, Monteith and Parcels. South’s secure vestibule was completed last spring.

While summer months are short for construction projects in general, this amount of work presented additional challenges, Stempien said. However, the only significant delays were caused by pandemic-related factory shutdowns.

For example, tile slated for mid-July didn’t arrive until the third week of August, Stempien said. This delay in installation backed up other trades needed in the rooms.

In some cases, substitutions were made with comparable materials.

Currently, the school district has a certificate of temporary occupancy and will receive its permanent certificate once all the projects are wrapped up—a standard practice even in normal

times, according to Stempien.

Principals are grateful for the enhancements in their buildings.

“A lot of work was done at Parcels this summer and it looks great,” Parcels Principal Dan Hartley said. “We received a new secure entryway for our office in addition to a new visitor parking lot off of the library lot on Sunningdale. In classrooms, we received new flooring, paint and lighting. All student bathrooms were fully renovated, and we will have remodeled art and life skills rooms. Over the course of the year, we will be receiving new classroom doors, hallway flooring, and the auditorium will be finished with new seating, sound, lighting, and a refinished stage. Teachers have new speaker sound systems in their classrooms along with new SMART Panels and document cameras. While we are remote, many of our teachers are working from Parcels and enjoying the newly renovated space.”

Work on the auditorium will be completed after school hours and during breaks so as not to disrupt teachers and students, he added.

Acknowledging the challenges of construction and supply chain issues during a pandemic, Defer Principal Lisa Rheaume said, “We continue to move forward and are excited about how close we are to the final step of unpacking our boxes and setting up our learning spaces. Defer teachers have chosen to focus their time and energy on preparing their virtual learning spaces. Having common Schoology platforms and organizational styles has been helpful for families and staff. With

that structure in place, teachers will now turn their attention to setting up their rooms so we are ready when face-to-face learning resumes in our classrooms — classrooms that now have needed updates like roofing, flooring, energy-efficient lighting, class technology, and reconfigured spaces to welcome home all our new and returning Dragons.”

“We’re working on getting our building back together after a long summer of construction,” said South Principal Moussa Hamka.

Of the many enhancements at South, one particular treasure was discovered when old ceiling tile and lights were removed at a second-floor classroom, uncovering a coved ceiling and stage.

“We were able to restore



Visitors to Ferry come through the doors off Roslyn to the new secure vestibule and front office.



The new classroom SMART panels are interactive and can be adjusted in height.

Addressing concerns about these delays and working conditions at the Sept. 14 board meeting, Stempien said the plan was to wrap all construction projects up and have construction crews out of the buildings by the end of the month.

“The key is to make sure that process is expedient and we close out construction,” he said.

Bond construction projects slated for summer 2021 are Maire and Richard elementary schools, Brownell Middle School, phase 1 of North and phase 2 of South. Projects for summer 2022 are Barnes Early Childhood Center, Kerby Shelleyann Keelean, and Mason elementary schools, Pierce Middle School and phase 2 of North.

“Now they are back on track and we are moving in a great direction.”



New luxury vinyl tile flooring, known to be durable and not require waxing, was installed in the second-floor hallway at Ferry.



Ferry’s library/media center has new lighting, carpet and furniture.



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Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 78, NO. 34, 34 PAGES AUGUST 24, 2017
ONE DOLLAR (DELIVERY \$66) One of America's great community newspapers since 1940 GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

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John and Terry Minnis, center, stand with several staff members in the Grosse Pointe Woods offices in Grosse Pointe Woods.

New owners

Former editor, spouse acquire venerable Grosse Pointe News

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — John and Terry Minnis, founders and publishers of the popular Grosse Pointe Magazine, are excited to announce they have acquired the weekly Grosse Pointe News from Robert G. Liggett Jr., of Grosse Pointe Shores, in a private sale. The terms were not disclosed. John Minnis worked for the Grosse Pointe News for 19 years, beginning in 1988 as a staff writer and progressing to editor and general manager. Liggett purchased the Grosse Pointe News in 2007 and brought in his own management team. "We are honored and humbled that Mr. Liggett was able to sell the paper to us," John Minnis said. See **NEW**, page 3A

Hope in a race car

By Anthony Viola
Staff Writer

For the last decade, Racing for Kids has taken over Kercheval Avenue on the Hill.

This year, on Wednesday, Aug. 30, the day-long charity event is set to be the best yet.

"It's the most premier event we have on the Hill," said Dan LaLonde, president of the Hill Association.

The daytime street fair runs 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. with the annual evening reception 6 to 9 p.m., on Kercheval between McMillan and Hall Place.

In 1989, Racing for Kids was founded in Detroit as a way to bring together pediatric cardiologist Dr. William Pinsky's love for motor sports and his other passion, the treatment of children. Pinsky was introduced to Pat Wright, who drew up a plan and got the ball rolling.

Wright, the executive director and CEO of the nonprofit, said by using the popularity of motor sports, they are able to bring comfort and attention to the health care needs of children.

"The core of what we do is take celebrity driv-

ers, starting with Robbie Buhl in 1989, and we take them to see sick kids in children's hospitals," Wright said. "As the doctors who take care of these kids will tell you, the kids get better faster when they have experiences like this. It takes their mind off of often very difficult and painful treatment. It gives them hope."

From its humble beginnings almost 30 years ago, the organization has expanded to have a national and international presence.

"We take the good that is Grosse Pointe and Detroit and take it around the world," Wright said.

The organization has visited more than 30,000 children in six countries, none of which would be possible without events like Racing for Kids to the Hill and the support of the community. While fundraisers take place across the country, the money raised stays in the community. In Grosse Pointe alone it has raised more than \$1 million, all of which goes back to local hospitals and helps support hospital visits and other events through-

See **RACE**, page 4A



Left, the eclipse reached its maximum coverage at 80 percent over the Michigan sky. Below, Elizabeth Calcaterra, Evan Skaff, Annalise Reed and Sarah McCabe, National Honor Society students from Grosse Pointe South High School, watched the moon partially cover the sun during the eclipse.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Total eclipse of the sun

Hundreds gather to catch a glimpse of solar eclipse

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

With wide eyes and an even wider smile, Patricia McClary excitedly discussed one of many highlights of her day Aug. 21.

"I just helped a 95-year-old woman see the solar eclipse," she said. "This is amazing. This is a once-in-a-lifetime thing."

McClary — Grosse Pointe Public Library Woods branch manager and youth librarian — was among the organizers of an eclipse party at the branch Monday afternoon. The Ewald branch

hosted a similar event. The two were among 2,000 libraries chosen by NASA to host events, McClary said.

"It's exciting we can celebrate this with all these people," she said, adding the program registered nearly 200 folks. "And it's almost double when they come with all the people they bring."

McClary said the great response was due to the library's regular family programming.

"We do a lot of after-hours nights to get people more involved as more of a community,"



she said. "We always do things that are inclusive. It's easy to be excited about doing something in our community. They're so responsive. They enjoy and appreciate events like this. It's a joy to team up for something they can appreciate."

The library teamed up with the Warren Astronomical Society for the event. Mark Kedzior set up telescopes with solar filters so people could safely peek at the sun during the eclipse.

"This is a pretty neat thing," Kedzior said. "The last time there was a total eclipse in the United States was in 1979. But it was 99 years ago the last time there was one this impactful. It's quite an event just to see a total eclipse. Even seeing a partial eclipse is exciting."

"It's an astronomical event," he continued. "It involves nature and planets and stars. It makes

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See story, page 4A



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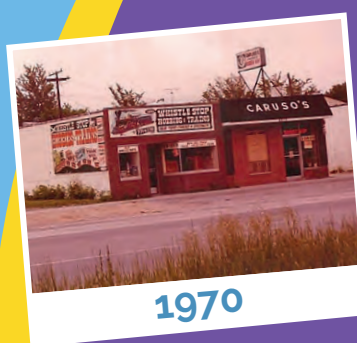
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2B AREA ACTIVITIES | 4B OBITUARIES | 5B CHURCHES | 6B BEAUTIFUL BEGINNINGS



Vincent Birnbaum took on the bulk of the car design, including chisel work and adding five coats of paint.

Father, son continue Scout legacy in local derby

By Eddie B. Allen Jr.
Staff Writer

Among dozens who were eager to see their vehicles cross the finish line in the Boy Scouts local Pinewood Derby, Saturday, Sept. 19, was a father-son duo participating in their first Michigan race.

But it wasn't the outcome of the yearly competition that impacted Vermont transplants Max Birnbaum and his Scout, Vincent, who'll soon turn 10, as much as their collaboration. Their entrance in the derby was a highlight of Vincent's first time as a troop member and it continued a legacy passed from his dad.

"I did Scouts when I was his age," Max Birnbaum said. "We're a pretty hands-on family."

While researching and designing their derby car, a mini-replica of the GT40



Birnbaum adds a coat of paint to his car.

speed machine featured in the film "Ford v. Ferrari," the Birnbaums bonded through a long-time Scout event and tradition.

"It was good. It got us to



The finished product.

spend some time together," Max added.

The pair went to car exhibitions and sought similar forms of inspiration while building their entry to meet guidelines

of eligibility for the derby. Along the way, Vincent, a Montith Elementary School student, picked up a few lessons about how physics play into a Pinewood Derby perfor-

mance.

"It's important to make it a little heavier in the back, because it builds more kinetic energy," Vincent said.

Mainly supervising the process, Max used his own Scout memories and experience to aid his son as needed, but Vincent took on the bulk of the design, including chisel work and adding five coats of paint. The duo spent a couple of hours each day for about two weeks until they had a finished product.

While they weren't winners this year, Vincent found the experience worthwhile.

"It's fun," he said, "and then you learn some stuff."

Even days before this year's contest, Max said his son was eager for the 2021 Pinewood Derby season to begin.

"He's already talking about the next car," the proud dad said.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Helm hosts virtual gala Oct. 8

Online bids accepted starting Sunday, Oct. 4

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Helm at the Boll Life Center will honor frontline workers at Ascension St. John Hospital, Henry Ford Medical Center—Cottage and Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe, as part of its 24th annual gala, which takes place at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8 — and may be viewed from the comfort of home.

"The staff at each of these major medical facilities worked through the whole pandemic to give people the services they needed," Executive Director Peggy Hayes said, adding that it "seemed more appropriate than ever to celebrate those who tirelessly supported the community during the pandemic."

With the exception of

dinner among friends, this year's event includes all of the aspects attendees have come to expect from the premier event.

"We have all the pieces," Hayes said, noting a silent auction that opens to bids Oct. 4, and a live auction the night of the event. Those who register online can start scoping out auction items as early as this week.

"They can even start the bidding on some of the live items Oct. 4," Hayes said, "but the auctions won't conclude until the night of the event. ... All the pieces of the previous galas are there, except the dinner. It will be all the fun, except it'll be easier on everybody's feet."

Registration on the gala website — helmgala.cbo.io — is required to bid on auction items.

Live auction items include an 18-karat gold David Yurman bracelet, donated by Edmund t. AHEE jewelers; a Mackinac Island getaway at the Iroquois Hotel; a Merion Golf Club package in Pennsylvania; and a trip aboard the J.W. Westcott II to deliver mail to freighters in the Detroit River.

Silent auction items include an heirloom emerald, diamond and gold bracelet; a tour of the Piquette Plant with lunch at the Detroit Athletic Club's Stadium Club restaurant; a Lalique crystal bowl; a Charlevoix getaway; a family game night package and many others.

"We'll have 60 to 70 packages for bid at the silent auction," Hayes said, "at a variety of prices, so there is truly something for everyone."

Another chance to support The Helm comes with its jewelry raffle, the centerpiece of which is a 14-karat gold chain

embedded with South Sea Tahitian pearls, donated by LaLonde Jewelers & Gemologists and appraising for \$3,900. A second prize is \$500 cash and third prize is \$250 cash.

Tickets are \$20 for one, \$50 for three or \$100 for six. Or, to help The Helm recoup some of its crucial funding lost by not selling dinner tickets, supporters have the option of becoming patron donors.

"Because we're not having the dinner, we have no dinner tickets to sell," Hayes said. "This is extra incentive. For a \$250 donation, you'll get six jewelry raffle tickets, for a \$500 donation, you'll get 12 tickets and for a \$1,000 donation, you'll get 24 tickets."

To become a patron donor, call (313) 882-9600.

"The important thing to remember is this is a way to help support us in a time we've had to change how we do what



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tage to a virtual event is the unlimited amount of people who can log on and view it.

"We were limited (at previous venues) to how many people we could put in a room, even in good times," she said. "This way, even more people can partici-

we do," Hayes said. "The Helm is our community's hidden treasure and right now it's more valuable than ever. As a provider of essential services, The Helm staff was here continuing to provide Meals on Wheels, the medical loan closet and other necessary services during the pandemic. It is through the generosity of our supporters and the funds we receive from the annual gala that we can continue to provide these services. The gala accounts for 40 percent of our annual funding, so while we considered canceling this year's event, we knew we just couldn't."

Hayes said the advan-

pate." The gala will be livestreamed from a studio at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit and is presented by Ascension St. John Hospital.

Bidding for both auctions begins Oct. 4. Live auction bidding continues during the live show; silent auction bidding concludes at the start of the live show.

"We greatly appreciate the wonderful support we've received for 42-plus years from the community," she added. "We continue to need that support to provide these services to the community — in Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods."

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AREA ACTIVITIES

The Helm

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

◆ 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.

◆ Osteoporosis 101, via Zoom, 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7.

◆ 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 nonmembers.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 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.

Gilda's Club Lake House

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

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

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

◆ 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, Women's Cancer Gathering.

◆ 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, Pancreatic Cancer Support Group.

Register at gildasclubdetroit.org/events/calendar.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting virtually at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30. Rotarians Roger Hull and Liz Vogel will give an update about the Tot Lot community building. Visit grossepointerotary.org for information.

Library

The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts the following virtual programs:

◆ 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 on grossepointelibrary.org or call (313) 640-4775.

GPAA

The Grosse Pointe Artists Association hosts the following programs at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms:

◆ Free after-school outdoor art classes for grades 2 to 5 with Michelle Boggess, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Mondays, Sept. 28 to Oct. 26.

◆ Figurative Painting with Liz Frankland, 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 13 to

Nov. 1.

◆ 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. 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 grossepointeartcenter.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 lisajonesmentalhealth@gmail.com.

Flags being collected for proper retirement

People whose American flags have seen better days and who would like to properly dispose of them are asked to bring worn or tattered flags to the Grosse Pointe Farms municipal building, 90 Kerby, or the Pier Park gatehouse, 350 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, until Thursday, Oct. 15. Collection bins are available at both sites.

Collected flags will be properly dis-

posed of at a later date during a flag retirement ceremony hosted by the John Paul Jones Society, Children of the American Revolution; Louisa St. Clair Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution; and Grosse Pointe Boy Scout Troop No. 96.

For more information, email therosp@gmail.com or call the city of Grosse Pointe Farms at (313) 885-6600.

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Classic cruisers

Grosse Pointe Shores resident Don Maxwell snapped these photos during the EyesOn Design Autumn Drive Sunday, Sept. 13.

Select cars are part of online voting; the top two vote-getters will be invited to 2021 EyesOn Design.

Viewers may vote for their favorites on the Eyes On Design Car Show Facebook page.



1963 Split Window Corvette



Willy's General Purpose Vehicle, aka Jeep



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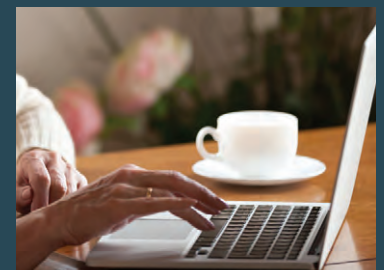
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OBITUARIES

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.

Marlene Hesse Cooper

Longtime Grosse Pointe Woods resident Marlene Hesse Cooper, 88, died Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2020, due to a stroke. A resident of Lakeshore Senior Living in St. Clair Shores at her passing, she enjoyed the view from her window of birds, flowers and boats on Lake St. Clair.

Born in 1932, to Arthur and Erma Hesse (nee Gueldenzopf) of Grosse Pointe Farms, Marlene's only sibling, her brother, Harvey, died before age 3.

Marlene graduated from Grosse Pointe High School in 1950. She attended Albion College, where she met her future husband, Richard "Dick" Cooper. Marlene and Dick lived most of their lives in Grosse Pointe Woods as they raised their family.

Her father and two uncles started Pioneer Coffee Co., in 1916, in Detroit. Eventually, after World War II, the company became Pioneer Furniture Co., with two stores - in Detroit on East Grand Boulevard and in Sterling Heights on 18 Mile Road. Marlene and Dick worked together

every day and made the business thrive.

While also working at Pioneer, Marlene was a room mom, den leader and candy lady for the Red Barons youth football program; she attended each event in which her children participated. A volunteer at Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, she arranged memorial service brunches. She also volunteered at the Cottage Hospital gift shop many years.

A loving and caring mother and grandmother, Marlene always was there for her children and grandchildren when they needed her. She also was a loving dog owner of Patches, Shadow, Kodi and Baci.

Marlene was predeceased by her husband, Dick, due to a heart attack in 1994. She is survived by her children, Charles Cooper (Diane), Karen Miller (Ray Fuller) and Scott Cooper (Lisa); and five grandchildren, Caitlin Moore (Ryan), Kendra Miller, Kevin Cooper (Nina Dutta), Amy Desai (Xander) and Brenna Cooper.

Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, a family memorial service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Marlene's memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, donate3.cancer.org; or the American Heart Association, www2.heart.org.

Raymond J. Deeb

Raymond J. Deeb, 82, passed away suddenly Friday, Sept. 11, 2020, at his home in Grosse Pointe Farms. Born April 15, 1938, he was the son of Sarah and George Deeb.

Raymond attended Southeastern High School, worked after school at his parents' food and beverage stores and became the manager.

He also held positions at Jacobson's, Winkelman's and Albert's.

Raymond spent several years working with autistic students at Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North high schools and was proud of the positive effects his teaching had with many students.

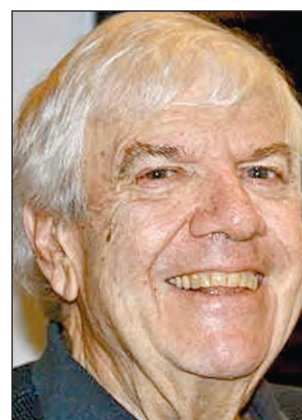
Raymond is survived by his wife, Susan Wharton Deeb; daughter from a previous marriage, Janet Mayfield of Jacksonville, Fla.; step-



Marlene Hesse Cooper



Raymond Deeb



Ralph William Parvel

children, Peter Flanagan, Jamie Spert and Patrick Flanagan; grandchildren, Grant, Joy and Jillian; brother, Edward Deeb (Joanne) of Bloomfield Township; and sister, Marge Deeb of St. Clair Shores.

Memorial contributions in Raymond's name may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Attn: Memorial Giving, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, TN 38105; or stjude.org.

Ralph William Parvel

Grosse Pointe resident Ralph William Parvel, 85, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020.

The youngest of three children, Ralph was born Jan. 13, 1935, to proud parents William and Helen Parvelski of Detroit. He was predeceased by his sisters, Lilian and Delores.

Ralph was a 1952 graduate of University of Detroit Jesuit High School. He earned his bachelor's degree in education from U of D in 1957, where he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. He also proudly served his country in the U.S. Army Reserve throughout his college years.

Ralph is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Sandra Parvel (nee Strehler); children, Amy Potter (Michael), Sarah Stevenson (Dean) and Andrew Parvel (Kate); and grandchildren, Claire Stevenson, Hannah Stevenson, Victoria Potter, Jack Potter, Henry Parvel, George Parvel and James Parvel. He was predeceased by his granddaughter, Lucy Parvel.

Ralph spent his entire 37-year career as an elementary educator in Roseville Community Schools. Affectionately known as "Gym-Man," he

retired in 1995.

A celebrated veteran of the Grosse Pointe garage and estate sale scene, he was a lifelong collector of old and unique items. Ralph also was a master chef; he applied his secrets to his favorite cooking method — grilling — no matter the month or weather. A lifelong sports fan, he enjoyed the achievements of the Detroit Tigers, Red Wings and Pistons and wallowed in the despair of the Lions.

Ralph's favorite pastime was making people happy. With a quick wit, permanent smile and friendly outpouring of song and story, he worked hard to brighten the days of his family, friends and "his people" at his favorite establishments around town. Never short of some of the worst jokes ever written, he brought groans to thousands.

His beautiful life will be deeply missed by his family, friends and all who knew him.

A private family ceremony and celebration of Ralph's life will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to Kids on the Go at kids onthegocamp.com.

Visit the family's online guestbook at cremation michigan.com.

Michael Edward Starrs

Michael Edward Starrs, 63, passed away Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020, after an 18-month battle with colon cancer.

Mike was born July 8, 1957, in Detroit, to John and Mabel (nee Gilchrist) Starrs.

A longtime Grosse Pointe resident, Mike graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 1975. He attended Western Michigan University and graduated from Boston College with



Michael Edward Starrs

a bachelor's degree in accounting in 1980.

He had a successful career for more than 40 years as a senior executive and CPA. He also spent a year and a half living and working in London, England.

Loving husband to Judy (nee Campbell) for 38 years and devoted father to Katie and Matt, Mike loved spending time with his family and friends. He enjoyed repairing old bicycles and riding them through the secret pathways of the Grosse Pointes, playing Sudoku, watching movies, listening to The Beatles and watching the Detroit Lions.

Mike will be remembered for his intelligence, kindness and quick-witted, quiet sense of humor that made everyone laugh out loud. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Mike was predeceased by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Judy; children, Katie (Thaddaeus) and Matt; siblings, Tom (Deborah), Mary (Dallas), Liz (Lorraine), Bill (Maureen), Kathy, Margaretta (Jim) and John (Tammie); and many loved nieces, nephews and close friends.

A Mass and celebration of life will be held at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, Grosse Pointe Farms, in spring 2021.

Additional information is available at ahpeters.com.

First English invites all to Walk to End Alzheimer's

Team First English, based out of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, 800 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods, seeks participants for the Alzheimer's Association's Walk to End Alzheimer's, the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research.

Due to COVID-19, the walk will not take place at the Detroit Zoo, as it has in the past. This year, Team First English participants will walk in the neighborhood around the church. Those interested are asked to meet in the church parking lot at 10:45 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, to sign up. The walk begins at 11 a.m. and will be socially distanced.

Everyone is welcome to join.

Participants are asked to wear purple shirts if possible. Participants also are asked to wear masks.

Sign up in advance by texting Colleen Motley at (586) 252-7870 or emailing colleentmotley@gmail.com.

A donation to the Alzheimer's Association is appreciated, but not required. Those who wish to make a donation to the Alzheimer's Association should visit the Team First English webpage, bit.ly/TeamFirstEnglish.

Donations also will be accepted the day of the event during registration or in the church office through Saturday, Oct. 3. Checks may be made payable to Alzheimer's Association Michigan Chapter.

For more information, call (313) 884-5040.

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AND with a Drive-in service in the parking lot

Organ recital, Blessing of the Animals planned

Christ Church Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, presents a virtual organ recital by Dexter Kennedy at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2.

Praised by The American Organist for his "prestigious technique and grand style musicality," Kennedy is the assistant organist of Christ Church Grosse Pointe. As the winner of the Grand Prix de Interprétation at the 24th Concours International d'Orgue de Chartres, he has established himself internationally as one of the leading organists of his generation. In addition to concertizing and his work at Christ Church, he is on the music faculty of the College of Wooster as adjunct instructor of organ.

Kennedy is increasingly active as a recitalist having performed at several celebrated venues, including Washington National Cathedral, St. Thomas Church 5th Avenue, The Brick Church and The Church of St. Mary the Virgin in New York; The Old West Church in Boston; Severance Hall in Cleveland; The Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford; The Community Church of Vero Beach; and the Rozsa Centre for the Performing Arts at the University of Calgary as a featured Young Artist for the Calgary Organ Festival and Symposium. His performance at Boston's First Lutheran Church in March 2013 was broadcast live on WGBH Classical New England Radio as part of its "Bach Around the Clock" Festival. Forthcoming engagements include more than 30 concerts throughout Europe as part of his first-prize award at Chartres, which include recitals at Notre Dame de Paris, the Berlinerdom, St. Petersburg Philharmonic Hall, Slovak Philharmonic Hall and St. Alban's Cathedral, as well as performances in Italy, Iceland, Spain and Luxembourg.

At Christ Church, he serves as organist for all choral services and trains the novice boy and girl choristers. He traveled to England and

Wales with the Choir of Men and Boys in summer 2014, performing in Exeter, Wells, Bristol, Brecon, St. David's and Bangor cathedrals. Additional choir tours have taken Kennedy to the organ benches of St. Peter's Basilica, La Sagrada Familia, St. George's Chapel and Windsor Castle, as well as the cathedrals of Worcester and Winchester.

Kennedy's previously held positions include director of music and organist for Berkeley Divinity School at Yale University, organ scholar at St. Paul's on the Green Episcopal Church, Norwalk, Conn., and organist for Marquand Chapel, Yale Divinity School.

Kennedy currently is pursuing the artist diploma at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music under the tutelage of James David Christie. He has a Master of Music degree from the Yale School of Music and Institute of Sacred Music, where he was a recipient of both the Robert Baker Award and Mary Baker Prize for Excellence in Organ Accompaniment. Kennedy also has studied under Olivier Latry, Martin Jean, Jeffrey Brillhart, Arthur Haas and Webb Wiggins, and



Dexter Kennedy

has attended several international organ festivals where he has coached with many distinguished artists.

A Grosse Pointe native, he enjoys spending his spare time golfing and rooting for Detroit's professional sports teams.

The Oct. 2 concert will be livestreamed at christchurchgp.org/livestream.

Two days later, Christ Church hosts its Blessing of the Animals Celebration, beginning at 10 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 4.

In the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, who believed that God's love encompasses all creation, the church invites "all creatures great and small" to this family service.

Dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, turtles — any family pets — will be blessed by the clergy.

All are welcome to this service, held socially distanced on the front lawn. A doughnut and cider reception follows and includes pet-appropriate treats.

For more information on either program, call (313) 885-4841 or visit christchurchgp.org.

Blessing of the Animals
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CHURCH EVENTS

First English hosts a flu clinic in the gymnasium at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7. There is no charge for the flu shot. Call (313) 884-5040.

ASK THE EXPERTS By the Rev. Dr. Alexander Riegel

When behaviors don't line up with expectations

Q: I have reached a real point of frustration with my teenager. We have lots of what I think are good mother-daughter conversations about her life. We often seem to be on the same page about the things we discuss, like her behaviors when she is with her friends and taking responsibility for her studies. Yet, she continues to behave irresponsibly and does not manage her studies very well. It's almost as if we never talk at all. What can I do to bring her behavior in line with our conversations? Is the problem me or her?

A: I have good news and less good news for you, but no "bad news." The good news is that the problem is neither you nor her, if you manage to have what seem like meaningful mother-daughter conversations. So, take a breath and go easy on yourself — and her.

The less good news is your daughter's developing brain — specifically, its underdeveloped neurological structure. Not only teenagers, but most children past the age of 5 or 6 can engage in reasonably rational conversations with their parents. It is a rare child (or in your case teenager) whose behavior also is brought into line with those rational conversations. This has everything to do with underdeveloped neurological structures in the developing brain.

For your daughter (or any child/teenager) to bring her behavior into line with those meaningful mother-daughter conversations requires the executive function of the brain's prefrontal cortex. It is the executive function of the prefrontal cortex that allows an individual to observe and alter her behavior in accordance with rational thought. In

simplest terms, region A of the brain does not have the requisite development or connectivity necessary to communicate effectively with region B of the brain. Hence, even though your daughter can participate in a rational conversation with you, the more developed emotive and impulsive areas of the brain will sometimes, maybe even often, override her ability to act on that rational understanding. This is neither your fault nor hers and will change with time. There is a tremendous difference between a 15-year-old brain and a 25-year-old brain, when the average brain is finished developing.

What you can do in the meantime is strategize with your daughter about ways you can alter her environment to help compensate for her brain's underdeveloped prefrontal cortex. That is, rely less on rational conversations and more on helping your daughter organize her life. That might include becoming the home where she and her friends hang out more often, which makes it much easier for you to monitor her and her friends' activity, to introducing personal organizational tools that are easy to access and use.

In the end, the important thing to remember is that parents are not rearing children who have fully developed, autonomous, rational beings inside of

them. Parents are rearing children whose brain development remains fluid until around age 25. In other words, parents are engaged with the neurology of the brain, which necessitates different parenting strategies at different ages. Along these lines, I recommend the following two books by Dr. Dan Siegel: "The Developing Mind: How Relationships and the Brain Interact to Shape Who We Are," and, "The Whole-Brain Child: 12 Revolutionary Strategies to Nurture Your Child's Developing Mind, Survive Everyday Parenting Struggles, and Help Your Family Thrive."

The Rev. Dr. Alexander Riegel is minister of Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church. He has Masters of Divinity and Masters of Theological Studies degrees from Harvard Divinity School, as well as Doctorate of Ministry degree from Andover-Newton Theological School. He can be reached at alexgpuc@gmail.com.

The Family Center is a nonprofit organization that provides resources and preventive education to empower families to successfully navigate life's social, emotional and physical challenges. The Family Center is completely supported by community donations. To learn more, visit familycenterweb.org, call (313) 447-1374 or email info@familycenterweb.org.

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ENGAGEMENT

Jacob-Zimmeth

Jane and Rick Jacob of Grosse Pointe Park announce the engagement of their daughter, Chloe Jacob, to Nate Zimmeth, the son of Khristi and John Zimmeth of Grosse Pointe Park.

A June 2021 wedding is planned. Miss Jacob earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from DePauw University and a Master of Education degree from National Louis University. She is a program coordinator for the Tauber Institute at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business.

Mr. Zimmeth earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from the University of Michigan and an MBA from the U of M Ross School of Business. He is a graduate student.



Nate Zimmeth and Chloe Jacob

WEDDINGS

Leverenz-Denny

Kimberly Ann Leverenz of Grosse Pointe Park and Sean Garret Denny of Columbus Township were married February 29, 2020, at Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, in a ceremony officiated by the Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver. A reception followed at the Detroit Yacht Club.

The bride is the daughter of Cathy and John Leverenz of Grosse Pointe Park. The groom is the son of Lindi and Dave Denny of Columbus Township.

The bride wore an ivory chiffon A-line illusion gown with a drop waist and V-neck on a fitted bodice, accented by matching floral lace appliques on the long illusion sleeves. A cathedral-length veil also was trimmed in lace. Her bouquet of white hydrangeas with mother of pearl and cream spray roses also included seeded eucalyptus and



Kimberly and Sean Denny

burgundy limonium and hypericum berries. The sister of the bride, Lisa Coletta, served as matron of honor. Bridesmaids included Neena Leverenz and Vanessa Leverenz, sisters-in-law of the bride; Nicole Denny, sister of the groom; Amanda Denny, sister-in-law of the groom; and Aly Dix, Mariah Burnell and Jade Balasz, friends of the bride. The bride's nieces, Ava Leverenz and Charlotte Coletta, served as flower girls.

Bridesmaids wore hunter green sleeveless chiffon illusion gowns with lace bodices and V-necks. The flower girls wore matching white lacy long-sleeve dresses with gold bows in their hair and sparkly shoes to match the bride.

The groom's brother, Michael Denny, served as best man. Groomsmen included John Leverenz and Matt Leverenz, brothers of the bride; Caleb Westveer, future brother-in-law of the groom; Patrick Coletta, brother-in-law of the bride; and Gene Boyte, Tyler Booth and Ian Helsel, friends of the groom.

The bride earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in biochemistry from Albion College and a Master of Science degree in physician assistant studies from Central Michigan University. She is a physician assistant at McLaren Macomb Hospital in Mount Clemens.

The groom earned a Bachelor of Science degree in exercise science and a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Central Michigan University. He is a physical therapist at Henry Ford Macomb Health Center in Richmond.

The couple honeymooned in Thailand and reside in St. Clair Shores.



Allyson and Jason Arini

Henes – Arini

Allyson Michelle Henes and Jason Arini were married Nov. 30, 2019, at Most Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit, during a ceremony officiated by Msgr. John Zenz. A reception followed at the Detroit Athletic Club.

The bride is the daughter of Sara and James MacConnachie of Grosse Pointe Farms, and Stephen and Julia Henes of Birmingham. The groom is the son of Susan Arini of Sterling Heights, and James and Sandra Arini of St. Clair Shores.

The bride wore a Pronovias gown and carried a bouquet of burgundy and ivory roses mingled with dark burgundy ranunculus. The bridesmaids wore burgundy Adrianna Papell gowns and carried bouquets of burgundy and ivory spray roses with white lisianthus and white astilbe.

Megan MacConnachie, step-sister of the bride, served as maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Lauren Pryros, step-sister of the bride; Ashley Henes, sister-in-law of the bride; Nicole Arini, sister of the groom; Rosemary Lane, friend of the bride; and Jill Monticciolo, cousin of the groom.

Shane Steinmetz, half-brother of the groom, and Michael Canale, friend of the groom, both served as best man. Groomsmen were Christopher Henes, brother of the bride; Patrick LaTorre, friend of the groom; and Anthony Monticciolo and Dominick Yamarino, cousins of the groom.

The bride is a 2006 Marion High School graduate and earned a degree in elementary education from Michigan State University. She currently teaches at Holy Name Catholic School in Birmingham.

The groom is a 2003 graduate of Sterling Heights High School and currently is a building engineer employed with Hines Detroit Services.

The couple honeymooned in Jamaica and lives in Troy.

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Football

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

South opens with upset of Romeo

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe South football team began its membership in the tough Macomb Area Conference Red Division with a 24-14 upset win over visiting Romeo.

Instead of a packed house, COVID-19 concerns limited the audience to a spatter of fans.

It didn't matter to the football team, which trailed 14-0 at the half, but out-scored the Bulldogs 24-0 in the second half to stun the favored road foe.

"Extremely proud of the boys," head coach Tim Brandon said.

Nothing went right in the first half for the Blue Devils' offense. The defense did a good job limiting the Bulldogs to only 14 points.

The Blue Devils opened the second half with a time-consuming drive

that took 11 plays and five minutes that ended with sophomore quarterback Anthony Benard hitting junior wide receiver Will Johnson for a 34-yard touchdown pass.

Senior Bennett Smihal kicked the extra point to cut the deficit to 14-7.

The Bulldogs made a huge mistake on their ensuing drive when the punter downed his knee at their 3-yard line when fielding a low snap.

The Blue Devils took over at that spot, and two plays later Benard ran in for a touchdown. Smihal's extra point tied it at 14 late in the third quarter.

Midway through the fourth quarter, Smihal kicked the winning 37-yard field goal. He split the uprights and the kick would have been good from 48 yards out.

The Blue Devils added a clinching touchdown

when they sacked the Bulldogs quarterback in the end zone, forcing a fumble that was recovered for the score by Luke Srebernak.

Smihal's extra point completed the scoring.

The defense rose to the challenge and dominated the second half. The Bulldogs punted three times in the second half.

Romeo's offense couldn't consistently move the ball and they forced three turnovers.

Some defensive standouts included Srebernak, William Fannon, Max Gavagan, Joe Klunder, Nick Vandenbrink, Jack Taylor, Jordan Johnson, Jackson Lambert, Jonathon Drake, Justin Maccagnone, Will Johnson, Dante Wade, Daniel Maksym, Michael Murphy, Peter Ulku and John Williamson.

On offense, Benard, making his first varsity start at QB, completed 8



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe South sophomore Anthony Benard, No. 6, played well in his debut as the varsity starting quarterback.

of 16 passes for 93 yards with one TD and one interception.

Egan Sullivan led the ground game and had

three receptions, while Johnson had five catches for 67 yards and one score.

Grosse Pointe South is

1-0 in the MAC Red, and travels to Utica Eisenhower for a division game at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25.

Field hockey

NORTH, SOUTH & LIGGETT

South, ULS beat North

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe North's girls field hockey team played both of its city rivals last week, Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett School.

Head coach Emma Yee said her Norsemen were ready for the challenge ahead of them.

The first game was a 1-0 loss to the host Blue Devils as Veronica VanRossen scored the unassisted tally. South head coach Jessie Rouleau said it was a low reverse sweep shot from top of the circle.

"Very fast game — many fast breaks on both sides," Rouleau said. "We had seven shots on goal to North's three shots on goal. Tons of mid-field 1v1 battles. True rivalry game."

"This is not easy — the protocols, worries, safety, public opinion, etc., on top of growing the game, teaching, coaching, encouraging, etc. This group of 63 field hockey players at South have accepted all we've needed to do to keep playing - masks, temps, weeks of play with no contact, fewer bus rides, fewer games, so much uncertainty.

"They are listening, and they are following



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The 2020 University Liggett School field hockey team captains are, from left, senior Kaitlyn Gray, junior Elese Kogel, senior Delaney Garvey and senior Ella Karolak.

protocols to their very best efforts (with reminders of course because they are kids). As a coach, I feel it's our duty to provide a safe outlet of hope, in this difficult time. I am a rule follower by nature, and I believe in COVID-19 safety and protocols. I also know how much sports give to so many, especially in a stressful time."

Next game at home against the Knights, which turned into a 4-1 defeat.

Delaney Garvey, Elese Kogel, Izzy Fruehauf and Ella Karolak had the Knights' goals, while Murphy scored in the final minute for the Norsemen.

"We started off slow but once we were able to get settled in and play our game, good things happened. Our defense was strong," ULS head coach Amanda Amine said.

Earlier in the week, ULS hosted Warren Regina in its official season opener.

"It feels great to finally play a game," Amine said. "The girls have been working hard for this opportunity."

The Knights dominated from the opening whistle, winning 9-0, as Karolak scored three goals and Fruehauf had two.

Other goal scorers were Garvey, Kogel, Brooke Summers and Lexie Gormely.

Goalkeeper Alexandra Karolak recorded the shutout. She did not face a shot as the play was in the Regina zone for a majority of the contest.

South hosts ULS in a rescheduled game at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25.

North hosts Warren Regina at noon on Saturday, Sept. 26, and then hosts Dearborn at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Turnovers cost Norsemen

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe North's football team opened its season last weekend, losing 18-8 to host Roseville.

It was the debut of the Norsemen in the Macomb Area Conference Gold Division.

"We were definitely in a fight and our guys responded well," head coach Joe Drouin said. "It's been a while since we were in a close game."

The Norsemen had chances to put points in the board, but a missed field goal and touchdown pass called back kept them off the board.

The Panthers went up 6-0, thanks to a Norsemen turnover, but senior Hunter Abdellaoui blocked the extra point.

"We battled back and forth until the fourth

when Roseville scored to go up 12-0," Drouin said.

It missed the two-point conversion.

"At that point we had to play catch up and got away from our grind it out gritty game plan," Drouin said. "Defense was the key to keeping us close for most of the game."

Senior linebacker JaVontae Stewart led the way with 9 tackles, 4 assists, and 2 interceptions, while senior defensive end Ray Bell was a defensive force up front with 7 tackles and 3 assists.

Sophomore Drew Hill proved he was ready for the varsity lineup with some big hits and being part of 10 tackles.

Offensively, Kennard Williams showed he is ready to step up to carry

the running load with 108 yards on 12 carries in his starting debut. His break-away speed showed on a 65-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter.

Senior Joe Plieth connected with senior Nolan Pietsch for the two-point conversion to make the score 18-8.

Senior Mikey Zontini had two catches for 48 yards.

"At the end of the day, we didn't get beat by Roseville, we lost to Roseville," Drouin said. "When you put the ball on the carpet nine times and only get one of them back, you are going to lose."

North is 0-1 in the MAC Gold Division.

They travel to St. Clair for another MAC Gold Division game at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25.

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL

Offense produces fireworks in loss

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The University Liggett School football team started its season last week with a 61-27 loss to host Riverview Gabriel Richard.

"We were down 35-6 in 2nd quarter and fought back with some aerial firepower and quick strikes," head coach Tarif Kumasi said. "A few

turnovers in the second half stalled some key drives. GR's ground game proved to be too much for the ULS defense. Super proud of the kids. I got so many calls and texts about how exciting we look and hard the kids played and fought back."

The Knights cut the deficit to 35-21 at the half, but Gabriel Richard's power ground

game was able to control the clock.

Despite the setback, Kumasi's squad will look at the tape, make adjustments and be ready for week No. 2 action when it hosts Mount Clemens at home at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26.

Quarterback Carson Roose was 24 of 46 for 401 yards with four touchdowns and four interceptions.

Cross country

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Norsemen field youthful group

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe North's cross-country team competed in the Macomb Area Conference Red Division jamboree meet last weekend.

The girls and boys each finished sixth in their respective race.

"Two of my top three are out with injuries which has really challenged us this season," head coach Scott Cooper said. "Thomas has really stepped it up with her toughness and two freshmen, Streberger and Roustemis, has come on really strong to fill that gap. Almost the entire team 50 runners ran their best times of the season today so I am extremely proud of them all."

For the girls, senior Annaliese Thomas led



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT COOPER

North's Anna Lisa Lynch and Penny Roustemis ran well for the Norsemen.

the team with a time of 22:07.4. 21:17.2, and Amelia Penny Roustemis ran a Streberger had a time of 22:32.5, while Becca

Moin and Anna Lisa Lynch had a 22:47.3 and 22:32.5, and Julia Riley finished with a 23:01.0.

Drew Lovell and Dani Lubienski had times of 23:01.6 and 23:05.8. Evelyn Riley ran a 23:30.4.

For the boys, Preston Navarre ran a 16:04.2 to take 5th, while Alex Agius had a 17:18.1.

Max Klunge ran 18:31.1, and David Rochon had an 18:34.7. Other runners were Charlie Bomgaars with 18:50.7, Michael Villeneuve with 19:20.6 and Ryan Spiteri with 19:22.4.

In another recent meet, the Norsemen lost 24-32 to Utica at Vernier Hill.

Navarre won the race in 16:24, which was the fastest time head coach Diane Montgomery can remember anyone run-



Luca Varanelli



Preston Navarre

ning on the current course at the hill. He was 1:30 ahead of the runner up.

Rounding out the varsity scoring was sophomore Alex Agius, sophomore Charlie Bomgaars, freshman David Rochon and junior Max Kluge. Other varsity spots were juniors Jack McConaghy and Paul Ciaravino.

"We ran some very good times, though,"

Montgomery said. "The MAC Red is probably the strongest I have seen it in September. Four runners broke 16 minutes. Preston, who was not feeling well, finished fifth in 16:04."

In the girls junior varsity No. 1 race, the top finishers were Iliana Nezeritis, Lucie Leonhard, Sophie Rochon, Madison Lucido, Paige Spence, Ellie Kalus and Nicolina Gusmano.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Blue Devils have room to grow as team

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe South girls cross-country season is fully underway with 75 Blue Devils working toward another successful season.

South is captained by seniors Scarlett Draper, May Eger, Abbey

Homminga and Ahyana Villanueva.

"We are looking to make this a great season," head coach Steve Zaranek said. "Despite the various restrictions in place, we have 75 young ladies working hard each day and eager to compete."

After a couple of exhi-

bitation races, South competed in the MAC Red Division jamboree this past weekend, finishing eighth. The MAC Red, boasting some of the finest teams in the state, raced at the Romeo high school 5k course.

"We have 50 season best PR's and were extremely happy with

how we raced and supported each other," Zaranek said. "We were in the thick of the race and managed to defeat Stevenson."

South also did quite well in the junior varsity races, winning both.

In the varsity race, freshman Kloie Roy led the way covering the course in 21:54.

Roy was followed by teammates Eger, Grace Winger, Ava Carr, Anna Czech, Mairin Heimbuch and Selga Jansons. All seven had season-best performances.

South's winning JV team was led by junior Becca Koch, Homminga, Zosia Greer, Lizzy Bellovich, Sofia Guevara, Miranda Barba and Dianne Dollison. All seven ran to seasonal PR's.

South takes on Farmington Mercy this Saturday.

The boys placed fourth



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE ZARANEK

Grosse Pointe South powered to junior varsity wins with the help of, from left, sophomores Sofia Guevara, Charlotte O'Dell and Miranda Barba.

with Michael Wholihan leading the team with a time of 18:36.9.

Other Blue Devils competitors were Jack

Michaud, Chandler Bower, Zachary Farrell, Thomas Drawbaugh, Ben Frankes, Michael Whorf and Luc Michaud.

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL

Knights able to host meet for first time in decades

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

For the first time in recent memory, University Liggett School hosted a cross-country meet.

The boys finished fifth among the seven schools, and the girls did not register a team score.

For the boys, Marine City won with 24 points, followed by Royal Oak Shrine with 65, Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest with 80, Marine City Cardinal Mooney with 104, ULS with 137, Madison Heights Lamphere with 148 and Detroit Renaissance with 160.

Head coach Joe Smith's squad was led by junior Jacob Whitton, who was ninth with a time of 17:54.25.

Junior Evan Provenzano was 15th with a time of 18:32.22, and junior Garrett Flynn finished 37th at 20:36.83.

Junior Taveon Colston was 43rd at 21:50.21, while freshman Jake Juip was 52nd with a time of 26:07.00.

In the girls' meet, Lutheran Northwest won with 32 points, followed by Marine City with 55, Shrine with 67 and Renaissance with 67.

Sophomore Penelope Griffioen was fourth with a time of 20:25.34, and

freshman Kelsey Beckett was ninth at 21:06.12.

Senior Sophia Ma took 16th with a time of 22:10.81 to round out the Knights' three competitors.

Coming up for the Knights is are two invitationals on Saturday, Oct. 3, and Saturday, Oct. 10, before they travel to their state regional meet Saturday, Oct. 24.

The top two teams in the regional meet earn bids to the state championship meet held Saturday, Nov. 7, at Michigan International Speedway.

Smith is destined to get his runners to that meet.

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Soccer

LIGGETT, NORTH & SOUTH

Knights win; others stumble

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The University Liggett School boys soccer team is enjoying early season success as head coach David Dwaihy has his Knights rolling.

Last weekend, the host Knights blanked Madison Heights Bishop Foley 6-0 behind the two-goal effort from sophomore Mac Katz.

He scored just 21 seconds into the contest, and added his second tally eight minutes later.

Other goal scorers were seniors Stewart Smith, Markus Wiegel and Sawyer Szajenko, plus freshman Claudio Cavallo.

Senior Sheikh Manneh had three assists, followed by Cavallo and junior Justin Harthorn with one apiece.

Senior Sam Sword had the shutout in net.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

University Liggett School freshman Claudio Cavallo, No. 10, has started the season on a scoring tear.

“Any time you can beat Foley is a nice win,” Dwaihy said. “Once we scored early, the boys seemed to just play even

better.” The day before, ULS defeated Riverview Gabriel Richard 6-2 as Cavallo scored twice.

Manneh had a goal, as did juniors Doug Wood, Henry Meraw and Alex George.

Earlier in the week,

ULS defeated Detroit Cristo Rey 8-1 as Cavallo showed that his debut hat trick wasn't a fluke and scored six goals in his second career varsity contest.

He added two assists to finish with eight points.

“It was pretty impressive, and the entire team played well,” Dwaihy said.

Other goal scorers were Szajenko and Manneh.

Adding assists were Manneh with three, Katz with two, Smith and Cass Cooley with one apiece.

Sam Sword and Alex George split the time in net.

ULS is 3-0 in the Catholic League and 4-0 overall.

South results

It's been a rough start for the Grosse Pointe South squad, tying host

Romeo 2-2 and losing 2-0 to Warren Cousino on the home turf last week.

The Blue Devils dropped to 0-2-1 in the Macomb Area Conference White Division.

“It's early and we haven't been able to really get into a groove,” head coach Francesco Cilano said. “This time last year we had 10 games in, and this year only a few. It makes a big difference in how we play as a team.”

North results

Grosse Pointe North played two 1-0 games last week.

The host Norsemen lost 1-0 to Utica and turned around two nights later to edge host Romeo 1-0.

Head coach Bran VandeVorde's squad is 2-1 in the MAC White Division.

Tennis

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL

Lineup changes pay big dividends

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Head coach Mark Sobieralski made a lineup tweek for his University Liggett School boys tennis team.

The lineup switch sparked the Knights last weekend when they beat

Utica Eisenhower 5-3, Holly 7-1 and Rochester Adams 6-2 to improve to 10-3-2 overall.

“It was a great weekend of tennis,” Sobieralski said. “The kids are starting to get more vocal as they cheer for their teammates. It's nice to see everything

come together for our stretch run.”

Against Eisenhower, Will Cooksey and Gerry Sherer won their No. 1 and No. 2 singles matches.

At No. 1 doubles, Sebastien Courtright and Vince Maribao won, as did the No. 2 doubles

team of Jacob Tomlinson and Tarun Jarial.

Clinching the victory was the No. 4 doubles team of Campbell Marchal and Bennett French, which rallied to win 6-7, 7-5, 10-4.

Against Holly, Cooksey, Sherer and Rocco Scarfone won their sin-

gles matches. All four doubles team also won in convincing fashion.

The big win came against Adams, which was coming off a 6-2 victory over Eisenhower.

Cooksey and Sherer won at singles as the Knights split the four matches.

They swept the four doubles matches, including Marchal and French who rallied from a set down to win 6-1 and 10-8. In that third set, they trailed the tiebreak 8-5, but won the final 5 points to win.

ULS hosts a quad Saturday, Sept. 26.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Blue Devils win two

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe South boys tennis team beat Port Huron Northern 8-0 in its Macomb Area Conference Red Division match.

In singles Connor Stafford won 6-1, 6-0 at No. 1; Corbin Ifkovits won 6-0, 6-1 at No. 2; Luke Holowinski won 6-1, 6-2; and Owen Sanford won 6-3, 6-0 at No. 4.

At No. 1 doubles, Jacob Harris and Jackson Marchal won 6-0, 6-0, while Alex Prather and Blake Discher won 6-0, 6-0 at No. 2 doubles.

Will White and Will Sine won 6-0, 6-0 at No. 2 doubles, and Matt

Kornmeier and Cam Buhler won 6-0, 6-1 at No. 4 doubles.

In other action last week, South lost 5-3 to Troy and beat Troy Athens 5-3.

“The boys played very well this week against several tough opponents,” head coach John Willard said. “Our No. 1 doubles team of seniors and Jacob Harris and Jackson Marchal sealed the victory against Troy Athens with an exciting third set victory. All the boys competed well against Troy on Friday before narrowly losing 5-3.”

Against Troy, Stafford won 6-4, 6-1, and Ifkovits was a 6-3, 6-2 winner.

The other point was earned by the No. 2 dou-

bles team of Prather and Discher, who won 6-3, 6-0.

In the Athens match, Holowinski won 6-3, 6-2, at No. 3 singles, while Sanford won 6-3, 6-1 at No. 4 singles.

Three wins in doubles clinched the team win.

Harris and Marchal won 6-2, 6-1 at No 1 doubles, and Prather and Discher followed with a 6-2, 6-0 victory at No. 2 doubles.

The final win was posted by the No. 3 doubles team of White and Sine, 6-0, 6-1.

South is 2-0 in the MAC Red Division and 3-2 overall.

South is at Novi Catholic Central Tuesday, Sept. 29, in a non-league match.

Volleyball

G.P. NORTH

Road loss

The Grosse Pointe North volleyball team began its season last week, losing 25-8, 25-23, 25-14 to host Marysville.

Junior Paige Przepiora had a team-leading 14 defensive passes, while junior Brynn Spicher had four stuff blocks for the Norsemen.

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan

NOTICE TO BIDDERS – DPW Water/Sewer Garage AEW Project Number 0160-0420. Sealed bids will be received by the City at the office of the City Clerk, 20025 Mack Plaza, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI, until 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 6, 2020. The bid opening will be conducted in the Municipal Court/Council Chambers at the same address at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Work consists of constructing a 3,200 sq. ft. wood framed garage with metal siding and roof. Documents and requirements will be available Tuesday, September 15, 2020, obtainable from Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick Inc. at 586 726-1234. A public viewing copy is available on the City of Grosse Pointe Woods website at www.gpwwmi.us. Bids may be rejected unless made on the forms included with the bidding documents. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive any irregularities in the bidding, and to accept any proposals it deems to be in the best interest of the City.

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Equestrian

GROSSE POINTE NORTH



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGELA GRISSOM

Ride like the wind

Faith Bokano, a Grosse Pointe North freshman, has started a high school equestrian team. The program is facilitated by the Michigan Interscholastic Horseman Association. She is competing in District No. 7 as D team. She competed this Saturday, Sept. 19, at the Wayne County Fairgrounds, placing third in flag race and clover leaf barrel race.

Golf



PHOTO COURTESY OF AL KASPOR

Double triumph

Dr. Al Kaspor, previous resident of Grosse Pointe Woods and a graduate of Grosse Pointe High School class of 1966, scored his first hole in one on Sept. 14 after playing golf for 57 years. He aced the par 3 133-yard hole No. 11 at Tyrone Hills in Fenton. It is an elevated green and a brisk headwind and he used an 8 iron. In addition, his score for the day was 72, equal to his age. He is a practicing dentist for more than 40 years in Highland.

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• RESTORATION
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King Crossword

Solution for last week's puzzle 9/17/20

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

- ACROSS**
- 1 Waller or Domino
 - 5 "— not choose to run"
 - 8 Stoolie
 - 12 Hardly ruddy
 - 13 Calendar abbr.
 - 14 In due time
 - 15 Noble gas
 - 16 Born
 - 17 Loosen
 - 18 Cowpoke of the pampas
 - 20 Get new actors
 - 22 Car-pool lane abbr.
 - 23 Profit
 - 24 Elevator name
 - 27 Crucial experiment
 - 32 See 12-Across
 - 33 Heavy weight
 - 34 Mainlander's memento
 - 35 Middy party
 - 38 Favorable votes

- 39 Raw rock
 - 40 Boom times
 - 42 Merry
 - 45 This or that, it matters not
 - 49 Sheltered
 - 50 Possess
 - 52 Legislation
 - 53 Factory-fresh
 - 54 Craze
 - 55 Malaria symptom
 - 56 Automaton, for short
 - 57 To and —
 - 58 Egg part
- DOWN**
- 1 Vampire tooth
 - 2 Cruising
 - 3 Grand
 - 4 Harmonizes
 - 5 Start something new
 - 6 Buck's mate
 - 7 Finished
 - 8 Tap
 - 9 From birth
 - 10 Affirmative

- actions
- 11 Entanglement
- 19 Word after heave or gung
- 21 Finish
- 24 Night flyer
- 25 Greek cross
- 26 Guiltless
- 28 Bill and —
- 29 Sly slur
- 30 Glimpse
- 31 "— the season ..."
- 36 Vinegar bottles
- 37 Coop denizen
- 38 Off
- 41 "Life of —"
- 42 Door-frame piece
- 43 Hodgepodge
- 44 Remove, as a cap
- 46 "Les Miserables" writer
- 47 Hebrew month
- 48 Stench
- 51 Simple card game

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15				16				17			
18				19		20	21				
			22				23				
24	25	26			27	28	29		30	31	
32					33				34		
35			36	37				38			
			39				40	41			
42	43				44		45		46	47	48
49					50	51			52		
53					54				55		
56					57				58		

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle
Solution for last weeks puzzle 9/17/20

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

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

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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HERE'S WHAT'S GOING ON WITH GP SCHOOLS

Let's bring Grosse Pointe together and fix the School System

Here are the problems, school by school:

Poupard Elementary
SCHOOL CLOSED

Trombly Elementary
SCHOOL CLOSED

Defer Elementary

- 5th Grade removed
- Many new students moved into Defer
- Reduction of Magnet Program
- Loss of Multi-Age Program
- Kids have to cross Jefferson
- No plan for pandemic
- No traffic plan

Ferry Elementary

- 5th Grade removed
- Many new students moved into Ferry
- Reduction of Magnet Program
- No plan for pandemic

Kerby Elementary

- 5th Grade removed
- Many new students moved into Kerby
- No plan for pandemic

Maire Elementary

- 5th Grade removed
- Many new students moved into Maire
- No plan for pandemic

Mason Elementary

- 5th Grade removed
- Many new students moved into Mason
- No plan for pandemic

Monteith Elementary

- 5th Grade removed
- Many new students moved into Monteith
- No plan for pandemic

Richard Elementary

- 5th Grade removed
- Underutilized space
- No plan for pandemic

Brownell Middle

- 5th Grade should not be there
- Overcrowded
- Honors classes removed
- No plan for pandemic

Parcells Middle

- 5th Grade should not be there
- Overcrowded
- Honors classes removed
- No plan for pandemic

Pierce Middle

- 5th Grade should not be there
- Overcrowded
- Honors classes removed
- No plan for pandemic
- No traffic plan

North High

- Principal lacking leadership
- Athletic director is not qualified
- Reduced seat & learning time due to Covid-19
- No plan for pandemic

South High

- Principal is not qualified
- Principal recently sued for sexual harassment
- Reduced seat & learning time due to Covid-19
- No plan for pandemic

State reported ranking has dropped from Level I to Level III

We have to bring back excellence in our schools!

Call the candidates and tell them to protect our children.

Pangborn • Nowicki • Papas

Paid for with regulated funds by Taxpayers for GP Schools-501C4

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